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PM tasks TPA on port oil flow meters

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to strengthen supervision of flow meters for imported fuel in order to prevent the loss of revenues.

He said the government wants to see that all revenue from ports in the country collected by TPA goes to the Consolidated Fund, cautioning officials who may be involved in losses of revenue funds.

He issued the instructions yesterday after inspecting the flow meters station at Kigamboni and Kurasini Oil Jetty (KOJ) at the port of Dar es Salaam.

He said he was satisfied with the implementation of various directives he issued at different times since 2016 when he visited the area, pointing out that the technology that was then being applied was not advanced.

It made the government lose substantial revenues, hence the government decided to purchase new flow meters for the Kigamboni oil jetty, he said.

The fifth phase government continues to purchase flow meters in order to improve the oil import sector for Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara ports, he said.

"Today I have come to verify the situation we have reached and I am satisfied with what has been implemented," he declared.

After seeing the measurement method to be incorrect the government decided to buy land plots in Kigamboni to build tanks that would receive oil from the port, he recalled.

Apart from having passed through the flow meters, it will again be verified before reaching retailers to ensure they get the right quantity of oil they demand, he said.

"I am pleased to receive reports that the land plots were purchased and now tenders for erecting oil tanks are being processed, and when we finalise that measure, the nation will greatly benefit by having huge quantities of fuel in its reserves," he said.

The tanks will also provide opportunities for neighbouring countries that use Dar es Salaam port to keep their fuel there, enabling the port to conduct oil trade within and outside the country, he pointed out.

He urged TPA to strengthen the supervision of flow meters and establish a unit to manage oil flows in all ports, with officials of such department being directly accountable for its proper management.

Earlier, the TPA engineer for oil flows, Yona Malago briefed the premier on the steps taken to offload oil through the Kigamboni flow meter.

Earlier the flow meter operated without stopping and later major repairs were conducted to the flow meter system including adjusting its strainers, he said.

Other steps taken are stationing of qualified staff to oversee operations of the flow meters like engineers, electrical technicians and ICT experts, plus training for TPA staff involved in the management of the flow meters, he added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa demands clarification as he inspected the fuel flow meter system at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him (foreground, from-L) are Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho, Tanzania Ports Authority director general Deuseddit Kakoko and TPA fuel department manager Yona Malago. Photo: PMO

Dr Saada Mkuya picked Z'bar Minister of State



By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday appointed three ministers, including Dr Saada Mkuya Salum, who becomes Minister of State in the Office of the First Vice President.

Dr Mkuya (pictured) served as Union Minister for Finance during the second term of the fourth phase government of President Jakaya Kikwete, whose appointment in January 2014 made her the second woman to hold the post since independence, af-

ter fellow Zanzibari Zakhia Hamdani Meghji, 2006 to 2008.

A statement by Zanzibar Chief Secretary, Zena Ahmed Said noted that Dr Mwinyi's cabinet reshuffle was in accordance with Section 42, 43(1) (2) and 44 of the 1984 Zanzibar Constitution.

The president also appointed Omar Said Shaaban as Minister for Trade and Industry Development while Nassor Ahmed Mazrui becomes Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

Their appointments took effect yesterday and will be sworn-in today at the State House in Zanzibar.

The president has also appointed Dr Salum Yussuf Ali as Commissioner of the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB), on the post since February 10, 2021.

Unveiling the new cabinet last November, Dr Mwinyi said he has reserved the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender and Children and that of Trade and Industrial Development for the opposition party.

World Bank: Secure the poor to maintain middle income status

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA needs to create more economic opportunities and shield vulnerable groups and the poor from adverse impact of the global economic downturn if the country is to maintain its lower-middle-income (LMIC) status.

Mara Warwick, the World Bank Country Director for Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, says in the 15th Tanzania Economic Update titled 'Raising the

Tanzania's sustained economic expansion in recent years has supported improvements in overall living standards

Bar: Achieving Tanzania's 'Development Vision' which takes Tanzania's recent achievement of LMIC status as the point of departure.

It looks forward to what it will take to achieve the goals of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025, following two decades of sustained growth, where Tanzania reached an important milestone in July 2020 as it formally graduated to LMIC status.

However, the global COVID-19 pandemic has significantly

slowed down economic growth, adversely affecting livelihoods of Tanzanians, and requiring bold policy actions to ensure that Tanzania's LMIC status is maintained, she said.

"Tanzania's sustained economic expansion in recent years has supported improvements in overall living standards," the director noted, elaborating that there is an important opportu-

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World Bank: Secure the poor to maintain middle income status'

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nity for the country to raise its own bar, providing greater opportunities and economic security for the large proportion of the population still living in poverty.

This requirement is intensified by the serious impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, as realizing the goals of Vision 2025 will require a concerted effort to restore the economy's growth momentum while expanding access to economic opportunities.

The economic update notes that while Tanzania avoided a recession in 2020, economic growth decelerated to around 2.0 percent. The poverty rate is estimated to have risen to 27.2 percent, with the report warning that the loss of income could have pushed an additional 600,000 Tanzanians below the national poverty line.

Most of them are members of households that rely on self-employment and informal microenterprises in urban areas, it said.

The report highlights considerable uncertainty of the country's economic outlook, with gross domestic product growth in 2021 projected in the range of 3.0 to 5.3 percent, "with realization on the upper side of this range hinging on a strong recovery in global economic activity supported by the world-wide rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, and sound domestic policies to foster a sustainable recovery."

"Increasing the availability and quality of information on both the domestic spread of COVID-19 and the evolution of macroeconomic indicators would strengthen the government's ability to plan and

implement effective policies to foster economic recovery and support all Tanzanians," the report underlined.

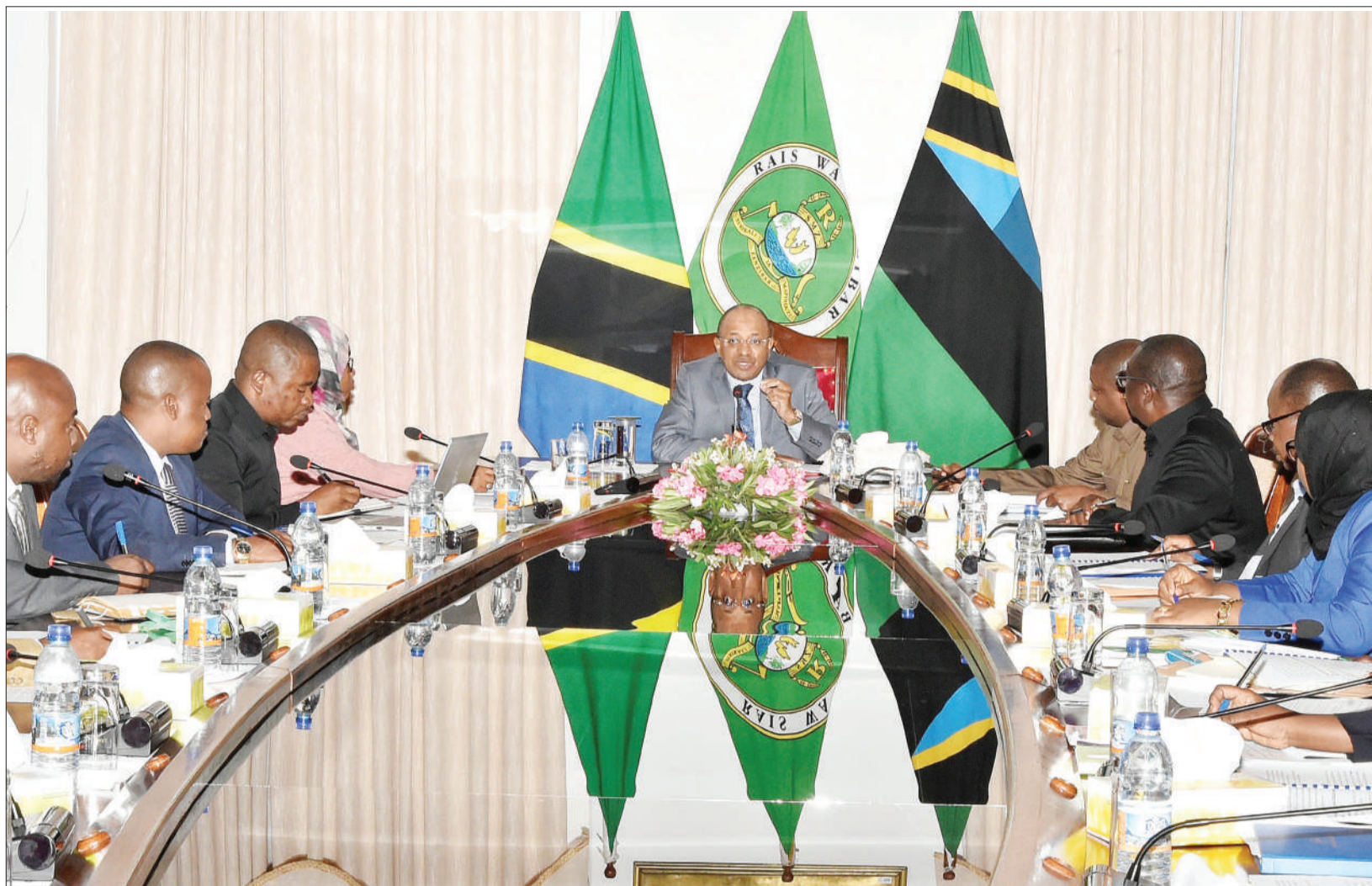
Attainment of LMIC status offers an opportunity for the country to assess the quality of past growth in delivering broad welfare gains and to develop a roadmap to guide its further transition to a successful middle-income economy with a high level of human capital development, high-quality livelihood opportunities, and broad gains in living standards, as outlined in Vision 2025, it further stated.

The report frames Tanzania's 'next leap' of development around three strategic pillars: sustaining robust medium-term growth in a challenging external environment, improving the inclusiveness of growth and its impact on poverty reduction, fostering upward economic mobility and strengthening economic security.

These three pillars reflect both the lessons of international experience and Tanzania's unique circumstances and form the basis for an actionable policy agenda to achieve the goals of Vision 2025, it stated.

Bill Battaile, World Bank Lead Economist for Tanzania said that this strategic framing is also timely as the country prepares its next Five-Year Development Plan. Human capital investments enable households at all income levels to access economic opportunities and benefit from growth, he said.

"This is critical to ensure that all Tanzanians have opportunities throughout their lives to move to more productive economic sectors and improve their lives and those of their families," the lead consultant emphasised.



Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi talks with Second Vice President's office Policy, Coordination and House of Representatives during the report presentation of implementation of his directives given to the ministers and Permanent secretaries yesterday. Photo: State House

Dr Mwinyi invites Indonesian investors

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has welcomed Indonesian investors insisting the government has created a conducive investment environment.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday when he met and held talks with Indonesian ambassador to Tanzania, Ratlan Pardede at State House. He said the Isles government is determined to bring about development changes and that it is ready to cooperate with other partners to achieve its development targets.

He said the Union government has

enjoyed a long time cordial bilateral relationship with Indonesia adding the two governments have been collaborating in implementation of various development projects in different sectors.

"We have opened our doors for Indonesian investors to establish projects in Zanzibar," said Dr Mwinyi.

The President asserted that Zanzibar would like to receive Indonesian investors interested in the development of the blue economy. He said the government has started to invest in developing the Ocean-based-economy whereas it is conducting a feasibility study for construction of the Mangapwani/

Bumbwini port.

"We also invite investors in the tourism sector," said the President noting Indonesia has made great strides in the tourism sector.

He said Zanzibar is endowed with a number of investment opportunities in the tourism sector.

He commended Indonesia for opening a cloves processing factory at Mgelema in Chake Chake, Pemba.

He suggested for Indonesian investors to establish a seaweed processing factory because despite the fact that most farmers engage in cultivation of the crop, they are yet to benefit because of poor prices offered by buyers. He said efforts are

being done by the government to ensure farmers with reliable markets for the crop

Meanwhile, ambassador Pardede said his government will continue to support Zanzibar's development endeavours as well as convincing Indonesian investors to establish projects in the Isles.

The ambassador commended Dr Mwinyi's leadership highlighting the various successes he attained within the first 100 days in office.

He said that Indonesia has already signed various memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tanzania targeting to cement the existing bilateral relationship.



Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) Executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga hands over one out of 400 copies to the Acting Tanganyika Library Services (TLS) Acting Director General Asha Ngatila in a ceremony held in Dar es salaam yesterday.

What Africa expects of the new WTO director-general

By Special Correspondent

When on 15 February the chair of the World Trade Organization's (WTO's) General Council, Ambassador David Walker of New Zealand, announced that Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala would be the new Director-General, the mood among delegates was of relief.

Dr. Lansana Gberie, Sierra Leone's Ambassador Extraordinary to Switzerland and Permanent Representative to the UN and other International Organisations in Geneva.

Dr. Okonjo-Iweala commanded overwhelming support from the start of the selection process in July 2020, but her historic elevation—as the first African and the first woman to become Director-General of the 26-year-old trade organisation—was by no means certain only a few weeks prior.

"Without the recent swift action by the Biden-Harris administration to join the consensus of the membership on

my candidacy," the new Director-General said in her acceptance statement, delivered via video link, "we would not be here today."

This plain statement of fact underlines the challenges she will likely face. It is also indicative of the paralyzing difficulties experienced by the world's main trade arbiter in recent years, where key decisions are made by consensus among over 160 members.

So, what can Africa gain from an African Director-General of the world's premier trade organisation?

This question was never openly asked during the selection process, in part because as well as being an African and a woman, Dr. Okonjo-Iweala's qualifications—Harvard-educated economist, top World Bank official, longest-serving Finance Minister of Nigeria (Africa's largest economy), and Foreign Minister—towered above her rivals.

But the question will likely

become a point of conversation during her tenure.

Some will try to use it as a benchmark for evaluating her performance in office. That will make no sense. For the past 20 years, no round of trade negotiations at the WTO has been successful. The WTO's dispute resolution mechanism—the Appellate Body—has been stymied, including through the blocking of all its new appointees by the previous US administration, a decision that should be rescinded.

But there are important areas where the Director-General, with her political clout and proven leadership skills as a reformer, can lead "from behind... to achieve results," as Dr. Okonjo-Iweala herself noted in her acceptance statement.

In that statement, she highlighted as a top priority an inclusive and effective approach to COVID-19 vaccine distribution, which surely must include an agreement to suspend intellectual-property protec-

tion for vaccines and other vital drugs to enable their mass production and distribution in poor countries. This is known as the TRIPS Waiver proposal, an initiative of India and South Africa that now has more than 50 co-sponsors.

Dr. Okonjo-Iweala, as chair of the vaccine alliance Gavi and one of the African Union special envoys for the continent's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has been consistently passionate about this issue and has called for the rejection of "vaccine nationalism and protectionism."

In post-pandemic recovery, Africa will focus on operationalizing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is expected to connect some 1.2 billion people across 55 countries with a combined GDP of \$3.4 trillion. The trade pact will unify and amplify Africa's voice in urging the WTO to create a vision that reflects the continent's economic aspirations.

UN agencies appeal for \$266 million to feed refugees in eastern Africa

NEW YORK

A funding shortfall is putting the lives of some three million refugees in eastern Africa at risk, two UN agencies warned on Tuesday.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, and the World Food Programme (WFP) are appealing for \$266 million as they have been forced to cut food rations by up to 60 per cent.

The situation is further compounded by COVID-19 lockdowns and containment measures, they said, which

have reduced food stocks in markets in refugee camps, and limited refugees' ability to support their families through casual jobs and small businesses.

"The pandemic has been devastating for everyone, but for refugees even more so", said Clementine Nkweta-Salami, UNHCR's Regional Bureau Director for the East, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes. The office covers 11 countries, home to some 4.7 million refugees, a staggering 72 per cent of whom face food cuts.

"Unless more funds are made available, thousands of refugees including children will not have enough to eat."

Nkweta-Salami said refugees have adopted negative coping strategies to meet their basic food needs, such as skipping or reducing meals, taking out high-interest loans, selling assets, child labour and increased domestic violence, adding "there is often a desperation and a feeling of no alternative."

Meanwhile, WFP has been forced to cut monthly assistance to refugees in six

countries, ranging from 16 per cent to up to 60 per cent.

"We've never had such a terrible funding situation for refugees", said Michael Dunford, Regional Director for Eastern Africa.

"We have a \$266 million shortfall for the next six months for refugees' minimum needs. We are deeply concerned that if cuts continue, they will be faced with a very difficult decision: stay in the camps where food and nutrition security is deteriorating, or consider risking going back when it is

unsafe."

WFP has slashed support in Rwanda by 60 per cent, describing the move as "unprecedented". Some 140,000 people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi have found refuge in the country.

The agency assists some 138,000 refugees living in camps and 12,500 children from host communities, who attend the same schools as refugees and receive school meals.

Refugees in Rwanda mainly receive cash funding and

WFP will require \$11 million to provide them with full cash or food rations through August.

WFP has reduced food rations for 147,000 refugees in Kenya by 40 per cent, and will need \$61 million for operations there from March through August. The agency is also seeking \$17 million for 280,000 refugees in neighbouring Tanzania, where rations have been cut by 32 per cent of the minimum recommended calorie requirement.

Uganda is home to the largest refugee population on

the continent. Last month, WFP had to cut food assistance to nearly 1.3 million people by 40 per cent of the basic survival ration. To provide full rations, the agency will need \$77 million through August. An additional \$82 million is needed to assist one million refugees in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Only refugees in Burundi and Sudan are receiving full rations, WFP added, where the agency requires \$18 million through August.

AGENCIES



Tanzania Women Lawyers Association chairperson Lulu Ng'wanakalala presents a trophy to the EU head of delegation to Tanzania Manfred Fanti in recognition of its support to women's right in the country during the 30th anniversary the association in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Address crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray region, US appeals to Kenya govt

WASHINGTON

THE United States has urged Kenya to take a leading role in ending atrocities reported in Ethiopia's Tigray region, suggesting the use of an independent investigation into claims of human rights violations.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken asked Nairobi to use its position as Chair of the African Union Peace and Security Council to help end the crisis in Ethiopia, where massacres were reported.

In a phone conversation with Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Raychelle Omamo, Blinken said Nairobi could be useful in using its regional influence to address the humanitarian concerns in Tigray.

"Secretary Blinken noted Kenya's strong and durable multilateral engagement and welcomed the opportunity to cooperate closely with Kenya on the UN Security Council on matters of international concern," Ned Price, the State Department Spokesperson, said on Tuesday.

"He urged Kenyan leadership, in working with the United States on the UN Security Council and in other venues, to address the crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray region, particularly in light of recent reports of atrocities and a worsen-

ing humanitarian situation."

The call came nearly a week after President Joe Biden spoke with President Kenyatta, where he emphasised on "continued commitment to working closely with Kenya to support regional peace and security, including at the United Nations Security Council".

On Monday, Kenya took over the rotational chairmanship of the AU Peace and Security Council. A tentative agenda tabled by Kenya did not name the Ethiopian situation, but said AU's Silencing Guns programme, meant to end violent conflicts, climate change and sustainable peacekeeping will be key on the agenda. Omamo had on Sunday said Kenya will use its experience in helping resolve past conflicts to steer the agenda of the AU.

"Kenya will seek to leverage her experiences, ethos and philosophy during her chairmanship of the AUPSC on the following issues; reinvigorating the role of the A3 in the UN Security Council; securing sustainable peace in Africa, especially in the context of silencing the guns;

"(And) peacekeeping in Africa with regard to emerging challenges and critical lessons for sustainable operations, as well as on women peace, culture and gender inclusivity," Omamo said.

International Women's Day: Gender equality our captain for sailing to green, just recovery

By Jennifer Morgan

THE climate crisis doesn't stop for anyone or anything, not even the pandemic that has forced billions of us to radically overhaul our lives. And like the pandemic, climate change has no nationality, agenda or political affiliation.

Both exist to spread where, when and how they can. Another stark similarity is that the impacts of COVID-19, just like the climate emergency, do not treat us equally, as those who self-identify as female are hit the hardest.

The pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll on all who regard themselves as girls and women as well as minorities, those with

disabilities, older members of our communities, refugees, migrants and Indigenous Peoples.

So much so, the UN Secretary General António Guterres last month said progress on gender equality has been set back years, and within his 2021 priorities described achieving gender equality as "the greatest human rights challenge."

Deep rooted social injustices, from worker rights to gender inequality, go hand in hand with the climate emergency. Climate denial, like prejudice, is certainly not a victimless crime.

Even though the climate crisis is global, it is impacting low and middle income countries the worst, with self-identifying females the

most affected. When climate-fueled extreme weather events strike, it's those who deny science and block climate action who must answer to the victims on the frontlines.

Though we are in the throes of these interconnected health, environmental, economic and equality crises, creating a better world for all is still within reach. Together, we can move forward on an inclusive green path to recovery, where social justice is our guiding principle.

This means profound systems change with new rules and investments, and not the failed racist patriarchal polluting status quo being merely tweaked. A fairer, healthier, wealthier and safer world for all people is exactly what a transformation in line with

1.5°C - the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal - means.

And it's what publics across the planet want. In Japan, 60% of people want transformational economic change. While in India, Mexico, China, Brazil, South Africa and beyond, support for a green economic recovery is at 80% or higher.

