

www.ippmedia.com GUard



National Pg 2

Tourism promotion campaign in Vietnam

National Pg 3

theguardianItd The Guardian Digital (5) +255 745 700 710 LIKE & FOLLOW US

Funds for youth to improve businesses

ISSN 0856 - 5422 ISSUE No. 7787 • PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

THURSDAY 2 JANUARY, 2020







JKT camp, two prisons focus on oil palm seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THREE public institutions have embarked in mass production of improved seedlings of oil palm, 'Tenela' in view of the government's push to revive the palm oil crop for cooking oil production in Kigoma Region.

The public entities taking up massive production of the improved seedlings are the National Service Camp at Bulombora (JKT-Bulombora), Kwitanga and Ilagala prisons in Kigoma and Uvinza districts respectively.

"Tenela" seedlings produced by these institutions will be grown in their farms and distributed freely to residents in nearby villages to push up palm oil production following directives issued by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa during a tour of the region.

Speaking on the ongoing strategies, the Acting Commander of 821 JKT Bulombora, Capt Benitho Lubida said producing 'Tenela' seed is tied to its high oil yields that will reduce costs of importing cooking oil each year.

He said the production of seeds was being conducted in collaboration with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), tasked by the government to oversee palm oil production.

In collaboration with TARI. Bulombora JKT are preparing 500,000 'Tenela' seedlings to cater for six districts and numerous villages close to the camp

Capt Lubida said for a start they have planted 19,600 seedlings while they continue to prepare more seedlings, with a 916 acre farm prepared for the purpose in response to the premier's appeal.

In collaboration with TARI, Bulombora JKT are preparing 500,000 "Tenela" seedlings to cater for six districts and numerous villages close to the camp, he said.

The Chief Warden of Kwitanga Prison, Dominic Kazimile said the government wants to ensure that prisons become centres for production, and in this prison the focus is on growing high quality "Tenela" oil palm seedlings that yield big quantity of palm oil.

He said the prison aims to cultivate 6,000 acres and already they have prepared 400 acres in the first phase, while growing 10,795 seedlings and removing aged trees planted way back in 1968.

For his part, Chief Warden of Ilagala Prison in Uvinza District, ASP Mangole Mbaruk said they have received 10,000 seedlings from TARI and have prepared 200 acres for palm oil palm farming.

TARI Director Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo was pleased by Bulombora JKT and Prisons in responding the call from premier Majaliwa,

TURN TO PAGE 2



TRA adds 20pc more revenue in fiscal year second quarter



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (2rd R) views a demonstration of the procedure to register people for a national identity card from the National Identification Authority (NIDA). The deputy minister was in Morogoro region yesterday. With him is NIDA registration officer

Stability uppermost in JPM and Shein New Year messages

By Guardian Reporters

PRESIDENT John Magufuli and his Zanzibar counterpart, Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday urged Tanzanians to maintain peace, love and stability in the year 2020 to ensure more development and the country's prosperity.

In separate New Year messages circulated to the media, both leaders said peace, stability and unity are crucial aspects in ensuring successful implementation of development plans.

Speaking from Rubondo Island National Park during New Year Eve, Dr Magufuli said he has also received New Year messages from a number of Tanzanians, retired presidents and religious leaders across the country.

In their New Year messages, the clerics praised Magufuli for a job well done in ensuring development of Tanzanians. They were optimistic that in 2020 the country will record further development

In their New Year messages, religious leaders praised Dr Magufuli for a job well done in ensuring the development of Tanzanians. They were optimistic that in 2020 the country will record further development.

A message from the Head of the Evangelical Lutheran of Tanzania (ELCT). Dr Fedrick Shoo read: "Praise the Lord, I am congratulating you for spearheading our nation's development. I praying that our Almighty God continues to bless you in 2020; I wish you many more successes. It is only by His grace we are blessed to see the New Year."

President Magufuli directed Chato District Executive Director, Eliud Mwaiteleke to announce a tender for construction of the 2.2km Kasenda - Muganza road. He said road should be constructed at tarmac level, and the government will fully fund the project.

He also directed the Chato DED to control

TURN TO PAGE 2

'Tanzania expected over 5,000 babies on New Year'

By Guardian Reporter

AN estimated 5,000 babies were expected in Tanzania on the New Year, on the basis of an affirmation by the United Nations Children's Fund

The UN agency said in a statement yesterday that an estimated 392,078 babies would be born worldwide on New Year's Day, set out by the World Data Lab forming the basis of the UN report, World Population Prospects (2019).

During 2020, UNICEF has appealed to world leaders and nations to invest in health workers with the know-how and equipment to save every

newborn "The beginning of a new year and a new decade



is an opportunity to reflect on our hopes and aspirations not only for our future, but the future of those who will come after us," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive

"As the calendar flips each January, we are reminded of all the possibilities and potential of each child embarking on her or his life's journey-if they are just given that chance."

Fiji in the Pacific will most likely deliver 2020's first baby and the United States, its last. Globally, over half of these births are estimated to take place in eight countries-India (67,385), China (46,299), Nigeria (26,039), Pakistan (16,787), Indonesia (13,020), United States (10,452), Democratic Republic of Congo (10,247) and Ethiopia (8,493).

Each January, UNICEF celebrates babies born on New Year's Day, an auspicious day for child birth around the world. However, for millions of newborns around the world, the day of their birth is far less auspicious.

In 2018, 2.5 million newborns died in just their first month of life, about a third of them on the first day of life. Among those children, most

TURN TO PAGE 2

For the month of October, 2019 TRA collected 1.484trn/-, while November collections rose to 1.501 trn/-

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has collected 4.972 trn/- out of the targeted 5.100trn/- in the second quarter of 2019/20, an increase of 19.78-percent from the amount collected the same period the previous year.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, TRA Commissioner General Dr Edwin Mhede said the taxman collected 1.987 trn/for the month of December 2019.

"TRA broke its own record made in September where it collected 1.767trn/equivalent to 97.20-percent of the targeted 1.817trn/-," he said.

The December collection was equivalent to 100.20-percent of the targeted 1.983 trn/-, adding 22.05 percent in collections compared to 1.628trn/- collected during the same month in 2018.

The second quarter covers October. November and December, where for the month of October 2019 TRA collected 1.484trn/-, while November collections rose to 1.501 trn/-.

Dr Mhede said the increase and achievements were a sign that Tanzanian



Tanzania's current tax base stands at just 12.8 per cent against a population of over 50 million, compared to Kenya which has 18.5 per cent tax base against a population of 40 million

taxpayers have understood President John Magufuli's spirit to pay tax and implement various development projects using the country's own funds.

He named some of the strategies led to achievement as including proper implementation of tax laws, closing tax evasion gaps and strict supervision of using Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs).

"We have also embarked on building a strong relationship with taxpayers within TRA so that we work as a team to make One TRA, One Big Family to achieve more than what we have got," he declared.

Back in November, TRA announced that it had collected 58.3 trn/- in the past four years during the fifth phase presidency and increased the number of registered tax payers from 2.2 million to 3.01m. This was an increase of 23.4bn/- compared to the same period at the end of the first half of the decade.

President Magufuli has on several times challenged TRA to work on expanding the tax base from the current 12.8percent of the population.

The president asserts that TRA has the ability to persuade more Tanzanians to pay tax by creating an enabling environment and creating other revenue sources.

He tasked the newly appointed Commissioner General to address challenges facing TRA like underperformance attributable to lack of proper

TURN TO PAGE 2





Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein (in green tracksuit) participates at a physical exercise festival held yesterday. With him on his left is Second Vice President ambassador Seif Ali Iddi, Minister of State in Second Vice President Mohammed Aboud Mohammed and Speaker of House of Representative Zuberi Ali

TRA adds 20% JKT camp, two prisons in fiscal year 2nd quarter

communications within the agency, poor staff allocation and outright

Tanzania's current tax base stands at just 12.8 per cent against a population of over 50 million, compared to Kenya which has 18.5 per cent tax base against a population of 40 million.

FROM PAGE 1

and for keeping oil palm seedlings while preparing their farms for planting.

Speaking about JKT, Dr Mkamilo said there is a great opportunity due to proximity with Lake Tanganyika, noting that TARI was ready to keep the seedlings for other areas in because oil palm yields more oil per

Research had already been conducted in other regions whose results show where oil palms can grow well, he stated.

focus on oil palm seeds

TARI-Kihinga director Dr Filson Kagimbo, said they have come up with strategies to revive oil palm crop

acre compared to other oil yielding crops such as sunflower.

Speaking about oil palm production in Kigoma Region, the TARI director said research is being conducted to enhance palm oil production yields from 1.6 tons per hectare to 3 tons or up to 4 tons per hectare by using "Tenela"

Stability uppermost in JPM, Shein New Year messages

FROM PAGE 1

misuse of public funds at his office, insisting that people in the district should not experience difficulties in getting social services at the expense of some dishonest civil servants.

Muganza congratulated residents in Rubondo for ensuring development at their area, emphasizing that the government will continue controlling expenditure to ensure funds are directed to development projects.

"IamprayingthatGodgivesmeenergy to continue working for you in 2020. Controlling government expenditures will enable us to implement more projects; we have bought 11 aircraft and we are constructing the standard gauge railway (SGR)", he said.

In welcoming the New Year 2020, Dr Shein said the people have shown love and unity among themselves as well as for foreigners visiting the

He said peace, stability and unity that have been shown enabled the implementation of development plans resulting in great achievements which saw the economy growing by 7.1 percent as compared to 6.8 in 2016.

Peace and stability has contributed in strengthening the tourism sector whereby from January to November 2019, a total of 477,578 tourists were received, he stated.

The Isles leader asserted that peace and stability also enabled various corporations and institutions and in the region and internationally to hold their meetings in the Isles in 2019, including the East African Judges and Magistrates Association (EAMJA) and the Commonwealth Parliamentarians Conference.

Implementation of the 2020 Development Vision together with the 2015/20 CCM Manifesto have been carried out with great achievements making the Isles attain the lower reaches of middle income of US \$ comforting them.

1,040 in accordance with international yardsticks.

The major achievements attained in 2019 were also in the agriculture sector, fisheries and livestock keeping whereby government and farmers' efforts saw an increase of crop production especially rice, vegetables and fruits.

On fisheries Dr Shein said the government has started taking initial steps to establish the Zanzibar Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO) to replace a now defunct commercial entity.

He said in 2019 a modern fishing trawler - SHEWA II was bought at a cost of 1.33bn/- and already ZAFICO is planning to buy another fishing trawler, while continuing with its efforts in exploration for natural gas.

Dr Shein said in 2019 the government recorded strides in improving social services such as policies on free education and health services. The health budget was increased nine folds from 10.81bn/- in 2010/2011 to 104.24bn/- in 2019/2020.

As for the education sector, Dr Shein said in the 2019/20 estimates the government attained budget increase at 3.8 times from 47.093bn/in 2010/2011 to 178.917bn/- in 2019/2020.

During the year, development projects at Fumba and Nyamanzi were continuing, construction of a shopping mall at Michanzani and inauguration of a modern housing project at Kwahani proceeding well, he pointed out.

He urged leaders who had given various promises to the people when vying for elective positions in past general elections to fulfill them accordingly, as another election year had arrived.

Dr Shein also used the opportunity to console the victims of heavy rains that occurred on the night of December 20th and 21st last year. He also hailed various leaders who visited the affected families for

'Tanzania expected over 5,000 babies on New Year'

FROM PAGE 1

delivery and infections like sepsis. In addition, more than 2.5 million babies are born dead each year.

In Tanzanian children have a much better chance of surviving past their fifth birthday today compared to the situation in previous years. The government's high-impact programmes such as immunization. promotion of breastfeeding, Vitamin A supplementation, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and improved management of common childhood illnesses have saved lives of children across the

However, Tanzania is among countries with the highest number of newborn deaths in the world. UNICEF says in a fund levels and trends in child mortality report (2019) that Tanzania has 44,082 neo-natal deaths that occur $during the first\,28\,days\,of\,life\,and\,76,\!644$ infant deaths during the first year of life. Babies dying in the first month of life accounted for 41.3 per cent of all deaths among children under five in 2018, up from 25.2 per cent in 1990.

"Everyone needs to ask themselves how we can make sure that no child in Tanzania dies any longer from preventable causes, especially in the first month of life. What do the health workers and communities need to do differently to prevent this from happening," Rene Van Dongen, UNICEF Tanzania Deputy Representative posed.

To address the issue of maternal and newborn deaths in the country, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, UNICEF and other stakeholders launched JIONGEZE campaign in 2019, a multi-year campaign on maternal and child survival.

The campaign emphasizes on the four life-saving Ps, namely place, people, products and power, where place refer to the need for clean and functional health facilities within reach of every mother and baby 24 hours, 7 days a week.

The second p, people highlights died from preventable causes such as sufficient number of well-trained premature birth, complications during midwives and other health workers equipped with tools needed to keep every mother and baby alive and healthy, while the third p, products entails life-saving drugs and equipment available for every mother and baby.

The last p, power requires that adolescent girls, women and families are empowered to demand and receive quality health care services.

The campaign led to increased awareness and prioritization of reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths, reaching out to different stakeholders' networks. These included media and inter faithleaders in the Mainland and Zanzibar.

Over the past three decades, the world has seen remarkable progress in child survival, cutting the number of children worldwide who die before their fifth birthday by more than half. But there has been slower progress for newborns. Babies dying in the first month accounted for 47 per cent of all deaths among children under five in 2018, up from 40 per cent in 1990.

UNICEF's Every Child Alive campaign calls for immediate investment in healthworkers with the right training, who are equipped with the right medicines to ensure every mother and newborn is cared for by a safe pair of hands to prevent and treat complications during pregnancy, delivery and birth.

"Too many mothers and newborns are not being cared for by a trained and equipped midwife or nurse, and the results are devastating," asserted Fore."We can ensure that millions of babies survive their first day and live into this decade and beyond if every one of them is born into a safe pair of

For the data, UNICEF worked with the World Data Lab. Estimates for the number of babies born on 1 January 2020 draw on the latest revision of the UN's World Population Prospects (2019).

"Building on these datasets, World Data Lab's (WDL) algorithm projects estimates of the number of births for each day by country," the statement



President Dr. John Magufuli and First Lady Mama Janeth Magufuli display a catch of fresh water fish Nile Perch after fishing on Lake Victoria during their domestic tourism visit at Rubondo national park in Chato district, Geita region on Tuesday. Photo: State House

TTB to conduct tourism promotion campaign in Vietnam

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) is this year set to conduct a tourism promotional campaign in Vietnam to promote the country's tourism potentials.

The move aims to lure more tourists from Vietnam so that they experience Tanzania's exceptional blend of scenery of wildlife, culture and other issues related to business and investment opportunities.

TTB Board Chairman, Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo said this in an interview with The Guardian in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The campaign, he

said will be launched in April this year. "We have had consultations with Tanzania Ambassador to Vietnam; he assured us that Vietnam's tourism market is the best. We want tourists from Vietnam to explore what we offer in the sector", he noted.

Burigi-Chato National Park is also expected to feature in this year's Vietnam promotion campaign, said the retired Judge adding the aim is to let the people in Vietnam know the many tourists attractions available in Tanzania.

He pointed out that decision to focus on Vietnam was reached after realising many people in the particular country

are not aware of the tourist attractions in Tanzania.

TTB's Managing Director, Devota Mdachi added that more visitors are opting to visit Tanzania due to the presence of various attractions and the beautiful nature, beaches and

mountains. "Other countries may have beaches but in Tanzania we have the exceptional ones including the white sandy unpolluted beaches of Zanzibar, blend of cultures and the hospitality offered by Tanzanians cannot be compared with anything else in the

region," she said. Mdachi said TTB is looking ahead

to continue receiving more visitors from different countries around the world, the thing that goes together with increased government revenues. She said the aim is to reach at least 3 million visitors in 2020.

She said most visitors coming to Tanzania are from UK, Italy, USA and German as primary markets while the secondary market includes France, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and

So far Tanzania is considered to be one of Africa's safest tourist destinations with an abundant wildlife that are easily visible as well as diverse



Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government who is also Kisarawe MP Seleman Jaffo assists Neema Petro to balance the bucket filled with water during the launch of Kisarawe water project funded by Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority at the cost of 10bn/-. Photo:

4 traders nabbed in possession of prohibited fish

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

IRINGA District Council has arrested four big businessmen in possession of a consignment of small fishes that are prohibited by law valued at over 50m/-, and who are claimed to be collaborating with illegal fishermen.

was conducted under the supervision of the District's Defense and Security Committee, the District Commissioner Richard Kasesera (pictured) said the prohibited fish was being fished out from Mtera Dam, which he said threatens the rearing of fish in future.

The businessmen were nabbed at Igingilanyi area in Isimani Ward with 19 bags of the prohibited fishes in a Fuso lorry with Reg. no. T508ASD en route to Newala in Mtwara Region from Mtera Dam.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Kasesera said they made a patrol around Mtera Dam that led to the seizure of the prohibited fishes.

He said after investigations are final-



Speaking soon after the seizure that ised the suspects will be taken to court that may also see the lorry confiscated by the government and added that the fishes have already been confiscated and distributed to various government institutions including prisons, schools and hospitals.

> Iringa District Livestock and Fisheries officer Mathew Sanga said his office in collaboration with other stakeholders will continue to wage war against the menace of illegal fishing that is deeply rooted at Mtera Dam.

> Sanga also called upon all fishermen at the Dam to ensure they use acceptable fishing gear including nets with large size mesh and also warned sellers not to sell fish under three inches

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WOMEN, young people and special groups benefiting from the government's ten percent loans have been urged to utilise well the opportunity by seeking for the funds so as to improve their business and other income generating activities.

Ilemela MP, Angelina Mabula made the remarks here when she met with various groups of women, youth and People with Disabilities from the wards of Bugogwa, Shibula, Kayenze and Sangabuye.

Mabula who also doubles as the deputy minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development urged them to form strong groups and is for you to have a focused business then request for the loans which are idea," she added.

dows because the government could not afford to reach every individual. "These loans are just there waiting for you to grab them, what is needed

provided through district councils win-

She also reminded the groups to maintain trust by making sure that they repay the loans once acquired.

"Another thing is for you to utilise well meetings, conferences and other

workshops to market your products," Mabula added.

Government's loans beneficiaries

urged to use well the opportunity

For his part, Ilemela Municipal Council Land and Urban Planning officer urged all groups who acquired loans from the council to repay their debts for other groups to benefit.

Rosemary Mwakisalu, Special Seat taxes which a respective district coun-Councilor (CCM) hinted on the fact that cil collects, so make sure that after acby repaying the loans they would enable them to maintain their trust and be able to access more loans in the future.

"The funds which are provided to

quiring them you make proper use by focusing on productive projects rather than embarking on unplanned and unnecessary businesses which in the end these groups are obtained from various incurs you losses," she said.

Pakistan Navy Ships "PNS ASLAT" and "PNS MOAWIN" to Visit Dar es Salaam Port from January 3-6, 2020



Two Pakistan Navy ships PNS ASLAT and PNS MOAWIN will be paying goodwill visits to the Port of Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, from January 3-6, 2020. The visit is part of similar goodwill visits and training cruises undertaken to the ports of some other friendly countries in Africa in recent weeks.

The two PN Ships are led by Commodore Abdul Munib SI(M), Commander 25th Destroyer Squadron, Captain Shafiq ur Rehman, TI(M), Commanding Officer, PNS ASLAT and Captain Muhammad Zeshan Nabi Sheikh, Commanding Officer, PNS MOAWIN.

The four-day visit will cover a host of activities including meetings and courtesy calls by the Pakistan Navy Officers on high-ranking officials of Tanzanian People's Defence Forces. The hallmark of the visit is PNS MOAWIN's 'Free Medical Camp for the Needy' during its stay in Dar es Salaam.