Over 1.2 million people from across the world have joined campaigns at Greenpeace, Avaaz and others, supporting the call for a bold, green and just recovery in Europe.

A green and just recovery to COVID-19 is the opportunity for governments to kickstart a new economy that helps solve the climate and biodiversity crisis, while ensuring

fair wages, employment protections and social safety nets for everyone, specifically for women, womxn and girls.

And as I wrote last year for the Inter Press Service, equity across the world and spectrum would lead to more life satisfaction, better security and economies, and more sustainable solutions to climate change, and now the pandemic.

Millions of people who identify as female have managed to pull together time and again in the name of justice and for saving our beautiful planet. Since the beginning of Greenpeace 50 years ago this year, women have been central, with the organisation co-founded by the extraordinary Dorothy Stowe.



Request for Proposal (RFP) 4227

Provision of Group Life Assurance for Jhpiego Tanzania Employees

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 45 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites submission of proposals for Provision of Group Life Assurance for Jhpiego Tanzania employees from registered insurance companies only.

Interested eligible service providers may request for a complete set of bidding documents through the following email address TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org. A prospective service provider having any question regarding this RFP shall send an email 3 days prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the following addresses: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org.

Proposals must be submitted through the following email address TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org before Wednesday, **17th March 2021 at 11:00 A.M.** Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to offeror's.

Jhpiego is under no obligation to accept the lowest proposal. Late proposals and proposals not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.



World Vegetable Center

Position Announcement

Research Assistant – Plant Genetic Resources (Arusha, Tanzania)

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg) is a non-profit, autonomous international agricultural research center with headquarters in Taiwan and five regional offices around the globe. WorldVeg conducts research and development programs that contribute to realize the potential of vegetables for healthier lives and more resilient livelihoods. For more information please visit our website: worldveg.org.

The Job:

The Research Assistant Plant Genetic Resources will perform the following duties, among others:

- Implement field activities for regeneration and characterization of genebank accessions and conduct quality control and preliminary analysis of the collected data;
- Monitor and maintain seed quality and health in genebank.
- Conduct routine seed testing and cleaning, including germination and moisture content tests.
- Contribute to seed physiology research including seed dormancy, storage behaviour and longevity.
- Maintain genebank seed inventory data up-to-date.
- Supervise casual laborers during establishment and management of field trials.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Position requirements:

- MSc in Agriculture with a major in plant genetic resources, botany, plant breeding, agronomy, horticulture, seed technology or a related field.
- Minimum one year experience in experimental trials on screening crop genetic diversity and data collection.
- Basic knowledge of seed physiology, seed health, diseases and insect-pests of vegetable crops.
- Familiarity with the legal situation of germplasm movement, especially with regard to the Tanzanian legislative framework for seed import and export.
- Excellent computational skills in database, statistical analysis and customized software applications used in genebanks is an advantage.
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- High motivation to develop new skills.

The Reward:

This is a Nationally Recruited Staff position with competitive pay and benefits. The position is only open to Tanzanian nationals. The initial appointment is for one year and may be extended depending on requirement, funding availability, and performance of the incumbent. The position is available with immediate effect.

How to Apply:

Applicants are invited to submit a letter of application explaining their suitability for and interest in the position along with a detailed curriculum vitae, a recent passport size photograph, names and addresses (including telephone/fax/e-mail) of three referees, and date of availability. Please send applications stating the job title "Research Assistant- Plant Genetic Resources" by e-mail to info-esa@worldveg.org by the closing date on **22 March 2021**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



M-Pesa business head of department Happiness Shuma speaks during the launch of the online ticket service dubbed 'Tiket Mtandao' organised by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The service will enable upcountry passengers to pay their fares electronically through their mobile phones and also banking financial services by logging App and M-Pesa menu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

9bn/- project launched in 3 regions to stamp out GBV

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A THREE-YEAR project launched here yesterday seeks to stamp out Gender Based Violence (GBV) in three pilot regions through enhanced access to justice by the victims.

Implemented by the Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) as lead organisation alongside three other Non Governmental Organisations, the USD4 million (over 9bn/-) project dubbed; 'Mwanamke Imara' is set to empower victims of GBV by facilitating access to ordinarily elusive witnesses, lawyers and courts.

The project funded by USAID is being implemented in three regions of Kilimanjaro, Mbeya and Njombe, according to TAWLA executive director, Tike Mwambipile.

"Mwanamke Imara activity is a three-year project designed under the consortium model and implemented by four organizations—TAWLA, TANLAP, KWIECO and WILDAF," she said.

In her presentation during the official launching of the project held here the project coordinator, Mary Richard, said the project aims to end all forms of violence in tar-

geted regions through improving access to justice.

It also aims at amplifying women voices and participation in leadership, decision making and governance and strengthening women and youth economic groups and enhancing their access to resources and information.

"Women and young people need to be aware of their rights and all forms of violence and discrimination, have timely access to justice and empowered economically as well as actively participating in leadership and decision making structure," noted Richard.

In the project, she added, each organization's different niche and expertise will be used to effectively implement the project.

Tanzania Network of Legal Aid Providers (TANLAP) will specifically deal with access to justice, Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) will focus on Gender Based Violence (GBV), TAWLA will deal with Women in Leadership, while the last component of Women Economic Empowerment will be handled by Kilimanjaro Women Information Exchange and Community Organisation (KWIECO).

LATRA launches e-ticketing system for upcountry buses

By Guardian Reporter

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has officially launched E-ticketing system for upcountry buses.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Latra director general Gilliard Ngewe in the beginning those with mobile

phones will be using their phones to get electronic tickets. According to Ngewe reaching the stage was not a simple matter because there are people who went to court to challenge the system.

Ngewe said a huge number of upcountry buses have been connected with the sys-

tem and passengers can now buy the tickets via the system.

"We decided that it should reach a point where bus owners should conduct their businesses freely in which they can invest money into the sector and then make profits," he said. The government announced last year that it

would introduce electronic

ticketing as a way of preventing unwarranted fare hikes during the festive season and also in efforts to help the Tanzanians. Ngewe said through the new system, one can buy a ticket for a relative and save time which was lost before the system was intro-

duced.

He said the system is not new to Tanzania because it is also being used in developed countries which also helps to have enough data on the number of passengers.

For his part, LATRA board chairman Henry Bantu said in the past bus companies were

collapsing because there was no proper administration systems. He added that Latra will not sit down and watch bus companies collapsing because there is a new system to oversee the sector.

"Latra will not allow bus companies collapse, but we should also be ready to

change because our colleagues have done it long time ago," he said.

Ngewe said launching of the system was a move to permanently end problems of hiking fares as well as end syndicates which have been benefiting from the sector illegally.

Deputy minister suspends head of cattle inspections

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Deputy minister Pauline Gekul yesterday suspended the head of livestock inspections at Ruw Darajani centre, Gabriel Lyakurwa for allegedly smuggling cattle, causing loss of government revenue.

She also directed the Coast Regional Commissioner Eng. Evarist Ndikilo to take to task staff of the Bagamoyo District Council who were colluding with the suspect.

Gekul made the decision after RC Ndikilo raised the allegations during the recent visit at the centre located in Bagamoyo District.

Ndikilo said his investigation revealed that the head of the centre had been collaborating with unscrupulous colleagues to smuggle livestock sent to the centre for inspection before being allowed to be taken to other auction stations.

"In my investigation I discovered that this smuggling involves a network of many people including some citizens, businessmen and civil servants. For example, on February 17, there were five vehicles that brought cattle to the centre for inspection, but only one vehicle went to Dar es Salaam as usual, while the rest of the herd was taken secretly to Kisarawe, Kibaha and Kidogzero village," the RC told the deputy minister.

Following the allegations, deputy minister Gekul suspended the official, saying that the ministry would set up a probe team to investigate the matter, including going through all the reports to determine how much government revenue was lost and all those found to be involved will be severely punished.

"We cannot embezzle government revenues, it is not possible to have more than 33 million head of cattle, but the contribution of the livestock sector to GDP does not exceed 7 per cent, it is because of games like this, we will not accept, and we will go to inspect all auction sites," she said.

Chalinze MP, Ridhiwani Kikwete urged the deputy minister to take serious measures to eliminate the entire network of criminals so that the council can earn big income.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi talks with Mhandu ward residents in Nyamagana District, Mwanza Region after solving a long-standing land conflict yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

Govt launches 5-year strategic plan to protect children rights

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has launched the second five-year strategic plan aimed to strengthen child rights provision and the fight against children violence in the country.

Speaking during the launching event on Tuesday here, Constitutional affairs and Justice minister Mwigulu Nchemba said that the 2020-2025 strategy contains several priorities meant to ensure that every child in the country remains safe from any kind of abuse.

He directed the ministry's Permanent Secretary

Prof Sifuni Mchome to facilitate translation of the strategy into Kiswahili for the message to reach more people.

"We have completed the implementation of the National Plan of Action to end Violence against Children which was implemented from 2012 to 2017. So the launch of this strategy goes further to complement efforts done in the previous plan," he said.

The minister said gender based violence including violence against children remains one of the most serious human rights violations which call for determined efforts to curb it.

"Putting the strategy in a simple Kiswahili language

will enable more people to understand the importance of protecting their children while also promoting children rights. This will also strengthen child rights provision systems as well as policies and laws," he said. Mwigulu wanted all the ministries and institutions implementing the strategy to ensure that they issue implementation reports in a certain timeframe so as to identify more challenges facing children in the country.

Prof Mchome said that the second strategy has highlighted several improvements which will support child rights protection and fight against child violence. "In the implementation of the first strategy,

the government increased children courts to 130 and capacitated 638 legal officials with so as to enable them handle the children violence cases in a smooth way which will not affect children confidence and rights," he said.

Prof Mchome said a total of 63,023 violence cases have been listened and provided justice to thousands of children whom majority of them were from vulnerable families.

Country representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Shalini Baragua commended the government for coming up with a strategy which is meant to ensure more safeness of Tanzanian chil-



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Kitunda - Kivule residents in Ilala District, Dar es Salaam Region clean out a water well yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Kalemani directs repairs of broken down power plants to be completed in five days

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemani has directed repairs of country's various power generating plants to be completed within five days to ensure Tanzanians get a steady electricity supply.

Dr Kalemani issued the ultimatum on Tuesday this week in Dar es Salaam before Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) Board and management teams from both the power utility and Songas, after inspecting the latter's power plant whose two plants were under repairs thereby producing only 115MW of electricity instead of 180MW.

Accompanied by the Acting Energy Ministry's Permanent Secretary Eng Leonard Masanja, Dr Kalemani said he does not want to hear consumers complain over power outages due to repairs of the machinery, hence the repairs should be completed within the given period of time.

Dr Kalemani also directed both Tanesco and Songas to alternate their repair times schedules to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the

country.

In addition, the minister stressed his earlier directive to TPDC to ensure that various equipment used in the country's natural gas infrastructures including pipes and valves are manufactured in the country for their easy procurement.

He said the ministry will not stop close follow-ups in regard to the performance of its institutions as the aim is to ensure they work efficiently.

Earlier, Songas Managing Director Anael Samuel told the Energy minister that repairs to two plants at its power station were going on simultaneously with repairs to its gas pipe line from Songosongo.

He said due to repairs to the pipeline, the 115MW currently being produced at the power station was being generated by TPDC owned plants.

"I praise both Tanesco and TPDC in collaboration with Songas as we sat together with stakeholders to see how we can solve this problem, and that is why at least 114MW was being generated using TPDC owned plants," he said.

Ndejemi tasks PCCB to intervene in child molestation, early marriage cases

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

IN the wake of the growth of child molestation and early marriage cases ending 'quietly' out of the court between the two parties involved, the government has called on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to intervene in identifying corruption elements and uncover the truth.

Deputy Minister of State,

President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance Deogratius Ndejemi issued the directive during his opening remarks at the Annual General Meeting of PCCB leaders which brought together directors, chief executives and regional heads.

Elaborating further, Ndejemi said despite PCCB solving many disputes and assisting citizens who have been

exploited especially by financial institutions, the cases involving child rape, molestation, early pregnancies and child marriage still remain unresolved.

"PCCB should intervene in those cases too, this is also a form of corruption that we turn a blind eye to, if we let those mess continue, people will think we are ignoring them," he said.

The Deputy Minister also

said the collaboration between parents and perpetrators has been rampant that prompted many cases to be pulled out from the court and ended friendly at the family level while leaving scars on the victims of the incidents.

"I hope you will end this and eventually our children will study and live in peace without being mocked in society. I have a strong trust with what you are doing for

the interest of this nation and its citizens," revealed the deputy minister.

For his part, the Director General of the PCCB Brigadier General, John Mbungu detailed that his institution was very responsible for helping the community to eradicate corruption, adding that it would ensure that they spend all their time and professionalism in fighting the perpetrators of sexual har-

assment.

"We have continued to return properties of citizens who have been abused by companies or financial institutions by providing loans with unpaid interest," said Mbungu.

The head of the anti-corruption body also said that one of the agenda in the session was to remind the leaders of the institutions to adhere to the values of the

public service and confidentiality in order to ensure that all kinds of corruption was controlled.

The Director of Corruption Prevention, Sabina Seja added that PCCB in collaboration with other development partners would continue to actively monitor sex corruption cases so as to give the rights to victims who are students to continue with their studies.

Deputy minister finds TTCL manager working from old sea container

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaha

COMMUNICATION and Technology Deputy Minister Kundo Mathew says he is surprised to see TTCL workers working in decrepit offices while others using sea containers as offices.

Kundo witnessed the situation early this week during his one-day visit in Kibaha District to see how the company's staff were serving customers.

He found out that the Coast Regional Manager's was operating in a sea container and saw the poor environment in record keeping and serving the public.

"We cannot have offices like these, TTCL has not placed itself in a competitive environment, and what are we proud of here when we advertise providing \$G services," he asked.

Some of the offices for other workers that were made from sea containers had worn out windows, with mosquito netting torn, while the furniture was in very poor condition.

He called on members of parliament in the region to raise their voices when they see things were not going right for early rectification instead of remaining quiet.

Coast Region TTCL Manager Jane Mwakilebela said since she was transferred to the region she found the offices in that situation that she said was totally unacceptable.

Whilst at Kitomondo village, the minister visited the Halotel communication tower and directed to service providers to ensure that before they erect such towers, they should first pass through the Dis-



Kibamba legislator Issa Mtemvu (4th R) listens to Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority Ubungu regional zone manager Gilbert Massawe on the development of Golani water project which is now 95 per cent complete. The project will supply water to 4,000 families in Kimara, Golani and Saranga suburbs. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

Stop cutting trees to preserve country's ecosystem, Tanzanians told

TANZANIANS have been called upon to stop cutting trees to preserve the country's ecosystem which is among important components of the tourism industry.

Protecting the country's ecology would boost development of the tourism sector because some foreign visitors came in the country to only witness its beautiful natural environment.

"Tree felling without proper deforestation plans would affect the tourism industry,"

said Mary Masanja, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism.

She was speaking in Mwanza recently during a meeting with tourism stakeholders including government institutions responsible for development of the tourism sector.

Masanja said there are many challenges in the tourism sector with the major one being tree cutting. She said people cut and harvest trees randomly, thus posing risks to the

country ecology system.

According to her most of the people especially those in rural areas cut trees for firewood and charcoal making. She called upon local government authorities to come up with by-laws to protect the environment and set up plans for proper harvesting of trees.

The Deputy Minister noted that the government is also planning to use this year's celebrations of the International Women

Day March 8th to promote the available tourism attractions.

Masanja said Tanzania is endowed with a number of tourist attractions as well as natural resources but some of them are not known to the world. She said promoting them would increase the number of tourists visiting the country.

Government data indicates that the number of foreign tourists coming in the country

increased from 1,137,182 in 2015 to 1,527,230 in 2019. The increase is attributed to various initiatives taken by the government to improve the sector.

She gave an example of Rubondo National Park in Lake Victoria which has a lot of attractions, but it has not been properly promoted. Other parks in the Lake Zone include the Burigi-Chato National Park and Saanane National Park.

Loans to vulnerable groups now to be in form of working tools - Silinde

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

DEPUTY Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) David Silinde has said in order to control misuse of public funds, the ministry has directed that the 10 per cent allocation of local council funds as loans to vulnerable groups should be given in the form of goods and working tools instead of cash.

Silinde (pictured) gave the directive on Tuesday this week in Songwe Region at the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) meeting in which he participated as Member of Parliament for Tunduma Constituency.

He said there has been a tendency by some district councils in the region to poorly manage the loans, especially in repayment from the loans beneficiaries.

He said the new directive from



the Ministry has been in practice in other councils including Lindi and Nachingwea.

He called on all District Executive Directors to fully administer the loans they provide and abandon nepotism or favouritism in giving out the loans.

Some of the meeting participants said there was need to improve some of lending procedures to increase

proficiency to assist the intended beneficiaries who are women, youth and people with disabilities.

Tunduma District Council chairman Ayubu Mlimba said among the ways that would help issuing the loans in time is for the officials to stop favouritism and self-interests as some of them benefit from the loans.



ACB Bank acting managing director Juliana Swai (R) talks to the journalists yesterday on the strategic investor - Malawi National Bank which had injected 17bn/- to ACB Bank to strengthen the capital in order to meet the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) requirements for running a commercial bank. Left is head of marketing and communications Dora SariaKessy. Photo; Guardian Correspondent.

Moro RC apprehends Std VII girls married off by parents for dowry

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Loata ole Sanare has apprehended six students from the Maasai pastoral communities who were hidden on claims of being married off after finishing their primary education and having passed their examinations.

The exercise to apprehend the students was conducted earlier this week when the RC, accompanied by the region's Defence and Security Committee went to Ngunya Open School Center in Morogoro Municipality at where the girls were being hidden.

It is claimed that after the six students completed their primary education and passed to join Form I, their parents who live in Kilosa District found men to marry them so as to get cattle as bride price.

Ibrahim Kalaita, councillor of Parakuyo Ward where the girls' parents lived said the girls passed their Std VII examinations and were to join Parakuyo Secondary School.

"But after that their parents found men to marry them in order to get cattle as bride price," he said.

The councillor said after the men had married them, they fled the village and hid them at Ngunya Open School Center in Morogoro Municipality.

He said they were taken to the centre allegedly to continue with studies while they continued with family chores as wives as their husbands rented rooms for them.

The RC and his team raided the centre located at Oilcom Nanenane in Morogoro Municipality and apprehended the girls and returned them to their homes in order to continue with their secondary education.

He also ordered investigations on the entire episode to find out what actually goaded the girls into marriage instead of continuing with their education and pledged stern measures against all those involved.

He also ordered closure of the Ngunya Open School Centre due to its unfriendly infrastructure as a centre for learning, unless the owners of institute refurbish it.

MCT hands over 400 copies of books to Tanganyika Library Services for further reviews

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MEDIA Council of Tanzania (MCT) has handed over 400 copies of books to Tanganyika Library Services (TLS) for further reader's reviews

Speaking at the handing over ceremony yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the MCT Executive Secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said the copies were from two publications.

Mukajanga said the handing over was part of the MCT routine saying the last edition was the state of the media report.

He named the publications as the Code of Ethics for Media Professionals and Guidelines for teaching Media Ethics.

He said the ceremony further aimed at recognizing the contribution of the library as a source of information and archives. "We are happy to be part of the legal deposit for the future generation those seeking knowledge should visit the library," he said.

Mukajanga said 150 editions were Code of ethics for Media Professionals and 100 copies were Guidelines for teaching Media Ethics adding that there was also Swahili translation.

According to him, it was MCT routine to make either new or reviews some of the guidelines depending on the demand and make publication.

For her part, the TLS Acting Director General Asha Ngatila called on book publishers in the country to ensure they handle two copies of their publication for future reviews.

She said the law wants every publisher in the country to present two copies of his or her publications for records and public reviews.

"I would like to thank MCT for handing over books to our library. It is our hope that the books will add value to our esteemed readers," she said.

"I call on book publishers who have yet handed over their publications to do so because of the demand by the law," she said.

Ngatila however, said that the reading culture has increased compared to the previous years therefore more publications were needed.

"The government has renovated some of its libraries across the country. I call on more book publishers to handover their publications to increase knowledge deposits," she said.

TLS was established in 1975 with authority over documentation services, training of librarians, public librarians and literacy campaigns and it promotes indigenous literature.

The first president Julius Nyerere opened the National Central Library in Dar es Salaam (1967) and said "The real importance of this central library derives from the fact that it is the hub of a wheel from which spoken will reach out to towns and villages throughout mainland Tanzania."

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Advisor for Local Revenue Mobilization

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives.

GIZ is looking to fill the position of Advisor in the Local Revenue Mobilization component of the Good Financial Governance Programme (GFG).