The Charge d' Affaires of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Saleem, High Commission for Pakistan, Dar es Salaam, will host a reception in honour of Pakistan Navy officers, Tanzanian dignitaries and high ranking civil and defence forces officers of the United Republic of Tanzania. The Commander and officers of PN Ships will also host a reception on board the Ship.

The forthcoming goodwill visit, in the beginning of new year 2020, is a landmark in the broader framework of further augmenting the close and cooperative ties between the Armed Forces and Navies of Pakistan and Tanzania as part of strengthening bilateral relations in diverse fields. The visit will provide an opportunity to the two Navies to share professional experience and discuss future prospects of cooperation for their mutual benefit.

Pakistan High Commission, Dar es Salaam

ROSA LUXEMBURG FOUNDATION - EAST AFRICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

Call for Proposals:

Amplifying Working People's Voices in Tanzania

Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung (RLS) invites applications for a research project on Amplifying Grassroots Voices in Tanzania.

Description of the services requested

We invite proposals that seek to amplify the voices of the working people in Tanzania, drawing on their experience in the neoliberal system. We would prefer applications from East African scholars which focus on the following fields:

- Documenting stories of the working people about their experience in the neoliberal economic set up, particularly how have the working people been experiencing economic exploitation. • The cultures of resistance, showing how the working people have been organizing against the systemic injustices
- of neoliberalism.
- · Alternative visions, documenting how the working people imagine, strive for and implement alternatives to neoliberalism.
- Corroborating different sources, including archival resources, to tell the stories of the working people in Tanzania.
- Organizing exchange sessions for the working people to converse and share their experiences.

We welcome applications from East African scholars with a minimum qualification of a master's degree in any social sciences or humanities, with political economy bias. In addition, applicant must:

- Be Proficient in English and Kiswahili
- Have strong knowledge of Tanzanian political economy
- · Have proven ability to write academic texts of high quality • Have proven ability to write educational materials for the working people
- Have a proven ability of documenting stories of grassroots movements

Working experience in African universities is an added advantage.

We are committed to diversity and equality of opportunity. Women are encouraged to apply.

Expected output

- 1. A book length publishable manuscript
- 2. Between 3 to 5 newspaper articles
- 3. Between 4 to 6 exchange sessions of the working people

Applications should be accompanied by:

- Cover letter
- 2. Curriculum Vitae with publication record
- 3. Proposal of research of no more than 2-3 pages plus a work plan and broad outlines of a budget.

The project should start no later than 1st February, 2020 and be completed latest by June 30th, 2021. Applications should be sent by electronic mail to mussa.billegeya@rosalux.org by 10th January 2020. If you do not hear from us by 20th January 2020, please consider your proposal as not being successful.

About Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

Active since 1990, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (RLS) has been committed to the analysis of social processes and developments worldwide. In cooperation with organizations around the globe, the Foundation works on democratic and social participation, empowerment of disadvantaged groups, alternatives for economic and social development, ecological sustainability, conflict prevention, and peaceful conflict resolution, among others.

The RLS Head Office is based in Berlin / Germany (https://www.rosalux.de/en/foundation/more-about-us/). The East African Regional Office has been established in Dar es Salaam / Tanzania. Further information could be obtained by writing to us through the email above. Our website (www.rosalux.co.tz is currently undergoing some maintenance and may not be accessible).

NATIONAL.NEWS

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya region say they are still following up controversial

incident on the disappearance of two

children from one family residents of

Shewa area in Mwakibete Ward, Mbeya

Speaking to reporters here on

Tuesday the Mbeya Regional Police

Commander SACP Ulrich Matei named

the children as Faisal Mashaka (5)

and Farhana Mashaka (1 year and five

RPC Matei said the children's

father, Mashaka Juma said that they

disappeared on December 28 last year

in controversial circumstances while at

months).

home.

MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC



JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Position:

Job Title

Department

Job Description

Mkombozi Commercial Bank PLC was established in 2009 and operates as a fully-fledged commercial Bank. The Bank offers wide spectrum of banking services and wishes to expand its business operations across the country. The Bank is inviting suitable applicants to fill the following positions.

| Job Title | Chief Internal Auditor | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Department | Audit | |
| Functional Reporting Line | Board of Directors | |
| Administrative Reporting Line | Managing Director | |

Reports directly to

Job Summary Provide independent and objective assurance on the effectiveness and efficiency of the bank's IT Governance, Information Technology Infrastructure, Management & Application Controls in Core Banking System, IT security controls and on Data Centre Infrastructure and its Administration.

IT Audit Manager

Chief Internal Auditor

Audit

anaging Director

The Chief Internal Auditor has overall responsibility for the Internal Audit functions of the Bank. The position is responsible for ensuring Internal Audit is closely aligned with industry best practices in executing the duties across the banking business and financial service sector at large. Works to ensure roles, responsibilities, and results are efficiently coordinated and collectively optimizing the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance of the Bank.

Duties and Responsibilities

Job Summary

- Lead Internal Audit's change initiatives by implementing action plans relating to risk assessment and annual planning, audit execution, audit reporting, staff recruitment and development, audit technology, and Audit Committee reporting.
- Lead Internal Audit's annual risk assessment and enterprise risk assessment and planning process to develop the audit plan and ensure the plan is responsive to and aligned with the risk profile of the Bank.
- Oversee the execution of individual audits defined in the audit plan ensuring the highest level of service quality and client satisfaction.
- Issue all Internal Audit reports ensuring the reports are clear, concise, identify root causes with practical solutions, and ultimately provide value to management.
- Meet regularly with the Audit Committee to report the status of Internal Audit's ongoing monitoring activities, educate/inform the committee of emerging risks and/or exposures (whether internal or external to the bank) that should be considered, and serve as a "thought leader" with respect to risk management and internal control best practices.
- Proactively inform senior management of significant risks or exposures related to internal controls, compliance, and/or governance requiring prompt
- Perform Internal controls assessments and advise or recommend efforts to mitigate identified control
- Manage the process to track, follow-up, and ultimately close all open audit issues leveraging the Audit Committee, if necessary.
- Actively participate in executive management meetings and/or committees to ensure that Internal Audit is well-informed of key business developments that could have an impact on audit priorities and/or
- Attract, hire, and retain a team of high-performing audit professionals who possess outstanding knowledge, experience, ethics, and integrity.
- Ensure that Internal Audit is performing its work in accordance with established professional standards and remain abreast of emerging trends and best practices that can be incorporated into the function.
- Oversee Internal Audit's participation in critical business and technology initiatives and projects ensuring that audit's perspective is effectively voiced, and appropriate controls are designed and implemented on a proactive basis.
- Coordinate the activities of external auditors including how best to leverage the work performed and results produced from Internal Audit's work.
- Serve as the key point person on all regulatory exams and other third-party audits.
- Performs any other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Knowledge of Generally Accepted Auditing Standards
- Knowledge of Accounting and Finance Principles and
- Knowledge of a variety of reporting procedures, regulations and law
- Planning and Time Management
- Effective Communication and Human Relations skills
- Critical Thinking and Analysis
- Tenacity and Ethics Technology Proficient (excel, word, ACL, ability to

Experience and Qualifications:

learn new software)

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting & Finance or other closely related field.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is required. Certified Internal Audit (CIA) or any other relevant professional qualification shall be added advantage.
- A minimum of 8 or more years' experience in auditing or managing finances of a financial institution with at least three (3) years in a Management role.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Participate in performing risk assessment of the ICT Environment and formulating a risk-based ICT audit
- Provide IT related guidance to the audit team and ensure overall audit objectives are achieved.
- Actively engage and participate on IT Audit, mobile banking, agency banking and serve as audit liaison person on the same area.
- Execute a high quality, risk-based audits of technology infrastructure, information security and business application system.
- Execute audit tests and identify issues and areas for improvement in efficiency and effectiveness of information technology operations.
- Work with other audit team members in developing action plans to ensure risks are effectively mitigated. and follow-up to determine adequacy of corrective
- Carry out system related investigation and produce report.
- Participate in operational, financial and projects audit of varying complexity and risk.
- Test the adequacy and effectiveness of system controls in place and suggest appropriate measures for improvement.
- Assess the overall condition of operations, evaluate risks, prepares well-documented written work papers, effectively communicates audit findings as appropriate, and provide value-adding recommendations.
- Identify performance improvement opportunities and adhere to department policies and procedures.
- Perform data analytics to confirm completeness and
- accuracy of information processing and reports. Follow up on Internal, External and BOT Examination
- Performs any other duties as assigned.

Knowledge and Skills:

- Knowledge of Generally Accepted Auditing Standards
- In-depth knowledge of information technology (IT), IT risk, IT security, IT controls and principles.
- Knowledge of a variety of reporting procedures,
- regulations and law Planning and Time Management
- · Effective Communication and Human Relations skills Critical Thinking and Analysis
- Tenacity and Ethics
- Data
- · Technology Proficient (excel, word, ACL, ability to learn new software)

Qualification and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Information Systems Management other closely related field.
- Possession of Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) is a must; Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC), Certified Information Security Manager and
- Certified Ethical Hacker will be an added advantage. Four (4) or more years' experience in auditing with at least 2 years' experience in auditing financial institution(s).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS OF ALL POSTS.

- Letter of Job application.
- Curriculum vitae enclosing details of work experience, skills and with postal and telephone contacts of three non-relative referees.
- Certified Copies of academic Certificates and all other submitted certificates.
- Applicants must be a self-motivated person who can work under tight time frames with minimal
- Applicants must be Fluent in English & Swahili with excellent verbal and written communication skills.

REMUNERATION

Attractive remuneration will be given to the successful candidate.

APPLICATION

- All applications should reach the undersigned not later than 16th January 2020.
- Hand delivery should reach the Bank not later than 1700 hrs on, 16th January 2020.

Mashaka and other people." He said they have also sought help

house maid who left them playing outside their house while she went on doing other house chores, but when she went back she could not find them.

Two kids disappear in controversial

circumstances in Mbeya, says RPC

He said thereafter they went to report the matter to the police while they continued searching for them with the help of neighbour's and other people without success.

Matei said: "We still believe the kids will be found alive and we are still cooperating with neighbours of

from religious and traditional leaders through Umoja wa Jamii Tanzania (Mujata) who have their own networks held by the police for interrogation.

He said the children were with a on how to deal with various incidents.\

Matei said up to now it is still unknown the motive behind the abductor(s) as there was not any ransom demand.

He called upon wananchi to take care of their children; they should not leave them alone keeping in mind that parents are number one guardians, saying that children can also be knocked down by vehicles as they try to cross the road while alone.

Many incidents of disappearance of people were reported in Mbeya city last December as up to now four people disappeared and one child was found to have been buried after being killed and the parents thereof are still being



Machame Narumu ward executive officer in Hai district, Kilimanjaro region Marystella Thomas (L) feeds a child during the launch of community nutrition day at Usari village yesterday.

Dr Shein underscores need to introduce Kiswahili teaching courses in universities

By Guardian Reporter

programme in all colleges and universities in the Isles to enable more youth learn best teaching techniques of the language and grab employment opportunities locally and abroad.

Dubbed "Teaching Kiswahili to Speakers of Other Languages (TEKSOL)", the programme is specifically designed to capacitate candidates with required skills in teaching Kiswahili.

Dr Shein made the remarks during the 15th graduation ceremony of the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) in South Unguja region.

establishment of the programme will

enable more young people secure opportunities in various parts including Zakia Abubakar said that female ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali the Southern African Development graduates have continued to perform Mohamed Shein has underscored the Community (SADC). "Those taking the well in their examinations which is need to introduce Kiswahili teaching programme in this university should recommendable. then take extra steps, use internet to search for jobs opportunities in various areas across the world," he said.

> He said that in a recent Swahili festival held in the Isles, he witnessed a good number of experts who have graduated Kiswahili courses from various varsities including SUZA which is a good sign that the language now has big demand.

"We should also strengthen efforts, come up with strategic plans to improve Kiswahili and foreign language department towards making Zanzibar a centre of excellence...We have to Dr Shein who is also the chancellor make sure that we attract more foreign of the university said that the nationals to learn the language," he added.

For her part, SUZA Vice Chancellor

"This year, female graduates leaded by getting 54 percent and male scored 46 percent. This shows how women have the ability to do wonders in the education sector. The best student also is a female," he said.

"Despite various achievements that we have been observing, the university also faces a number of challenges including shortage of dormitories at Tunguu thus affecting academic and service provision to students," the VC

Zakia said that a total of 1,719 graduates were conferred degrees and diplomas certificates making a grand total of 12000 graduates since the university was established 15 years ago.

10,000 small-scale rice farmers in Kyela, Busokelo set to benefit from new project

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

OVER 10,000 small-scale rice farmers in Kyela and Busokelo district councils, Mbeya region are set to benefit from a new project which is aimed to empower them with prerequisite skills and knowledge thus produce quality yields and compete in the international markets.

Implemented by Kyela rice processing company, the project will reach farmers in 26 villages in the area.

Speaking at the meeting with smallscale farmers here, the director of Kyela rice processing company Moses Mwaipopo the major aim is to increase competitiveness and improving the post-harvest value chain of small holder rice farmers.

He said that the rice produced in the district is well known of his quality in the national and international quality thus having high demand but the production is still low.

"The crop has high demand in the

methods to ensure that they increase farming methods is a major challenge that thwarts development of most of the farmers," he noted.

He said that the project will contribute to shifting from small-scale subsistence farming towards smallscale 'commercial' farming, by targeting the existing challenges and gaps within the value chain, particularly limited knowledge among farmers on postharvest practices, and their minimal control over the process after harvest.

"We have established special farms in 26 villages in Kyela and Busokelo councils where farmers can learn various farming practices to help them improve their farming," Mwaipopo

Mwaipopo further added "Smallholder farmers will be enabled to produce a product that is of good quality and in sufficient volume and

with a lower cost of production." According to him, the project in international market, but our farmers implemented by closely engaging have failed to use more innovative extension officers in the villages.

Thobias Mwankonda, project harvests and income. Use of poor coordinator said that the successful implementation of the project will transform mindsets of a good number of famers who will then embark on modern farming to improve their lives.

> "Apart from capacitating them to produce quality yields, we will also link them with financial institutions to enable the access loans and capital to expand their farming," he said.

He added: "This project aims at empowering small holder farmers on Rice post-harvest management and marketing through capacity building in good agricultural practices, market systems, financial services and investment in post-harvest infrastructures."

Some of the farmers commended the company for embarking on the supportive project saying that they can now see a good future of the farming.

"We are used to practice subsistence farming due to lack of skills that will support us produce quality yields, so with this project we ho[pe our lives will change," he said.

MANAGING DIRECTOR Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc Plot Number 40, Mansfield Street, Dar es salaam. P.O.Box 38448 **DAR ES SALAAM**

Govt to hire 16,000 teachers, says Nasha

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTRY for Education, Science and Technology plans to employ 16.000 teachers in the next financial year to alleviate the current shortage, particularly science teachers in various schools in the country.

This was revealed by deputy minister of Education, Science and Technology William Ole Nasha when responding to a question on shortage of science teachers at Viba School in Igunga district, Tabora region.

Nasha said the recruitment plan years, aiming to solve the challenge of

teachers in particular Science.

up were to ensure employers who graduate from colleges go to fill the required gaps.

"There are special colleges that we have set aside to provide Science teachers. This will help us a lot," said

"But remember employers are TAMISEMI, the Ministry of Education says we have a shortage of Teachers where TAMISEMI whose job is to hire," he explained.

He said they are sending teachers will be implemented within three to schools based on the need for the relevant section.

He said one of the challenges He said the strategies they set that contributed to the shortage of teachers was the teachers who had received fake certificates and had been removed.

> He said tackling the issue would take a while, but it would be resolved within three to four years that they continue

"We will continue to hire, train and improve infrastructure for teachers who are employed," said Ole Nasha.

He said as usual the government has given the education sector priority and that is why it has put in place these strategies to ensure teachers work in good environment.



Mjini Unguja district commissioner Marina Thomas (R) participates at a cleanliness environment exercise in Zanzibar

ABUJA

SINCE 2018, more than 2,000 people have been reported killed and thousands displaced in Africa due to pastoralist-farmers clashes. The African Union is searching for an end to the crises.

Hundreds of thousands of Nigerians are today languishing in displaced persons' camps scattered across the country because of clashes between pastoralists and herders. This crises have claimed thousands of lives and changed the social dynamics of the

Unfortunately, this is not limited to Nigeria but quite widespread across the continent.

Numerous interventions have been organized to address the situation, one of them was the recent validation workshop on guidelines to secure pastoralism and prevent conflict in Africa, which held in Lusaka, Zambia Organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

At the workshop, experts reviewed a draft policy framework to address the incessant conflict, considering that both groups have coexisted for centuries.

"To this end, they have both generated enormous wealth and economic independence needed to promote socio-economic development," Dr Janet Edeme, Head of Division, Rural Economy of AUC, said.

However, resource scarcity, adverse effects of climate change, among other factors have seen conflicts between these groups intensify. "Since 2018. over 2,000 people were reported dead and thousands displaced in African especially in the Sahel Region and the Horn of Africa and these figures are alarming," Edeme said.

While the causes, nature, patterns, and trends of farmers-herders conflicts vary from country to country, its consequences on lives and livelihoods are similar to resultant insecurity in member states of the African Union with increasing regional and continental implications on peace and stability.

Experts at the workshop noted that

Africa's desperate search for end to farmers, herders clashes

the role of pastoralism in the economic development of the continent should not be downplayed. They said despite the GDP may be as high as 10 to 15per considerable progress supporting policies, pastoralists continue to suffer from cultural and spatial isolation, and political marginalization in many Africa countries.

"Pastoral communities in Africa are the most fragile, conflict prone and food insecure areas. These areas are associated with high levels of poverty, high incidence of diseases, famine and civil strife," Dr Ahmed Elmekass, Coordinator of Africa Union SAFGRAD, said. "Considering the arid and semiarid nature of rural area, livestock productions are still the most sustainable livelihood means of the pastoralists," he said.

Assistant Secretary General of COMESA Secretariat, Ambassador Dr. Kipyego Cheluget said it is estimated that the arid and semiarid areas of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) is home to over 25 million pastoralists of which 72 per cent reside within the COMESA region. "Under the current situation, pastoralism offers the best land use system in drylands. Pastoral system in the Horn of Africa accounts for 23 per cent of the livestock population in COMESA region and 10 per cent of the continent," he said.

"Without appropriate investment and development intervention in the drylands it is difficult to achieve the set poverty reduction goal. In order to reduce poverty level in pastoral areas it requires policy support and investment in mobile livestock system as the most viable and sustainable

system," he added. He however said, it is predicted that Africa's growth in the consumption and production of meat and milk will

exceed other developing regions. In the statistics of West and Central African countries, livestock accounts for an average 5 per cent of GDP. This figure is however highly variable from

country to country. In typically pastoral countries like of grazing reserves.

Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad, the contribution of the livestock sector to towards cent. In terms of agricultural GDP, the breeding sector accounts for an average 25 per cent in West Africa.

It has a far bigger share in Sahelian countries like Burkina Faso (35%), Chad (32%), Niger (30%) and Mali (28%).

In countries with a tradition of pastoralism, more than 90 per cent of meat comes from pastoral stock rearing. This situation shows the level of resilience of this productive sector which actually contributes to enhancing the trade balance of States, without significant support from public policymakers.

In case pastoralism happens to be sustainably disrupted for any reason, most African states would find themselves compelled to import meat of lesser quality in order to cover the needs of fast growing and urbanizing

On the global level, leather and hide constitute the main raw materials for very high profit-making processing industries. Numerous animal species are even reared in certain regions around the world, more for their hide than for their meat. Africa has a tremendous livestock population and yet the value-adding sector of leather and hide still remains low.