Duty station: Dar es Salaam
Fixed term contract

A. Responsibilities

The Advisor is responsible for:

- managing support to pilot Local Governance Authorities (LGAs) in the context of the GFG programme's Local Revenue Mobilization component
- conceptualizing and implementing strategic planning sessions with the Office of the President of the Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) and LGAs
- ensuring implementation of local level activities related to revenue mobilization
- functioning as GFG's contact point for partner LGAs and Regional Administrative Secretariats (RAS), liaise with PO-RALG through GFG's revenue mobilization advisor at national level
- as needed, supporting implementation of activities related to GFG's Social Accountability component at the local level
- coordinating proactively, e.g. via Jour Fixe meetings, with partners at central and local level, specifically PO-RALG, pilot LGAs and civil society partners

B. Tasks

1. Advising the partner institutions

The advisor

- guides and monitors the development and implementation of plans and activities in close consultation with counterparts
- ensures quality of revenue mobilization-related activities at local level and that critical outcomes are properly represented and prioritized
- provides professional expertise to further institutional development of pilot LGAs and RAS'
- represents GFG in the cooperation with other development programmes
- drafts Terms of Reference for consultants and steers them to implement activities
- deals with the design, preparation and implementation of workshops, seminars and other events on issues connected with the programme's area of activity
- assists with any other tasks given to him or her by head of Revenue Mobilization component or programme management

2. Networking and cooperation

The advisor

- supports cooperation, regular contact and dialogue with partners, assists with Public Relations work and cooperates with local communities, relevant organisations and individuals
- communicates local interests and efforts, facilitates sharing of ideas and information for the benefit of the programme

3. Knowledge management

The advisor

- supports project monitoring and updates information on project progress, documents and reports regularly on the status of results
- ensures knowledge transfer to programme, safeguards the flow of information between GFG, pilot LGAs, PO-RALG and other stakeholders
- develops strategies and technical concepts when needed, draws up presentation documents
- prepares appropriate input for various programme reports including annual reports, and contributes to other reports required by the programme manager and GIZ Head Office
- ensures that all relevant documents are recorded appropriately in internal files and knowledge management systems

4. Coordination tasks

The advisor

- assists with general programme planning and develops project concepts
- coordinates relevant project activities at local level in consultation with the manager and in cooperation with the partners
- compiles the relevant information for joint activities and assignments

5. Other duties/additional tasks

The Advisor

- performs other duties and tasks at the request of management
- is working on cross cutting topics for the overall programme (e.g. Gender, impact monitoring)

C. Required qualifications, competences and experience

Qualifications

- a university degree in a relevant discipline such as public administration, law, economics, finance, or business administration

Professional experience

- five (5) years of relevant experience in local/regional administration/ fiscal administration, of which at least 3 years at local or regional level

Other knowledge, additional competences

- in-depth knowledge of the (political) environment, administrative structures and procedures, especially on local and regional level
- profound knowledge of reform processes in public financial management and their challenges/dynamics
- Experience with digitalization of revenue collection and administration, familiarity with respective electronic systems and methods
- good drafting skills
- willingness to travel frequently to the field as well as to Dodoma, as required
- excellent skills in verbal and written communications / fluent English and Swahili
- proficient in using Microsoft Office

Applications:

Interested candidates are requested to send their letter of application together with the CV and academic certificates by email to hr.giz-tanzania@giz.de

Please use the subject line 'Advisor LRM'

Closing date for submission: **14.03.2021**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability or any other minority group.

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THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We all can do our bit by being sympathetic to needs of others

SOCIAL responsibility is an ethical framework and suggests that an individual has an obligation to work and cooperate with other individuals and organisations for the benefit of society at large. Social responsibility is a duty every individual has to perform so as to maintain a balance between the economy and the ecosystems.

A trade-off may exist between economic development, in the material sense, and the welfare of the society and environment, though this has been challenged by many reports over the past decade.

Social responsibility means sustaining the equilibrium between the two. It pertains not only to business organisations but also to everyone whose any action impacts the environment. It is a concept that aims to ensure secure healthcare for the people living in rural areas and eliminate all barriers like distance, financial condition, etc.

Another example is keeping the outdoors free of trash and litter by using the ethical framework combining the resources of land managers, municipalities, non-profits, educational institutions, businesses, manufacturers, and individual volunteers will be required to solve the ocean microplastics crisis.

This responsibility can be passive, by avoiding engaging in socially harmful acts, or active, by performing activities that directly advance social goals. Social responsibility must be intergenerational since the actions of one generation have consequences on those following.

Being sympathetic and concerned for the comfort of other fellow citizens and giving a lending hand does not entail being a well-heeled or affluent person. Rather, it requires having kind

heart, be compassionate and sympathetic to the needs of others.

These days, being considerate to those less fortunate and lending a helping hand has become an increasingly important act as life is becoming challenging and more tougher than before slipping more people into economic despair, health and social crisis.

In fact, helping each other and supporting needy people is not a new experience for Tanzania; rather, it was the long established culture of us.

Even these days, there are many people whose principal purpose in life is helping others—show compassion and love to the marginalised section of the society and always available to help the deprived ones in every possible way they can.

We should all give free services for patients suffering from chronic diseases, pregnant women as well as for those who lead their lives by generating responsible citizens-teachers.

The world is built on wisdom. And the father and mother of wisdom are teachers. We should respect teaching profession. We ought to inspire many to exercise social responsibilities in their professions. We should as well emphasise our deep respect and admire for the teaching profession as it is the base for other professions.

We believe that no matter in what kind of different profession we are in, every one directly or indirectly have been taught by a teacher thus, the profession is the head of each profession. With this thinking we should provide free service for individuals whose profession is teaching and also start doing the same thing for elderly people and persons with disabilities.

Managing natural resources for development in EA is achievable

CLIMATE services are vital tools for decision makers addressing climate change in developing countries, according to a new study published by the journal Risk Analysis. The research finds that science-based seasonal forecasts and accompanying materials can support climate risk management in agriculture, health, water management, energy, and disaster risk reduction.

But in East Africa, natural resource managers have been slow to use climate information services, partly because they are difficult to understand and may not feel relevant for their local planning purposes.

The study suggests that one way to encourage policymakers in East Africa to use climate services more often is to appeal to the motivational factors that influence their professional actions on climate change.

Researchers at the University of Cape Town found that experience with extreme weather events and social norms — external expectations of how one is supposed to feel, behave, or think in particular situations — may play important roles in motivating professional action on climate change.

"Based on our results, aligning climate services with social norms could offer low-hanging fruit for designing more effective climate services interventions," says climate scientist Anna Steynor, head of climate services at the Climate System Analysis Group, University of Cape Town.

For example, messages such as "80 percent of urban planning professionals are using climate information in their planning" could highlight the use of climate information among policy planners and, therefore, encourage the use of climate services by those who aren't currently utilizing them.

Between September 2018 and January 2019, the team conducted structured surveys of 474 "policy decision influencers" in five East African countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The majority of respondents (71 percent) were employed by national and local government ministries. Others worked for trade unions, international development agencies, non-governmental organizations, research organizations, and the private sector.

All of the respondents were involved in some way with natural resource management.

"These individuals are an important community because they are an accessible group for introducing adaptation-oriented interventions and are in a position of leadership to drive social adaptations around climate change," the authors write.

The participants were asked if they had taken general action, as part of their job activities, to prepare for the impacts of climate change. Three items on the survey assessed overall worry about climate change, as risk perceptions have been shown to underlie action on climate change.

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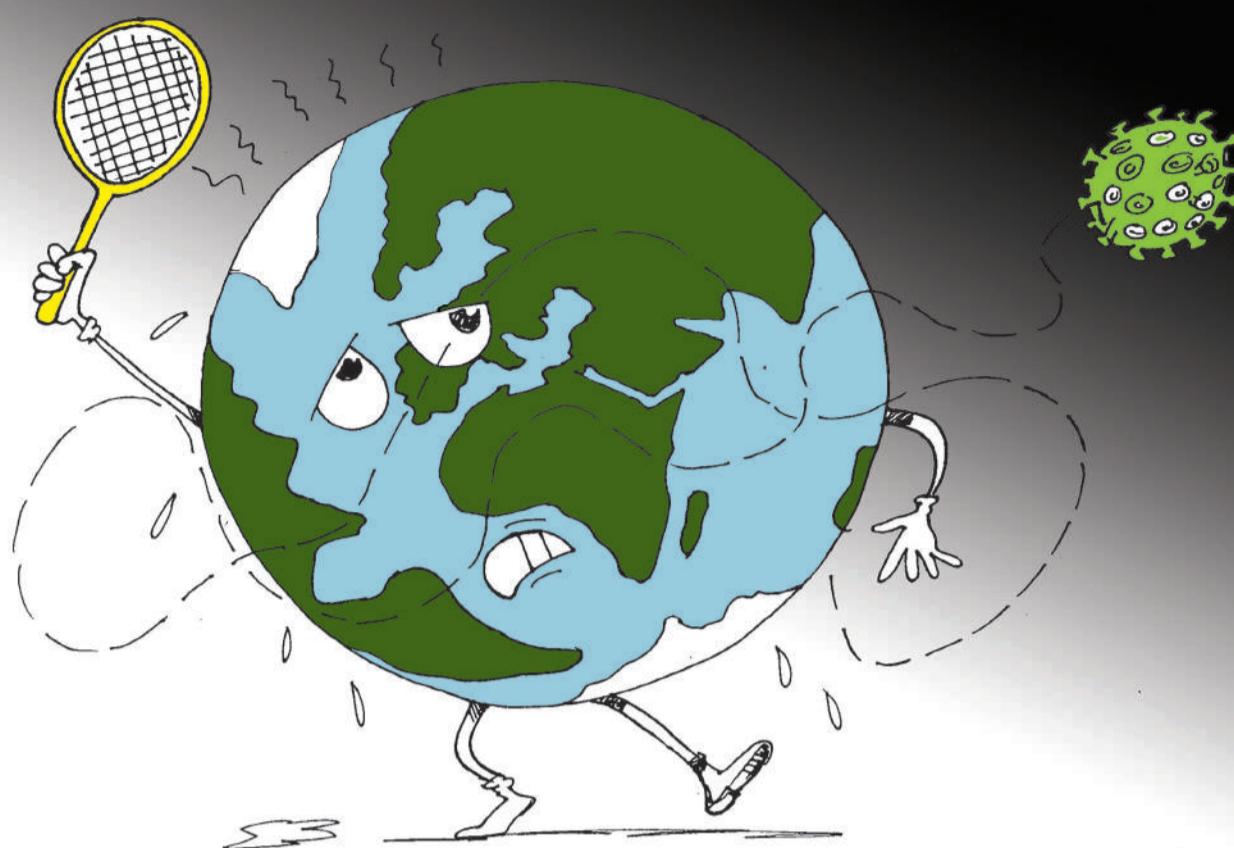
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End inequality and achieve sustainable development for all

By Siddharth Chatterjee and

Anakobe Sande

BACK in the 1990s, the discovery of antiretrovirals offered a ray of hope to save people's lives from the HIV epidemic. Over this decade, people living with HIV benefited from the scientific advances and began to have longer, healthier and more productive lives. However, almost all the beneficiaries were from rich countries in the global north. As a result, about nine million people died by the year 2000 due to the inequality in accessing these life-saving medicines.

It is a hard lesson from the HIV response, but unfortunately, it seems the lesson is not yet learned in dealing with today's health crisis.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world last year and claimed millions of lives, scientists, doctors and nurses, pharmaceutical industries, and experts acted quickly to develop vaccines to prevent further infections. However, when the vaccines were developed, the same kind of inequalities happened. Research shows the world's wealthiest countries have monopolised more than half of the production doses of vaccines, leaving low-and-medium-income countries struggling to secure vaccines. 10 rich countries have administered 75 per cent of all COVID-19 vaccines - while some 130 countries have not yet received a single dose.

In a poignant message to WHO's Executive Board in January 2021, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "even as vaccines bring hope to some, they become another brick in the wall of inequality between the world's haves and have-nots".

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and underlined the widespread inequalities in the world. That's why the theme of this year's Zero Discrimination Day, "End Inequality", is so pertinent in today's world. In today's world, we are all interconnected. Global inequality affects us all, no matter who we are or where we are from. We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance of a better life.

Inequality happens eve-



rywhere: income, health status, occupation, disability, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity and religion. As estimated, inequality is growing for more than 70 per cent of the global population, exacerbating the risk of division and hampering economic and social development. And almost two in ten people reported having personally experienced discrimination on at least one of the grounds established by international human rights law.

Discrimination and inequalities are intertwined. Discrimination against individuals and groups can lead to a wide range of inequalities—for example, in income, educational outcomes, health and employment. Inequalities can also lead to stigma and discrimination. Research shows that this social and structural discrimination results in significant inequalities in access to justice and in health outcomes.

Tackling inequality is not a new commitment—in 2015, all UN member states pledged to reduce inequality within and among countries as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. UNAIDS officially launched the first Zero Discrimination Day on 1 March 2014 in Beijing, calling on countries to examine discriminatory provisions in their laws and policies and make positive changes to ensure equal-

ity, inclusion and protection, particularly among key populations such as sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who inject drugs.

As well as being core to ending AIDS, tackling inequality and discrimination is universal in nature and will advance the human rights of people living with HIV, make societies better prepared to beat COVID-19 and other pandemics and support economic recovery and stability. Fulfilling the promise to tackle inequality will save millions of lives and benefit society as a whole.

Ending inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and there is a need to invest more in health, education, social protection and decent jobs.

We take this opportunity to congratulate China for not only lifting nearly 800 million people out of extreme poverty over the last four decades, but in the years since 2013, lifting nearly 100 million people out of poverty in the rural areas, setting China on course to achieve SDG 1 or ending poverty ten years before 2030. A significant milestone towards ending inequality.

Governments must promote inclusive social and economic growth and elimi-

nate discriminatory laws, policies and practices to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities. A people-centred approach is needed to ensure we leave no one behind.

This approach was explained well by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who made remarks at the High-level Segment of the 46th Session of The United Nations Human Rights Council recently. He said, "Increasing people's sense of gains, happiness and security is the fundamental pursuit of human rights as well as the ultimate goal of national governance."

We all have a role to play in ending discrimination and so reducing inequalities. We can all play our part by calling out discrimination where we see it, by setting an example or by advocating to change the law.

We believe equality can and should be achieved. Let's make it happen.

UN Resident Coordinator to China, Siddharth Chatterjee and UNAIDS Country Director to China, Anakobe Sande

Elephants or avocados: A Kenyan dilemma

KIMANA

THE majestic sight of elephants roaming beneath Mount Kilimanjaro has long lured throngs of wildlife-lovers to Amboseli National Park on Kenya's border with Tanzania.

Yet the free movement of some 2,000 Amboseli elephants, along with two dozen other wildlife species plus cows owned by local Maasai people, may be under threat - from avocados.

Kenyan agricultural company KiliAvo Fresh Ltd, which has farms near Amboseli on nearly 175 acres of land, is building nurseries and preparing to grow the fruit, whose popularity is growing worldwide due to its high nutritional value.

Conservationists are aghast.

They say the plans and an electric fence on the farm will block the crucial Kimana Wildlife Corridor where elephants move between Amboseli, the Tsavo and Chyulu Hills parks, and strangle one of the region's most beloved and important safari parks.

In a dispute illustrating the global tussle for shrinking resources from Africa to the Amazon, KiliAvo said it obtained the land legally then received government approval in mid-2020 to begin work after presenting an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

"Local people here all know the project and they are happy because it's another source of employment and of making their land have value," KiliAvo shareholder and farm manager Jeremiah Salaash told Reuters.

However, the National Environment Management Agency ordered work halted last September and said it wanted to revoke the EIA. KiliAvo has challenged that in Kenya's environmental tribunal, where the case is pending, according to CM Advocates LLP, the law firm representing them.

The agency's acting director general Mamo Mamo told Reuters it initially approved the EIA because of the project's endorsement by the Amboseli Ecosystem Trust, a coalition that includes community groups and government representatives, but changed its position when the Trust withdrew approval.

FRUIT EXPORTS V TOURIST CASH

With ideal conditions for growing the fruit, Kenya's avocado export revenues surged 33% to 14 billion Kenyan shillings (about \$127 million) in the year to October 2020, government data shows.

As impressive as that growth rate is, such money pales in comparison to tourism, which raked in \$1.6 billion in 2019. Squeezing the elephants could hit their population, conservationists say, harming a national heritage and also prejudicing the tourism trade so



many people depend on.

"We can't just say to the elephants: 'Would you mind not going that way because we have decided that we are going to do stuff here?'" said Vicki Fishlock, a scientist working for the Amboseli Elephant Trust group.

"Blockage of the corridor would surely kill the sanctuary as it depends on the animals migrating from Amboseli," added Samuel Kaanki, who chairs an association of 342 Maasai owning 20,500

acres where elephants browse, breed and migrate.

He said the elephants, if blocked by farms like KiliAvo's or others, would seek alternative routes: "This would ... result in massive human-wildlife conflicts."

KiliAvo's lawyers said the farm was actually 17 km (11 miles) away from Amboseli in an area designated for farming. Further, the company had employed 300 local residents, provided training and technology, proposed improving

fresh water facilities and helped renovate a school, CM Advocates LLP said.

"Our Client continues to be the victim of constant and relentless harassment and mischaracterization of their project for ulterior motives," it said in an email to Reuters. "Our Client is actually a victim of witch-hunt and opportunism."

Another conservation group, Big Life Foundation, has footage from October of four gazelles ap-

parently stuck on one side of the fence, trying to get through. It also said the fence was damaged at least three times last month by elephants.

"If they are trapped in one place, populations will collapse," said Ernest Lenkoina, human-elephant conflict mitigation project manager at Big Life. "In the end, both the Maasai way of life here and the sight of elephants browsing beneath Mount Kilimanjaro could be gone forever."

Another Covid-19 threat: Health care workers under attack

PHILADELPHIA

IN the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic, at a certain hour of the evening, people in cities around the world opened their windows or stood on their rooftops and banged pots and rang bells. As the coronavirus spread and the number of deaths mounted, it was a moment for people distancing themselves from others to show solidarity and appreciation for the heroic work of health workers. But even as health workers were being celebrated by some, others attacked them.

In 400 incidents last year around the globe, health workers were attacked, clinics, hospitals and COVID-19 testing facilities were targeted, or public health officials were threatened.

Fear, misinformation and conspiracy theories flourished alongside frustration with the actions and inaction by governments to stem the pandemic and address the massive social and economic upheaval that accompanied it. At the same time, police and security forces arrested and assaulted health workers for protesting governments' inadequate responses to the pandemic.

These incidents, and others, are documented in a newly released, interactive map developed by Insecurity Insight and the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, with technical support from MapAction. Documenting these incidents and understanding their causes is important so that governments and health facilities can prepare for and prevent such atrocities.

Threats and attacks often arose from opposition to health measures to contain the spread of the virus, such as community-wide lockdowns. Health workers were assaulted by people who feared they were spreading the disease, and health facilities treating patients with COVID-19 were targeted.

For example, in Hong Kong, Molotov cocktails were thrown at four health centers after the government designated them for COVID-19 treatment. Similarly, in Mexico, three health clinics under construction to fight the pandemic were threatened with or targeted in arson attacks.

Health workers were also threatened, or fired, by their employers, and in some cases arrested, for speaking out against the lack of protective equipment or government misinformation about the pandemic. Health workers were also targeted in settings of ongoing conflict.

For example, in Myanmar, a marked World Health Organization vehicle transporting COVID-19 testing samples came under gunfire, injuring a health care worker and killing the driver.

In Cameroon, a rebel militia destroyed a supply of hand sanitizers. In Libya, a plane reportedly carrying COVID-related equipment was shot down. And in



A healthcare worker at a testing facility collects samples for the coronavirus at Mimar Sinan State Hospital, Buyukcekmece district in Istanbul, Turkey.

Yemen, armed men in military vehicles stormed a health facility and confiscated COVID-19 disinfecting supplies.

Some of the attacks portray a desperation and despair in communities. In the Brazilian city of Belem, in April, dozens of people seeking medical treatment tore down the gate of a hospital that was reserved for COVID-19 patients and forced their way in.

In Dakar, Senegal, in May, people threw stones at Red Cross volunteers to prevent them from burying a person who had died from COVID-19 in the local cemetery. In the Mexican state of Guanajuato, in August, a group of people attacked a nurse at a store owned by her family, accusing her of spreading the coronavirus.

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, as its name suggests, has previously focused exclusively on attacks in conflict settings. But 2020 was an exceptional year.

The organizations in the coalition, which include academic and independent researchers, international nongovernmental organizations, and human rights, public health and health care associations, collected information on threats and attacks related to COVID-19 globally, from news accounts as well as confidential contributions from aid agencies and professional organizations.

These types of attacks are not unprecedented. In past outbreaks of SARS, Ebola, and H1N1, there were also attacks on health workers, facilities and ambulances. For example, in 2014, people attacked health workers and the hospital in Guinea's second largest city, Nzerekore, shouting: "Ebola is a lie!" Violence against polio vaccination workers has halted progress toward elimination in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria.

Although most governments have detailed pandemic preparedness plans, few include measures to protect health workers and facilities. The 103-page "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guidance for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers" published by the US government mentions violence against health workers in only one sentence.

More needs to be done to prepare and prevent attacks. Clear and honest communication is key. New, deadly, and poorly understood disease threats understandably cause anxiety and government policies such as quarantines can amplify fear and misinformation.

But communication is not enough. Governments, and health care workers, also have to show that their response is not only based upon the best available evidence, but that it is grounded on human rights principles such as

transparency, participation and equity.

Engaging with the most affected communities early in a pandemic will open lines of communication and trust, as will transparency in demonstrating that supplies (such as PPE) and access to care is available, without discrimination, to those most affected.

There will be another global pandemic. Hopefully, not soon. But we should learn the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic that we have failed to learn with past outbreaks and anticipate and protect health workers and facilities from threats and attacks.

And governments should act now to prepare for violence that may occur around COVID-19 vaccine implementation and to end the COVID-19 related violence still occurring. Banging on pots to show appreciation of health workers is not enough. **IPS**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Women in leadership positions: An economist's view of International Women's Day

COPENHAGEN

IN the tenth century, Erik the Red, a Viking from Iceland, was so impressed with the vegetation on another Arctic island he had found he called it "the green land." Today, it's Greenland's rocks that are attracting outsiders - superpowers riding a green revolution.

s, to ensure other countries cannot weaponise them against the United States.

Each Greenland mine would cost about \$500 million to develop, the companies say. Both plan to send mined material away for final processing, an activity that is heavily concentrated in China.

The only rare earth mine now operating in the United States - Mountain Pass in California - is partly owned by a Chinese state-backed company that currently sends material mined in the U.S. to China for processing.

The Greenland sites are less than 16 km (10 miles) from each other at the southern tip of the island, near a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Debate on them has triggered a political crisis in the capital of Nuuk, forcing a general election on the island of 56,000, due in April. Many Greenlanders, while concerned about pollution, feel mining is key to develop their fragile economy. In a 2013 poll, just over half said they want raw materials to become the country's main source of income.

The country may ultimately back either project, both, or neither, but for those Greenlanders open to mining, the two proposals boil down to a choice between one mine that would not produce radioactive material, and another that would.

The first mine, a private initiative from an Australian geologist who has presented it to U.S. officials, would not involve nuclear material. It has won preliminary environmental approval, but it needs cash and a processing plan.

The second one has already spent more than \$100 million preparing to mine, has proven processing technology through its Chinese partner, and won initial political support from Greenland's coalition government. But its plans include exporting uranium, a nuclear fuel, and it recently ran into strong opposition, including from residents of the nearby town of Narsaq.

"As indigenous people we have lived in harmony with nature for many, many years," said Mariane Paviassen, an opposition lawmaker who lives in the town. "We use these lands to hunt and fish."

Greenland, a self-governing territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, has a gross domestic product of around \$3 billion - similar to Andorra and Burundi. With its people



living mostly on fishing and grants from Copenhagen, its government is keen to attract foreign investments.

It does not have an estimate for royalties from the first project, but expects around 1.5 billion Danish crowns (\$245 million) each year from the Chinese-linked one - equivalent to roughly 15% of public spending.

Greenland's government did not respond to requests for comment for this story. Acting Minister of Resources Vittus Qujaukitsoq said last month that if Greenlanders suddenly decide they don't want the second project, "we'll make a fool of investors. The credibility of the whole country is at stake."

STRATEGIC RESOURCES

Greenland's rare earth metals are also a

chance for America and Europe to regain control of a strategic resource.

The island's potential as a source of the raw materials needed for renewable energy technologies gained momentum in 2010, when China threatened to cut off its supply of rare earth metals to Japan, and tightened quotas to international buyers.

Prices for some of the metals have jumped in recent months, driven by surging demand for electric vehicles as well as concerns that Beijing may restrict sales.

Greenland's position near the eastern flank of the United States makes it a sensitive location. Former U.S. President Donald Trump offered to buy the island in 2019, and he was not the first U.S. president to do so: In 1946 Harry S. Truman offered Denmark \$100 million for

it. A defence treaty between Denmark and the United States dating back to 1951 gives the U.S. military almost unlimited rights there, and Greenland houses the northernmost U.S. military base.

Friedbert Pflüger, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council think tank, says the revenues generated by a major mine could give its owner leverage over policies in Greenland, and a strong Chinese presence there may pose strategic threats.

"The very presence of Chinese companies in Greenland could be used as justification for China to intervene," said Pflüger, a former

German politician and ex-deputy defence minister.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement that such comments politicise economic and trade issues through "groundless speculation," adding "China has always supported foreign economic cooperation in accordance with market principles and international rules."

The U.S. State Department said: "We encourage our allies and partners to carefully review any investments... that could give China access to critical infrastr to move away.

IPS

Biden-Harris administration committed to building resilient agricultural supply chains

URBANA, Illinois

THE White House, under the Presidency of Joe Biden just released an Executive Order on America's Supply Chains stating the country needs to have resilient, diverse and secure supply chains to ensure economic prosperity and national security. Among the acknowledged threats that can reduce the resilience of America's supply chains include climate change and extreme weather events.

Indeed, climate change and extreme weather, all of which have become very frequent and of economic importance, can have a huge impact on the agricultural sector. This was already evident before the global pandemic.

For example, recently, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service reported that 2020 was tied with 2016 as the hottest year on record. In the same year, the United States experienced many climate change related extremities including the lowa derecho, a costly thunderstorm disaster, California wildfires and flooding in Michigan. These extremities have already began happening in 2021, and are expected to continue.

The move by the Biden Administration is commendable. A question that becomes central is -how does a resilient agricultural system that is resistant to climate change and extreme weather events look like? What are the pillars? Can resiliency in today's United States agricultural systems be achieved? Could we unleash operation warp speed to create resilient agricultural systems that are critical to meeting US food security needs?

Of course, there will be many visions and pathways to achieving resilience in agricultural sector, because agriculture and the agricultural value and supply chain is complex with many pillars and activities that are linked and interdependent.

Despite the complexities involved in building resilience, there are a few fundamental and key things that must happen.

First and foremost, a resilient agricultural system must be rooted in healthy soils. Soils is the foundation of life and the base upon which we grow resilient crops. Healthy soils are necessary and a prerequisite to achieving sustainable national food security.

They are also a useful resource in the fight against the worsening climate change as they absorb carbon from air and store it.

Alarming, soils are unhealthy and degraded. A recently published paper reported that over one-third of the Corn Belt, the epicenter of American corn and soybean production, has lost its carbon-rich top soil.

Soil degradation is a global problem with a third of Earth's soil considered to be degraded in part due to agriculture. Without healthy soils, that play many critical



US president Joe Biden and his vice Kamala Harris

roles including storing soil carbon, resilient agriculture won't be possible.

Secondly, resilient agricultural system must be fully vaccinated from climate change and extremities that come with a changing climate. Just like we have rolled operation

warp speed to tackle COVID-19, it is important to unleash science based solutions to vaccinate our agricultural systems. From using artificial intelligence to predict climate-related disasters such as flooding, drought, and insect pests to planting climate-smart crops that can withstand

disasters to using smart and intelligent systems all through the agricultural value and supply chains to ensure that agriculture and food systems stay ahead of all the challenges.

Thirdly, resilient agricultural systems must be racially inclusive, just and equitable. According to data evidence, there are fewer Black farmers, a number that has reduced from nearly 1 million farmers in 1920 to less than 50 000 farmers, because of historic discrimination, exclusion and inequities in federal agricultural policies.

It is commendable that US Senators led by Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Tina Smith (D-MN), Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) are taking the lead in changing these statistics by introducing a comprehensive bill that addresses these injustices.

Finally, resilient systems must be built in ways that allow for ways to transparently monitor and track progress made. Americans deserve transparency.

The task of building resilient American supply chains amidst the current challenges is no doubt difficult but it can be achieved by focusing on healthy soils, vaccinated crops and equitable and just agricultural systems. The time is now.

IPS

Africa suffers the most from the climate crisis

By Special Correspondent

IN many ways, the global panic over Covid-19 in 2020 is a dress rehearsal for the moment when the majority of the world's people collide with the destructive force of the climate crisis.

The storms and the arid croplands will spread like a malevolent ink stain across the world's top food-producing countries, all set against a backdrop of the breakdown of water and supplies.

None of this is news to farmers across Africa, Asia and the Americas, who are paying the price for rich-country insouciance. The resource wars of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and over the Democratic Republic of Congo's cornucopia of mineral riches are escalating, further threatening stability and social development.

Last year, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reinforced the urgency of the crisis after it found that African countries were spending between 2% and 9% of their GDP on climate adaptation and mitigation. Extreme heat, drought and changes in rainfall will continue over the next few decades as the planet warms.

The WMO's worst-case scenario forecasts a warming of 4°C by the end of the century, cutting Africa's average GDP by between 7% and 12%; crop yields would decline by 13% in West and Central Africa and by 8% in East and Southern Africa.

A more moderate warming would cut average growth in Africa by between 3% and 8%. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says the number of undernourished people in drought-prone countries has increased by 45% since 2012.

For many reasons, 2021 will start the final battle for the climate. As governments at the dawning of the pandemic came under irresistible pressure to lock down their economies, leaders of the biggest economies have to face the threat of environmental destruction in the same spirit.

The biggest players are laying down the stakes. This makes the Conference of the Parties (COP26), due to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, the climate equivalent of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which was also held in the shadow of a global pandemic. It is time to remake the international system.

Almost all 193 UN member states will send a high-level delegation to Glasgow to negotiate two main issues: a binding accord to stall global heating, and to boost funds for developing economies adjusting to the despoliation.

China has set out its stall. President Xi Jinping's unilateral commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060 is more than tactics or a negotiating



ploy. A coal-fired 'One Belt, One Road' plan is no longer viable.

Beijing calculates that it has to act if its economy and its strategic power are to continue expanding. Floods around the Yangtze River are as much a challenge to Beijing's political strategy as pro-democracy activists on the streets of Hong Kong, according to political economist Adam Tooze.

A straw in the wind is the collapse of a \$2bn coal-fired power station project in Lamu, Kenya,

after China's ICBC bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and South Africa's Standard Bank pulled out. The AfDB and Standard Bank named climate damage as the reason.

Nigeria's former finance minister and the new director-general of the World Trade Organization, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, argues that Africa should play a leading role by building new green economies with low-carbon technologies. She points to Morocco's Noor solar

complex as an example.

South Africa's carbon tax, introduced last year, should cut emissions by a third by 2035. With its abundance of solar, wind and geothermal energy, Africa has a comparative advantage in renewable energy, argues Okonjo-Iweala.

Sustainable agriculture and forestry in Africa can reinforce the global battle against climate, but also add over \$300bn to the regional GDP.

If the West and China can agree on their respective decarbonisation plans, they should also help accelerate the green revolution in Africa, through innovative technology and targeted finance.

US President Joe Biden's ascent to power, elected on a platform of a \$2trn green-energy plan, is a positive start. His choice of John Kerry as the US's climate czar will inject seriousness into the run-up to the COP26 negotiations.

With China, Europe and the US taking ambitious positions, what are the best tactics and negotiating stance for Africa? Currently chaired by Gabon's Tanguy Gahouma-Bekale, the Africa group of climate negotiators has to press far harder, given the economic stress of the pandemic. A main focus should be on the \$10bn Green Climate Fund, which needs a massive boost and more access for African projects.

The continent's apex institutions - the African Union and the AfDB - should lead a global campaign on behalf of the world's youngest continent, which is suffering most from climate catastrophe having contributed least to it. It will be the struggle of a lifetime. The vested interests of big oil and coal - state-owned energy companies that prop up national economies across the globe - will haunt the bargaining in November.

To counter them will require mass mobilisation, international shareholder activism and media campaigns. It will be buttressed by Africa's strongest diplomats but led by the youth, who face a meltdown of their futures if the Glasgow summiters fail to agree a radical global decarbonisation accord.

Lower-middle income states slashed education budgets after COVID-19 outbreak - WB report

By Special Correspondent

EDUCATION budgets were cut by 65 per cent of low and lower-middle income countries after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic while only 33 per cent of high and upper-middle income countries did so, according to a report by the World Bank.

The report, compiled in collaboration with UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, said the current levels of government spending in low and lower-middle income countries fall short of those required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"In order to understand the short-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education budgets, information was collected for a sample of 29 countries across all regions. The sample represents about 54 per cent of the world's school and university aged population. The information collected was then verified with World Bank country teams," the report said.

"Responding to the COVID-19 crisis requires additional spending to adapt schools for compliance with the necessary measures to control contagion and to fund programs to make up for the losses in learning students experienced while schools were

closed," it added.

The sample includes three low-income countries (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Uganda); 14 lower-middle income countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Tanzania, Ukraine, Uzbekistan); 10 upper-middle income nations (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Jordan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Turkey); and two high-income countries (Chile, Panama).

"The following countries have education shares below 10 per cent and therefore are likely to have other main financing sources

besides budget assigned by the central government: Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Russia," the report stated.

"It is not clear that countries that have seen a decline in their education budget will be able to cover these costs increased during the pandemic alongside the regular increases in funding needed to support growing school-age populations.

"Despite the urgent need for adequate funding to allow school systems to reopen safely, about half of the countries in the sample cut their education budgets. This scarcely bodes well for the future, when

macroeconomic conditions are expected to worsen," it said.

On the other hand, households in low and lower-middle income countries tend to contribute a greater share of the total education spending than those in upper-middle and high-income countries, the report pointed out.

"While data is limited, household education spending as a share of GDP has increased in low-income countries and households still contribute significantly to the costs of education. The pandemic has resulted in a large and negative income and health shock for many households," it said.

If COVID-19 impact is not contained in 2021, 514 million Africans may fall below extreme poverty line - forum

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

CAN African countries still achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030? African growth trajectories and the impact of COVID19 are currently shedding doubts on countries' ability to reach this objective, unless the region achieves faster growth than before the pandemic in the upcoming years.

Day two of the 7th African regional forum for sustainable development (ARFSD) kicked off yesterday under the chairmanship of the Zimbabwe Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Paul Mavima, with an opportunity for African delegates to take stock of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and 2063 in the context of the fight against COVID19.

According to the ECA Africa Sustainable Development Report, SDG and Agenda 2063 implementation in Africa was faced with several challenges even prior to the onset of the COVID19 crisis:

Before the pandemic, income disparities were on the rise across the region; and while extreme poverty had almost vanished in North Africa, more than 50% of the population in Central Africa lived below the extreme poverty line. About nine out of ten extremely poor people in the world currently live in Africa, and ECA warns that COVID19 will push an additional 5 to 29 million below the extreme poverty line. If the impact of the pandemic is not limited by 2021, an additional 59 million people could suffer the same fate, which would bring the total number of extremely poor Africans to 514 million people.

Africa continues to experience disparities in universal access to energy, electricity and even clean fuels and technologies for cooking.



While African countries have made progress towards the emission reduction target and have managed to increase the proportion of key biodiversity areas by 4.5% between 2010 and 2020, the region has remained vulnerable to climate change with limited response capability. In addition, Africa has lost an average of 3.9 million hectares of forest per year between 2010 and 2020 due to population growth, poverty and agricultural expansion.

Faced with these difficulties, ECA experts have suggested several orientations to speed up the African recovery such as:

Establishing and strengthening of social protection systems for sustainable poverty reduction, and investment in key enablers such as reproductive health, mental health, access to

primary health care and education:

Improved environment through sustainable extraction policies and use of natural resources;

Investing in modern and digital technologies to increase productivity and encourage innovation; Adopting a people-centered approach when addressing issues related to governance, peace and security;

In order to finance these efforts, the ECA experts recommended the use of a coordinated multilateral approach to debt relief, debt restructuring and development financing as well as domestic resource mobilization.

The ECA team presented the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT), designed to help African countries facilitate the integration of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into their national

development plans and the monitoring of their implementation.

This meeting took place within the framework of the 7th African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD) currently taking place online and physically in Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) from March 1 to 4, 2021. ARFSD is being held this year under the theme: "Building forward better: Towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063" and aims to take stock of progress made towards the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, facilitate the exchange of information and experience between countries and promote solutions and transformative actions that will speed up their implementation.

AfDB awards \$320 000 in grant funding to mainstream gender in ECOWAS digital financial operations - ADFI

ABIDJAN

THE board of directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has awarded a grant of \$320, 535 to the West African Monetary Agency to mainstream gender in ECOWAS' core digital financial services (DFS) regulatory frameworks.

The funds will support a gender gap analysis of several WAMA strategies including those for financial inclusion; gender disaggregation data analytics;

digital payment services and infrastructure; and digital identity.

The project, to be executed over a three year period, will potentially affect 350 million people in all 15 ECOWAS nations: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

The grant will be disbursed through the Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility, a blended

finance vehicle, supported by the Bank.

"With a secretariat comprising all the 15 ECOWAS central banks, WAMA plays a pivotal role in the consolidation and implementation of strategic financial inclusion objectives. ADFI and the WAMA project team will work closely with other ecosystem players in the region to ensure harmonisation of efforts for maximum impact," said Sheila Okiro, the ADFI coordinator.

The project has the potential to raise by 35 per cent women's participation in digital financial market operations in the region, which has a higher gender disparity than other parts of the continent as reflected in its Gender Development Index of 0.825 versus the African average of 0.871.

Africa has a gender-inclusion gap of 11 per cent as compared to the global average of 9 per cent according to the 2017 Findex Report.

To address this challenge, it is imperative that gender is mainstreamed across all functions but more so at the level of policy and regulation.

The project is aligned to ADFI's strategic goals including its cross-cutting focus on gender inclusion, as well as the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy, Gender Strategy (2021-2025) and to the Integrate Africa High-5 strategic focus.

The Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility (ADFI)—a pan-African instrument designed to accelerate

digital financial inclusion throughout Africa, with the goal of ensuring that an additional 332 million Africans (60% of them women) have access to the formal financial system. ADFI's current partners are the French Development Agency (AFD); the French Treasury, Ministry of Economy and Finance; the Government of Luxembourg's Ministry of Finance; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and the African Development Bank, which also hosts the fund.

Boko Haram aims to strengthen stance by teaming up with bandits in Nigeria



Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has long been interested in expanding the faction's base beyond Nigeria's north-east. (File Photo)

By Malik Samuel f

WHEN Boko Haram faction leader Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for the December 2020 mass abduction of more than 300 schoolboys in Katsina State, north-west Nigeria, he wasn't taken seriously - not even by government.

This despite the fact that the proof-of-life video came from the Jam'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wal-Jih d (JAS) faction, led by Shekau. People felt that since the abduction was carried out by bandits, especially in a region where Boko Haram was not thought to be present, the group's claim could be propaganda.

Ongoing Institute for Security Studies (ISS) research shows however that not only did JAS participate in the abduction, but the link between the group and bandits pre-dated the incident.

Boko Haram, particularly under Shekau, has long been interested in expanding its base beyond Nigeria's north-east. And its north-west and north-central regions are increasingly becoming its areas of choice due to deteriorating security and other conditions there.

The group's interest in these regions, especially the north-west, can be traced to a 2014 internal "Message to Fulanis" video. In it, Shekau is seen expressing 'gratitude' to fighters in Katsina State and other unspecified locations.

About six years later, in what appeared to be further confirmation of Shekau's interest in the regions, Boko Haram fighters sent greet-

ings to their colleagues in Zamfara and Niger states in a video released by the group. Three weeks later, the greeting was reciprocated by fighters in Niger State.

There are numerous reasons for Shekau's forays into the north-west and north-central areas. These include the desire to create an Islamic state that goes beyond the north-east, recruitment and financial gains from ransom payments and other activities like illegal gold mining.

But another major reason is to create a diversion. Stoking security threats elsewhere removes or reduces security forces' pressure on the north-east, particularly Sambisa Forest.

This gives Shekau some breathing space from the military operations at his Sambisa base.

Former fighters who spoke to the ISS said that the constant military operations in Sambisa Forest had in the past made Shekau think of fleeing to the Mandara Mountains.

But it would have been impossible to move his armaments without attracting security forces' attention. Also, the military could cut his supply chains, and his fighters' morale would be damaged by a move seen as cowardly. This could lead to a revolt and possibly another split.

It therefore makes sense that JAS instead used the insecurity in regions outside the north-east to create more trouble for security forces. And the presence of criminals in these regions offers him the platform to do so seamlessly without raising eyebrows.

The ISS research shows that a group of former Boko Haram members led by Adam Bitri - a pioneer member of the group and close friend of late founder Mohammed Yusuf and Shekau - was crucial in the alliance between bandits and JAS.

Bitri fled from government-provided accommodation in Kaduna State, north-west Nigeria, in 2019 while waiting to enrol in the deradicalisation programme. He teamed up with kidnapers in Zaria and Birnin Gwari, a hotbed of criminality in the state, and re-established a link with JAS.

Another important player in the alliance is Sadiku, a Fulani JAS commander. He was already familiar with the regions because he shuttled between the north-east and north-west while he was based in Sambisa.

During one of his visits to the north-west in 2019,

he planned the Bitri's murder for allegedly betraying Shekau. Bitri had defected to the rival Islamic State West Africa Province faction and then accepted government's deradicalisation offer.

Shortly after Bitri's death, Shekau sent a delegation headed by Sadiku to ensure that his death wouldn't jeopardise the burgeoning relationship with some of the bandit groups loyal to him.

The delegation, which was to be permanently based in the north-west and north-central regions, facilitated a treaty between those groups loyal to Shekau and those not. The treaty prohibited each side from attacking the other or giving information about the other to security forces.

Violent extremist groups and criminals often use intelligence gathering in their activities. Security forces must find ways to keep a step ahead. They need to invest more time and resources in the painstaking work of intelligence gathering if they want to unravel the links between extremist and criminal groups and take effective action.