African states, according to the experts, have very early become aware of the tremendous economic and social loss resulting from the slow and relentless disruption in the pastoralism sector. And indeed, disrupting farmers from their fields amount to endangering the livelihood of the population of the continent and all that depends on their toil.

A representative of the Confederation of Traditional Stock breeders Organization in Nigeria, Alhassan Attahiru, who was in Lusaka, traced the rising conflict in Nigeria and West Africa to the negligence of governments at the state level, especially the abandonment of the pre-independence arrangement



AUCTIONEERS AND COURT BROKERS COMPANY LIMITED

Head office Location: Kinondoni Mwanamboka Contact: Mobile phone 0715884162/0754884162/0787884477 Email: inguku47@gmail.com

P.O. Box 72252 DAR ES SALAAM Our motto: Quality Services With Integrity

TANGAZO LA MNADA WA HADHARA

Kwa idhini tuliyopewa na AZANIA BANK LIMITED, Tutauza kwa mnada wa hadhara dhamana za wadaiwa walioshindwa kulipa madeni yao kwa mujibu wa mkataba. orodha ya wadaiwa na nyumba zitakazouzwa ni

| Na | JINA LA MDAIWA | MALI INAYOUZWA | MAHALI ILIPO MALI INAYOUZWA | SIKU NA TAREHE |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| | SMX LIMITED | APARTMENTS NO.A112,11th floor Ct No. 77330/40 Plot No.108 | Fayrouz Apartments, Kitonga Stree - Upanga Area | 16/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| 2 | SMX LIMITED | APARTMENTS NO. B 71,7th Floor Ct No. 77330/1/10 plot No. 108 | Fayrouz Apartments, Kitonga Stree - Upanga Area | 16/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| 3 | SMX LIMITED | OFFICE NO. 5, 1st Floor Plot No. 1036/102 & 37/107 | Kadry Complex- Samora Avenue Morogoro road | 16/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| ļ | SMX LIMITED | OFFICE NO. 6, 1st Floor Plot No. 1036/102 & 37/107 | Kadry Complex- Samora Avenue Morogoro road | 16/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| 5 | D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD | PLOT NO. 872 | Upanga Area | 18/01/2020 Jumamosi |
| 5 | ANSAK LIMITED | CT NO. 186172/64 Plot No. 681 | Upanga Area | 18/01/2020 Jumamosi |
| 7 | SCI (TANZANIA) LIMITED | CT No. 186085/40 Plot No. 181 / B/ 1/2 | Industrial Area , Mbozi Road Dsm | 19/01/2020 Jumapili |
| 3 | SCI (TANZANIA) LIMITED | CT No. 186081/27 Plot No. 181/A | Industrial Area , Mbozi Road Dsm | 19/01/2020 Jumapili |
|) | FINE WOOD WORKS LTD | CT No. 29427 Plot No.107 and 108 | Industrial Area , Kipawa Dsm | 21/01/2020 Jumanne |
| 0 | STARPERCO LIMITED | CT No. 29427 Plot no. 107 and 108 | Industrial Area , Kipawa Dsm | 21/01/2020 Jumanne |
| .1 | PROTRANS LTD | CT No. 23444 Plot No. 82 | Kipawa Area Dsm | 21/01/2020 Jumanne |
| 2 | PROTRANS LTD | CT No. 83670 Plot No. 2023 | Kipawa Area Dsm | 21/01/2020 Jumanne |
| .3 | BALBEEK LIMITED | CT No. 186234/12 Plot No. 895 | Msasani Penisular Dsm | 23/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| 4 | RASHID MALIMA | CT No. 79795 Plot No. 2014 Block H | Mbezi Area Dsm | 25/01/2020 Jumamosi |
| .5 | RICHARD MWERA/ NICOLUS MATIKU | CT No. 125019 Plot No. 2274 Block L | Mbezi Area Dsm | 25/01/2020 Jumamosi |
| .6 | POLYCEM TANZANIA LIMITED | CT No. 45776 Plot No. 103 | Mbezi Industrial Area Dsm | 26/01/2020 Jumapili |
| 7 | POLYCEM TANZANIA LIMITED | CT No. 31164 Plot No. 107 | Mbezi Industrial Area | 26/01/2020 Jumapili |
| 8 | PANGOLIN TRADES LTD | CT No 25991 Plot No. 417 Block A | Sinza Area Dsm | 28/01/2020 Jumanne |
| .9 | STAR MINERALS CO. LTD | CT No. 130448 Plot No. 2795 | Kimara Area Dsm | 28/01/2020 Jumanne |
| 0.0 | MOLADI TANZANIA LIMITED | CT No. 92240 Plot No. 35-38Block F | Kijaka kimbiji Area Dsm | 30/01/2020 Alhamisi |
| 1 | NSK OIL & GAS LIMITED | CT No. 45851 Plot No. 76 Block H | Karatu Urban Area in Arusha City | 04/02/2020 Jumanne |
| 22 | NSK OIL & GAS LIMITED | CT No. 104447 Plot No. 50 | Vijibweni Industrial Area Arusha City | 06/02/2020 Alhamisi |
| 23 | NSK OIL & GAS LIMITED | CT No. 13593 Plot No. 311/23Block KK | Olorien Area in Arusha City | 06/02/2020 Alhamisi |
| 24 | ABDUL LATIFF SULEMAN | CT No. 10049 Plot No. 94 | Themi Industrial area in Arusha City | 08/02/2020 Jumamosi |
| 25 | PETROSOL (T) LTD | CT No. 8404 Plot No. 13 | Themi Industrial Area in Arusha | 08/02/2020 Jumamosi |
| 26 | D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD | CT No. 19061 Plot No. 42 Block I | Mtwara | 13/02/2020 Alhamisi |
| 27 | D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD | CT No. 19065 Plot No.43 Block I | Mtwara | 13/02/2020 Alhamisi |
| 28 | D.B SHAPRIYA & CO. LTD | CT No. 17733 Plot No. 34 Block 9 | Mtwara | 15/02/2020 Jumamosi |
| 29 | D.B SHAPRIYA & CO.LTD | CT No. 17208 Plot No. 33 Block 9 | Mtwara | 15/02/2020 Jumamosi |

- Mnada utafanyika sehemu zilipo nyumba hizo kuanzia tarehe 16/01/2020 na kuendelea.
- Mnunuzi atakayefikia bei ya juu atalazimika kulipa asilimia ishirini na tano 25% ya bei iliyofikiwa papo hapo na asilimia sabini na tano (75%) atalazimika kulipa ndani ya siku kumi na nne (14) baada ya tarehe ya mnada.
- Endapo mteja atashindwa kumalizia 75% ndani ya siku 14 kiasi kilichotolewa awali hakitarudishwa na mnada utarudiwa tena.
- 4. Gharama za kubadilisha hati miliki (transfer of ownership) pamoja na gharama nyingine ni za mnunuzi.

Wote mnakaribishwa

KWA MAELEZO ZAIDI WASILIANA NA:-

Mkurugenzi Mtendaji Mark Auctioneers & Court Brokers Co. Ltd P.O.BOX 72252 Dar Es Salaam. Simu: 0754 884162/ 0768 897686 /

0657 547 816 / 0715 088 040/ 0787 884477

AZANIA BANK LIMITED MAWASILIANO TOWERS P.O.BOX 32089 DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA TEL: 2412028/26/27 Fax: 2412028 Email: info@azaniabank.co.tz www.azaniabank.co.tz

NATIONAL.NEWS

Turkish foundation takes over operation of SOS Hermann Gmeiner school in Arusha

By Getrude Mbago

THE Turkish state-run education 'Maarif Foundation' (TMV) has signed an agreement with SOS Children Tanzania to take over operation of the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School in Arusha.

The move among other things is aimed to ensure that the school provides quality education and benefits more children from vulnerable environment.

Speaking soon after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Dar es Salaam, SOS Tanzania vice chairman Haruna Masebu said that the agreement will last for 29 years and will be renewed in every five years.

"We were running the school in difficult and environment, it was very costly to operate it, this is why we saw it better to find a good partner whom we can cooperate to ensure that the school survives to provide quality education to our children," he said.

Under the agreement, TMV will take control of the school which includes kindergarten, primary and secondary school while investing in improving it environment by increasing facilities such as dormitories, laboratories, classrooms and modern equipment.

Oguz Hamza Yilmiz, TMV country representative said Turkey believes in changing the world by providing quality education.

"We have a good historical relationship the United Republic of Tanzania. As TMV we will keep working with Tanzania to increase the quality of education," he added.

He said Turkish Maarif Foundation aims to train qualified people who will participate in the economic, social and cultural development of these societies.

"It therefore attaches great importance to the following elements: trust, collaboration, solidarity, and transparency, emphasis on goodness, comprehensiveness, universality, aptitude and merit," he added.

For his part, the Turkish ambassador to Tanzania Ali Davutoglu explained that Turkey will continue to support Tanzanian population in all areas, including education.

He stressed that the foundation has more than 200 schools in 34 countries and expressed his hope to open more schools in the country.

The Foundation wishes to present an effective education based on basic skills, basic values, and basic sciences.

Emphasizing the works of Turkish Maarif Foundation, ambassador Davutoglu said: "The Foundation is making a major contribution to the Tanzanian education system... We will supervise to ensure that it continue to support the country attain its education goals."



We were running the school in difficult and environment, it was very costly to operate it, this is why we saw it better to find a good partner whom we can cooperate to ensure that the school survives to provide quality education to our children



Tanroad engineer in Mtwara region Locadius Kambale (2dn L) briefs Masasi District Commissioner Selemani Mzee (R) on the impact of Mkoo river bridge which was washed away at Mkumbululu village on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nassri

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE number of tourists visiting Lake Manyara national park has increased substantially following efforts in mobilizing and advertising its attractions through government and private institutions, schools and colleges.

The park's conservator Noelina Mnyonga revealed this when welcoming local tourists inside the Park on Christmas day last week.

He said a total of 59,255 visited the National Park between 2016/17 up to July 2018/19 through using famous artistes, mobilization at schools, colleges, and government as well as other private institutions.

He mentioned among the artistes

Number of tourists to L.Manyara national park on record increase

they used include celebrities include government leaders, people depicting tourism and wildlife such as Nancy Sumari, musicians Diamond Platinumz, Mrisho Mpoto and sultan Shilole and added that these acted like TANAPA goodwill ambassadors.

He said in the period 2018 up to July 2019 8,870 adult local tourists visited the Park, 3,160 children and 7,810 students as compared to 2017/18 when 7,161 adults, 2,141 children and 6,425 students visited the Park.

He said this year (2019) tourists

with disabilities parliamentarians and people from other institutions visited the Park, adding that they have built infrastructures that cater for various groups especially those with disabilities.

He said this year they have received a great number tourists through 'funrun race' that take place every after two months from the Parks' gate area to Mto wa Mbu.

He said in the race flyers forests.

conservation are issued to participants including T shirts that carry various messages in mobilization of local tourism.

Manyara National Park is a few kilometers to the border of Arusha and Manyara Region and is home to many attractions including tree climbing lions, cattle herds, buffaloes, giraffes, antelopes and ostriches. Lake Manyara is also home to flamingoes and dense



Tanzania Revenue Authority Commissioner General Dr. Edwin Mhede briefs journalists on the revenue collected on the second guarter 2019 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him is TRA deputy commissioner general Msafiri Mbibo (L) and Commissioner for large taxpayers. Alfred Mregi. P

Women, youths vying for elective posts told to be bold, ditch fear

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

WOMEN and youths planning for elective posts in this year's General election in Arusha Region have been called to have trust, ditch fear in order to be successful.

This advice was given on Tuesday this week by the Arusha region chairman of the forum for enabling Arusha Women Anna Msuya at a training seminar on the participation of women and youth in leadership organized by Tanzania women Lawyers Association (TAWLA).

Msuya said if the two groups are earnestly vying to hold leadership positions, such as becoming

themselves and abandon fear as well as understanding that the contest will not be easy.

"I ask you to have strategies and plans to fight for leadership in the coming election as you will have to confront other groups that will be threatening but others in support," she said.

She emphasised that in vying for leadership positions, it is better for them to adhere to ethics and avoid bad groups and abandon all unacceptable habits in the society including drunkenness and prostitution.

She said women face a bigger challenge than youths because even

councilors they should bold, trust if they succeed to become leaders they still will have to implement their natural duties which she mentioned as working for the nation, their spouses, children and the society.

> "So we have to understand each other - it's better to prepare your family before you enter into leadership, as we have many instances of women who became leaders and whose families broke up," she said.

> Lecturer from Arusha University, Firmin Nko, who was the instructor at the training seminar said through the training he was certain the women will have matured hence the areas they come from will get better leaders to serve the society.

Nko said women and youths were being set up in disregard to their political affiliations.

The training organizer Silvia Mwanga from TAWLA in Arusha Region said the training is being conducted through Woman and Youth Political Representation (WYPRE).

She mentioned some of the challenges they discovered for women as net being courageous enough, sexual corruption and resistance from their families as well as fighting among the women themselves.

The training brought together potential leaders of various women and youths groups from Longido, Arusha, Meru, Monduli and Karatu

WHO reports 60 per cent drop in cholera in 2018

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL action to drive down cholera led to a 60 per cent decrease in cases in 2018, compared with the previous year, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported.

This points to what the UN agency described as "an encouraging trend" in prevention and control in major cholera hotspots such as Haiti, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"The decrease we are seeing in major cholera-endemic several countries demonstrates the increased engagement of countries in global efforts to slow and prevent cholera outbreaks and shows the vital role of mass cholera vaccination campaigns," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus.

Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection which is caused by ingesting contaminated food or water. It can kill within hours if left untreated.

Data from 34 countries shows there were nearly 500,000 cases in 2018, while nearly 3,000 people died from the disease.

Most cases-371,326-were in Yemen, where reporting has been "imprecise", according to WHO.

Although outbreaks are still occurring in various countries, WHO said the figures represent "a significant downward trend" which has carried over to the current year.

Roadmap strategy

WHO believes the decline is the result of massive vaccination programmes. Eleven countries received nearly 18 million doses of oral cholera vaccine in 2018, funded by the vaccine alliance,

However, to defeat cholera longterm, WHO stressed the need to increase access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation.

Dr. Dominique Legros, head of the UN agency's cholera programme, also called for continued commitment to a 2017 strategy for effective control and elimination.

Known as the Global Roadmap, it aims to reduce cholera deaths by 90 per cent and to eliminate transmission in up to 20 countries by 2030. The strategy calls for countries to take

action in areas such as early detection and rapid response, strengthened surveillance and vaccination, and effective coordination and resource mobilization.

"The global decrease in case numbers we are observing appears to be linked to large-scale vaccination campaigns and countries beginning to adopt the Global Roadmap to 2030 strategy in their national cholera action plans," said Dr. Legros.

"We must continue to strengthen our efforts to engage all cholera-endemic countries in this global strategy to eliminate cholera."

WHO support to countries

WHO estimates that cholera infects up to four million people annually, claiming some 143 000 lives.

The UN agency and its partners support affected countries with response and prevention.

In 2018, staff helped authorities respond to major outbreaks in the DRC, Nigeria, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. WHO also assisted Haiti, Tanzania and Zambia to transition to longer-term cholera control and elimination.



The global decrease in case numbers we are observing appears to be linked to largescale vaccination campaigns and countries beginning to adopt the Global Roadmap to 2030 strategy in their national cholera action plans

Guardian

Finding common ground in East Africa: UN resident coordinator

By Guardian Reporter

border, the small border town of Moroto in northeast Uganda is known for its pottery and weavings.

also raise cattle that graze on the surrounding scrub grassland. With 7500 inhabitants, the community depends on food crops such as corn and cassava, a starch that some of us know as yuca and manioc.

Like many other places in Africa, Moroto has been affected by climate change which has deeply impacted livelihoods, especially for women and children.

has also become a conflictprone area. Just beyond Moroto, at the Kenyan-Uganda border, conflicts that were previously contained and worked through at the local levels, started to escalate with political, economic, social and cultural implications across bordering countries.

the families, the conflicts have had devastating consequences, from lost wages to losing loved ones. It's led to a rupture of community social protection networks. It has also meant weaker political institutions of governance and the disruption of essential services. This destruction of traditional livelihoods also increased the number of people that are internally displaced, with no place to call home.

life-on-the-edge scenario is being repeated in border towns across the world. Living near borders can mean limited government investments in sectors such as education, health and infrastructurea border but outside the do not move, you cannot periphery of modern create wealth. And if you development or the 'fair by the United Nations Secretary-General António

Communities like the Karamoja Triangle can illafford to lose more ground. This ancient collection of communities with a shared socio-cultural heritage, live on the lands that straddle the borders between Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

Women, men and children from the area are such as roads," highly vulnerable to climatic President Yoweri Kaguta variations such as drought that renders households perennially without food and limited options for work.

Kenya, more than twothirds of the population live below the poverty line; adult literacy is around 20 per cent and, despite its huge potential for tourism, raising livestock and mineral deposits, its contribution to the national gross domestic product is less than 5 per cent. Poverty and drought remain the main drivers of conflict.

There is only one way to tackle challenges that transcend their borders, such as climate change and conflict: together. The governments of Kenya and Uganda partnered with the UN and broke ground on a new bi-national agreement for sustainable peace and development in the climate change affected and conflict prone Turkana-Pokot-Karamoja region, bordering and research to address the two countries.

Conversations began a bottlenecks. year earlier when ministers

Uganda on how best to livelihoods, promote eco-CLOSE to the Kenyan address conflicts and tourism, increase crossclimate change.

The aim was to develop the Karamoja Cluster as dukas or small shops that a single socio-economic sell traditional woodwork, zone, with joint policies and programmes that will The people of Moroto build opportunities and hope for these indigenous communities particularly for young people.

This joint programme investments. bridges the humanitarian, development and peace "nexus" to build resilient communities - those that can better withstand crisis. The 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are guiding efforts by the UN in Uganda and Kenya to invest in It is no coincidence that it indigenous capacities to detect, prevent and manage conflict triggers and also to mobilize support from national governments, leaders and business development partners.

Young people in Moroto welcome the presidents of Uganda and Kenya.

Young people in Moroto welcome the presidents of Uganda and Kenya. Photo: UN Uganda

Backed by the United Nations teams in Uganda and Kenya, we worked with the delegations to support the talks in a series of meetings over the course of year in Kenya and Uganda which led to a common agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) endorsed by both governments on our binational and joint UN teams' work.

The efforts focused on the people living on the Uganda-Kenya border, made vulnerable by the impact of climate change and many with few options but to fight for resources in this semiarid region.

"If you don't trade, you leaving communities inside cannot create wealth. If you don't create wealth, all you globalization' called for are doing is institutionalizing poverty. We want to eliminate poverty from our people," President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta of Kenya said during the launch.

"This programme, in cooperation with the UN, will help all of us to ensure that we have peace, our people live together and also to enable us develop, that is why we want the UN to advocate for greater infrastructure investments Museveni of Uganda.

Only by reaching the people left farthest behind and jointly addressing inequalities and exclusion, In Turkana, in northwest can we prevent the social fabric from fraying further and create a robust foundation for communities to experience peace and development.

> This is also the essence of the African Union Agenda 2063. African nations are looking towards a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. African people want to eradicate poverty by increasing opportunities for youth employment, promoting modern agriculture, promoting climate smart industrialization, leading socially responsible management of natural resources and bv participating innovation drive promised science, technology by well documented strategic

We see this as a gamefrom Kenya and Uganda, changer for people in the

consultations in region that will improve border trade and spur development.