Like in other parts of the country, the main issues contributing to insecurity in the north-west and north-central regions include governance, particularly policing. Many communities don't feel the presence of government, especially in the area of safety and protection.

This allows criminal groups to step in and take advantage by entering into social contracts with communities - not that these communities have any choice. For some, collaborating with violent extremist and criminal groups is all about survival and negotiating their safety.

Nigeria needs to address the huge problem faced by its police force. With a population of over 200 million people, Nigeria's police-to-citizen ratio of 1:540 is below the United Nations recommendation. Despite this inadequacy, more than half of the country's police personnel are employed by private individuals and organisations who have money to pay them.

In addition to the lack of funding for policing, other problems are corruption, human rights abuses and lack of training in modern policing techniques, among others. Nigeria's government needs to prioritise all these problems, urgently. DM

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



THURSDAY

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

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



THURSDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	SPORTS
21:00-23:00HRS	MALUMBANO YA HOJA
23:00-01:00HRS	MUSIC & JINGLES
01:00-05:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 162 00--

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

- 3 LETTERS: STY, END, CCM
- 4 LETTERS: TEND, TIME, MEET, NEED, YUAN CENT, LAMP
- 5 LETTERS: PLATE, NAIRA, DEMON, YARDS ABOVE
- 6 LETTERS: NORWAY, KARATE, SHADOW, DEXTER ASSIST
- 7 LETTERS: THEATRE
- 8 LETTERS: CREATION
- 10 LETTERS: TANGANYIKA

- CLUES: Across**
- Selling of human beings
 - having the power to do things
 - harbours
 - to desire something
 - take action
 - stages in process of developments
 - one as a number
 - a topic
 - follow a winding course
 - a succulent tropical plant with a rosette of thick tapering leaves
 - a mythical sea monster said to appear off the coast of Norway
- Down:**
- frighten
 - a person that cooperates with another
 - music management software
 - discover the presence
 - a snake-like fish
 - set a device before using it
 - a length of water wider than a strait, joining two large areas of water, especially two seas
 - maller upper assembly in US
 - a person who tunes musical instruments
 - domesticated for riding
 - a floor covering made of straw
 - all right

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

S O U T H S U D A N
 F R A N C E
 G G S C A N O N
 W E A S E L U
 R E L N A S S
 S E L E C T E
 A R N
 A C I D E S S A Y
 T I R H A
 R E F E R E S N
 F D E A E Z
 B E D G I N G A
 S U G A R C A N E S
 O O I M
 M A L L A D A P I
 E D O D G E I
 M A I D E N E
 N D N A
 O D D S A C R E S
 E E H S
 C L I M A T E S I
 R A C E E S
 Y E N D U R E T



Thursday 4 March 2021

'Cassava production up and demand higher than supply'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

ALTHOUGH Tanzania has registered increased production of cassava from 5.9 million tonnes to 8.2 million between 2008 and 2019, the demand is still higher than supply, it has been said.

According to the Director of Crops in the ministry of Agriculture, Nyasebwa Chimagu, despite the increase, production of the vital economic cash crop remains relatively low in the country compared to the high demand from within and outside the country.

For instance, China alone demands more than 2 million tonnes of dry cassava, equivalent to 6 million tonnes of fresh cassava per year.

Chimagu said in an interview here that low production was attributed to low use of improved seed, low application of improved technologies, unreliable climatic conditions as well as presence of diseases, among others.

According to him during the 2016/17 season at least 1,202,216 hectares of cassava were cultivated, producing a total of 4,025,265 tonnes. "The low production was caused by prolonged droughts in



Cassava petty vendors at Buguruni market in Dar es Salaam offloads the product from the lorry ready for sale. File Photo.

major cassava growing zones," he stated.

He added that during the 2017/18 season, the country grew cassava in a total of 983,502 hectares which generated 8,372,211 tonnes, whilst

during the 2018/2019 farming season the country produced 8,184,093 tonnes from 990,835 hectares.

"We are putting several measures in place to improve the country's production level with an eye to

meet expanded demand for cassava in home and away markets," he observed.

Cassava Desk Officer, Upendo Mndeme, noted that the ministry of agriculture has developed a diverse

strategy aiming to double the current production through increasing availability of quality cassava seed varieties, training farmers and extension officers on better agronomic practices.

"A number of efforts have been put in place to increase production, productivity and processing of cassava in the country, through which, more than 389 hectares of cassava seed farm have been registered for seed multiplication and at least 71 authorized seed inspectors have been trained on cassava seed inspection, Director of Crops in the ministry of Agriculture, Dr Nyasebwa Chimagu said.

As per the 2017 National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)'s Agriculture Annual Sample Survey, cassava is operated by 1.9 million operators along the value chain and the crop contributes 17 percent of the food basket in Tanzania, second after maize during 2018/19.

Tanzania ranks 12th in the world cassava production, 7th in Africa, based on the country's available cassava production data of 8.4 million tonnes in 2018.

The leading countries in cassava producing in the continent include Nigeria, DRC, Ghana, Angola, Mozambique and Malawi.

Stellantis sees firm rebound in 2021

MILAN

LOW global car inventories and cost cuts should boost Stellantis's profit margins this year, though a shortage of semiconductors and investments in electric vehicles could weigh on results, the newly-formed automaker said yesterday.

The forecast came as Stellantis, created by the January merger of Peugeot-maker PSA and Fiat Chrysler (FCA), reported better-than-expected results for 2020 that sent its shares up around 3 percent in morning trading.

"Stellantis gets off to a flying start and is fully focused on achieving the full promised synergies (from the merger)," Chief Executive Carlos Tavares said in a statement.

Stellantis is the world's fourth largest carmaker, with 14 brands including Fiat, Peugeot, Opel, Jeep, Ram and Maserati.

It said 2021 results should be helped by three new high-margin Jeep vehicles in North America and a strong pricing environment there. The U.S. market has driven profits for years at FCA and starts off as the strongest part of Stellantis.

The group's guidance assumes no more significant lockdowns caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, which shuttered auto plants around the world last spring.

Stellantis should also get a lift as it starts to implement a plan aimed at delivering over 5 billion euros a year in savings, without closing any plants. Tavares has also pledged not to cut jobs.

But a pandemic-related global shortage of semiconductors, used for everything from maximising engine fuel economy to driver-assistance features, could hurt business. Auto industry executives have said the shortage should ease by the second half of 2021.

Stellantis said its "electrification offensive" could also weigh on results this year. Automakers are racing to develop electric vehicles to meet tighter CO2 emissions targets in Europe and this week Volvo joined a growing number of carmakers aiming for a fully-electric line-up by 2030.



The logo of Stellantis is seen at the main entrance of the FCA Mirafiori plant in Turin, Italy. File Photo.

Experts in Pemba Spices Project urged to stress on better farming practices

By Banker Reporter, Pemba

AGRICULTURAL experts in Pemba's Spices and Vegetables Farming Project have been called upon to stress on quality procedures that are sustainable to farmers in order to enhance production of crops from meager chemical inputs.

The advice was given here early this week by the Trade and Marketing Officer Omar Mtarika at a training seminar to Pemba agricultural experts that aimed to professionally empower them with appropriate teaching practices when educating farmers on better farming methods of the crops.

Mtarika said the

responsibilities of agricultural officers in the project is to employ their expertise by imparting correct information to farmers on better land use including on farming inputs for better crops production.

He said in order to attain the goals of the project farmers ought to have the capability in employing sustainable farming practices that adhere to environment conservation including consideration to the surrounding communities.

He added that project's goals will be realized via agricultural experts educating farmers on how to reduce the application of unnecessary toxic chemicals.

The Project's Manager for Pemba Zone Sharif Maalim Hamad said due to the project's structure that pushes for positive results, the training was prepared as part of the strategy to ensure the farming knowledge reaches many farmers at a time.

The training is the continuance of the implementation of the Spices and Vegetables Farming Project being undertaken in Zanzibar by People's Development Forum (PDF), Community Forests Pemba (CFP) and the Tanzania Media Women Association (Zanzibar) under the sponsorship of the European Union (EU).

House budget office wants changes in debt limit measure

NAIROBI

THE Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) wants lawmakers to change how Kenya calculates the public debt ceiling from numerical limit to one based on a ratio of economic output.

BPO – the unit which advises members of parliament (MPs) on financial and economic matters – argues that arbitrary setting and raising of debt ceiling based on a numerical limit is delinked from economic indicators like size of the economy.

This comes at a time Treasury secretary Ukur Yatani has indicated he will

be seeking approval from MPs to expand the debt limit from the current Sh9 trillion, just over a little over a year after the cap was raised from Sh6 trillion in October 2019.

"The debt ceiling as designed creates a regulatory flaw as it is delinked to the rest of the economy. Choice of a ratio would provide a debt limit that is more responsive to both liquidity and solvency concerns and lead to prudent debt management practice," PBO analysts wrote in the Budget Options 2021/22 report published Friday last week.

"It limits the regulatory role of the public debt management office given that

there is a single regulatory parameter, which is already fixed."

Public debt crossed Sh7.28 billion last December, an equivalent of 65.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), from Sh6.01 trillion or 58.0 per cent of GDP a year earlier, the Treasury data shows.

This means the debt stock jumped by Sh1.27 trillion in the year through December 2020, reflecting increased borrowing to cover for rising fiscal deficits amid shortfalls in revenue.

The Treasury has projected total public debt to hit Sh7.66 trillion by end of the current financial year

in June from Sh6.69 trillion a year earlier, but rise to Sh8.59 trillion in June 2022 and Sh9.37 trillion in the year ending June 2023.

"We don't want debt to rise but Kenyans want development. We will look at the Treasury proposals and if it is for raising money for development, we have no problem even if they want the ceiling set at Sh20 trillion," Majority Leader Amos Kimunya, who heads government business in National Assembly, said last week.

"We will look at the merit and demerits on what the budget needs to adhere to and not the limit or ceiling."



Parliament buildings in Nairobi. File Photo.

Emirates Airlines assures travelers of safety amidst Covid-19 outbreak

THE effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have been felt worldwide, no more so than in the aviation industry. The pandemic has changed passenger needs and expectations globally with many airlines and airports around the world adapting to the new COVID-19 reality hence implement preventive measures.

In such turbulent times, it's vitally important that the industry's players are agile and holistic at risk management, including accounting risk, in parallel with direct economic risks. Airlines are in need to appropriately assess how fleet groundings, travel bans, economic uncertainties and market volatility may affect their businesses.

In this interview, Emirates' Country Manager, Majid Falashi explains how the airline is handling the situation, excerpts:

It has been more than five months since Emirates resumed operations in Tanzania. How has business been?

Since resuming operations at Dar es Salaam, forward bookings for our flights are looking good and we are seeing encouraging signs of gradual return in demand. Our aim is to maintain an operation that is ahead of the game ensuring high safety and hygiene standards across every customer touch-point to instill more confidence in travel.

Tanzanians have been skeptical about flying since the COVID-19 outbreak. What are some of the health and safety measures that Emirates has put in place that can assure Tanzanians travelers?

We have implementing a comprehensive set of measures at every step of the customer journey to ensure the safety of customers and employees on the ground and in the air, including the distribution of complimentary hygiene kits containing masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes to all customers.

All cabin crew on board are fully kitted out in PPEs. To uphold the highest standards of safety and hygiene, Emirates has added a cabin service assistant (CSA) to the crew complement on flights over 1.5 hours to ensure lavatories are cleaned at frequent intervals of every 45 mins. All aircraft are deep cleaned in Dubai and go through an enhanced cleaning and disinfection process after every trip. Our HEPA filters clean the air every two minutes and take out more than 99.97 percent of viruses, germs and other microbes. In October, we launched an integrated biometric path at Dubai



Emirates' Country Manager, Majid Falashi

International airport (DXB).

Any use of digital tools to contain the virus?

The airline also introduced the contactless self-check-in kiosks and the integrated biometric path at the Dubai International Airport terminals. Emirates passengers can check in for their flight, complete immigration formalities, enter the Emirates Lounge, and board their flights, simply by strolling through the airport. The various touch-points in the biometric path allow for a hygienic contactless travel journey, reducing human interaction and putting emphasis on health and safety.

Last year, Emirates became the first airline to introduce a COVID-19 insurance covering all its passengers. Have you made any improvements to it and how have customers responded to this cover?

In December we introduced another airline industry first, multi-risk travel insurance and COVID-19 cover. This generous cover is offered by Emirates on all tickets purchased on or from 1 December 2020, at no cost to customers. In addition to COVID-19 medical cover, this latest offer also has provisions for personal accidents during travel, winter sports cover, loss of personal belongings, and trip disruptions due to unexpected air space closure, travel recommendations or advisories, similar to other multi-risk travel insurance products.

Some of the coverage highlights include out-of-Country Emergency Medical Expenses & Emergency Medical Evacuation up to US\$500,000, valid for COVID-19 (contracted during the trip) and other medical emergencies while traveling abroad, trip cancellation up to US\$7,500 for non-refundable costs if the traveler or a relative (as defined in the policy)

is unable to travel because they are diagnosed with COVID-19 before the scheduled trip departure date, or for other named reasons - similar to other comprehensive travel cover products and US\$150 per day per person, for up to 14 consecutive days if, while outside of their country of residence, the traveler tests positive for COVID-19, and if they are unexpectedly placed into a mandatory quarantine outside their country of residence by a governmental body.

The pandemic was a game-changer to how airlines conducted their marketing and advertising. How has Emirates changed tact to communicate to its Tanzanian customers amid the pandemic?

The pandemic is the worst crisis we've ever experienced in this industry, and we had to quickly pivot in how we conduct our operations, and this includes how we communicate with customers. Recognising the importance of digital technologies and its role in reshaping consumer behaviour during the pandemic, we developed a multi-media hub on our website, equipped with the latest information on flights and travel requirements by destination, both inbound and outbound, as well as bio-safety measures and other COVID-19 travel related information. This was the most visited page on emirates.com between March and July 2020, and a definitive resource for all travellers, even those not flying with the airline. We also focused our communication to reassure customers when it came to safety and flexibility of options while travelling.

One major issue of travellers is losing money due to travel cancellations. With the unpredictability of travel bans and COVID-19 measures, what is Emirates doing with regards to customers' bookings and cancellations?

The health and safety of our passengers and crew are our highest priority, in addition to the bio-safety measures introduced and multi-risk travel insurance, we also offer customers flexibility and confidence to plan their travel, we have made changes to our booking policies. Customers who purchase an Emirates ticket for travel on or before 30 June 2021, can enjoy generous rebooking terms and options, if they have to change their travel plans. Customers have options to change their travel dates or extend their ticket validity for two years.

Flight disruptions and cancellations proliferated across the first few months of 2020, leading to a massive backlog of customer refunds. In April, we became the first airline to publicly commit to honouring and clearing its refunds backlog. By the end 2020, AED 6.3 billion was refunded to customers. Of this sum, AED 4.7 billion was refunded to customers who had booked directly with the airline, and the remainder was returned via travel agencies.

With the Easter holidays coming up in early April, what is Emirates offering Tanzanians who wish to spend quality time in Dubai this year?

Dubai remains highly attractive for Tanzanian travelers. In April, tourists arriving in Dubai can take advantage of the season with an array of experiences such as Desert Safaris, Dubai Mall to experience a variety of gastronomy and shopping, beautiful beaches and parks and many more.

Dubai has implemented safety and precautionary measures such as social distancing, hand sanitizers and venue sanitizing amongst other hygiene measures to ensure a healthy and safe environment for visitors. Also, tourists planning to travel to Dubai should present a negative PCR test 72 hours before departure.

Last month, the International Air Transport Association announced that it is piloting its Travel Pass App with Emirates. What is this all about and how will it be beneficial to travelers?

The IATA Travel Pass is a mobile application meant to assist passengers to manage their travel easily and securely in line with any government requirements for COVID-19 testing or vaccine information. Passengers will now be able to share their COVID-19 tests and vaccination certificates with authorities and airlines digitally to facilitate seamlessly travelling experience.

Lawmakers to push for reforms in public procurement

KIGALI

THE lower chamber of parliament has requested the Prime Minister to amend the law governing public procurement in a bid to address challenges in the execution of public tenders.

The Chamber of Deputies made the resolution on Tuesday as it adopted a report of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on the current procurement law, which was enacted in 2018.

PAC Chairperson, Valens Muhakwa, said poor planning, delays in executing contracts and paying contractors as well as loopholes in some provisions of the law are some of the challenges undermining the efficiency in public procurement.

In order to better analyse the issues in the current law, Muhakwa said that the committee held talks with Nyarutarama Property Developers, the Private Sector Federation (PSF), the Rwanda Public Procurement Authority (RPPA), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

On delays in executing contracts, Muhakwa observed that sometimes the public agency that offered a tender takes long to carry out necessary works such as compensating the expropriated property owners in order to pave the way for a project.

As a result, the contractors incur losses because the project implementation period is counted from the date of signing the contract. However, the law does is silent on what should happen in case there are delays stemming from government inefficiencies.

According to members of parliament, the current law provides that all invoices should be paid within 45 days, but does not provide for what happens when that period is not observed. This situation, MPs said, can be a loophole for injustice and corruption.

However, the law provides for punishment against a contractor who has not done work on time.

Indeed, article 181 on penalty relating to delay in contract execution stipulates that the successful bidder incurs a penalty equivalent to one thousandth (1 percent) of the total of the contract for each day of delay. Such penalty shall not exceed five per cent (5%) of the value of the contract, the law states.

PAC said that contractors want that the same be applied to government entities. Still, Muhakwa said that the delays in payment force contractors to charge the government highly for the work or service execution.

"In the costs that they charge the government, they include probable fees that they will be charged by financial institutions because they know it (government) will delay paying them," he said.

MP Georgette Rutayisire said that the delays in paying contractors have been persisting and it need urgent attention.

"There are contractors who said that they had not been paid for two years [after doing the work,]," she said.

NEWSINDEPTH

Top Glove bets on pandemic boom to propel ambitious \$1.9 billion HK listing

HONG KONG

MALAYSIA'S Top Glove Corp Bhd is betting that pandemic-induced sales can provide enough fuel for its \$1.9 billion Hong Kong listing to break through the headwind of U.S. sanctions and the prospect of slower growth as vaccinations become widespread.

Analysts said the unknown pace of vaccination programmes mean the world's largest medical gloves maker could command a higher price for its stock by listing sooner rather than later, while the firm when announcing its plan on Friday talked up post-pandemic sales likely exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

The bullish stance comes even as Citigroup Inc and UBS Group AG opted out of working on the deal in the wake of the U.S. sanctions on Top Glove over allegations of forced labour practices, people with knowledge of the matter said.

Top Glove's sales benefited greatly from the COVID-19 pandemic but the company also suffered an outbreak causing 5,000 infections, one death and rebuke from investors including BlackRock Inc.

With vaccination programmes underway worldwide, analysts foresee the end of the supernormal cycle for the medical gloves industry, pointing to potential over-capacity and rising costs.

Those concerns have rendered Top Glove stock Malaysia's most shorted. Short interest is at 2.69% of its share capital and 4.2 days of average daily trading volume.

"The company might find it difficult to attract new investors to the Hong Kong offer unless they offer HK shares at a significant discount to the market price due to bad press coverage," said LightStream Research analyst Oshadhi Kumarasiri, who publishes on Smartkarma platform.

"But at the end of the day, if it's

offered at a substantial discount to the market price, it won't be that hard to find subscribers."

Top Glove was in talks with Citi, UBS and China International Capital Corp (CICC) to manage the listing, Reuters reported in October.

Citi and UBS opted not to sponsor the deal late last year due to heightened concerns about Top Glove's rubber farming processes and the reputational risk of working with a U.S. sanctioned company, said the people, who declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak with media.

U.S. Customs in July sanctioned imports from some Top Glove subsidiaries, whose sales make up 12.5% of the firm's sales, after finding evidence of forced labour practices. Top Glove has said it is improving factory and workers' living conditions.

UBS and Top Glove could also not agree on fees, another per-

son said.

Top Glove - which will join a small list of companies with three listings, after its primary in Kuala Lumpur and secondary in Singapore - did not respond to a request for comment. Citi and UBS declined comment. CICC did not respond to a request for comment.

Top Glove plans to complete the Hong Kong listing process by the second quarter of this year as it seeks to expand its investor base to Hong Kong and mainland Chinese shareholders.

Its draft prospectus showed CICC as sole sponsor, though firms typically appoint more banks closer to launch. The U.S. sanction, however, makes it unlikely international investment banks will work on the Top Glove deal, the people said.

Earnings are still way above pre-pandemic levels but markets are already pricing in lower growth. Analysts have cut esti-



A worker leaves a Top Glove factory after his shift in Klang, Malaysia. File Photo.

mates for Top Glove's net income by 7.3% on average over the past 30 days for the year ending August, and trimmed revenue by 5%, Refinitiv data showed.

"It's better to go for a listing now than later because there'll

likely be more uncertainties going forward, such as possibly lower average selling prices for gloves," said a Kuala Lumpur-based analyst tracking the company.

"No one is sure how fast or how much prices can come down yet, so if Top Glove is able to chalk up good profit and sales now, it's a good time to do it now."

Spike in bond yields dented some hedge fund for the just ended February returns

NEW YORK

A SHARP spike in bond yields last week caught some hedge funds unaware, and saw macro and long-short funds in general give back February profits to end the month modestly up, several market participants said.