> The Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030 give us a huge opportunity to transform the Karamajong cluster into a climate-smart corridor where positive traditional values meet technology and smart



If you do not move, you cannot create wealth. And if you don't create wealth, all you are doing is institutionalizing poverty



Minister for Works, Transport and Communication Isack Kamwelwe (C) cuts a ribbon to inaugurate communication tower at Kanoge village in Mlele district, Katavi region yesterday. Second (L) is Mlele District Commissioner Rachel Kasanda and Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) Chief Executive Officer Justina Mashiba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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

TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION **TASAC**



PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCLUSIVE MANDATE BY TASAC IN SHIP TALLYING **SERVICES AND SHIPPING AGENCY**

Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is established under section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 as maritime administration, regulator of maritime safety, security and protection of the marine environment, ports and shipping services. The Corporation is also given exclusive mandate to conduct shipping business on clearing and forwarding for specified import and export shipments, ship tallying, document control and specified areas of shipping agency in accordance with section 7(1) of the Act.

TASAC plans to implement the functions related to shipping agency and ship tallying services as mandated under Cap 415 with effect from February 2020.

The general public is thus informed that:-

- (a) the Corporation will operationalize shipping agency functions in accordance with Cap. 415 with effect from 3rd February, 2020;
- shipping agency which will be operationalized by TASAC on the 3rd February, 2020 covers tanker ships, cruise ships, exploration vessels, military vessels and any vessel calling for discharging or loading military cargo; and
- the Corporation will operationalize **ship tallying** functions in accordance with the Cap. 415 with effect from 17th February, 2020.

This Notice is issued to enable ship owners/operators, shipping agents, shippers, consignees, clearing and forwarding agents and all stakeholders to prepare themselves accordingly and accord cooperation to TASAC to fulfill its legal obligations.

Please note that it is contrary to section 7(3) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 for any party other than TASAC to carry out or facilitate the carrying out of exclusive mandate functions as mentioned in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) above with effect from 3rd February, 2020 with respect to shipping agency and 17th February, 2020 with respect to ship tallying services.

> Issued by: **Director General Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation**

PPF Tower Building 8th Floor, Garden Avenue/Ohio Street, P. O. Box 989, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania, Tel: +255 222 127 314, Fax: +255 222 127 313, Email: dg@tasac.go.tz, info@tasac.go.tz

EDITORIALS.OPINION

Guardia.com

THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2020

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

TAWA abandoning crocodile auctions for fences is reasonable

EWS at the start of the week had it that the Tanzania Management Authority (TAWA) is reading a project to address human-wildlife conflicts near conservation areas in a different way than it had projected earlier. At the time that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism announced that it would put to auction 10percent of the country's crocodiles evidently to be culled in tourist hunting for instance, some of us thought that the amount was rather conservative. We thought the country doesn't needs thousand of crocodiles in each major fresh water system, but that wasn't the main issue in the new idea.

At that time there was a plan to 'sell' all hippos found in lakes, dams and rivers located close to inhabited area, which correctly implied that only hippos in safe areas in national parks and game reserves should remain, otherwise the rest should be hunted at will. It implies that these animals not be considered 'government trophies' but pests like any other, thinking of warthogs, burrow rats and the like. Now it appears that wildlife managers had a problem especially with designing a credible plan to sell just 10 percent of all crocodiles. In a sense it was a case of the TAWA managers jamming themselves by figures.

TAWA is now saying that they dropped the harvesting and auction approach because it wouldn't change matters considering the reproduction cycle of crocodiles, which it finds to be 'complicated.' Obviously TAWA could have adopted the same mechanism as with hippos that they be confined areas be eradicated. But conservation villages.

sentiments, and outright bureaucratic attitudes are still too intense to accept simple formulas, where villagers hunt crocodiles within their vicinity but then permits must be issued.

TAWA are focused on the technicality that crocodiles lay up to about 40 eggs, therefore it is not easy to kill all of them or for that matter kill just 10 percent of those being hatched and survive various predators. Still TAWA is right to observe that even a single crocodile in a water body can kill depending on the dimension (interaction of human activity with crocodile habitats, where women fetching water in rivers are usual targets for crocodile attacks). They ask how many of these animals are people supposed to kill to be satisfied that the problem would at least be contained, and TAWA finds this problem imponderable as it means killing so many of them. But that just means clearing out crocs in areas that are inhabited.

As the government has a conservation streak that is too pronounced to accept that crocodiles near villages simply be eliminated, there is a proposal for the fencing project, for which TAWA is considering model action for the new approach in one of the water bodies. The idea is to separate 'operation areas' for human beings and wildlife, marked areas for communities to co-exist with the animals, the way villages are now demarcating livestock grazing areas and farming zones. Many will complain that there is too much emphasis on crocodile preservation whereas those in the wild are adequate, without need for those in village areas. But let the benefit of doubt be given to TAWA, to the wild, as people don't settle in raise fences and let's see what happens. national parks and game reserves, in We have enough areas for wildlife to which case those found in habited tolerate crocs, hippos, elephants in

To develop aerodromes, limited airport-related economic zones useful

has deregistered 208 tiny airports for irregularities in their licensing and operations is an indication that all is not well in the aviation sector. Failing to maintain airports on the basis of accepted standards is a signal that business is not doing well, especially as there was an overall caution issued in May to the relevant stakeholders but many failed to do what is required. It is thus possible there are more complicated bottlenecks they need to sort out, so that they meet with the required compliance criteria.

To start with operating small size airports or aerodromes must be a well thought out and strategic business, not just roadside vending, but if holders of licences for 208 such airstrips are failing to fulfill their part of the contract, something is amiss. And usually there is a good reason for a large number of operators in a highly specialized branch of industry or services to be charged with violating licensing and registration requirements. It means that problem isn't just theirs but a structural issue that merits a minimum of public sector review.

The late Prof. Kighoma Ali Malima when he was Minister for Planning told a university audience that 'if a bOrrowe has a problem to pay 10 million/- that is his problem, but if he has a problem paying 100 million/- to a specific bank, it is that bank's problem,' as it means that something has gone awfully bad and it will lose a lot of money (if one goes by currency values in 1982).

TEWS that the government Similarly if 10 operators are failing to comply with conditions of licensing it is their problem, but if it is 200 operators, then it is the sector as a whole that is in problems.

> Instead of just notifying operators of the aerodromes who have been slapped with a notice not to offer any services that they seek a validation certificate, ways need to be found of making aerodrome business attractive. One such method is to includes such areas in special economic zones and put them on a movable platform for rendering specific services related to industry or export processing, etc. So far there is plenty of emphasis for district authorities to set aside land for such purposes, while it is clear that they have difficulties getting their act together and tend to be onerous in their demands, etc. Aerodromes could be set to compete in that regard.

> In that case, TCCA Director General Hamza Johari might hence take an interest in seeing how licensing, certification and registration requirements as prescribed in part iii, iv and part v respectively of the Civil Aviation (Aerodromes), Regulations, 2017 can be 'sweetened' in their application if they can accommodate other partners, namely those wishing to set up specialized services or industrial operations, processing, etc. The proximity of an aerodrome would ease visits and haulage of valuable components or material for such services, thus it would be an added attraction for takers to look into such

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO **Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO**

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



Closing the gender gap in education

By Adetola Salau

▼EACHERS should remain observant of the various ways that their own biases could affect their pedagogical methods in their teaching of both genders. They must equally contend with other influences apart from themselves. A lot of times, parents and other family members hold their female relatives back from being all that they desire to be.

"Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong... it is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum, not as two opposing sets of ideas." Emma Watson

When I was growing up in the 1980s and in the '90s, there were so many stereotypes about what girls were supposed to be and what boys, on the other hand, ought to be. I remember the assumption that boys were superior in intellect to girls because girls were purportedly flighty minded. Boys were deigned to naturally be able to focus on science and maths challenges for a long time.

apparent until I got closer to my teenage years. Then it was as though my intellect wasn't celebrated but was something to downplay; it was of more value to be pretty. This notion is one I have heard reiterated over and again by lots of girls across Nigeria. This apparent gender gap has major implications for education, as it has been ongoing. With all of the research refuting the fallacy that women aren't good in STEM, there is still a gender

The American Psychological Association (APA) has presented that the gender gap in mathematics ability has reduced in the last 30 years. The APA retrieved data that showed that there was a ratio of 13 boys to 1 girl in the top percentile in 1983. In 2007, that chasm has contracted to between 2.8 girls to 4 boys in the top percentile.

Through the examination of the data. a progressive shift in female students' maths aptitude can be seen to be occurring, which the APA ascribes to shifting cultural attitudes that are more accepting of female STEM students.

This shows what a lot of us know

As a child, these differences weren't to be true. Regrettably, opinions of some parents and teachers buttress the stereotype that STEM is for boys, and girls should focus on other more traditionally acceptable subjects. Fortunately, there are ways that teachers can battle this fallacy.

We should work on acquiring ways of cultivating a growth-mindset in students who feel incompetent about STEM. And, we should also show students that the barriers to their success are surmountable and they will feel differently about STEM.

Cultivate the Child, Attack the Gap The predisposition to nurture boys to pursue STEM might not be deliberate, in fact teachers, for the most part, aren't aware of the biases that they have and exhibit; such as the way they tell girls to focus on more gender-suitable coursework. We should work on acquiring ways of cultivating a growth-mindset in students who feel incompetent about STEM. And, we should also show students that the barriers to their success are surmountable and they will feel differently about STEM.

On Parents Becoming Work

Teachers should remain observant of the various ways that their own biases could affect their pedagogical methods in their teaching of both genders. They must equally contend with other influences apart from themselves. A lot of times, parents and other family members hold their female relatives back from being all that they desire to

When they observe their female students manifesting negative attitudes about STEM, after they have ensured that the class environment, and classmate relationships are positive ones, teachers can then consider that parents could be hampering their students' success. As such, they should try meeting parents to discuss their children's educational growth.

With all of this, there is hope. The Pew Research Group put a report together that showed that in 2012, 71 per cent of female students registered in college immediately after highschool graduation, in comparison to 61 per cent of male students. This is a ray of hope about the gender gap in STEM being closed eventually.

By Special Correspondent

THE bill which seeks to amend the Nigeria Police Force Act to expunge all forms of discrimination against female police officers has passed second reading in the Senate. The bill's sponsor Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi said some provisions of the Act discriminated against female police officers in terms of restriction of duties to telephones, clerical and office functions. It also compels single female officers who intend to marry to seek approval of the Inspector General of Police who is at liberty to inquire the occupation, residence and character of the suitor. An unmarried female officer who gets pregnant could also be sanctioned by the IGP.

A look at the regulations of the Police Act which were first enacted in 1968, especially as regards rules for enlistment into the police, indicates where the offending articles are. Regulation 122 of the conditions of service for female police officers provides that "Women police officers recruited to the General Duties Branch of the Force may, in order to relieve

male officers from these duties, be enacted fifty one years ago when are restricted to some duties. It denies employed in any of the following duties

namely: Clerical duties, Telephone duties and office orderly duties. Regulation 127 provides that an

unmarried police officer who becomes pregnant shall be discharged from the Force. the most worrisome provision is regulation 124 which stipulates that, "A woman police officer who is desirous of marrying must first apply in writing to the Commissioner of Police for the State Police Command in which she is serving requesting permission to marry. Permission will be granted for the marriage if the intended husband is of good character and the woman officer had served the Force for a period of not less than three years".

These provisions are anachronistic and they probably violate Section 42 of the 1999 constitution as well as Article 2 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against (CEDAW). Nigeria is a signatory to both.

These Police Force regulations were

there were very few women in official working places. All the professions and working places were dominated by the menfolk, who wrote the rules to their

Gender discrimination in Police

Since then women have made giant strides in all areas, in some cases surpassing the men in numbers. Nigerian women have over the years excelled in the police, with several rising to the position of Deputy Inspector General, DIG. in the Police Force today, many women have attained exalted ranks by dint of hard and meritorious work.

The continued retention of patently discriminatory regulations in the Police Force Act, aside from possibly violating the constitution, are demoralising to women serving in the Police Force. The provisions place women police officers at a disadvantage over their male colleagues in that they will have to do more to earn their positions. the morale of women police officers is dampened, knowing that they are just there to make up the numbers and

them the satisfaction of knowing that they can both serve their fatherland as law enforcement officers and fulfil their natural obligations to be dutiful wives and mothers.

That women police officers have made remarkable progress all these years despite the existence of such discouraging regulations is a testimony to their determination to overcome the odds placed before them in the force. Having come this far, it is now time for these regulations to be removed from the Police Act.

We urge the Senate to move expeditiously in this direction. We note that in many parts of the world, strictures on women police officers have since been removed allowing for equal opportunities for both male and female officers in law enforcement

Although the provisions of the constitution vest the final determinant of how this law will be amended on the President, it is however a needful action which has been long overdue.

World welcomes 2020 as wildfires, protests cast a pall over some celebrations

SYDNEY/HONG KONG/ **LONDON**

ebrated the New fireworks displays from Sydney to London, although celebrations were clouded by deadly wildfires in Australia, protests in Hong Kong and India and nuclear tensions with North Korea.

Large crowds gathered in European capitals for spectacular firework displays that lit up the skies over landmarks like Big Ben in London, the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, the Parthenon in Athens and the Kremlin in Moscow.

The traditional drop of a Waterford crystal ball on Times Square in New York capped a six-hour New Year's Eve show. Intermittent rain did little to dampen the festivities as hundreds of thousands of people were treated to performances by pop star Post Malone, the Korea-pop band BTS, and singer songwriter Alanis Morissette.

In Australia, a million revelers thronged Sydney harbor and nearby districts to watch more than 100,000 fireworks explode above the city, even as thousands of people along the country's eastern seaboard sought refuge from the bushfires on beaches.

Thousands in Hong Kong welcomed 2020 on neon-lit promenades in the picturesque Victoria Harbour, breaking into prodemocracy chants shortly



Anti-govprotesters take part in countdown demonstra[.] Sha Tsui in ary 1, 2020.

after the countdown to midnight. Hong Kong authorities canceled the main midnight fireworks display for the first time in a decade, citing security concerns. A "Symphony of Lights" took place instead, involving projections on the city's tallest skyscrapers, while smaller-scale pyrotechnics were launched from waterfront

In Japan, people took turns

accordance with tradition.

SYDNEY CONTROVERSY

Sydney decided to press ahead with its fireworks despite calls by some members of the public for the display to be canceled in solidarity with fire-hit areas in New South Wales, of which the city is the capital.

Sydney Mayor Clover Moore said planning had begun 15 striking Buddhist temple bells, in months ago and that the event

also gave a boost to the

Some towns in eastern Australia canceled their New Year's celebrations naval vessels and military helicopters helped firefighters rescue people fleeing the fires, which have turned swathes of New South Wales into a raging furnace.

The fires have killed at

least 11 people since October, two of them overnight into Tuesday, destroyed more than 4 million hectares

(10 million acres) and left

many towns and rural areas

without electricity or mobile

Elsewhere, celebrations Auckland, Zealand, to Pyongyang, the capital of isolated North Korea, welcomed in the New

Year with fireworks displays.

Fireworks exploded and confetti rained on revelers after the ball dropped in New York. High school science teachers and students pressed the button that started the ball on its 60-second descent to count down to the New Year in a gesture to highlight efforts to combat climate change.

The ball has changed form several times since it first dropped at One Times Square in 1907 as an ironand-wood sphere and has now become a global symbol of the New Year.

But amid the celebrations of a New Year and decade, old tensions threatened to flare up. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said on Wednesday his country would keep developing nuclear programs and introduce a "new strategic weapon" in the near future, after the United States ignored a year-end deadline to restart denuclearization

PROTESTS, BREXIT

In Hong Kong, rocked by months of sometimes pro-democracy demonstrations, protesters were urged to wear masks at a New Year rally called "Don't forget 2019 - Persist in 2020," according to social media posts.

Some 6,000 police were deployed and Hong Kong's chief executive, Carrie Lam, appealed for calm and reconciliation in her New Year's Eve video message and Chinese leader Xi Jinping hoped "harmony" would return to the territory.

in response to a nowwithdrawn bill that would have allowed extraditions to mainland China, where courts are controlled by the Communist Party, and have evolved into a broader prodemocracy movement.

Thousands of Indians ushered in the year by demonstrating against a citizenship law they say will discriminate against Muslims and chip away at India's secular constitution.

The demonstrations came despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attempts to dampen protests that have run for nearly three weeks.

Irshad Alam, a 25-yearold resident of the Shaheen Bagh area of New Delhi, stood with his 1-vear-old child in his arms and his wife by his side. He said he had been participating in the protest every day.

"It's freezing here," he said. "But we are still here because we care about this movement."

More than three years after the UK voted to leave European Union, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, fresh from winning a parliamentary majority in last month's election, promised in his New Year's message to "get Brexit done before the end of this

> "As we say goodbye to 2019, we can also turn the page on the division, rancor and uncertainty which has dominated public life and held us back for far too long," Johnson added.

Agencies

SEOUL

orth Korea's leader a "new strategic weapon" in the near future, state media said on Wednesday, although he signaled there was still room for dialogue with the United States.

Kim Jong Un presided over a four-day meeting of top Workers' Party officials this week amid rising tensions with the United States, which has not responded to his repeated calls for concessions to reopen negotiations. Washington has dismissed the deadline as artificial.

Kim said there were no grounds for North Korea to be bound any longer by a self-declared moratorium on testing nuclear bombs and intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), according to a statement on the results of the policy meeting carried by the official KCNA news

At times smiling or striking the podium with his hand as he made remarks during the meeting, Kim accused the United States of making "gangster-like demands" and maintaining a "hostile policy", such as by holding continued joint military drills with South Korea, adopting cutting edge weapons and imposing sanctions.

He pledged to continue bolstering his country's nuclear deterrent but said the "scope and depth" of that deterrent will be "properly co-ordinated depending on" the attitude of the United States.

"The world will witness a new strategic weapon to be possessed by the DPRK in the near future," Kim said, using the initials for North

North Korea's leader promises 'new strategic weapon,' leaves room for talks



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ith Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central ommittee of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) in this undated photo released on December 31, 2019 by North Korean Central News Agency via REUTERS Korea's official name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We will reliably put on constant alert the powerful nuclear deterrent capable of containing the nuclear threats from the U.S. and guaranteeing our long-term security."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said it would be "deeply disappointing" if Kim reneges on denuclearization commitments and Kim would hopefully "choose peace and prosperity over conflict and

In his latest comments on Tuesday in the United States, President Donald Trump said he had a good relationship with Kim and thought the North Korean leader would keep his word.

"He likes me, I like him. We get along. He's representing his country, I'm representing my country. We have to do what we have to do.

"But he did sign a contract, he did sign an agreement talking denuclearization," Trump told reporters at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

Seoul's Unification Ministry in charge of inter-Korean affairs said large-scale joint military drills with the United States had been halted and it would be unhelpful for negotiations if North Korea took action to introduce what it called a new strategic weapon.

There were no official reports as of early afternoon on Wednesday in South Korea that Kim had delivered an annual New Year's address.

'STRATEGIC WEAPONS'

he might have to seek a "new path" if Washington failed to meet his expectations. U.S. military commanders said Pyongyang's actions could include test firing an ICBM alongside nuclear warhead tests. North Korea last test fired an ICBM in 2017.

Jeffrey Lewis, a nonproliferation expert at the Middlebury Institute International Studies in California, said it was difficult to predict North Korea's next move. But it might involve Kim had previously said firing a solid-fuel ICBM and an

atmospheric nuclear test, he

said. However, Jeong Han-beom, who teaches security policy at Korea National Defense University in Seoul, said North Korea would not immediately stage such a provocative act as an ICBM or nuclear test because it could risk derailing negotiations.

Tension had been rising ahead of the year-end as North Korea conducted a series of weapons tests and waged a

war of words with Trump. The nuclear talks have made

little headway despite three meetings between Kim and Trump since 2018. Workinglevel talks in Stockholm in October broke down, with a North Korean chief negotiator accusing U.S. officials of sticking to their old stance.

Kim said there will "never be denuclearization on the Korean peninsula" if Washington adheres to what he calls its hostile policy.