Hedge funds, which target returns that outperform the markets, take positions in a variety of assets such as bonds, currencies and equities, depending on the strategy employed.

The sharp rise in yields which saw ten-year Treasury yields hit a one-year high of over 1.6 percent on Thursday - came after a tumultuous January when some funds got burned by holding short positions in stocks caught up in the GameStop trading frenzy.

"The pace and the degree of the move in yields was a bit more aggressive than people thought," said Brooks Ritchey at \$10.7 billion hedge fund solutions group K2 Advisors, which invests client money in hedge funds.

Long-short equity hedge funds don't take bets in the bond market

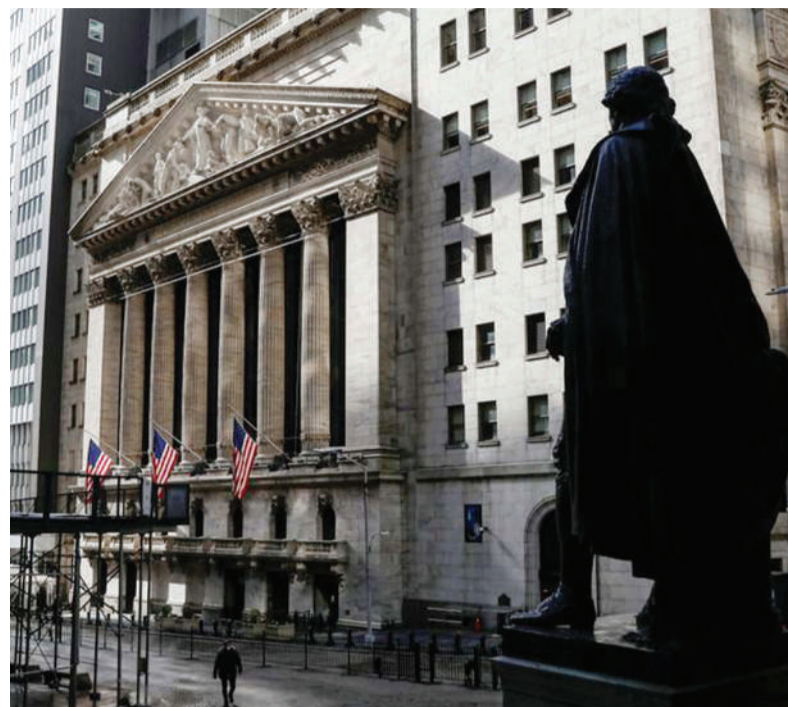
but many failed to anticipate the spillover from the bond market, which shaved \$2 trillion from global equities, said several fund-of-funds.

Troy Gayeski, partner and co-chief investment officer at SkyBridge Capital, which runs \$3 billion in its main fund, said that equity funds went from having a "monster month" up 4-6% with one as high as 11 percent, to only gaining 2-3 percent.

"Very similar to the back half of January, many of the longer-bias long-short managers, or equity-focused event funds gave back a large portion of their gains from earlier in the month," said Gayeski.

Comprehensive data on performance for the month is not expected until mid-month. However, HFRX data, which is made up of a small group of global funds and can be an early indicator of industry performance showed that equity-focused hedge funds ended last Friday up 1.5 percent for the month, after gains of 4.1 percent in the first 19 days of February.

Meanwhile, the HFRX macro index ended the month up 1.3 percent



A statue of George Washington is seen on Wall St. across from the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). File Photo.

on Friday after performance of 2.7 percent between Feb. 1 and Feb. 19, the data showed. Macro hedge funds bet on macroeconomic trends,

often using currencies, bonds and commodities.

The tougher February came after a challenging beginning to the year.

Hedge funds began 2021 up a modest 0.9 percent on average in January after several stocks, led by videogame maker Gamestop were targeted by retail investors, showed data from industry tracker Hedge Fund Research (HFR).

Macro-focused hedge funds posted even smaller gains of 0.2 percent in January while long-short strategies made 0.78 percent, according to the HFR data.

Long-short "alpha", or outperformance, also showed a fall in performance amid the sharp rise in bond yields, reaching as high as 2.7 percent for the first 19 days of the month before falling in the last week of February, according to a note from Goldman Sachs seen by Reuters. Goldman did not respond to a request for comment.

The yield spike came on expectations that an economic rebound would force the Federal Reserve to tighten monetary conditions sooner than

anticipated. Yields have since retreated.

Darren Wolf, global head of investments, alternative investment strategies at Aberdeen Standard Investments, who manages \$13 billion in hedge fund assets, said that hedge fund managers "had a 'don't fight the Fed' mentality, and didn't have short rate bets on in much size," meaning the yield spike didn't benefit them.

Wolf said last week wasn't a huge event for the macro managers in Aberdeen's portfolio, but added that they were up 1 percent to 2 percent on average in February after the strategy made gains of 2.3 percent for the entirety of 2020, according to HFR data.

"Some of our managers thought that the U.S. 10-year might trade near 1.5 percent sometime this year," said K2's Ritchey. "Some others thought that by year-end, rates might be 1.7 percent. But it was faster, farther than even the bond bears thought."

Stocks climbs with Treasuries stabilise

LONDON

GLOBAL shares gained on Wednesday, with European indexes echoing positive moves in Asia, as a retreat in U.S. Treasury yields fuelled demand for riskier assets and weakened the dollar.

The Euro stoxx 600 added 0.7 percent, with Frankfurt shares climbing 0.9 percent to a record high and London's FTSE adding 1.3 percent before the UK's new budget is introduced, with measures to boost the economy. Carmakers led the gains, adding as much as 2.6 percent to reach their highest since June 2018.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 1.7 percent, led by shares in China. E-mini S&P futures were up 0.6 percent. The gains for equities came as benchmark U.S. government bond yields continued to stabilise after last month's sell-off.

The yield on 10-year Treasury notes stood at 1.41 percent, down from last week's one-year high of 1.61 percent, before a slew of U.S. economic data set for release later this week. Bond yields rise when prices fall.

Surging yields across the world, fuelled by moves in Treasuries, have buffeted financial markets in recent weeks. Investors were betting a strong U.S. economic rebound amid ultra-loose monetary conditions would fuel inflation.

Still, optimism that more imminent U.S. stimulus will energise the global economic recovery buoyed stocks, with U.S. President Joe Biden close to passing a \$1.9 trillion spending package.

"We are caught in the middle of this crossfire between a more positive macro situation, and some excesses that have been developing here and there," said Olivier Marciot, senior portfolio manager at Unigestion.

"The market is reassessing the situation as whether or not it (stock market gains) have been too high and too fast."

Wall Street had ended lower on Tuesday, pulled down by Apple and Tesla as fears on overly high valuations lingered. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 49 countries, gained 0.4 percent.

Some analysts continued to warn that stock prices may be frothy - a fear echoed by a top Chinese regulatory official on Tuesday - and as result make it hard for equity markets to hang on to gains. Fears that last week's sell-off in U.S. Treasuries, which rattled stock markets, could resume may also put a lid on stock prices, they said.

"While markets have stabilised ..., the tone remains tenuous as investors continue to fear a further sell-off in rates," analysts at TD Securities said in a note.

The cautious mood weighed on the U.S. dollar. It had gained in recent days from investor hopes that the United States would enjoy a faster economic recovery, and that the U.S. central bank would tolerate higher bond yields.

An index of the dollar against six of its major peers was little changed at 90.787, after dropping back from a nearly one-month high overnight.

The Australian dollar, which has benefited from bets on an acceleration in global trade, rose 0.1 percent to \$0.7820 as stronger-than-expected economic growth in the fourth quarter fuelled hopes for a V-shaped recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Oil prices rose as signs of progress in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in the United States, the world's biggest consumer, raised demand expectations. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude rose 0.4 percent to \$59.99 a barrel. Brent futures rose by the same amount to \$62.96.



Offices of Deloitte are seen in London, Britain. File Photo.

Deloitte to pay Malaysia \$80 million

KUALA LUMPUR

AUDIT firm Deloitte PLT will pay Malaysia's government \$80 million to resolve all claims related to its auditing of accounts of scandal-linked state fund IMDB and its unit SRC International from 2011 to 2014, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

Deloitte has been under scrutiny for its role in auditing the financial statements of 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB), a state fund at the centre of a globe-spanning corruption scandal.

Malaysian and U.S. authorities say at least \$4.5 billion was stolen from IMDB between 2009 and 2014 by high-level officials of the fund and their associates.

"The successful out-of-court settlement

with Deloitte will expedite the payment of monies to fulfill IMDB and SRC's outstanding obligations, which would otherwise be delayed by potentially protracted and costly court battles," the ministry said in a statement.

Deloitte did not immediately respond to a request for comment and made no mention of the settlement on its website or social media accounts. The government said in November that IMDB was still \$7.8 billion in debt following the scandal.

The agreement with Deloitte is the largest IMDB-related settlement involving an audit firm in Southeast Asia, and is the latest after similar deals reached with U.S. investment firm Goldman Sachs and Malaysian banking group AmBank.

Last week, AmBank said it would pay

\$700 million to settle claims related to IMDB probes, a hefty sum that the group said would have a material impact on its earnings.

The ministry said the deals would not affect or compromise Malaysia's claims against fugitive financier Jho Low or other parties wanted in connection with the IMDB scandal. Low has consistently denied wrongdoing.

In 2019, Malaysia's securities regulator fined Deloitte 2.2 million ringgit for failing to report irregularities in relation to an Islamic bond issued by a IMDB-linked company.

After the U.S. Justice Department filed civil lawsuits in 2016 over IMDB, Deloitte said the IMDB finance statements it had audited should no longer be relied upon.

Samsung considers \$17 billion for chip plant

SEOUL

SAMSUNG Electronics Co Ltd is considering two sites in Arizona and another one in New York in addition to Austin, Texas, for a new \$17 billion chip plant, according to documents filed with Texas state officials.

The documents dated Feb. 26 also estimated tax abatements concerning the plant

will be about \$1.48 billion over 20 years from Travis County in Texas and the city of Austin, up from the \$805.5 million previously mentioned.

Samsung is in talks with the sites at Arizona and New York, with each offering property tax abatement and "significant grants and/or refundable tax credits" to fund infrastructure improvements, the documents

said. The new plant Samsung plans to build would produce "advanced logic devices" for Samsung's chip contract manufacturing business, and could create 1,800 jobs, according to previous documents filed with Texas state officials.

Samsung already has a chip plant in Austin, which due to shutdowns caused by a winter storm last month is expected

to need some weeks to resume production. Samsung's U.S. customers for its contract manufacturing chip business include Tesla Inc, Qualcomm Inc and Nvidia.

Samsung is considering a number of possibilities in terms of expansion, a spokesman for the South Korean firm told Reuters on Wednesday, without elaborating.



The London Stock Exchange Group offices are seen in the City of London, Britain. File Photo.

WORLD

South Korea investigates deaths of two who received AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

SEOUL

South Korean authorities are investigating the deaths of two people, both with pre-existing conditions, who died within days of receiving AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine.

AstraZeneca said it was aware of the investigation by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA), but the safety of the vaccine has been extensively studied in clinical trials with data confirming it is generally well tolerated. "KDCA is conducting epidemiological surveys with relevant local authorities...

to confirm any link with inoculation," KDCA Director Jeong Eun-kyeong told a briefing.

But it did not yet confirm any causal relationship to the vaccine. A 63-year-old nursing home patient with cerebrovascular disease, developed symptoms including high fever, after being given the vaccine four days ago, Jeong said.

The man was moved to a larger hospital on Tuesday, but died after showing symptoms of blood poisoning and pneumonia, Yonhap news agency reported.



A nursing home worker receives the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at a health care centre as South Korea starts a vaccination campaign against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Seoul, South Korea February 26, 2021. (File photo)

Another nursing home patient in his 50s with a cardiac disorder and diabetes died on Wednesday after suffering multiple heart attacks, having received the vaccine a day earlier, the agency said.

Jeong said there were no cases of fatalities from receiving COVID-19 vaccines developed by AstraZeneca or Pfizer/BioNTech. However, he urged people to take the shot when they are feeling in good health.

The KDCA said that out of the people who had received the coronavirus vaccines, 207 had adverse reactions, including three cases of severe allergic reactions, known as anaphylaxis.

South Korea began vaccinating its population last week. By Tuesday midnight, 85,904 people had received the first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine and 1,524 had been given Pfizer shots, KDCA said in a statement.

South Korea reported 444 new confirmed COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, up from 344 on Monday, raising the country's tally to 90,816 infections, with 1,612 deaths.

The agency earlier said it would provide compensation of over 430 million won (\$383,500) for deaths from the COVID-19 vaccine. **Agencies**

Myanmar suppression 'like Tiananmen Square' as police shoot protesters, killing at least 9

MYANMAR security forces opened fire on protesters against military rule yesterday killing nine people, witnesses and media reported, a day after neighbouring countries called for restraint and offered to help Myanmar resolve the crisis.

The security forces resorted to live fire with little warning in several towns and cities, witnesses said, as the junta appeared more determined than ever to stamp out protests against a Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi (pictured).

"They marched towards us and fired tear gas, marched again and used stun grenades," Si Thu Maung, a protest leader in the central town of Myingyan, told Reuters.

"Then they didn't spray us with water cannon, no warning to disperse, they just fired their guns."

A spokesman for the ruling military council did not answer telephone calls seeking comment.

One teenaged boy was killed in Myingyan but the heaviest toll was in another central town, Monywa, where five people - four men and one woman - were killed, said Ko Thit Sar, editor of the Monywa

Gazette.

"We've confirmed with family members and doctors, five people have been killed," he told Reuters.

"At least 30 people are wounded, some still unconscious."

Two people were killed in the country's second-biggest city Mandalay, a witness and media reports said, and one person was killed when police opened fire in the main city of Yangon, a witness there said.

At least 31 people have been killed since the coup.

"The country is like the Tiananmen Square in most of its major cities," the Archbishop of Yangon, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, said on Twitter, alluding to the suppression of student-led protests in Beijing in 1989.

The violence came a day after foreign ministers from Southeast Asian neighbours urged restraint but failed to unite behind a call for the release of Suu Kyi and the restoration of democracy.

Security forces also detained about 300 protesters as they broke up protests in Yangon, the Myanmar Now news agency reported.

Video posted on social media showed lines of young



men, hands on heads, filing into army trucks as police and soldiers stood guard. Reuters was unable to verify the footage.

'CONTINUE THIS FIGHT'

Images of a 19-year-old woman, one of the two shot dead in Mandalay, showed her wearing a T-shirt that read "Everything will be OK".

Police ordered three medics out of an ambulance, shot up the windscreen and then kicked and beat the workers with gun butts and batons, video broadcast by U.S.-funded Radio Free Asia showed. Reuters was unable to verify the video independently.

Democracy activist Esther Ze Naw told Reuters via a messaging app that the sacrifices

of those who died would not be in vain.

"We will continue this fight and win. We shall overcome this and win," she said.

On Tuesday, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) failed to make a breakthrough in a virtual foreign ministers' meeting on Myanmar.

While united in a call for restraint, only four members - Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore - called for the release of Suu Kyi and other detainees.

"We expressed ASEAN's readiness to assist Myanmar in a positive, peaceful and constructive manner," the ASEAN chair, Brunei, said in a statement.

Myanmar's state media said the military-appointed foreign minister attended the ASEAN meeting that "exchanged views on regional and international issues", but made no mention of the focus on Myanmar's problems.

It said Wunna Maung Lwin "apprised the meeting of voting irregularities" in November's election.

The military justified the coup saying its complaints of voter fraud in the Nov. 8 elections were ignored. Suu

Kyi's party won by a landslide, earning a second five-year term. The election commission said the vote was fair.

Junta leader Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has said the intervention was to protect Myanmar's fledgling democracy and has pledged to hold new elections but given no time frame.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Tuesday in an interview the coup was a "tragic" step back for Myanmar and the use of lethal force was "disastrous".

Tuesday evening's news bulletin on Myanmar state television said agitators were mobilising people on social media and forming "illegal organisations".

Suu Kyi, 75, has been held incommunicado since the coup but appeared at a court hearing via video conferencing this week and looked in good health, a lawyer said.

She is one of nearly 1,300 people who have been detained, according to activists.

Ousted President Win Myint is facing two new charges, his lawyer, Khin Maung Zaw, said, including one for a breach of the constitution that is punishable by up to three years on prison. **Agencies**

Explosion at Dutch COVID-19 test centre appears intentional, police say

BOVENKARSPTEL

AN explosive went off at a coronavirus testing centre north of Amsterdam before sunrise on Wednesday, shattering windows but causing no injuries in what police called an intentional attack.

An explosives team was on site in the town of Bovenkarspel, 55 km (35 miles) north of the capital, to examine the device, police in the province of North Holland said.

The metal remains of the explosive, about 10 cm by 10 cm (4 inches by 4 inches) in size, were found in front of the building and "must have been placed" there, police spokesman Menno Hartenberg told Reuters.

"Something like that doesn't just happen by accident, it has to be laid," the spokesman said.

A security guard in the testing centre alerted police to a "loud blast" that broke several windows, a police statement said. The incident comes shortly before national elections on March 17 widely seen as a referendum on the government's handling of the pandemic.

Anger at healthcare authorities has increased since the start of 2021, with the head of the country's National Institute for Health now accompanied by a security detail.

Another test location was burned down during several days of rioting in January sparked by the introduction of a night-time curfew. Extra security has been provided to some locations due to threats and vandalism.

"For more than a year we have been leaning on these people on the front lines and now this. Insane," Health Minister Hugo de Jonge said on Twitter.

The region around Bovenkarspel, a rural town, is currently suffering one of the Netherlands' worst COVID-19 outbreaks, with 181 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, compared with around 27 per 100,000 nationally. At least one hospital has been forced to send patients to other provinces due to lack of space in its intensive care units.

Yesterday is the first day in several months when lockdown measures in the Netherlands have been slightly eased, with hairdressers reopening and non-essential stores accepting a small number of customers by appointment. **Agencies**

Paris: Action still needed despite Ankara stopped insulting us

PARIS

TURKEY has stopped insulting France and the European Union, providing some reassurance, but ties will remain fragile until it takes concrete action, France's foreign minister said.

Ankara has repeatedly traded barbs with Paris over its policies on Syria, Libya, the eastern Mediterranean and other issues, but the NATO members said in February they were working on a road map to normalise relations.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday as part of those efforts.

"There aren't any more insults and the language is more reassuring," Jean-Yves Le Drian told a parliamentary hearing late on Tuesday.

He said that the removal of Turkish research vessels from Cypriot waters in the eastern Mediterranean and Ankara showing a desire to resume talks with Greece over a longstanding maritime dispute were positive signs.

"It's fragile, because the list of disagreements is very long, but we want a healthy relationship with Turkey," he said pointing to differences over Libya, Iraq and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"Actions are needed and we will be able to position ourselves when those actions are carried out. For now it's just verbal action," he said. **Agencies**



France's President Emmanuel Macron (right) gestures as Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan walks past him during a family photo as part of the NATO summit at the Grove hotel in Watford, northeast of London on Dec 4, 2019. File photo

Chancellor Merkel hails Gorbachev's role in Germany's reunification

BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel on Tuesday congratulated first President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev on his 90th birthday, stressing that Germany remembered his contribution to the reunification of the country.

"I would like to take advantage of this festive day for you to once again thank you for your personal role in the peaceful resolution of the Cold War and the completion of Germany's reunification," Merkel wrote in a telegram circulated by the press service of the German government on Tuesday.

"Germany remembers your major contribution to its reunification, as well as your continued personal efforts for the sake of friendly relations between our countries," the chancellor stressed. "Today, you can look back on your life's work with pride," Merkel stressed, also wishing Gorbachev good health.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas tweeted that Gorbachev, "the father of glasnost and perestroika" remained "a strong voice in favor of peace."

Mikhail Gorbachev (born on March 2, 1931) is a Russian and former Soviet politician. He was the last secretary general of the USSR's Communist Party Cen-

tral Committee (1985-1991) and the first and only president of the former Soviet Union (1990-1991).

In 1990, Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize as recognition for his huge achievements as a prominent politician and reformer. **Agencies**

Immigration, COVID-19 headline talks between Biden, AMLO

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden told his Mexican counterpart Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador that Mexico's success was crucial to the hemisphere and he would view the southern neighbor as an equal.

In a virtual summit to discuss immigration, COVID-19 and commercial issues, Biden opened talks by reminding Lopez Obrador of his four visits to Mexico as vice-president.

"The United States and Mexico are stronger when we stand together," Biden said at the beginning of their teleconference. But "we haven't been perfect neigh-

bors to each other."

During the (Barack) Obama-Biden administration, he continued: "We looked at Mexico as an equal. You are equal."

Lopez Obrador thanked Biden for stressing a relationship based on mutual respect, and emphasized the two countries' cultural, historic and trade ties.

"It is important for Mexico, and we must keep on cooperating for further development based on independence and autonomy, potentializing what our peoples mean to us," he said.

It was Biden's second bilateral meeting with a foreign leader since becoming president on Jan

20. The first was with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The talks came after four years of tumultuous US-Mexico relations under former president Donald Trump, who shut down the US border to migration, tore up the NAFTA trade agreement between the US, Mexico and Canada, and labeled Mexican immigrants drug traffickers and "rapists".