We "will steadily develop necessary and prerequisite strategic weapons for the security of the state until the U.S. rolls back its hostile policy towards the DPRK and lasting and durable peace-keeping mechanism is built," Kim said.

He called for North Koreans to brace for an "arduous and prolonged struggle" and foster a selfreliant economy because of a delay in the anticipated lifting of sanctions.

"The present situation warning of confrontation with the U.S. urgently requires us to make it a fait accompli that we have to live under the sanctions by the hostile forces in the future, too, and to strengthen the internal power from all aspects."

Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said the party assembly results made clear Kim wants U.S. security guarantees before taking substantial action toward denuclearization.

"And he is suggesting that he will take the bull by the horns to achieve that goal, while promoting self reliance at home and still being open to talks depending on how Trump handles 'hostile policy," Yang said.

Agencies

FEATURES

2020 is the decade of action and it has to be a sprint

By Siddharth Chatterjee

appy New Year, 2020 marks a decade action towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Peace and development are inextricably linked, with each making the achievement of the other far more likely. This puts the conflictprevention and development work of the UN at the heart of the agenda in East Africa, but in a multi-agency and programme environment, making meaningful progress is challenging.

Aware of this, the UN began a process of structural reforms led by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres who made reforms of the United Nations, a priority at the very beginning of his term in January 2017. The aim being to deliver better results through cooperation, collaboration and integration. 2019 was the year that the impact of these reforms became real and nowhere more than in the peace, conflict-prevention and development pillars of the UN's work.

At the country level, that shift towards a nimble, 21st century UN challenges deeply entrenched practices and operations. In a



Hosted by the gov-ernments Denmark and UNFPA, ers gather for the 3-day Summit on ICPD25 to adreproduc-

tive health

all. November 12, 2019.

country team with over 23 inprogrammes, the reform process can be complicated, even

To the credit of the Kenya country team, we overcame the challenges of ceding long-held agency interests for the collective good and achieved some ground-breaking milestones in our partnership with governments, civic organizations and change together make a formithe private sector.

The most outstanding was dividual agencies, funds and our venturing out to confront challenges that transcend borders. East Africa faces major threats to peace and development across multiple fronts, and respective UN country teams have, in a remarkable show of teamwork, sought to harmonize their responses to these threats. Internecine border conflicts and the effects of climate dable challenge that brought

together UN teams from Kenya and Uganda, in a pact that seeks to bring sustainable development to the Karamoja triangle.

This pact follows from another successful regional collaboration project on the Kenya-Ethiopia border where communities accustomed to recurrent hostilities are now reaching out to each other to find solutions to common socio-economic chal-

We believe that our regional of Violent Extremism in Nairobi.

towards prevention, peacemaking and diplomacy will have a particular impact on the youth, who suffer an enduring sense of being neglected and ignored. This narrative is a breeding ground for extremism and radicalization, so addressing such concerns was a key point of deliberation during last July's African Regional High-Level Conference on Counter-

Terrorism and the Prevention

The same regional approach was behind the initiative by Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia to sign the Declaration and Action Plan to End Crossborder FGM in April 2019. This was the first time multiple countries had come together to tackle this pernicious cross-border crime.

But there remain many in the region still left behind by development, and we continue to stand up for them through our UN Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022. The framework's gender equality and rights focus is unmistakable, because in too many communities, the simple fact of being born female shatters one's chances of living in full human dignity.

Our focus on giving a legup to those left farthest behind has attracted a positive response from our partners in national and county governments. By staying in lockstep with national priorities on issues such as health, agriculture and housing, the common thread of messages from our partners is that we are staying effective and responsive to the ambitions of Kenyans.

As 2020 beckons, the decade of action starts and it has to be a sprint to deliver on the SDGs, the UN team in Kenya is rolling up its sleeves

with greater urgency, ambition and innovation. We will enhance regional cooperation and private-public partnerships as we work with the Government towards lifting millions of the citizens of this region out of poverty and upholding their human rights.

We are re-imagining ways of delivering development in ways such as the co-creation of an SDG innovation lab between the Government of Kenya, the Centre for Effective Global Action at the University of California in Berkeley, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the UN. The SDG Lab will kick off with support for the delivery of Kenya's Big Four agenda by harnessing, big data, technology and innovation to achieve scale and impact.

As a UN country team, we got off the blocks in 2019 in pursuit of UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed's challenge to "flip the orthodoxy" for the repositioning of the UN. We have dared to go beyond the typical and will do whatever it takes to respond effectively to the challenges faced by Kenya's people, now and in the future.

Siddharth Chatterjee is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ken-

New Delhi, India

As Shahin Kausar steps down from the makeshift stage set up in the Muslim enclave of Shaheen Bagh in the Indian capital of New Delhi, it is difficult to hear her speak.

Her words are no longer amplified through a sound system, and the man now holding the microphone is drowning her out with boisterous slogans.

It doesn't help that Kausar herself is also on the verge of losing her voice from weeks of shouting. But she is clear why she is in Shaheen Bagh.

"When I saw in front of my eyes, the passion in the people here, they were outraged... That's why I had to come and join," says the 44-year-old activist.

For more than two weeks now, protesters, such as the ones in Shaheen Bagh, have taken to the streets across India to oppose the passing of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which critics say discriminates against Muslims and violates the country's secular constitution.

Protest led by women In the Indian capital, the protesters of Shaheen Bagh - especially women such as

For 16 days now, these women have occupied a part of the main highway, blocking traffic between the capital and Noida, a satellite city. And they don't plan on going anywhere.

Kausar - have stood out.

"We are here to fight for our rights, our concerns," says 53-year-old Tarannum Begum at the sit-in. "Until they take back their [policies], this will go on."

Away from the limelight of protests in Central Delhi - dominated largely by English-speaking protesters from higher socioeconomic backgrounds - Shaheen Bagh has become a symbol for more vulnerable communities on the fringes of the city.

Police have cracked down brutally on many protests, particularly in Muslim ar-

Won't leave': Women lead protest in India capital's Muslim area



India has witnessed protests since the law was passed earlier this РНОТО.

eas and universities, vandalising homes, using tear gas and batons even on children, and opening fire on peaceful pro-

At least 26 people have been killed across India, with most deaths reported from Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state governed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The majority, if not all, of those killed were Muslim. Thousands have been detained, mostly in Uttar Pradesh, whose hardline chief minister had vowed revenge on the protest-

But the demonstration at Shaheen Bagh has remained peaceful, even as protesters remain resolute in opposing Modi's Hindu nationalist government.

NRC fears

At the heart of the unrest is the CAA, which provides a path to citizenship to refugees who arrived in India before 2015 from three neighbouring coun-

tries, as long as they are not Muslim.

Muslims fear the CAA is a precursor to a nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC), as repeatedly indicated by India's powerful Home Minister Amit Shah.

Recently, the NRC process in the northeastern state of Assam excluded 2 million people, many of them Muslims, effectively rendering them stateless. They now fear either detention or deportation.

Meanwhile, several detention centres operate and are in the works across Assam and in other parts of the country to detain undocumented migrants, triggering fears among Muslims

of mass incarceration. A nationwide NRC would force all Indians to prove their citizenship with documentation, something India's mostly impoverished people of all religions lack.

But women say they are particularly vulnerable.

"I don't have a husband, and us ladies don't even get property papers," says Begum, a widow. "Everything is in the name of the husband, so how will a woman prove [citizenship] through her papers?"

Violence at Jamia Millia Is-

At Shaheen Bagh, the chilly air caused by New Delhi's record winter has a mix of both anxiety and determination.

For 16 days and despite biting cold, crowds have gathered here non-stop, with a legion of volunteers running the show. Protesters huddle over bonfires with free snacks and tea, while women sit in an enclosure next to the stage.

Evenings are particularly busy, with a variety of activities taking place - candlelight vigils, late-night singing, spirited slogans and speeches by activists.

Many women, mostly housewives such as Kausar and Begum, say they have not gone home for days.

"I've been wearing the same

set of clothes for the past three

days... I have only managed to go

the end of the day. "The protest started the day

home once," says Begum. Shaheen Bagh is barely 2km

(1.2 miles) from Jamia Millia Islamia, a predominantly Muslim university, which was the site of a brutal police crackdown on December 15.

Over 100 students were injured when police stormed the campus with tear gas and batons following clashes at an area close to the university.

Police ransacked the campus, broke windows in the library and even fired tear gas inside a reading room. Many of the students injured and detained had not been involved in the protest.

The Jamia crackdown catalysed the protest at Shaheen Bagh, with a large number of its students having links to the community.

Daily protests also take place at Jamia, but they generally end up moving to Shaheen Bagh by

female students at Jamia were brutally attacked and beaten up. Their hair was pulled," says

In light of the Jamia crackdown and similar attacks in Muslim enclaves elsewhere, protesters in Shaheen Bagh worry that with every passing day that their sit-in might also get broken up.

"The authorities are rattled because they are facing problems because of us. Almost 150,000 cars [usually] pass through here every day," says Kausar. "They want us to give way to one side of the road."

'They woke us up, we were sleeping'

But with New Delhi currently in the midst of an unusually cold spell, Kausar has bigger worries.

"What I am concerned about are the women and children, they are on the road in this biting cold. Some have kids who are 2-3 months old. If something happens to them, who will take responsibility?"

"It's not a small thing to sit on these highway roads... [But] until someone comes and convinces us that our demands have been heard, we aren't going anywhere."

Begum is equally adamant. "They woke us up, we were sleeping," she says.

"It is better to die here [protesting] than be put in detention camps."

However, many in this Muslim neighbourhood remain fearful of what lies ahead.

As the night wears on, the crowd gathers around a projector to watch a documentary about what the government's citizenship policies mean for them.

A clip from one of Modi's recent speeches beams from the screen.

"Those who are creating violence can be identified by their clothes itself," says the prime minister, his voice booming across Shaheen Bagh through loudspeakers.

Many in the crowd are wearing traditional clothes men in skullcaps, women in burkas. Modi is speaking in innuendo, but he is talking about people like them.

It is one of the many comments made by BJP leaders and government officials, suggesting Muslims do not belong.

For 48-year-old Magsood Alam, it couldn't be further from the truth. "We were born in India. India is our soil. We love India," he says.

Yet, having to prove that he belongs is a frightening thought for Alam. Like many Muslims in this part of the capital, his status as a migrant worker only makes documentation more complex.

As a result, the father of five seems resigned to a fate of not passing a potential

citizenship test. "The future of our kids is at risk. We went to such lengths to allow them to study. Now where will they live, where will we live?" he

"A child is like a tree, it takes time and effort to grow," says Alam, breaking down as he finishes his sentence.

"They are asking for papers that go back years. I have nothing to prove [my status], I am just a poor man."

AGENCIES

Project empowers over 700 SMEs in Iringa and Njombe regions with key business skills

By Correspondent Friday Sim-

baya, Njombe

MORE than 700 small and medium scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) in Iringa and Njombe regions have benefited with training on how best to conduct their business and be able to access

The training provided by Tanzania Local Enterprise Development (T-LED)–a Canadian funded project through VSO Tanzania in partnership with Cuso International.

Implemented for five years from 2015 to 2020, the project covered five regions namely, Mtwara, Lindi, Mwanza, Njombe and Iringa.

Apart from sharpening entrepreneurs' business skills, the organization also provides SMEs with machine subsidies, and links them with financial institu-

gions, Stella Mdahila said the business operators were equipped with skills and knowledge to enable them keep financial records, networking, marketing and assisting them to secure loans from banks and financial institutions.

"We focus on finding solutions to challenges facing female entrepreneurs; we want them to access growing markets in the extractive and agribusinesses sectors. Almost 60 percent of the SMEs we support are headed by women", she said.

An entrepreneur, Loyce Polla, said through the trainings she has been able to improve her poultry farming project.

A 63-year-old woman who and retired primary school teacher from Mjimwema Ward in Niombe town said: "My life changed after I was linked to T-LED and where I received a number of trainings as well as being linked T-LED project manager to markets. In my farm, I for Iringa and Njombe re- have over 100 local chick-



Njombe-based entrepreneur, Lucy Kitavile on her tractor from TLED support project. Photo: Correspondent Friday Sim-

ens, but the number expect- the support from T-LED and ment Organization (SIDO)". ed to increase since I have Small Industries Develop-

chickens where she col-Stella also keeps hybrid lects six trays of eggs daily although the market is not ing to still have difficulties many people are engaging in the particular business.

She commended the organization for providing her with an incubator machine worth 3.5m/- for hatching eggs where she pays 40 percent of the cost and T-LED covers the remaining 60

She said with an incubator she can hatch over 1,000 eggs, and sells a single chick at 1.500/-.

Another beneficiary of the project, Lucy Kitavile who produces fortified maize flour said the organization has supported her with a milling machine with a capacity to process up to 7 tonnes of maize every day.

"I have moved to Songea to Njombe where I am now selling fortified maize floor brabded-'Mama Seki'. I getting various support from T-LED including transport to fetch raw materials and taking finished products to the markets", said Kitavile add-

good due to the fact that to access markets in other regions.

The organization also provides tractor under the subsidy scheme to enhance production of maize.

Frank Msigwa who engaged in horticulture business in Njombe region, said he started cultivating avocado in 2006, but after being linked with T-LED he has grown the business and secure markets abroad.

Msigwa said he is now selling avocados in South Africa, Rwanda, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya. He said that the quality avocados he produces are cultivated through organic farming where no chemical fertilizers are added to the soil.

A local wine producer, Theodory Mlowe said: "I am grateful to the organization for providing me with machines. I have been linked to financial institutions as well as markets within and outside the region".

Ukerewe: Where family planning uptake remains an uphill task

By Lusekelo Philemon

AT the age of 37, Theopista Peter already has ten children. To her, the number is enough as she has started feeling the pinch of taking care of the ten children, particularly when it comes to meeting their basic needsfood (including water), shelter and clothing.

Though in the modern world, the minimum level of consumption of 'basic needs' is not just food, water, clothing and shelter, but also sanitation, education, healthcare, and also internet

Living in Busiri village located 19km from Nansio Town-the headquarters of Ukerewe District–the largest island in Lake Victoria, Theopista blames nobody, but lack of awareness on modern family planning, which according to the World Health Organization (WHO), is the ability of individuals and couples to anticipate and attain their desired number of children and the spacing and timing of their births.

Family planning enables women who wish to limit the size of their families to do so as evidence suggests that women who have more than four children are at increased risk of maternal mortality.

At the age of 19, Theopista as it is to other rural-based young girls was married although she wasn't aware of any family planning method–the situation that ended her into having such number of children, whom she is not sure of giving all the necessary needs.

When she started visiting maternal and child health (MCH) clinics, she started hearing of the modern contraceptives and importance of child spacing. But, when she shared the information with other women in the village, she was discouraged because of the myths and misconceptions around modern contraceptives.

Modern contraceptive methods approved for use in Tanzania include implants, male and female steriliza-



Women and their tending ma-ternal and child health (MCH) clinics recently the health facilities in Ukerewe district. Photo: Guardian Photogration, oral contraceptive pills, progestogen-only injectables, intrauterine device - copper containing only (IUCD), male and female condoms, and emergency oral contraceptive pills. While traditional methods of contraception include the lactational amenorrhea method, coitus interrupts (withdrawal method), calendar method or rhythm method, cervical mucus method and abstinence.

At some point, Theopista says that she was at the cross road as some of her colleagues used to say modern contraceptives may led to breast tenderness, headaches, weight gain, lack of regular menstrual bleeding, nausea, and sometimes permanent infertility.

"This is what led me to be a mother of ten as I feared to use any one of the modern contraceptives and instead I relied on traditional methods which weren't helpful to me as I kept on conceiving," she

Theopista who is breastfeeding a oneyear-old baby has opted to the calendar based method that allows her to avoid sexual intercourse during the fertile stages of their menstrual cycle.

"To me I see this as the safest method as I managed to breast feed my child until now without having any problem and if it wasn't this method I would have another baby," says Theopista, a short, slender and confident woman.

On a light touch, Theopista says: "I delivered these children like dog...and this is my last born because life is much more expensive than it was in the past. I am tired. My womb is not as strong as it used

Theopista is not alone as Christina Focus share the similar experience as she ended up having eight children within shortest period of time, though she cites

having many children is a pride in the Kerewe people who lives in Ukerewe Island situated in the Ukerewe District of Tanzania, 45 km north of Mwanza to which it is linked by ferry. It's also the fifth-largest lake island in the world.

Apart from low level of modern family planning education, it is important for male to be actively involved in modern contraceptives, according to Renatus Sylvester works with Sauti ya Wanawake Ukerewe (SAWAU) as a volunteer.

"It is high time for men to be actively engaged in family planning as they have a big share when it comes to the use of modern contraceptives," he suggests.

He adds: "A man has a big share when it comes to issues related to family planning at family level and most of the time men are left behind in this issue."

"Low level of education as one of the factors that plunge women in that trap as many of them are unaware of the modern contraceptives; and instead venture into traditional methods, which aren't effective," says Sylvester.

"As organization, we've been using medical practitioners to educate women on the benefit of using family planning methods, but, women seem to be skeptical because of myths and misconceptions around modern contraceptives."

Pudensiana Ngereza, Special Seats Ward Councilor in the district says more work needs to be done on modern family planning in the island whose community depends on fishing as the main economic

She describes misconceptions around modern contraception as one of the hiccups that still discourage women in the lake Victoria island from using modern

Pudensiana who also works with SAWAU says: "We'll continue bringing women together and thereafter make them informed on issues related to family planning and the importance of child

appealing as data shows that in 2015, the use of modern contraceptive was at 11 percent, and this year is at 31.2 percent. District Medical Officer (DMO) Dr Raphael Mhana says: "Despite all the factors

At the district level, the situation is un-

that thwarts family planning use in this island, but we've started seeing improvement and I hope the number of people using contraceptives will continue to grow."

He views family planning as an important tool towards reinforcing people's rights to determine the number and spacing of their children. "By preventing unintended pregnancy,

contraception prevents deaths of mothers and children, that's why we're working hard to scale up MCH services in the According to him, family planning is one of packages pregnant mothers are

given when attending MCH clinics, "the challenge remains for those who don't attend MCH clinics, particularly those who are living in small islands where there are no health facilities." Ester Chaula, Ukerewe District Execu-

tive Director (DED) admits that modern family planning uptake remained a challenge in the district due to geographical location, myths and misconceptions on contraceptives.

With the population of more than 400,000 people, the district has a total of 38 islands, though only 15 are inhabitable.

"Having all these scattered islands, making the issue of modern family planning uptake an uphill task and this has been attributed by the fact that many women in Ukerewe are reluctant when it comes to the use of contraceptives," she

She adds: "People here don't see the importance of modern contraceptives, that's why we're working hard to ensure that they are empowered with education on family planning as well as child spacing as these are crucial issues for the health of women."

Dr John Chacha, Mwanza-based obstetrician and gynecologist also views family planning as important as it reduces the need for abortion, especially unsafe abor-

According to him, a woman who carries many pregnancies put her health at risk as her womb is not as strong as it used to be. Her system is not as ready to carry a pregnancy as she did with her firstborns.

"Pregnancy alone is enough to end a woman's life, that's why we're encouraging people to venture into modern family planning," he says.

Apps advise farmers on weather, prices, loans

By Agatha Ngotho

FROM digital advisories on weather and planting information to marketing of produce and accessing financial and insurance services, agriculture in Kenya is coming of age.

Digital services have changed the way farmers do business as they are able to access information via mobile or penetration. smartphone applications.

The Food and Agricultural Organization says innovation is a life-changing approach where some see opportunities while others see problems.

"Digital innovation transforming ideas into values, creating employment and new business. With the new challenge in technologies, opportunities in terms of fighting hunger, reducing poverty, increasing resilience and improving productivity in by providing farmers with cusagriculture, " says Samuel Varas, FAO chief information officer.

Andrew Tuimur, Agriculture Chief Administrative Secretary, says the ministry is integrating digital technology, access to and interpretation of the use of data-based information as the country enters the Third Industrial Revolution.

He says the government in partnership with World Bank recently launched the One Million Farmers platform digital technologies in Kenyan agriculture.

"The idea is to ensure access to extension services, finance, market and a data-driven application. This will also help in fast-tracking the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy using some of these technologies. This is a 10year national strategy in which the Big Four Agenda is embedded," Tuimur says.

This was launched by the World Bank in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Korean Trust Fund, Mercy Corps and UN-SDGs Partnership Platform.

The platform has identified four key categories including productivity, market linkages, financial inclusion and data analytics.

Tuimur says the technologies will also be targeting the youth who are the major users.

Many uses: agro-weather analytics, pest, disease trends, food reserves early warning for price inflation.

Agriculture PS Hamadi Boga Agriculture PS Hamadi Boga says Kenya is at the forefront of technology adoption in Africa with 95 per cent mobile

There are 36 million internet subscriptions and today, 25 per cent of Africa's agri-tech startups are in the country.

Boga says the ministry has prioritised a number of digital use cases to champion until 2023. They include accelerating farmer registration and targeting eligible farmers with e-incentives, using digital we need to address these tools and analytics to improve tracking and payment direct to

> "Improve farmer practices tomised e-extension that incorporates current and predictive data such as agro-weather analytics, pest and disease trends and prices. Monitor emergency food reserve stocks with digital tools to determine the future quantity of stock to buy. Make more dynamic trade and price stability decisions using early warning system for food price inflation among others," he

Some of the digital platforms aimed at scaling up disruptive in Kenya include Digi-Cow that links smallholder farmers to veterinary officers, artificial insemination services and feeds.

> Precision agriculture for development targets largescale farmers with personalised agricultural advice through their mobile phones.

M-Shamba, a digital extension platform, uses interactive voice response services to explain and transfer agricultural technologies to smallholder farmers.

TruTrade Africa uses cloudbased mobile and online applications to provide smallholder farmers with linkage to market and fair prices for their pro-

Acre Africa links farmers to crops, livestock and industry insurance products to shield then against unpredictable weather.

he year 2019 marks the end of a decade defined by natural disasters, political upheavals and mass displacements in the Asia-Pacific region.

From the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan that killed close to 16,000 people and triggered the Fukushima nuclear disaster, to the forced evacuation of more than 700,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh in 2017, the region saw major disruptions over the last 10 years that will continue to reverberate in coming years.

Political triumphs and transitions also dominated the headlines, including the 2014 military coup in Thailand and the 2015 historic election in Myanmar that catapulted Aung San Suu Kyi to power.

Thailand and Japan's monarchy also changed hands, with the passing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 2016 and the abdication of the throne of Japan's Emperor Akihito earlier this year.

Here are some of the momen-

Years of discontent between

supporters of exiled former

prime minister Thaksin Shi-

nawatra and Thailand's ruling

elites exploded onto the streets of Bangkok in the early months

of 2010, as the government of

then Prime Minister Abhisit Vej-

jajiva turned to the military to

quell protests that had brought

At least 90 people were killed

and 2,000 injured in the coun-

Thaksin's sister Yingluck

Shinawatra won elections the

following year, but as protests

resumed the military again in-

tervened. The general who led

the 2014 coup, Prayuth Chan-

ocha, was elected to head the

government in controversial

elections in 2019 that critics say

were designed to preserve the

military's hold on power.

the capital to a standstill.

20 years.

tous events in the region in the

March - May 2010

last decade:

In 2017, violence in Myanmar forced more than 700,000 Rohingya to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh. The UN said Myanmar's military carried out the violence with 'genocidal intent' against the stateless

March 2011

At 2.46pm on March 11 2011,

a 9.1 magnitude earthquake

rocked the seabed of the Pa-

cific Ocean not far from Japan,

triggering a tsunami that rose

as high as 38 metres when it

crashed into the northwestern

coast of the main island of Hon-

Around 16,000 people were

killed and thousands went

missing as the wall of water

crashed ashore, and hundreds

of thousands were forced from

In Fukushima, the nuclear

power station was inundated.

systems, causing multiple melt-

downs and sending radiation

over a large area in a disaster

Kim Jong-il declared dead

at the age of 69 after suffering

a heart attack, while aboard a

train during a trip out of Pyong-

Kim took power in 1994 upon

the death of his father, Kim Il-

rivalled only by Chernobyl.

December 2011

their homes.

try's worst political violence in overwhelming reactor cooling

A decade in the Asia-Pacific region: 2010 to 2019

October 2010

Jailed writer and activist Liu Xiaobo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his "long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China".

At the ceremony in Oslo, Liu was represented by an empty

China said awarding the prize to a "criminal" like Liu was a "blasphemy". His wife, Liu Xia, was put under house arrest.

Liu, a prominent critic of the Chinese government who took part in the Tiananmen Square protests and drew up Charter 08, a petition calling for greater human rights and democratic feedom in China, developed liver cancer while in jail and died in hospital, still under guard, in July 2017.

A year later, Liu Xia was finally released and allowed to leave for Germany.



since the Korean peninsula was split in half by the Korean War.

Although the two sides signed a ceasefire in 1953 they remain technically at war. The younger Kim's death paved the way for the appointment of his son, Kim Jong-un, who later carried out a deadly purge of the North's leadership.

November 2012

Xi Jinping was announced as the next leader of China's all-powerful Communist Party. He was formally installed as leader in March 2013.

With the announcement, Xi also became head of China's military, marking a break from the tradition of retiring leaders holding onto the post for a transitional period to extend their influence.

The run-up to Xi's ascent to power was unsettled by events surrounding Bo Xilai, a political star seen as a candidate for a top post until a scandal in which his wife was convicted of murdering a British businessman. The sensational affair torpedoed Bo's political career.

April 3, 2013

North Korea announced it will restart all nuclear facilities at is main Yongbyon complex, sparking new fears of conflict in the region.

Following the move, the US stationed a warship off the Korean peninsula.

November 2013

At least 6,000 people were report-killing all 298 people on and an overhaul of the couned killed when one of the strongest storms on record slammed into the central Philippines. Hundreds of thousands of people were also displaced from their homes.

May 2014

Thailand's army chief announces that a military commission that imposed martial law is taking control of the country's government.

General Prayut Chanocha, who headed the commission, said that the military takeover was necessary

to maintain order in the country during a political unrest. Prayut would later become the country's prime minister.

Thailand has experienced 12 coups - including the May 2014 coup - since it became a constitutional monarchy

July 2014

Lumpur to Beijing.

MH17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine in July 2014, San Suu Kyi and her party, the National League for Democracy, won in a landslide but Suu Kyi was barred from the presidency by the constitution.

Myanmar will go to the polls again in 2020.

May 2016

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte was elected as president of the Philippines for a six-year term in office.

Nicknamed "The Punisher", then 71-year-old Duterte promised a relentless crackdown on drugs and crime,

However, Randall Schriver, the top US defence official in charge of Asia, said in May that the figure was "likely closer to three million citizens" - representing almost a third of the total 10 million Uighur population.

China has denied that Uighurs are being held against their will. Beijing has described the facilities as "training centres" or "reeducation" camps aimed at countering the "terrorist threat" and "extremism" in Xinjiang. Beijing also denies any mistreatment of Uighurs.

that almost no one had predicted. It also paved the way for the prosecution of Najib in the 1MDB case.

Najib, 66, now faces dozens of criminal charges over accusations that \$4.5bn was stolen from 1MDB.

June 2018

US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un sign an agreement pledging to support a peaceful resolution to seven decades of hostilities between the two countries and a de-escalation of nuclear tensions, during a historic meeting in Singapore.

Since the June 12, 2018 meeting, the two leaders have met twice in Vietnam and in the border between South and North Korea.

However, negotiations on Pyongyang's denuclearisation and the lifting of US sanctions have stalled, leading to the return of heated rhetoric between the two nations.

October 2018

Close to 2,000 people were killed when an earthquake hit the Indonesian city of Palu in central Sulawesi island. The magnitude 7.5 quake rocked the city of 350,000, triggering a tsunami that swept people to sea, as well as soil liquefaction, that buried many people and homes. March 2019

At least 51 people were killed and dozens of others wounded in shootings at two



In 2018, UN investigators concluded that Myanmar's military carried out mass killings and gang rapes of Rohingya with "genocidal intent" [Showkat Shafi/Al Jazeera]

Myanmar's military began

Southeast Asia. At least 740,000 Roh-

In 2018, UN investigators concluded that Myanmar's military carried out mass killings and gang rapes of Rohingya with "genocidal intent". It called for the prosecution of the commander-

Myanmar's leader Aung San Suu Kyi defended the military action in Rakhine state during her appearance at the International Court of Justice in The Hague in December 2019, while denying the "genocidal intent" of the

May 2018

An opposition alliance led by Malaysia's former ruler Mahathir Mohamad won a majority in parliament - a shock victory that ends the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition's 60-year grip on power.

The opposition won 113 seats - one more than required for simple majority leading to the ouster of Najib

The Pakatan Harapan's

mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, after a gunman opened indiscriminate fire at Muslim worshippers.

A 28-year-old Australian man, Brenton Tarrant, was charged with multiple counts of murder. His trial begins on June 2, 2020.

The attack led to an overhaul of New Zealand's gun laws, with the government banning military-style semiautomatic weapons.

April 2019

Japan's 85-year-old Emperor Akihito marks an end to his three-decade reign. He is the first monarch to abdicate his throne in 200 years.

Prince Naruhito, the emperor's first-born son, succeeded Akihito. Naruhito's formal enthronement was held in an elaborate ceremony last October.

June 2019

Mass protests erupted in Hong Kong following the decision of Chief Executive Carrie Lam to schedule a bill allowing extradition of suspects living in the semiautonomous Chinese city.

Millions of Hong Kongers took to the streets during several demonstrations, some of which have turned violent.

So far, more than 6,000 people have been arrested, with nearly 3,000 people injured.

Hong Kong residents have accused authorities of using excessive force against protesters.

resistance from Amid Beijing and the Hong Kong government, there are no signs that the six-month-old protest movement is ending.

AGENCIES

sung, who had led North Korea



Employ something for purpose (4)

0. Large jug with a wide spout (4)

9. Port of Yemen (4)

. Cause of problem (6)

challenge him again in the 2019 presidential elections.

as president of Indonesia. He won over his opponent, former General Prabowo Subianto, who would later Widodo, a former furniture maker known widely as "Jokowi," campaigned as a fresh face and outsider. He also promised to reform the country's economy and political system. **March 2015** Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, died at

4. Set upright (5)

7. Component (4) 18. Always (4) of brutal military rule, My-19. Upper human limb (3)

the age of 91. Lee was widely considered to be single-handedly

Jokowi' Widodo was elected

responsible for Singapore's unique success story, the architect behind its fantastic transformation from glorified fishing village into one of the world's economic powerhouses.

Thousands queued to sign the books of condolence, lining the streets despite the rain, for his funeral.

November 2015 After nearly four decades

anmar held elections. Aung

try's constitution.

board. The disaster came just four months after an-The mayor's single-issue other Malaysia Airlines Boecampaign focusing on law ing 777, MH370, disappeared and order chimed with popon a night flight from Kuala ular anxiety about corruption, crime and drug abuse, Russia and its separatists but for many his incendiary in Ukraine were blamed for rhetoric and talk of extrajubringing down the plane usdicial killings echo the country's authoritarian past.

ing a BUK missile launcher. The Netherlands, which Since his victory, Duterte is leading the investigation has carried out a deadly war into what happened, will on drugs. Earlier this month, begin a trial of four key suspolice said at least 5,552 peopects in March 2020. ple were killed between July 1, 2016 and November 30, October 2014 2019. Human rights advo-Iakarta Governor Ioko cates, however, placed the

Russia and its separatists in Ukraine were blamed for bringing down MH17 in 2014 [File: Maxim Zmeyev/Reuters]

October 2016

Thailand's King Bhumibol dies at the age of 88. The revered monarch ruled the country for 70 years, and had earned the deepest respect from the vast majority of Thais.

death toll to at least 27,000.

Bhumibol was the revered "father of the nation". He came to the throne at the age of 18 in 1946 when his brother was shot dead in mysterious circumstances at the Royal Palace in Bangkok.

Following his death, his son, Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn succeeded him. King Maha was formally crowned as Thailand's new monarch earlier this year.

April 2017

The Chinese government cracks down against Muslim-minority Uighurs in its westernmost province of Xinjiang.

put the number of ethnic Uighurs - and other Muslim minorities held under some form of detention since 2017 - between one and 1.5 mil**August 2017**

a brutal crackdown on the Rohingya in western Rakhine. Stripped of their rights, the Rohingva had already endured years of suffering. Many were confined to camps after violent clashes with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists in 2012, while others sought the help of people smugglers to escape to

ingya fled across the border to Bangladesh and remain in refugee camps at Cox's Bazar.

in-chief and five generals.

Conservative estimates Razak as prime minister.

win was a stunning triumph





MARKET TRENDS

Parliament clips CBK powers over State mortgage financier

page 15

Thursday 2 January 2020

Indonesia plans fixed fees for e-wallet transactions

JAKARTA

Indonesia plans to impose fixed fees on some e-wallet transactions, five people familiar with the matter said, in a move that could choke a key revenue stream and raise costs for payment startups backed by the likes of Alibaba's Ant Financial.

Providers of e-wallet services in Southeast Asia's largest economy currently customize fees for vendors, charging a premium from big retailers and absorbing costs for smaller merchants in an effort to get them to use their platforms.

But Bank Indonesia has already held talks with the biggest digital-payment startups to make fees on QR code transactions uniform, the people said, building on its move in August to standardize electronic payments that use the matrix barcode.

Bank Indonesia did not respond to repeated messages and calls requesting comment.

Leading the pack of e-wallet firms in the country is home-grown ride-hailing startup Gojek, backed by firms including Alphabet's Google, and startup OVO, in which Gojek rival Grab has a stake. Ant Financial's e-wallet DANA trails them, along with state-owned payments platform LinkAja.

The central bank wants to fix some e-wallet transaction fees at 0.7 per cent, the people added, a move that could deter smaller merchants that now pay next to nothing from staying on the e-wallet network or force the latter to increase incentives.

Fixed fees on payments at bigger vendors, like Starbucks, that are currently charged as much as 2 per cent, would also dent revenue for the e-wallet firms, the people said.

The startups have already burned through millions of dollars in incentives to lure vendors in Indonesia, where a multi-billion dollar digital payments industry has flourished as over half its nearly 270 million population have no bank accounts.

The country's internet economy was \$40 billion this year and is expected to grow more than threefold by 2025, according to a report here by Google, Temasek and Bain & Co.

Bank Indonesia is yet to decide on fees on transactions made at bigger vendors, the people said, with one person close to the talks adding it could also be fixed at

A big retailer is typically charged between 0.5 per cent to 2 per cent, one of the people said. As a benchmark, Visa and Mastercard charge around 2 per cent to 3 per cent.

'This will hurt all of us," said an executive at an Indonesian e-wallet firm, who was not authorized to speak to media and did not want to be named.

The fee earned on e-wallet transactions would have to be split three ways under the new system, sources said: between the e-wallet companies, middle-men payment processors, and the National Electronic Transaction Settlement - a consortium of major Indonesian lenders.

Until now e-wallet firms either kept the whole fee or split with some payment processors, and no lenders were involved.

Kamwelwe directs mobile phone firms to send service to villages



By Guardian Correspondent,

HE Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Eng Isack Kamwelwe vesterday launched communication service in the villages of Mlele District in Kat-

Eng Kamwelwe launched the services at Kanoge Village, Utende Ward in the district by inaugurating the communication tower erected by Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) in collaboration with Vodacom Tanzania at a cost of 300m/-.

The minister said there are mobile phone firms that did not want to go to villages preferring places with money, hence the government established UCSAF to provide subsidy to mobile phone firms which also contribute in erecting communication towers in villages.

He added: "And since I am the one who issue licenses, now I direct mobile phone firms to go to certain villages where there are no communications or busi-

important service to the wananchi."

He also asked UCSAF to also incorporate data communication, and not only voice mails as without data students will be unable to study in schools, while the wananchi also need

He said: "That is why I initially brought along 50 computers for primary and secondary schools, and now I am bringing in electricity so that children start playing with computers because right now Internet Communication Technology (ICT) is the real economy."

The chairman of UCSAF Board Dr Joseph Kilongola said by using UCSAF funds they ensure communication service reach to the wananchi as mobile phone firms alone are not ready to send communication service to the villages.

UCSAF Managing Director Justina Mashiba said up to now communication service reception has reached 94 percent compared to 45 percent in 2009 when UCSAF was being established.

She said UCSAF has adver-

ness attractions to provide the tised tenders to construct communication towers in 252 wards in the country whose implementation, when finished, service reception will reach 96 percent, and added that UCSAF will continue to ensure public schools get computers.

For his part, Mlele District Commissioner Rachel Kasanda said there will be no child who will not go secondary education two weeks after schools open on January 6 2020.

Vodacom Tanzania Zonal head for Southern Highlands Ezekiel Nungwi said they were ready to continue cooperating with the government through UCSAF to ensure all the wananchi are communicating digitally by constructing towers in various rural areas that will be able to offer both voice and data service.

A Kanoge villager Cretus Edus thanked the government for building the tower, as of now they are informed on many issues online as in the past they only used to hear about Youtube, Facebook and Instagram without knowing what these things were.

Dollar index records smallest ever annual move in 2019

NEW YORK

THE U.S. dollar index recorded its smallest-ever annual move in 2019, up just 0.24 per cent for the year after a drop in December reversed early gains as trade hopes and investor confidence diminished demand for the safe-haven

The pound GBP, the euro EUR and a clutch of trade-sensitive currencies rallied as the dollar slid to a six-month low on Tuesday as investor optimism about global growth prospects and the Phase 1 U.S.-China trade deal spurred a risk-on

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that the first phase of an American trade deal with China would be signed on Jan. 15 at the White House, though considerable confusion remains about the details of the agree-

The dollar index .DXY was last down 0.33 per cent to 96.418, its fourth consecutive session in the red and its weakest level since July 1. The Phase 1 trade agreement reached earlier in December has pulled the dollar down 1.89 per cent in the last month.



U.S. dollars and other world currencies lie in a charity receptacle at Pearson international airport in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The dollar had recorded a strong 2019 before December, owing to the outperformance of the U.S. economy and a long period of uncertainty in the negotiations between Washington and Beijing.

"Weakness in the U.S. dollar toward the end of this year has coincided with the renewed expansion of the Fed's balance sheet and the paring back of pessimism over the outlook for

global growth," MUFG analysts said.

On the last trading day of the year, the dollar was up just 0.24 per cent for 2019, compared with 4.4 per cent in 2018. At the end of November, it was up 2.18 per cent for the year. The shift also reflects investor bets that the

dollar will weaken further in 2020.

"Everybody has been wanting to short the dollar. It has been the most frustrating trade of

the year. I think for the most part, there's not a lot of resistance going back into that trade. If we look into the top 2020 calls for FX, it's going to be short the dollar," said Marvin Loh, senior global macro strategist at State Street Global

Investors' appetite for risk drove the euro to \$1.124, a five-month high. It was last trading 0.22 per cent higher at \$1.122.

Huawei's 2019 revenue to jump 18pc, forecasts 'difficult' 2020



The Huawei logo is pictured. File photo.

HUAWEI Technologies earlier this week said its full-year revenue would likely jump 18 per cent last year to 850 billion yuan (\$121.72 billion), lower than its earlier projections, as a U.S. trade blacklisting curbed growth and disrupted its ability to source key parts.