Still, the flow of migrants and trade both legal and illegal across the US-Mexican border was to be the focus of the summit.

Joining the call were top diplomatic, security, and immigration officials from both sides.

Eased policy

The meeting came amid reports of a new surge of undocumented migrants attempting to enter the US from Mexico and its southern neighbors, as Biden eases Trump's tough anti-immigration policy.

In a joint statement after the call, the two sides agreed to work together on economic development efforts in impoverished southern Mexico and Central America, the source of most of the migrants.

They also agreed to work together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, to boost economic cooperation, and work together

on climate change, the statement said.

The two countries share a porous, nearly 3,200-kilometer border, with hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of commerce annually and large numbers of daily legal crossings by individuals.

But it also sees a huge level of illegal migrant crossing, hundreds of thousands of asylum-seekers trying to enter the US, and large amounts of illicit drug trafficking from south to north.

The statement said nothing specific about how cooperation on the coronavirus pandemic would proceed.

Mexico has one of the world's

highest death tolls from the disease, after the US and Brazil, and desperately needs a larger supply of vaccines.

Before the video conference, White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Monday downplayed the prospect of sharing coronavirus vaccines with Mexico, saying the government is focused first on getting its own population protected from an epidemic that has killed more than 500,000 people.

"The administration's focus is on ensuring that every American is vaccinated. And once we accomplish that objective, we're happy to discuss further steps," Psaki said. **Agencies**

Kremlin blasts new EU, US sanctions as meddling in Russia's affairs

MOSCOW

THE latest sanctions by the United States and the European Union against Russian individuals and organizations are intervention in Russia's internal affairs, Russian presidential spokesman, Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday, adding that such restrictions were unacceptable.

"We regard any such restrictions as absolutely unacceptable," Peskov said. "They cause considerable harm to relations, which are already in a deplorable condition."

The spokesman explained that he was referring to Russia's relations with the United States and the European Union. "They [sanctions] are nothing but interference in Russia's internal affairs," he stressed.

He added though that the new sanctions introduced against several Russian citizens essentially duplicate the restrictions placed on them under the Russian legislation.

"If one talks about specific people against whom the so-called sanctions, or rather restrictions, were introduced, then it is practically a duplication of those restrictions that are placed on these people under the Russian laws," the Kremlin representative said.

He explained that "as it is, these people do not go abroad, do not have the right to open accounts at foreign banks and do not have the right to own property abroad." "This cannot be said for some legal entities [against] whom [the sanctions] were also announced," the spokesman added.

Asked if the Kremlin could offer an explanation as to why the United States and the European Union had selected a strategy of targeted restrictions, Peskov replied: "It is not our concern to explain motivations."

He added that in general such decisions - be they targeted or not - were regarded by the Kremlin as "absurd and groundless."

"Moreover, they are unable to yield any effect and devoid of any sense," Peskov said. "In this connection we can merely express regret and surprise."

Retaliation

Russia's agencies concerned will submit to the country's leadership a draft of retaliatory measures in the wake of the latest restrictions by EU and the US, Dmitry Peskov stated.

"We will coordinate our own sanctions. The agencies concerned will submit the corresponding proposals to the leadership. The measures will be approved, made public and let known to our opponents in this affair," Peskov said.

He added that the response to these restrictions would accommodate Russia's interests in the best way.

Peskov said that the principle of requital would be observed. "There is the principle of requital and it cannot be avoided in interstate relations," he remarked.

On Tuesday, Washington introduced a new round of sanctions over the Navalny case against Director of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) Alexander Bortnikov, First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office Sergei Kiriyenko, Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov and four more individuals, as well as a number of enterprises and institutions.

The US sanctions particularly include a "denial to Russia of any credit, credit guarantees, or other financial assistance" by US government agencies and a "prohibition on the export to Russia" of security-sensitive goods and technology.

The sanctions also target, among others, the 33rd Central Research Institute and the 27th Scientific Center of the Russian Defense Ministry and the State Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology.

On the same day, the European Union expanded its own sanctions against Russia, blacklisting the Prosecutor General, Head of the Russian Investigative Committee Alexander Bastrykin, Head of the Federal Penitentiary Service Alexander Kalashnikov and Director of the National Guard Viktor Zolotov.

They are all banned from entering the EU and having bank accounts at EU banks. **Agencies**

Australian attorney-general denies historical rape claim

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN Attorney-General Christian Porter, the country's chief law officer, identified himself yesterday as the subject of a historical rape allegation, declaring his innocence and strongly denying the claim.

Politicians who last week received an anonymous allegation of an assault in 1988 had referred material to federal police. On Tuesday, police in New South Wales state, where the alleged assault occurred, said there was insufficient evidence to investigate the claim and closed the matter.

Seeking to end swirling speculation about the identity of the unnamed cabinet minister since the allegation was first reported last week, an emotional Porter (pictured) said he was the subject of the claim. He said the incident had never happened and he said he had not had a sexual relationship with the woman involved.

"I can only say to you that it didn't happen," Porter told a media conference in Perth, adding he was being asked to "disprove something that didn't happen 33 years ago."

Porter said all he knew about the allegation was what he had read in the media, but the details of the claim had never been put to him. He said he would not resign his ministerial position, but would take leave for a couple of weeks to "assess and hopefully improve" his mental health. Police had said the allegation could not be investigated because the alleged victim did not make a formal statement to them detailing her account before she committed suicide last year. **Agencies**



As US interview nears, Meghan and Harry won't tango with UK tabloids

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry and American wife Meghan decided long ago they would not play the traditional royal media "game", and on Sunday they depart from the norms of engagement again with an in-depth interview with U.S. chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

Smarting from sometimes critical tabloid headlines and press intrusion in Britain, they have already announced they will step down from official duties, move to California with young son Archie and cut off contact with Britain's biggest tabloids.

Last month, Meghan successfully sued the Mail on Sunday for breaching her privacy by publishing parts of a letter she wrote to her father.

And on Tuesday, the couple issued a statement saying Meghan was "saddened" by a report in The Times broadsheet of a bullying complaint against her, calling it an "attack on her character."

To their supporters, Sunday's televised interview is a chance to set the record straight and lay out their plans for the future. To detractors, it's a sign of hypocrisy.

"They said they were leaving because they wanted privacy. And it seems in the last year that they've done very little other than seek publicity," said royal commentator Penny Junor.

When Harry, 36, and former actress Meghan, 39, married in a glittering ceremony in May 2018, they were feted as global celebrities, merging British royal allure and Hollywood glamour and attracting millions of followers on social media.

But beneath the surface, trouble was brewing. The couple had already complained that some reports about Meghan, whose father is white and mother is African-American, were vindictive or even racist.

VERY REAL SADNESS

Meghan called some media's approach to the British monarchy a "game".

"For these outlets, it's a game. For me and so many others, it's real life, real relationships, and very real sadness," Meghan said after her privacy claim victory. "The damage they have done and continue to do runs deep."

For Harry, it comes back to the death of his mother Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997 aged 36 when her limousine crashed as it sped away from chasing paparazzi photographers. He was



Britain's Prince Charles, Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex attend the annual Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in London, Britain March 9, 2020. File Photo

12.

"I will not be bullied into playing a game that's killed my mum," Harry told a TV documentary in October 2019, shortly before the announcement they were quitting royal duties. It is a theme he is set to return to in the interview with Winfrey.

"My biggest concern was history repeating itself," he said in a brief excerpt released by CBS.

Last week he told James Corden, British host of the U.S. TV programme "The Late Late Show", that he had left his homeland to escape the "toxic" press which he said was destroying his mental health.

Michelle Tauber, Senior Editor for People magazine, said to be successful in America, where the couple has settled, there needed to be a public sharing of personal triumphs and struggles, while there was also more understanding of their desire for privacy.

"I think Americans in particular are sympathetic to this idea of, it's theirs, it's done on their terms, it's their safe space to share what they want to share with the public," she said of the upcoming interview.

INTENSE SCRUTINY

Most senior members of the House of Windsor have at some stage been criticised and put under intense scrutiny by the media.

While newspapers want more pictures and personal access, the royals seek greater privacy, but also attention for issues close to their hearts. In return for a gilded life funded by the public, they should play along with the press, some critics say.

The tension can boil over. On an annual skiing trip in 2005, Harry's father Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, was caught on a microphone calling reporters "bloody people", and has pre-

viously bemoaned being treated as a "performing monkey".

"The royals need publicity and the newspapers, the media needs the family to fill their pages and the programmes. So it's a symbiotic relationship that has worked very well," said Junor.

Harry and Meghan's decision to keep the media at arm's length and try to get their message out directly through social media has led some British papers to become more overtly hostile.

Their recent announcement that Meghan was pregnant with their second child, their final split with the royal family and the upcoming interview have drawn criticism, especially at a time when Harry's grandfather Prince Philip, the queen's 99-year-old husband, is in hospital.

Veteran royal biographer Robert Jobson told MailOnline that it made the couple look "heartless".

Even some of those close to the royals suggest their public roles meant they must accept the enormous press interest, however wearying and frustrating.

"If you step on the pitch, you can't start arguing with the referee," one senior royal aide told Reuters.

Agencies

Pakistan Senate poll kicks off as ruling party looks for majority

ISLAMABAD/KARACHI

THE ruling party of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his political allies will seek to wrest control of Pakistan's Senate from opposition parties yesterday in indirect elections to 37 seats in the 104-member upper house of the country's parliament.

Though his party won the 2018 general election, Khan's coalition does not have a majority in the Senate, needed to pass key legislation - including legal reforms sought by global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and money laundering watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).



"They have difficulty in legislating, and many laws are stuck," Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, head of the independent research organisation PILDAT, told Reuters.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which translates into Pakistan Movement for Justice, has 12 seats in the Senate, and the two main opposition parties Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) have 12 and 25 seats each.

PTI is looking to go up to 25 seats after the elections, and, along with other coalition parties and independents, have a slender majority in the Senate.

The electoral college for the Senate elections, which are held every three years on half of the chamber's strength, comprises Pakistan's four provincial assemblies and the lower house of parliament.

With opposition parties controlling the Senate, the government has had to pass interim legislation through Presidential Ordinances, which expire in 120 days.

The government's legislators and allies in the lower house of parliament will vote on making Khan's finance minister, Abdul Hafiz Sheikh, a senator. The result could show how much confidence there is in the administration.

"It could determine who has a majority in parliament... it will be an embarrassment for the government, and could even lead to seeking a fresh vote of confidence," Mehboob said.

Agencies

Jobless aid, direct checks could get trimmed as US Senate takes up COVID-19 aid bill

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Senate is expected to take up President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Wednesday, with fellow Democrats seeking to advance key priorities and jettison aspects that have drawn unflattering scrutiny.

The bill would pay for vaccines and medical supplies, boost jobless assistance and send a new round of emergency financial aid to households, small businesses and state and local governments. Democrats aim to get it to Biden to sign into law before March 14, when some current benefits expire.

With Republican cooperation unlikely, Democrats who narrowly control the chamber need to stick together to pass Biden's top legislative priority.

That will require them to sort out a welter of competing ideas as they seek to advance the bill, which passed the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives last Saturday. The COVID-19 pandemic has killed 515,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work.

First to go will be a minimum-wage increase, which the Senate parliamentarian said last week could not be included in the package if Democrats want to invoke a special procedure that would allow them to pass the bill with a simple majority, rather than the 60 votes needed to advance most legislation in the 100-seat chamber.

Democrats and their allies currently control 50 seats, with Vice President Kamala Harris giving them a tie-breaking vote if needed.

Also on the chopping block: \$1.5 billion for a bridge connecting Canada



A man makes his way past the U.S. Capitol on the day the House of Representatives is expected to vote on legislation to provide \$1.9 trillion in new coronavirus relief in Washington, U.S., February 26, 2021. File photo

and New York state, which Republicans have derided as an example of special-interest spending they say has no place in the bill. Aides to Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, who represents New York, say funding was requested by the administration of Republican former President Donald Trump.

STICKING POINTS

It is not clear whether Democrats will keep another project that has drawn Republican ire - funding for a subway expansion in California's Silicon Valley, near the home of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Democrats have shown no interest

in dropping another partisan sticking point - \$350 billion in aid for state and local governments, which face rising costs and uncertain tax revenues because of the pandemic.

A Reuters analysis found that Democratic-leaning states would get a larger share of that money this time around than they did under the first \$150 billion of state and local aid that Congress approved last year.

Other areas could get whittled back. Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, a key centrist, is pushing to scale back enhanced unemployment benefits to \$300 per week from \$400.

Lawmakers may also opt to discontinue those benefits if unemployment in

a given state drops below a certain level, according to a Democratic aide.

Democrats also may tighten income qualifications for \$1,400 direct payments, so they are more targeted toward lower-income households, an aide said.

Others hope to carve out room for priorities of their own. Senator Angus King, an independent aligned with Democrats, has been pushing for billions of dollars to expand high-speed internet service in rural areas.

The Senate could vote on the bill by the end of the week.

The House would then have to sign off on the changes before Congress could send it on to Biden to sign into law.

Agencies



Athuman Hamisi

'Jiachie na Kili Canvas' contest's winner revels in success

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE winner of last year's visual art contest, known as 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas', Athuman Hamisi, has stated he is happy to be holding the title.

The 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas' competition was held last year with the aim of spicing up the 2020 Kilimanjaro Marathon.

At last year's competition, Donath Kabonda from Kampala University took the runner-up spot, while Moses Martin from Dar es Salaam's Mwenge Vinyago settled for third spot.

However, the competition did not take place this year and there was no comment from the event's organizers on why they opted out of organizing 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas' competition this year.

Hamisi, a 25-year old artist who is popularly known as 'Ochu', noted he was ready to defend his trophy if organizers had included the drawing competition in this year's race.

He said he, nevertheless, remains delighted he is the holder of the maiden competition's title.

"I was looking forward to competing

at this year's competition, but the organizers did not include it, and I'm very delighted that I am still the holder of that title," he said.

Ochu is a self-taught realistic painter, he has never attended any artistic workshop or seminar, but he noted the industry has a lot of potential only that many people do not recognize it.

In a previous interview, the artist, who is based at Mwenge Vinyago in the city, said visual arts face a number of challenges in the country which include high cost of such equipment like brushes, canvas, pencils and stands for exhibiting visual artists' works.

"Visual arts is a big business in the country, only that realistic, acrylic and other painters are not recognized. I believe we can be used to promote tourist attractions and other issues in the country," he said.

Ochu said his role model is United States of America (USA) acrylic painter, Nick Sider.

He stated his dream is to become a prominent realistic painter in the continent and he described the winning of the 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas' competition as the first step to realizing his dream.

Yanga coach dismayed by injured players' selection for national teams

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's head coach Cedric Kaze is outraged by a section of his players' selection for their respective countries' national teams whilst the players have not fully recovered from their injuries.

Midfielder Said Ntibazonkiza 'Saïdo' and central defender, Dickson Job, who had been nursing injuries for a long time, are some of the players named in their respective countries' national teams, which will play in African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

Ntibazonkiza has been selected for Burundi's national team, whereas Job has been selected for Tanzania's national team, Taifa Stars.

The duo was registered by Yanga in this season's mini transfer window, although Saïdo had started serving the side.

The players were injured and were unable to serve their team, but they last week earned Burundi and Tanzania national teams' call up.

The move has angered coach Kaze, as the tactician states that the inclusion of the duo in the national teams while they are not yet fit, has confused him.

Job has been named in the Taifa Stars' squad, coached by Kim Poulsen, for two international friendly matches against Kenya and two AFCON qualifiers, having not played for his club since he was



Yanga's head coach Cedric Kaze.

signed due to injuries.

The player suffered an injury while at Taifa Stars' camp, preparing for this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN), which ended recently in Cameroon.

Saïdo has been named in Burundi senior national team.

Kaze said after Job's injury, the player was treated by Yanga, so coach Poulsen had to contact him to get information about the player.

He disclosed: "Job has just started training to keep fit and he has already been called up, whilst he hasn't played a single game for us. I don't mind coach Poulsen probably wants to watch him closely, but that doesn't stop me from getting information from him to give him the player's programs so he can get back on the team."

"Saïdo is nursing an injury. He has not played for a long time and I wonder why he was called up to his national team, if the coaches had asked me I would have given them information about those players," he noted.

He expressed fear he will lose the players for a long time if they will pick injuries in their respective national teams' duties.

Yanga had traveled to Tanga to face Coastal Union in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which will be played today.

After today's fixture, Yanga will travel to Moshi, Kilimanjaro to face Polisi Tanzania.

Regional Champions League kicks off today

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THIS season's Regional Champions League (RCL)'s group stage is expected to start today in four centers, with the centers consisting of seven teams each.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, confirmed the centers will be in Arusha, Coast Region, Lindi and Katavi.

"The centers will be in Arusha, Coast Region, Lindi and Katavi

and each station will have seven teams that will compete in the initial stage and later on two teams in each group will qualify for the finals," he disclosed.

The Arusha center will feature Group A teams, namely TMA Stars, Sinai Rangers (Manyara), Sharp Strikers (Tanga), TRA (Kilimanjaro), Mara Sports Academy (Mara), Copco Veterans (Mwanza) and Huduma FC (Dar es Salaam).

Group B squads will play in Coast Region center that includes Baga Friends (Coast

Region), Temeke Squad (Dar es Salaam), 515 KJ (Morogoro), Manyoni Sports Center (Singida), Kimara United (Dodoma), Annuary FC (Shinyanga) and Bariadi United (Simiyu).

Group C participating outfits will tussle at Lindi center which is home to Lindi United. The hosts will face Mkuti Market (Mtwara), Mabomba FC (Dar es Salaam), Top Boys FC (Ruvuma), Njombe Academy (Njombe), Mtwivila FC (Iringa) and Itezi FC (Mbeya) in the fixtures.

Katavi will be Group D teams' center. The sides include hosts Tanesco FC, Sumbawanga United (Rukwa), Mapinduzi FC (Songwe), Black Stars (Tabora), Toto Kigoma FC (Kigoma), Nyaishozi FC (Kagera) and Nyakumbu FC (Geita).

Forty-two match referees and 59 assistant referees were called to a seminar that took place last week are expected to be shortlisted for the selection process of officiating the showdown's clashes.

Simba SC players to miss Taifa Stars' friendlies against Kenya

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, has noted he will miss the services of 10 Simba SC players in friendly matches pitting Taifa Stars against Kenya, given the players will play for their outfit in this season's CAF Champions League.

On March 8, Taifa Stars will enter camp to shape up for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers against Equatorial Guinea

and Libya later this month.

Taifa Stars will, before featuring in the fixtures, participate in two friendly matches against Kenya.

In the two matches that are expected to be played on March 15 and March 18, Poulsen will miss the services of Simba SC players, who have been involved in 27 of the 45 goals scored by the senior national team in continental assignments.

The players are fullbacks Shomari Kapombe and Mohamed Hussein, central de-

fenders Erasto Nyoni and Kennedy Juma, midfielder Jonas Mkude.

Midfielders Hassan Dilunga, Mzamiru Yassin, and Said Ndemla, forward John Bocco and keeper, Aishi Manula, are as well in the list.

Poulsen said the players were expected to join Taifa Stars once they finished turning out for Simba in the club's CAF Champions League clash against Sudan's Al Merreikh to be played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 16.

Gomes: Simba SC ready for Al Merreikh tie

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC's head coach, Didier Gomes, states his players are ready for their CAF Champions League's Group A match against Al Merreikh of Sudan.

The game, which is expected to be played in Sudan on Saturday, will be the third for both outfits in the group, which has Simba leading with six points.

Simba SC is expected to start the journey to Sudan today to prepare for the game with reports having it that the team have already sent an advance party to Sudan.

He noted: "There are already those who have gone to Sudan to create a better environment for the team."

"It is clear that the preparations for the tie are starting early and that is what is happening at Simba," he said.

After finishing their Vodacom Premier League (VPL) game against JKT Tanzania, which ended with Simba posting 3-0 vic-

tory, Gomes said they are ready for the Saturday game.

The coach, who has led his outfit in a total of nine matches and a triumph in the Simba Super Cup tournament, has managed to get off to a good start in the squad after taking over from Belgian coach, Sven Vandebroek.

Gomes also believes his number one goalkeeper Aishi Manula will be part of the squad that will confront the Sudanese club in the coming match.

Manula was injured on the 67th minute of Simba's VPL clash against JKT Tanzania, as he attempted to make a save and ended up colliding with JKT Tanzania forward, Rashid Mandawa.

He noted: "After the game, the doctor told me that everything was fine, he was taken to hospital for tests and we are awaiting a response."

"Manula is a very important player and I am sure he will be able to play in Sudan,"

he said.

Simba are in Group A of the CAF Champions League, leading the rest of the pack in the group with six points.

The DR Congo AS Vita Club, Egypt's Al Ahly and Al Merreikh are positioned second, third and fourth respectively.

Simba face a daunting task of getting three points away from home in front of Al Merreikh that are seeking to bounce back from two successive losses in the competition.

Manula turned out for Simba in all of the outfit's fixtures in the premier continental competition at club level, from the preliminary stage to the group stage.

He was between the posts in Simba's aggregate victory over Nigeria's Plateau United in the preliminary stage.