The world's biggest maker of telecom network equipment and the second largest manufacturer of smartphones of the world, was all but banned by the United States in May from doing business with U.S. companies, preventing its access to technology like Google's (GOOGL.O) Android operating system.

The U.S. government alleges Huawei equipment pose national security risks because they could be used by the Chinese govern-

ment to spy on users. Huawei has repeatedly denied its products are a security threat.

Huawei's Rotating Chairman Eric Xu revealed the numbers in a New Year's message to employees and customers in which he also forecasted 2020 to be a "difficult year', saying that the firm was unlikely to grow as rapidly as it did in the first half of this year.

Its estimate of 18 per cent revenue growth in 2019 is less than 2018, when Huawei's annual revenue rose 19.5 per cent-.

The company did not break down fourth-quarter figures but according to Reuters calculations based on its previous statements, revenue in the quarter to end Dec. 31 rose to 239.2 billion yuan (\$23.28 billion), up 3.9 per cent from a year earlier and slower than the 27 per cent increase it reported in the third quarter.

"The external environment build its Huawei Mobile Services is becoming more complicated than ever, and downward pressure on the global economy has intensified," he said.

"In the long term, the US government will continue to suppress the development of leading technology - a challenging environment for Huawei to survive and thrive."

Xu also said that Huawei shipped 240 million smartphones this year, a 20 per cent increase from 2018. Huawei has mainly sold smartphones that

were launched before the ban. The newest Mate 30 smartphone first went on sale in September but it cannot access a licensed version of Google's Android operating system because

of the trade curbs. U.S said in his letter that Huawei would in 2020 "go all out" to

ecosystem, which comprises services such as cloud storage and an app gallery, describing it as "the foundation of our ability to sell smart devices in markets outside China".

It is also developing its own mobile operating system known as Harmony, although analysts are skeptical that the system is a viable alternative.

Huawei's reputation was dented earlier this month after details of the dismissal and wrongful detention of a former employee went viral.

In his letter, Xu said they would continue to remove mediocre managers and complacent employees as Huawei needed to rid the company of complacency, and that they would remove managers performing in the bottom 10 per cent every year.

Fed sees small take-up of repo, rates fall for year-end

NEW YORK

he Federal Reserve averted a year-end funding squeeze on Tuesday as large banks took only a small portion of \$150 billion on offer in its last overnight repo operation of 2019, and the cost of borrowing fell to its lowest level since March 2018.

The New York Federal Reserve has been injecting liquidity into the repo market to reduce the chance of funding stress after a flare-up in September sent the cost of overnight over the crucial year-end period. The

loans as high as 10 per cent, more than four times the Fed's rate at the time. That had caused particular concern about the year-end.

"It looks like what the Fed did worked," said Tom Simons, a money market economist at Jefferies in New York. "The Fed acted out of an abundance of caution, and fortunately the result was a very calm year-end

Banks took \$25.60 billion in the Fed's overnight repurchase agreement, or repo, operation, which offers funding three liquidity operations on Monday. Banks and investors borrow in the

repo market to finance asset purchases and other business expenses, but the availability of loans over year-end can dry up as banks pare their risk-taking.

"There really are not any signs of dollar funding pressure across markets," said Mark Cabana, head of U.S. rates strategy at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. He said the smooth yearend was partly due to the Fed's actions, as well as pre-planning by banks.

The Fed has thrown \$255.6 billion

banks also took only a small share of into the funding market through early January to ensure the financial system operates smoothly over the choppy year-end period.

> It will continue pumping tens of billions a day into the repo market through the end of January at least, including up to another \$185 billion in one-day and term deals on Thursday, when the market kicks off the new

> Cabana said he anticipated the Fed would extend support through the end of the first quarter, but noted that the market wants to know "What's the end

game?"

Markets have absorbed a lot of funding provided by the central bank, which suggests the Fed is providing needed liquidity, said Joseph Abate, a short rate strategist for Barclays.

rates would be higher" without that support, he said.

The overnight repo rate jumped to 1.90 per cent on Tuesday before dropping to 1.40 per cent, which is below the Fed's target fed funds range of 1.50 per cent to 1.75 per cent.

High demand for Treasuries for

year-end was the likely factor behind the fall. The Fed saw the strongest demand for Treasuries in its reverse repo operation on Tuesday since June

In a reverse repo operation the "You could definitely imagine that Fed borrows money from market participants in exchange for Treasury collateral. The rate is far lower than previously predicted.

> Forward repo markets were pricing overnight loans for year-end at 2.50 per cent early on Monday and at around 4 per cent a few weeks ago, according to

Parliament clips CBK powers over State mortgage financier

ISTANBUL

OFFERING its guests the opportunity to fly directly to 126 countries from Istanbul, Turkish Airlines added Xi'an, the Chinese city with three thousand years of history, to its flight network on

Xi'an became the flag carrier's fourth destination in Mainland China and the 318th destination in the world. The flights will be operated three times a week with Airbus A330 aircrafts.

Starting its flights to People's Republic of China back in 1999 with Beijing as its destination, Turkish Airlines reinforced its strong position in Asia with the Xi'an flights.

With this new addition, global carrier's flight network encompassed the entirety of the historical Silk Road that started in Xi'an and ended in Venice.

During the ceremony of the inaugural flight, Turkish Airlines General Manager Bilal Ek i stated; "We conclude the year by adding a very special city to our flight network after numerous innovations in various areas and the move to our new home that took place during 2019.

"We will carry our guests to 126 countries from Xi'an, one of the most significant historical capitals while transferring the historical Silk Road to above clouds with our cargo operations. Our new flights will also contribute to the tourist numbers coming to our country with the increasing attention from Chinese tourists to tourism centers of Turkey."

Turkish Airlines passengers traveling to Xi'an, one of the oldest civilizations of the world, will have the opportunity to explore the numerous cultural heritages along with the historical fabric of the three thousand years old city.

Serving as the capital of 13 different dynasties during the history of China, the region's most popular destination is the Terracotta Army, which draws over two million tourists annually.

Hidden underground for nearly 2200 years, it was first discovered during the excavations in 1974. Featuring eight thousand terracotta soldiers, it is considered as the Eighth Wonder of the World.



Turkish Airlines Air Hostess displays a Chines house frame.

Trump says US-China trade deal will be signed on January 15

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that Phase 1 of trade deal with China would be signed on Jan. 15 at the White House, though considerable

confusion remains about the details of the agreement.

The president wrote in a tweet that he would sign the deal with "high level representatives of China" and that he would later travel to Beijing to begin

talks on the next phase.

Last week, Trump said he and Chinese President Xi Jinping would host a signing ceremony to ink the Phase 1

The Phase 1 deal, struck earlier this



U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping as they met recently. File photo.

month, is expected to reduce tariffs and boost Chinese purchases of American farm, energy and manufactured goods while addressing some disputes over intellectual property.

However, no version of the text has been made public, and Chinese officials have yet to publicly commit to key planks, such as increasing imports of U.S. goods and services by \$200 billion over two

China bought \$130 billion in U.S. goods in 2017, before the trade war began, and \$56 billion in services, U.S. data show.

The United States launched a trade war against Beijing a year and half ago over allegations of unfair trade practices, such as theft of U.S. intellectual property and subsidies that unfairly benefit Chinese state-owned companies.

The United States Trade Representative said the Phase 1 deal includes stronger Chinese legal protections for patents, trademarks, copyrights, including improved criminal and civil procedures to combat online infringement, pirated and counterfeit goods.

Issues such as industrial subsidies would be addressed in a later deal, U.S. authorities said.

The escalating tit-for-tat tariffs, which began in July, 2018, have roiled markets and crimped economic growth worldwide.

Though it was not immediately clear who would represent the Chinese delegation at the signing, the South China Morning Post reported on Monday that Vice Premier Liu He would visit Washington to sign

Asked Tuesday when the deal might be signed, China's foreign ministry spokesman referred questions to China's Department of Commerce.

Uber, Postmates sue to block California gig worker law, claiming it's unconstitutional

LOS ANGELES

RIDE-hailing company Uber Technologies Inc and courier services provider Postmates Inc asked a U.S. court to block a California labor law set to go into effect on Wednesday, arguing the bill violates the U.S. Constitution.

In a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles federal court on Monday, the companies and two app-based drivers said the law, which would make it harder for gig economy companies to qualify their workers as independent contractors rather than employees, was irrational, vague and incoherent.

The office of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement on Monday it was reviewing the complaint. The bill, called AB5, faces multiple legal challenges.

The law was signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom in September and has garnered national attention, largely owing to the size of California's workforce and the state's leadership role in establishing policies that are frequently adopted by other states.

Backers of the bill, including labor groups, have argued the law protects workers' rights. By classifying the contractors as employees, the companies would be subject to labor laws that require higher pay and other benefits such as medical insurance.

The bill strikes at the heart of the "gig economy" business model of technology platforms like Uber, Postmates, Lyft Inc, DoorDash and others who rely heavily on the state's 450,000 contract workers, not full-time employees, to drive passengers or deliver food via app-based services.

Uber, Postmates and other app-based companies said the legislation compromises the flexibility prized by their workforce, and that fewer workers would be hired were they considered employees. The companies in their Monday lawsuit

called AB5 a "thinly veiled attempt" to target and harm gig economy businesses. Singling out app-based workers violates equal protection guaranteed under the constitutions of the United States and California, the companies argued.

"It irreparably harms network companies and app-based independent service providers by denying their constitutional rights to be treated the same as others to whom they are similarly situated," the lawsuit said.

The companies pointed to allegedly arbitrary exemptions of different non-gig worker groups, including salespeople, travel agents, construction truck drivers and commercial fishermen.

The full impact of the bill remains unclear in the short term, but the lawsuit cited a study saying the bill would increase ridehailing company Lyft's operating costs by 20% and lead to some 300,000 fewer drivers in California.

Ron Herrera, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 396 and Teamsters International vice president, said in a statement late on Monday night, that the labour union objects the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of AB-5.

"Teamsters Local 396 and the broader American Labor Movement must use all of the resources at our disposal to ensure that AB-5 is protected and that workers have a voice at the table," Herrera added.

Uber, Lyft and food delivery company DoorDash have earmarked \$90 million for a planned November 2020 ballot initiative that would exempt them from the law.

US holiday returns surge with booming e-commerce



The company logo for United Parcel Service (UPS), is displayed on a screen at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York, U.S. File photo

LOS ANGELES

UNITED Parcel Service Inc (UPS.N) on Thursday expects to ship 1.9 million gifts and other items back to U.S. retailers as e-commerce fuels an anticipated 26 per cent year-over-year volume surge on "National Returns Day."

Jan. 2 is the busiest day for holiday returns in the United States. U.S. shoppers return more packages than their peers around the globe, spurred by free shipping on orders and returns - costly perks that squeeze retailer

About 10 per cent of goods sold in the United States go back to retailers every year, resulting in roughly \$369 billion in lost sales, according to a 2018 report

from Appriss Retail and National Retail Federation.

Apparel is an outsized contributor. Returns in some categories approach 50% due to inconsistent sizing across brands, said Greg Buzek, founder and president of IHL Group, a research and advisory firm.

"That causes great expense for retailers," said Buzek, who estimated that annual global losses from retail returns are nearly \$1 trillion - up from \$600 billion in 2015. Los Angeles-based Happy

Returns promises to slash returns-related expenses up to 30 per cent by reducing shipping costs and customer support calls.

It has 700 "return bars" in U.S. retail stores and shopping malls, where customers drop off items and arrange refunds or exchanges. The company charges retailers a flat fee for every item it processes.

"You have to have some free (return) option. Nobody said it had to be the mail," said Happy Returns Chief Executive David Sobie.

Amazon.com (AMZN.O) also encourages shoppers to return products to its own physical stores or Kohl's (KSS.N) locations, where eligible items are packed and shipped for free.

While 30 per cent of shoppers return items to stores, more than twice that many opt for shipping, according to UPS' 2019 Pulse of the Online Shopper report. UPS said it handled

more than 1 million returns each day in December, but declined to give an annual

UPS and home furnishing retailer IKEA are among the investors in Optoro Inc, which helps retailers sort, resell and dispose of returned merchandise more efficiently.

The aim is to prevent products from sitting in a back room losing value or getting routed and rerouted at great expense, said Larisa Summers, Optoro's senior vice president of e-commerce.

"You have to welcome these goods back, otherwise customers won't shop with vou the first time," Summers

Gold's rally stays alive for the past decade

BERLIN

Gold's December rally stays alive to seal best year since 2010.Gold climbed to a three-month high to clinch its best annual performance since 2010, as a weaker dollar helped cap a year marked by global economic jitters and trade frictions.

Bullion has gained 19 per cent this year as central banks globally embraced looser monetary policy to boost growth. Brexit, unrest in regions from Chile to Hong Kong and buying sprees from key central banks and exchange-traded funds have also helped support prices.

Spot gold climbed as much as 0.7% to \$1 525.38 an ounce on Tuesday, the highest since September 25, and traded at \$1 522.84 by 10:47 in London. The Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index fell

to the lowest since June.

Still, some analysts doubt that gold's strength will stick next year and JPMorgan Asset Management cautioned that bullion may not offer sound portfolio protection.

"There are very few certain environments in which gold does well, and it's not necessarily the case that 2020 won't be any of those," Hannah Anderson, a global market strategist at JPMorgan, said in an interview with Bloomberg TV.

"In the next downturn, I do believe that bonds still could be defensive

JPMorgan has come out this month to make the case for a risk-on investment allocation for 2020 as the global economy gathers momentum in the wake of the recent slowdown. On Tuesday, data showed China's manufacturing sector continued to expand output in December, adding to evidence that the world's secondlargest economy is stabilising. Commentary out of China and the US suggest that both countries are committed to their phase-one trade

However, haven asset demand in 2020 could be supported by other brewing global tensions, DailyFX strategist David Song said in a note.

"The threat of a US-EU trade war may become a greater concern," he said.

In other precious metals, silver has risen 17 per cent this year, also poised for its best performance since 2010. Platinum is up 22 per cent and topperformer palladium is set to end 2019 with an annual gain of 52per



A bullion of gold ready to be put on market for sale. File photo.

Tencent gets into global groove with stake in Vivendi's Universal

PARIS/HONG KONG

A TENCENT-led consortium is taking a 10% stake in Vivendi's Universal Music Group, valuing the music label that houses Lady Gaga and The Beatles at 30 billion euros (\$34 billion) and giving the Chinese firm a global backstage pass.

The deal allows both companies to expand in a recovering global music market, giving Tencent more access to U.S. artists while UMG can tap into the Asian market, including big-selling "K-Pop" Korean pop stars.

After months of talks, French media conglomerate Vivendi (VIV.PA) said on Tuesday it had finalised the sale of an initial 10% of the world's largest music label to the Tencent consortium, which also had the option to buy up to 10% more by January 2021 on the same price basis.

Vivendi, controlled by French bil-

revival, driven by a growing subscription and ad-based music streaming services and the deal gives UMG an enterprise value of 30 billion euros.

The initial deal would soon be followed by a second one allowing Tencent Music Entertainment (TME.N) to buy a minority stake in UMG's greater China subsidiary.

Tencent did not immediately respond to a request for comment, while Vivendi did not disclose the details of the consortium beyond saying they were "global financial investors". Singapore's state investment firm GIC and Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) were also involved, a source familiar with the deal told Reuters. QIA declined to comment and GIC did not immediately respond to requests for

The IFPI federation said in April lionaire Vincent Bollore, is seeking that global recorded music revenues

to cash in on the music industry's had risen 9.7% in 2019 from last year, while Universal was Vivendi's main third quarter sales growth driver, with revenues rising nearly 16% to 1.8 billion euros.

"Universal has been enjoying increased revenues for the last 5 years. With the company in a strong position, it can make sense to capitalise on the valuation with a minority sale at this point in the growth cycle," said MB Capital director Marcus Bullus, commenting on the deal.

The tie-up between Tencent and Vivendi builds on a partnership struck two years ago, allowing Tencent to license Universal's music for distribution over its streaming plat-

Vivendi said in July last year it might sell up to half of UMG and any cash raised from a divestment could help finance a share buyback or ac-



The logo of Google is seen at the high profile startups and high tech leaders gathering, Viva Tech,in Paris, France.

Google to end 'Double Irish, **Dutch sandwich' tax scheme**

AMSTERDAM

Google parent Alphabet (GOOGL.O) will no longer use an intellectual property licensing scheme, known as the "Double Irish, Dutch sandwich", which allowed it to delay paying U.S. taxes, 2018 tax filings show.

A Google spokesman on Tuesday confirmed it would scrap the licensing structure, saying this was in line with international rules and followed changes to U.S. tax law in 2017.

Dutch filings, which were seen by Reuters, showed that in 2018 Google moved 21.8 billion euros (\$24.5 billion) through its Dutch holding company to Bermuda, up from 19.9 billion in 2017. Google said it would end the practice after 2019.

"A date of termination of the Company's licensing activities has not yet been confirmed by senior leadership, however management expects that this termination will take place as of 31 December 2019 or during 2020," the Dutch filing said.

"Consequently, the Company's

turnover and associated expense Bermuda, where companies pay base generated from licensing activities will discontinue as of this date," the filing with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce added.

Google, like other multinationals that make use of international tax minimization strategies, has always said it pays all its taxes. "We're now simplifying our

corporate structure and will license our IP (intellectual property) from the US, not Bermuda," a spokesman said in a statement. "Including all annual and one-

time income taxes over the past ten years, our global effective tax rate has been over 23%, with more than 80% of that tax due in the US."

For more than a decade, Dutch, Irish and U.S. tax law allowed Google to enjoy an effective tax rate in the single digits on its non-U.S. profits, around a quarter the average tax rate in its overseas

markets. The subsidiary in the Netherlands was used to shift revenue from royalties earned outside the United States to Google Ireland Holdings, an affiliate based in

no income tax.

The tax strategy was legal and allowed Google to avoid triggering U.S. income taxes or European withholding taxes on the funds, which represent the bulk of its overseas profits.

Under pressure from the European Union and the United States, Ireland in 2014 decided to phase out the arrangement, ending Google's Irish tax advantages in 2020.

The Trump administration's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which came into effect in January 2018, ended the reason for U.S. companies to hoard foreign profits offshore. Now profits that have been made and taxed abroad are not subject to taxation when returned to the U.S.

In the Bermuda filing for 2018, Bermuda-based "Google Ireland Holdings Unlimited Co." said in the future it would no longer continue licensing intellectual property or holding debt securities, but it would continue equity investment operations.

Guardian www.ippnedia.com

WORLD

Iraqi militiamen hurl stones at US **Embassy, prepare** for extended stay

BAGHDAD

BEIJING

HUNDREDS of Iraqi militiamen and their supporters hurled stones at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad for a second day yesterday and security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades to drive them away.

The protests, led by Iranian-backed militias, mark a new turn in the shadow war between Washington and Tehran playing out across the Middle East.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who faces re-election in 2020, on Tuesday threatened to retaliate against Iran but

over the continued presence of U.S. troops in Iraq.

IN their New Year messages, lead-

ers of various countries have called

for courage and efforts to make

2020 a better year, and overcome

challenges as we enter a new dec-

In a New Year speech delivered

on Tuesday evening, Chinese Presi-

dent Xi Jinping pledged to achieve

the first centenary goal of building a

moderately prosperous society in all

respects for China in the "milestone"

Xi stressed the year as "crucial in

winning the anti-poverty battle" in

China, and voiced the hope for a

prosperous and stable Hong Kong.

"We are not afraid of winds and

rains, or any kind of difficulties," said

Xi reiterated China's commitment

to peaceful development, world

peace and common development,

saying "we stand ready to join hands

with people around the world to ac-

tively build the Belt and Road, push

for the building of a community

with a shared future for humanity,

the Chinese president.