Simba posted 1-0 victory in the first leg, which took place in Jos, Nigeria and in the second leg, which took place in Dar es Salaam, the outfits settled for 0-0 draw.



Simba SC's head coach, Didier Gomes.

Barcelona and Atletico ordered to further tighten belts by La Liga

MADRID

FC Barcelona and Atletico Madrid will have to cut down the costs of their squads by more than 35 million euros (\$42.14 million) following new salary limits imposed by La Liga on Tuesday to cope with the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The figures, published twice annually following each transfer window, dictate how much teams can spend on players, coaches, support staff and their youth teams.

They are calculated in line with revenues, which have been obliterated by coronavirus restrictions preventing fans from attending matches for 12 months while depressing the transfer market and reducing income from merchandising.

Barcelona are the club most acutely affected by the new limits and will be forced to reduce their costs by an additional 35.7 million euros, to 347 million.

League leaders Atletico Madrid, meanwhile, must make savings of 35.4 million euros to meet a new budget of 217.3 million.

Champions Real Madrid have the largest salary limit of all 20 league sides with 473.3 million to spend, and are one of only four clubs allowed to increase their costs ahead of the next campaign, along with Granada, Huesca and Celta Vigo.

La Liga president Javier Tebas praised clubs for adapting to the challenges of the pandemic, including not having fans in stadiums for almost a year and a reduced transfer market, which he said had cost clubs an estimated 2 billion euros.

"COVID-19 put Spanish football to the test but the end is in sight and we can make some positive conclusions," he said.

"Despite earning 2 billion euros less, clubs, especially the big ones, have managed to cope with the crisis by reducing costs. This shows Spanish football is solvent."

He predicted Spanish clubs would see revenues return to pre-pandemic levels in two years and said he hoped fans could return to stadiums before the end of the season, but said it was unlikely until late April at the earliest.

(\$1 = 0.8306 euros)

REUTERS

Solskjaer: Man Utd must be 'realistic' with cash

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has warned Manchester United supporters they should not expect a lavish spending spree in the summer to help bridge the gap with Manchester City.

City look set to land a third title in four years after opening up a healthy lead at the top of the Premier League table. United have been their nearest challengers for much of the season and even though they are paying catch up, Solskjaer insists the club will have to be cautious with their spending in the next transfer window because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"It's definitely affecting everyone in football the pandemic," Solskjaer told a news conference on Tuesday. "Of course the lack of income, the finances has affected everyone. It might affect us all well."

"We have to be realistic and responsible in the way we do our business both on and off the pitch. There are improvements on the training ground, stadium -- we have to look at the whole picture. Where can we spend the money? And how much is there? It's just the real world now. It has changed."

"I think there's just going to be less and less transfers happening in the world of football with all these changes."

Sources have told ESPN that Solskjaer will have money to spend in the summer. But the club's latest financial figures, due to be released on Thursday, are set to show a significant impact caused by the pandemic and Solskjaer says the restraints on spending may lead to more young players being promoted from the academy.

"You can look at it in different ways," he said. "We have players in the academy that we now can maybe give opportunities for. All clubs in the world are going through the same situation so it's no different for other clubs than for us."

Despite the continuing financial uncertainty, Solskjaer and his recruitment team are still finalising plans for the summer window. Sources have told ESPN that centre-backs, defensive midfielders and forwards are all being looked at but Solskjaer may have to prioritise where to spend the money that is made available.

"We're always looking to improve our squad, of course we are," said Solskjaer. "We're always looking at better players, of course we are."

(Agencies)

Bale can be Mourinho's unlikely X-Factor in top-four pursuit

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

JOSE Mourinho has waited all season for Gareth Bale to make a difference at Tottenham. Finally, and just when he needed the on-loan Real Madrid wide man to deliver, Bale showed he is still a force to be reckoned with by rolling back the years to inspire a 4-0 victory against Burnley.

Spurs had lost five of their past six Premier League games prior to this fixture, and although Mourinho's job wasn't under immediate threat, the Portuguese could not afford another loss to crank up the pressure. Mourinho needed a win, and there is some irony in the fact that it was orchestrated by Bale, the player who has disappointed him so much this season that he has prompted the kind of public criticism from his manager that only tends to come from Mourinho when everything else around him is beginning to unravel.

But after a turbulent month between the two men that has seen

Mourinho take aim at Bale's social media comments, claim the 31-year-old declared himself unavailable for an FA Cup defeat at Everton and suggest Spurs only started to perform in a defeat at Brighton after the player was substituted, Bale showed that can still have an impact by scoring twice and assisting once against Burnley.

"It was good," Bale said. "I have been building up a little bit to get fully fit -- felt comfortable and my form is coming back. It's nice to help the team."

"I know you get criticism, but I am experienced enough to keep my head down, not say anything stupid and keep plugging away."

"In the dressing room I feel comfortable and I'm having fun. I'm happy, and I'm sure it's showing on the pitch." Mourinho was also quick to admit that this was a good day for the enigmatic Bale.

"I am very happy for him, very happy for the team because the team needs his talent," Mourinho said. "I am very happy for him because he is quiet, doesn't speak to you, watches,



Gareth Bale, 31, showed he still has something left in the tank with a man-of-the-match performance in a 4-0 rout of Burnley. (Agencies)

reads, listens or probably not, because he is from Real Madrid, probably ignores it a little bit.

"I am happy because when his condition is good, he can do things like today. His game was very good, not just scoring, changing speeds, going inside. I am very happy for him."

Maybe it is a case of "better late than never," but even Bale's harshest critic -- and that might just be Mourinho -- would find it impossible to find fault in the Welshman's performance against Sean Dyche's team. Bale scored two, created another for Harry Kane, and set in motion the move for Tottenham's other goal, scored by Lucas Moura, in a win that breathes new life into the club's hopes of

making a late surge into the top four and securing Champions League qualification.

Spurs started the day nine points adrift of the top four, but this win could prove to be a launchpad for a run to the top four. With games against struggling Fulham and Crystal Palace in the next seven days, Spurs will know that two wins will propel them straight back into contention due to a cluster of fixtures between teams above them that ensures some clubs will drop points. Liverpool vs. Chelsea and Chelsea vs. Everton both take place within the next eight days, so Spurs simply have to take care of their own business and wait for the dust to settle on those two games

above them.

And if Spurs build some winning momentum after this victory, they will be able to trace it all back to Bale's match-winning performance. This was Bale's first Premier League start -- and only his third all season -- since the defeat at Brighton last month in which he was substituted after an in-sipid hour-long display that led to Mourinho praising the performance of his players in the final 30 minutes.

He needed to make an impact on a rare appearance and made the perfect start by scoring within 75 seconds after beating the offside trap to poke Son Heung-min's cross past Burnley keeper Nick Pope with his right foot. On his first home Premier League start for Spurs since May 2013, Bale made his mark, but the goal was only the start of things.

In the 15th minute, he turned creator by teeing up Kane for the second goal with an assist that could win an award for the pass of the season. From deep inside his own half, Bale spotted Kane and picked him out

with a 60-yard left-foot pass that left the England captain needing to take just one touch to control before shooting past Pope. Bale was at the heart of the action again for Tottenham's third, with his cross-field pass to Sergio Reguilon resulting in the left-back crossing for Moura to score from close range.

When Bale spent the last 10 minutes of the first half limping and rubbing his left ankle, the injury nightmare that has haunted his career for more years than he would care to remember appeared to have returned. But perhaps wanting to prove that he is made of stronger stuff than his reputation suggests, Bale continued after the half-time interval and stayed on long enough to score his second of the game with a stunning left-foot drive off the inside of the post from 20 yards. By the time he was replaced by Erik Lamela on 70 minutes, Bale had produced a man-of-the-match performance and done enough to earn a high-five from Mourinho as he left the pitch.

Southgate facing 'big decisions' over England attack at Euros

LONDON

GARETH Southgate has admitted he is facing "big decisions" over which players to include in England's attack for the European Championships.

The coronavirus-delayed tournament will now kick off a year later than planned in June.

That delay has given the likes of Aston Villa's Jack Grealish, an attacking midfielder or winger, a chance to press his claim, with England looking to win their first major trophy in 55 years.

"Well, I can remember being at Middlesbrough playing Tottenham and we were 2-1 up in the game and Harry Redknapp put Robbie Keane and Dimitar Berbatov on," former Middlesbrough boss Southgate told talkSPORT.

"And I looked at my bench and I had five kids from the academy. Now, that's a headache because you're thinking 'well, I'm not quite sure how we turn this game around and improve what we've got on the field'."

"When you've got a choice of some outstanding talent, now of course there's big decisions you have to make. But in the end, you know, some of these decisions are sadly taken out of your hands."

"I mean, if I look at the squad for March we're already without Joe Gomez, Jordan Henderson, Harvey Barnes, James Justin, who we think has been doing exceptionally well at Leicester, is going to be out. So, you know, how many of these guys (are available)? There's others who aren't playing at the moment."

"And then actually it's just a case of 'right, who's playing the best? Who do we think has the pedigree, who's performed at the high level before coupled with who's in the form, who



Gareth Southgate

fits into the way we want to play with and without the ball?"

"But what's really exciting is that for years we've talked about development in English football and where are the creative players, how do we develop those types of players. We've had root and branch reviews of everything from, you know, grassroots football to academy football to everything for decades and we've now (got them)."

Meanwhile there has been an increase in the number of England-qualified players appearing in the Premier League.

"Only 18 months or so ago every Saturday we were about 30 percent of the league English qualified players," Southgate said. "This year that's up to 40 percent and that doesn't seem a lot, but when you think that the likes of perhaps an Emile Smith Rowe, for example, getting his opportunity at Arsenal. We know those kids are there, we know the talent is there."

This month also sees England in World Cup qualifying action against San Marino, Albania and Poland.

"We've got three big World Cup qualifiers, of course, in March because we're only less

than 18 months away from a World Cup as well so it's an amazing period for international football," said Southgate.

Meanwhile, the man appointed as medical advisor by UEFA for preparations for the delayed European Championship believes the controversial decision to stage the tournament in 12 cities spread all across the continent can be "a blessing".

"It is very difficult, but it is also a blessing," Daniel Koch said in an interview with AFP about plans for the tournament as this week marks 100 days until the opening game, scheduled to be played in Rome on June 11.

"On the one hand we

have to discuss things with every country, with every city too, because it will be the governments who decide what will be possible or not."

"There will probably be differences from one place to the next. But that is not only a problem."

"If we can no longer do anything in one country, there will still be 11 others where preparations are already under way, whereas if everything was in one country and you couldn't do anything there, then it would all be lost."

"Having discussions with several governments also means we can compare the different approaches."

Koch was appointed

by European football's governing body in January, taking up the role of medical advisor for the Euro on all matters related to the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced UEFA to postpone the competition last year.

He was previously Switzerland's "Mr. Covid", working as the head of communicable diseases at the country's Federal Office of Public Health.

The Euro is due to take place from June 11 to July 11, with London, Glasgow, Dublin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Saint-Petersburg, Bilbao, Munich, Budapest, Baku, Rome and Bucharest all set to host matches.

London is due to be the venue for seven matches, including both semi-finals and the final. - No second postponement -

There has been much speculation about UEFA changing its plans and hosting the tournament in just one country, or perhaps a limited number of countries.

However the body's official line is that it is sticking to its original plan and has given all host cities until early April to say if they will be in a position to accommodate spectators inside stadiums and at what percentage of capacity.

In any case Koch is

confident that this time the 24-team tournament will go ahead after last year's unprecedented postponement.

"There is no such thing as a 100 percent guarantee because there are always surprises in store in a pandemic, but for the moment I am very confident these events will go ahead," he said, also making reference to the postponed Tokyo Olympics.

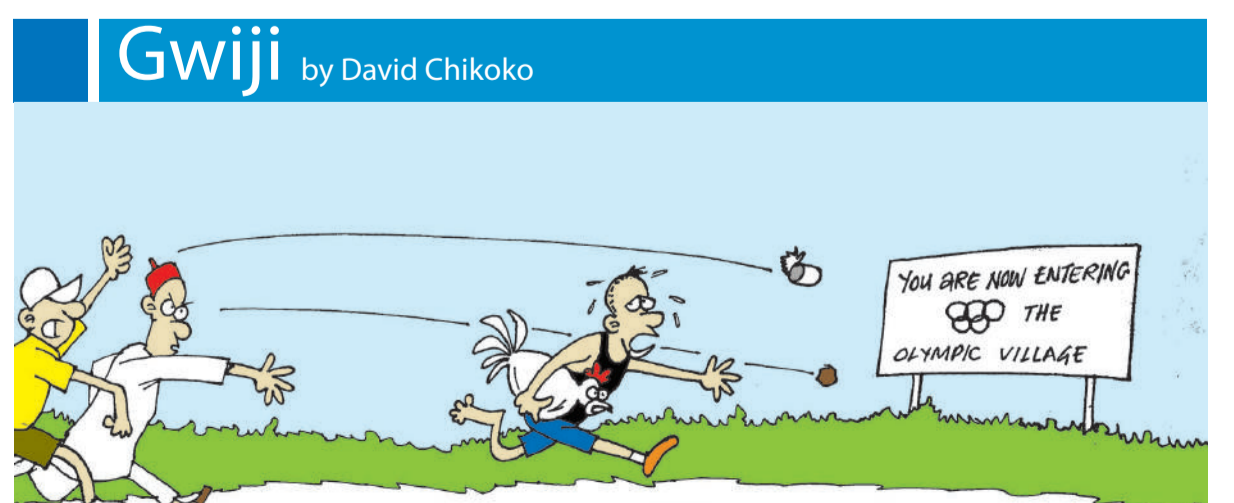
"There would need to be big changes for it not to be possible. We are not going to completely get rid of the virus, but we have the experience of last year and we have new assets, like lots more tests, different kinds, and faster ones like the saliva test."

"Vaccination campaigns are picking up pace and, naturally, more people have immunity because they have already had the virus."

As for the thorny issue of fans being able to attend matches, Koch is hopeful a solution can be found.

"For supporters we will make decisions by April," he said. "But to be able to go to events, and not just sporting events, is a legitimate necessity. That is why we are looking for ways to do it without taking any irresponsible risks."

AFP



Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

Bale can be Mourinho's unlikely X-Factor in top-four pursuit

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Coastal Union out to end Yanga's unbeaten run in VPL



Coastal Union

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANGA's Coastal Union are seeking to end Yanga's unbeaten run in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) as the former host the latter in the top flight match, to be played this afternoon at the Mkwakwani Stadium.

Coastal Union are positioned 13th in the top flight with 23 points from 21 games and they are looking for positive results in today's game for them to still have realistic

chances of remaining in the Premier League.

Yanga are the only team on the land yet to taste defeat in the 18-team top flight this season, they are leading the league's standing with 49 points from 21 games.

Coastal Union's head coach, Juma Mgunda, said they are looking forward to posting good results in the game against Yanga, insisting the visitors are under pressure.

He said they will do all they can to come out victorious, as the aim is to remain in the Premier League.

"We will go into the game with the aim of collecting maximum points, we know it will not be an easy match, but the pressure is on our opponents who want to be champions this season," he said.

On paper, Coastal Union are underdogs, but the Tanga-based team in recent years have turned the Mkwakwani Stadium into their fortress.

Both Coastal Union and Yanga are coming from a fruitful weekend, winning their games in the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASCF)'s fourth round. Coastal Union cruised to 2-0 victory

over Ifhefu FC, Yanga edged Ken Gold FC 1-0 to secure a place in the round of 16.

Yanga's head coach Cedrick Kaze said they know how Coastal Union play and they are prepared for the match.

The VPL leaders will miss the services of four players, Said Ntibanzokiza, Carlos Fernandes, Dickson Job and Ramadhan Kabwili.

"It will be a tough game, but we will go there with the aim of collecting three points, but obviously the fact that they are at home gives them a boost," he said.

In another entertaining match today, which will take place at Manungu Stadium in Morogoro, 12th-placed Mtibwa Sugar host fourth-placed Biashara United.

Mtibwa Sugar have played 21 games and they have notched 23, Biashara United have recorded 35 points from 21 games.

The other game to watch today will pit Tanzania Prisons against Mbeya City FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

This is a must win game for Mbeya City FC, which is placed third from the bottom of the league with 15 points from 20 games while Prisons are placed eighth with 26 points from 20 games.

Polisi Tanzania will host KMC FC at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha. The host have 25 points from 20 games and they are placed ninth while KMC FC is placed fifth with 31 points from 21 games.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

SALAMA NA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msofi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Serengeti Boys jet off to Morocco

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's national U-17 football team 'Serengeti Boys' are expected to depart for Morocco today to compete in the 2021 U-17 African Cup of Nations finals slated to kick off next week.

Serengeti Boys have been placed in Group B of the showpiece alongside Nigeria, Algeria and Congo Republic.

The team will play all of their group matches at Stade Elbahir Mohammed.

Serengeti Boys will open their campaign with a date against Nigeria on March 14.

Three days later, Serengeti Boys will lock horns with Algeria at the same venue.

The last group stage match for Serengeti Boys will see the squad confront Congo Republic at Stade Malay Hassan.

Media reports say The Tanzania squad's head coach, Hababuu Omari, is happy with his players' early departure for Morocco.

The tactician was of the opinion that the approach will help the team acclimatize well with the Morocco weather.

"Going to Morocco early will help the boys acclimatize with Morocco weather and we will also have enough time to prepare well for the finals," the coach noted.

The coach also said he is not worried with the draw, maintaining he has enough arsenal to win their group stage's fixtures and end as one of the last four teams which will automatically earn qualification for FIFA U-17 World Cup finals.

Coach Omari pointed out he is impressed with the fitness levels of the players ahead of the showpiece in Morocco.

Serengeti Boys have been preparing for the finals at Karume Stadium and JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam.

The squad's camp was boosted by senior national team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen who was helping in drilling the players. Poulsen is well conversant with youth football.

Serengeti Boys' players making the trip are Mohamed Hussein, Hajja Shamte, Omary Omary, Aboubakary Lubotile, Kassim Yahya, Ladaki Kasambi, Abdulkarim Kisanyumba, Omary Yahya, Sylvester Kaberenge, Abdulrahman Khery, Aboubakar Sabiani, Abdul Libandika, Ahmed Chambela, Baraka Nyan-Kindo, Kelvin Kombe, Kamili Jestu, Omari Mvungi, Lipson Mlagulwa, Shomari Mnyamani, Said Said, Samail Bombama and Abdallah Hassan.

Gymkhana Club's cricketers trounce MCC in DC Gymkhana Cup Division A tourney

By Guardian Reporter

GYMKHANA Club cricketers have boosted their quest for an impressive outing in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup's Division A League with seven-wicket win over Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) in an encounter played in the city last weekend.

In the Group D match, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s oval, MCC raced to 140 runs for the loss of six wickets once they were presented with a chance to bat first.

The MCC's opening batsmen, Nithin Thomas and Shajil Ayadathil, were the ones who posted most runs and saw to it their team amass the convincing score.

Thomas notched 40 runs, which included three boundaries and two sixes, Ayadathil posted 32 runs, clearing the boundary twice.

The MCC got off to an impressive start, with the duo showcasing solid showing and piling runs for the squad.

They however were somewhat pegged back with an early exit of Hitesh Valambia, slotted in at number three, with the batsman notching five runs.

Jithin Mohan and John David Maethya then did their best to push the total with good knocks, notching 24 runs and 20 runs respectively and clearing the boundary once in their respective innings.

Gymkhana Club's Ashish Shah and skipper Harsheel Shah ended their bowling spells with two wickets apiece.

Skipper Harsheel gave away 26 runs in four overs, notching an economy rate of 6.50, Shah gave away 11 runs in four overs, ending with an economy rate of 2.75.



Aman Shangvi of Gymkhana Club pictured with man of the match prize he was presented with when he helped his club post seven-wicket win over Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup's Division A League's match, which took place in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Gymkhana Club, in response, chased the modest target of 141 runs with plenty of zeal, amassing 144 runs for the loss of three wickets in 17.5 overs.

Opener, Aman Shangvi, put no nonsense showing at the crease, leading his side's chase with his 63 runs which consisted of five fours.

He also made up for a somewhat frustrating outing his fellow opener, Amit Raghuvanshi, had experienced given the latter was sent

back the pavilion after a few overs, notching nine runs.

After an early dismissal of top order performer, Hamisi Lyimo, they were later on in control of the innings, with skipper Harsheel and Gourav Choudhary eventually making certain of their club's win.

Harsheel was much more aggressive with the bat, recording 38 runs not out which included four fours, Choudhary chipped in with three runs not out.

The MCC's Nahas Pulikkool took two wickets, leaving 18 runs in three overs which had the performer notching an economy rate of 6.00.

Gymkhana Club is now placed third in Group D after notching two wins in three games.

Pak Stars are the group's leaders, having notched victory in the four outings they have taken part in.

Lions Cricket Club is placed second with two wins in three outings, Tamil Nadu

Sports Club and MCC sit fourth and fifth respectively in the group.

Upanga Sports Club notched a similar win over Union Sports Club in the showdown's other game, held the same weekend.

Union Sports Club went in to bat first, posting 101 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs, Upanga Sports Club, on reply, chased the total with ease, recording 103 runs for the loss of three wickets in 15.3 overs.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