Crowds had rallied on Tuesday to protest against deadly U.S. air strikes on militia bases, setting fires, throwing rocks and smashing surveillance cameras. They did not breach the huge em-

Overnight, demonstrators pitched tents and camped outside the embassy walls. On Wednesday morning, they were bringing in food supplies, cooking equipment and mattresses, Reuters witnesses said, suggesting they intend-

Senior Iraqi army officers had negotiated with those gathered outside the embassy in an attempt to convince them to leave but failed to do so. Washington is putting pressure on Iraqi leaders to ensure the security of its staff.



US Embassy security men use stun grenades to disperse protesters and militia fighters during a protest to condemn air strikes on bases belonging to Hashd al-Shaabi (paramilitary forces), outside the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq yesterday. REUTERS

The incident marked a sharp escalation of the proxy conflict between Washington and Tehran - both influential players in Iraq - while mass protests are challenging Iraq's own political system nearly 17 years after the U.S. invasion that toppled

The protests followed U.S. air strikes on Sunday on bases operated by the Iranian-backed militia Kataib Hezbollah inside Iraq which killed at least

The strikes were retaliation for the killing of a Iraqi military base, which Washington blamed on

yesterday y condemned the U.S. attacks.

World leaders call for courage, efforts to make 2020 a better year

German Chancellor Angela Merkel

broadcast live on Tuesday even-

ing, French President Emmanuel

Macron vowed to push through the

government's pension reform plan,

which was met with union-led na-

"The pension reform will be fully

carried out," said Macron, adding he

hopes to quickly find a compromise

The promise to take Britain out of

the European Union by the end of

January was reaffirmed, and nation-

al efforts to usher in a remarkable

decade of prosperity and opportu-

nity were urged by Prime Minister

Boris Johnson in his first New Year

tional strikes in December.

with unions.

"The Iranian government, nation and I strongly condemn the attacks," Iranian state TV quoted Khamenei as saying.

Trump accused Iran of orchestrating the violence at the U.S. Embassy and said Tehran would be held responsible. Iran rejected the accusation.

More U.S. troops were being sent to the embassy, U.S. officials said. The 750 troops would initially be based out of Kuwait. The officials said that as many as 4,000 troops could be sent to the region in the coming days if needed.

More than 5,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Iraq supporting local forces. The air strikes have not just from Iran-backed militias but also their political rivals.

galvanized calls inside Iraq to expel U.S. forces,

Russia takes over the reins to chair BRICS in 2020

MOSCOW

ON January 1, Moscow is taking over the one-year chairmanship of the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Russia plans to carry out about 150 activities at various levels during its chairmanship, which will culminate in July, when St. Petersburg will host the next BRICS summit.

The five countries' leaders will hold another meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit in the Saudi capital of Riyadh

According to procedure, each BRICS member takes over the group's chairmanship for a year. Russia last chaired BRICS in 2015, when a summit took place in Ufa. Russia also presided over the group back in 2009, before BRIC turned into BRICS following South Africa's accession.

Over 20 ministerial meetings are also expected to take place, including those involving the Russian Security Council secretary, the Supreme Court chief justice and the chairpersons of both house of Russia's parliament.

Apart from St. Petersburg, BRICS events - such as meetings between Sherpas, ministers, business community members and experts - will take part in dozens of other Russian cities, including Yekaterinburg, Kazan, Novosibirsk, Samara, Saransk, Sochi, Ulyanovsk, Ufa, Khanty-Mansiysk and Yaroslavl. The theme of Russia's chairmanship is "BRICS Strategic Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth."

Russia's priorities

President Vladimir Putin clarified Russia's priorities as BRICS chair in Brasilia in November 2019.

Moscow will focus on enhancing foreign policy coordination between member countries on key international platforms, primarily, within the United Nations.

According to Putin, BRICS nations need to make more proactive efforts to play a leading role in the UN. Specific goals in this regard include fighting terrorism and the dissemination of terrorist dogma, particularly on the Internet, as well as combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, while working to take back criminally obtained assets.

As for the economy, Russia plans to suggest that the five nations renew the BRICS Strategy for Partnership in Trade and Investment that they adopted at the Ufa summit.

According to the Russian Economic Development Ministry, the updated document will cover cooperation fields such as the development and integration of remote areas, the exchange of experience in regulatory impact assessment, digital trade, the use of digital solutions in the field of intellectual property and the promotion of artificial intelligence technologies.

Moscow also calls for defining new strategy tasks aimed at boosting cooperation between specific industries up until

President Putin pointed out that Russia would seek to strengthen the existing BRICS structures and financial mechanisms, namely the New Development Bank, the Contingent Reserve Arrangement and its microeconomic data exchange

Work will continue to create a BRICS local currency bond fund, and energy cooperation will carry on as well. At the same time, Moscow plans to put forward some new ideas to expand dialogue between the five countries' tax, customs and competition agencies.

Lastly, the agenda of Russia's chairmanship will include a number of festivals, theater tours, artistic competitions for children and adults, and sports tournaments. Putin earlier handed down instructions to draw up measures for the creation of a new competition concept for BRICS countries.

Boosting space cooperation is another important task. According to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov, who is the country's BRICS Sherpa, Moscow will "fill the emerging five-party space cooperation with specific activities." Steps will be taken to continue the implementation of the Clean Rivers program, aimed at improving the environmental situation in river basins.

Fighting the glorification of Nazism

One of Russia's key initiatives concerns the upcoming 75th anniversary celebration of the Soviet Union's Victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War and the creation of the United Nations.

At the BRICS summit in Brasilia, Putin suggested discussing a possible joint statement on those events.

The Russian leader pointed out that it was important to discuss attempts to glorify the Nazis and Nazi collaborators, and to stand together to support a world order based on international law and the UN Charter.

As Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Pankin said at a meeting of the Victory organizing committee, BRICS countries plan to host events dedicated to the 75th anniversary celebration of the Victory.

Agencies

said later he did not want to go to war. The protests also cast uncertainty bassy's main compound, however.

ed to stay for a long time.

and work tirelessly to create a better

Russian President Vladimir Putin

said in his New Year message for the

Russian people: "We are living in tur-

bulent, dynamic and contradictory

times, but we can and must do eve-

rything for Russia to develop suc-

cessfully, so that everything in our

He called for unity and concerted

efforts by the Russian people, noting

"our personal plans and dreams are

German Chancellor Angela Mer-

kel, in her New Year's Eve address,

appealed for courage and confi-

dence of the German people to meet

She emphasized the need to halt

climate change, a "real" threat. The

vounger generation will have to live

with the consequences of climate

change if politicians do not act,

Merkel said, adding that she will do

her utmost to ensure that Germany

"makes its contribution ecologically,

economically, socially" to get the is-

sue under control.

the challenges of the new decade.

lives changes only for the better."

inseparable from Russia."

future for humanity.'

Saddam Hussein.

25 fighters and wounded 55.

U.S. civilian contractor in a rocket attack on an Kataib Hezbollah.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

fulfil the will of the electorate and troubles.

take us out of the European Union,"

said Johnson. "We can start a new

chapter in the history of our coun-

try, in which we come together and

move forward united, unleashing

the enormous potential of the Brit-

For 2020, Japanese Prime Min-

ister Shinzo Abe in his New Year's

statement on Wednesday made re-

forms a priority for his government,

including creating a social security

system that can help people live in a

Abe also expressed his hope for

a successful execution of the Tokyo

Olympics and Paralympics to be

held this summer, saying he hopes

the games will be a wonderful event

that will excite children and let them

When sending New Year greet-

ings via social networks on Tuesday, Chile's President Sebastian Pinera

described 2019 as a difficult year

for the South American country,

which has since mid-October suf-

fered widespread anti-government

have dreams for the future.

more carefree manner.

ish people."

"But it left us valuable lessons and opportunities so that together we can build a better Chile for all," he said, adding that the new year is a good time to make balances and projections and work to heal the wounds of the country.

In his end-of-year address to the nation Tuesday evening, Cameroon's President Paul Biya vowed to continue fighting armed separatists in the central African country, saying the separatists pose "one of the most urgent problems.'

Meanwhile, he said new legislations on greater autonomy to local communities and bilingual and multicultural practices are paving the way for a new Cameroon that is "adapted to present times and looks to the future.

Zambia's President Edgar Lungu in his New Year address broadcast on state television on Tuesday described 2019 as "a very challenging year" with extreme weather greatly affecting agricultural production and electricity generation.

Xinhua

In the New Year's Eve address "The first item on my agenda is to protests fueled by anger over social Top DPRK leader warns US against falling into impasse over nuke talks

message at 10 Downing Street.

PYONGYANG

TOP leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un has blamed the United States for the impasse of bilateral nuclear talks, the official Korean Central News Agency reported vesterday.

At the Fifth Plenary Session of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Tuesday, Kim said the

more the United States stalls for time and more dangerous and reaching serious phase.'

> Noting that Pyongyang has taken measures to build confidence in bilateral ties, including halting nuclear tests and shutting down a test ground. Kim rebuked Washington for conducting tens of joint military drills and threatening Pyongyang with the shipment of ultra-modern warfare equipment into South Korea. "There is no ground for us to get unilaterally

bound to the commitment any longer," Kim said, adding that "the world will witness a new strategic weapon to be possessed by the DPRK in the near future," without giving details of the

"If the U.S. persists in its hostile policy towards the DPRK, there will never be the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and the DPRK will steadily develop necessary and prerequisite strategic weapons for the security of the state, until the U.S. rolls back its hostile policy towards the DPRK and lasting and durable peace-keeping mechanism is built," he said.

CHINA is becoming increasingly attractive to investment thanks to its significant improvement in business environment in recent years, foreign economic experts and scholars told People's Daily.

China joined the world's top 10 most improved economies for ease of doing business for the second year in a row, according to the World Bank's annual doing business report released on Oct. 24.

The country ranked 31st among 190 economies globally on the ease of doing business rankings, a significant improvement compared with the 46th place in last year's rankings, the report said.

China has achieved great success in improving business environment, leaping from the 78th place two years ago to the 31st place, said Marcin Piatkowski, a senior economist at the World Bank, attributing the remarkable achievement to the Chinese government's comprehensive business environment reform.

hesitates in the settlement of the DPRK-U.S. relations, the deeper it will fall into an impasse. In his report, Kim blamed Washington for the current difficulties facing Pyongyang, saying the United States "applied the most brutal and inhuman sanctions against and posed the persistent nuclear threat" to the DPRK over the past seven decades, and that the current situation on the Korean Peninsula "is getting China never stops efforts to expand opening-up

flagship publication, documented

regulatory reforms implemented

globally during the 12 months to May

1, 2019. Overall 115 economies around

the world implemented 294 business

regulatory reforms making it easier

China has shown a notable im-

provement in eight areas including

starting a business and dealing with

construction permits, the report said.

For example, the country streamlined

the process of dealing with construc-

tion permits and getting electricity,

and reducing the time for administra-

China has made encouraging pro-

gress in improving its business envi-

ronment. In terms of nurturing new

businesses, it ranks higher, said Ste-

phen Roach, a senior fellow at Yale

As the report points out, the Chi-

tive approval.

University.

to do business, the report showed.

Doing Business 2020, a World Bank nese government has achieved concrete results in supporting start-ups, which indicates the country's focus on technological innovation.

> China unveiled its first regulation on improving business environment on recently. Drawing on past experience and aligning with advanced international levels, the regulation codifies the country's reform measures that have been proven workable, obtained people's satisfaction and supported by the market entities. It provides an institutional guarantee to improve business environment.

> The World Bank welcomes China's measures to further improve business environment, said Marcin. Beijing and Shanghai have implemented a slew of ground-breaking reform measures, and their successful experiences are expected to be applied in other cities in the country, he pointed

China still has potential to improve its business environment indicators such as credit and cross-border trade, Marcin noted, adding that the improvement in business environment will help boost the high-quality development of the country's economy.

Wang Jiangyu, associate professor at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore, hailed China's regulation on improving business environment as a far-reaching reform measure. It will legally guarantee entrepreneurship and transactions in the country and promote the transformation of the government's role, Wang added.

At present, some international institutions have lowered their expectations on the growth of the world economy amid rising protectionism.

China, as one of the major engines driving world economic growth, will boost its own growth and carry positive implications for global economic development through optimizing its business environment.

The World Bank's cross-border indicators showed that China is striving to reduce the cost of importing goods, demonstrating its resolve to expand opening-up, Marcin pointed

Katsuyuki Hasegawa, chief economist at Mizuho Research Institute Ltd., said China is translating challenges into opportunities through continuous efforts to promote structural reform.

The country has taken measures to improve business environment, including relaxing regulations for foreign enterprisers, opening its market to the world and deepening structural reform, Katsuyuki noted, adding that China's drive for greater openness is of great significance to the stability and development of the

world economy. Kiyoshi Fushitani, senior managing

executive officer of Japan's ORIX Corporation, shared some observations about improvement in China's business environment as the company's businesses entered China since the 1980s. Kiyoshi noted that he really felt the

Chinese government's emphasis on business environment, from release of relevant laws and regulations to vigorous efforts of governments at all

An enabling business environment is a beneficial to both Chinese and foreign enterprises, and will create a more open market environment and provide opportunities for more foreign companies to develop in China, he added.

"China has never stopped efforts to expand opening-up, and we are impressed by its firm resolve to further open its market to the world", Kiyoshi exclaimed.

People's Daily

Guardian www.ippmedia.com



2020 to have 'milestone significance'

CHINA'S GDP is expected to edge close to 100 trillion yuan (US\$14.3 trillion) with the per capita figure reaching US\$10,000, President Xi Jinping said in his New Year's speech on Tuesday.

Xi highlighted the steady progress of the country's high-quality development in 2019 in his speech and extended his New Year's wishes for 2020.

"The year 2020 will be a year of milestone significance," Xi said, noting that the country will complete its task of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and secure a decisive victory in eliminating

About 340 impoverished counties and more than 10 million people were lifted from poverty in 2019. Xi vowed in his speech to do the same for all poverty-stricken rural residents and to eliminate poverty in all impoverished counties in 2020.

Saying China continues to embrace the world in 2019, Xi noted that the number of countries that China has established diplomatic relations with has reached 180. "We have friends all over the world."

Xi reiterated China's commitment to peaceful development, and said the country will unswervingly uphold world peace and promote common development.

Human history, like a river, runs forever, he said, witnessing both peaceful moments and great disturbances. "We are not afraid of storms and dangers and barriers.'

China is willing to join hands with all countries in the world to jointly build the Belt and Road, to push forward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and to make unremitting efforts for the creation of a beautiful future for humanity, he said.

Xi spoke of attending the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Macao Special Adminis-December 20 and said Macao's suc- m.

cess indicates that the principle of "one country, two systems" is fully applicable, achievable and popular.

He extended his best wishes to compatriots of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and said, "In recent months, our hearts have been concerned about the situation in Hong Kong."

"Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can people live in peace and enjoy their work?" he said.

"We sincerely hope for the best for Hong Kong and Hong Kong compatri-

"Hong Kong's prosperity and stability is the wish of Hong Kong compatriots and the expectation of the people of our motherland."

Xi spoke of several significant achievements during 2019, such as China's lunar probe Chang'e 4 landing on the far side of the Moon, the launch of the Long March 5 Y3 rocket, the opening of Beijing Daxing International Airport and the commercial

application of 5G technology. He said coordinated regional development further accelerated in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Region, the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Yangtze River

Behind China's development in all sectors is its continuous reform and opening-up, Xi said, citing several examples of progress, from reform of Party and government institutions to the establishment of Free Trade Zones, from cuts of more than 2 trillion yuan in tax and other miscellaneous fees to lower costs for medicine and cheaper and faster internet con-

While praising the country's steady progress in the reform of national defense and military systems in 2019, Xi mentioned the first domestically built aircraft carrier commissioned two weeks ago in Hainan province.

Xi's heart is also with those orditrative Region to the motherland on an nary people whose deeds touched hi

Uganda deports South African music icon ahead of end of year performance

KAMPALA

UGANDAN immigration and security authorities on Tuesday deported South African music icon Yvonne Chaka Chaka ahead of her End of Year and New Year performance in the capital, Kampala, over visa irregularities, a police spokesperson said.

Fred Enanga, Uganda's police spokesperson, said Chaka Chaka (pictured) who was supposed to perform at the Buganda Kingdom End of Year Show, dubbed Enkuuka Y'Omwaka at Mengo, was escorted to Entebbe International Airport, about 40 km south of the capital to board a flight back to South Africa.



"The security task team in close coordination with immigration officials has this afternoon escorted Chaka Chaka to Entebbe International airport where she boarded her immediate flight to South Africa via Kigali [Rwanda]," said

"The foreign musician had initially been granted an ordinary visa which was cancelled by immigration officials after it was realized she had come as a performing artist in one of the New Year events," he said.

The police spokesperson said Chaka Chaka together with her promoters were advised to apply for a working visa for her music performance and avoid the pretence of being an ordinary visi-

"The ordinary visa can't enable her to perform in any income generating activity within the country," said Enanga.

"This has been done by the immigration officials with the security team to help maintain the integrity of our immigration rules to all visitors to our country including foreign musicians," he said. Xinhua

Johnson pledges new decade of prosperity, opportunities for post-Brexit Britain

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Tuesday night that the first item on his agenda "is to fulfil the will of the electorate" and take the country out of the European Union (EU) by the end of January.

In his first New Year's message at 10 Downing Street, Johnson said that the bongs of Big Ben at midnight was the starting gun being fired on what promises to be a fantastic year and a remarkable decade for Britain, urging people of Britain to join together to make the 2020s a decade of prosperity and opportunity.

Speaking of bringing Britain out of the EU, he said, "This should have happened already, but we were thwarted by a Parliament determined to use every trick in the book to stop us leaving the EU.'

As 2019 is waving goodbye, Johnson said Britain can also turn the page on the division, rancour and uncertainty which has dominated public life and held the country back for far too long.

"We can start a new chapter in the history of our country, in which we come together and move forward united, unleashing the enormous potential of the British people," he add-

"We can finally spend 2020 getting on with delivering on the people's priorities: boosting the National Health Service (NHS) with the biggest cash injection in its history, renewing schools, backing scientists, building better infrastructure, controlling immigration, making our streets safer, cleaning up our environment, and making our Union stronger," he said.

Reaffirming his promise that the NHS will always be his top priority, Johnson said one of the government's first actions will be to pass a bill enshrining in law a record funding settlement for the NHS, providing an extra 34 billion pounds (45 billion U.S. dollars) a year.

"We will undertake the largest hospital building program in living memory," he added, promising a boost in education and cutting-edge science. Concluding his message, he cited new trading relationships with nations around the world, generating jobs and growth as well as British scientists and engineers transforming the way people live, curing incurable diseases and making transport cleaner, greener and quieter.

British politicians will return next week to the House of Commons to continue the passage through parliament of Johnson's Brexit bill to end Britain's nearly-half-a-century membership of the EU.

Xinhua

AU says Guinea Bissau's election held in free, transparent manner

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to Guinea-Bissau's presidential election on Tuesday disclosed that the election was "conducted in peace and security necessary for the free expression of suffrage.'

"The AUEOM congratulates the Bissau Guinean people for their political maturity and for their ownership of the electoral process.

It noted that the vote was conducted in peace and security necessary for the free expression of suffrage," the AUEOM to Guinea-Bissau said in its preliminary election outcome statement issued late Tuesday.

"Notwithstanding the few rare incidents, the election campaign and the vote went on hitch-free over the entire national territory. Overall, the election was free, regular and transparent," the 55-member pan African bloc's election observation mission disclosed.

The AU, which deployed a high-level observation mission to Guinea-Bissau that was led by the Sao Tome and Principe's former Prime Minister Joaquim Raphael Branco, also stressed that the second round of the presidential election on December 29 "marks a decisive milestone in the country's political history. Bissau Guineans voted in calm and

The AUEOM also noted that the delegates of candidates, who were mostly youths, were present in all the polling stations visited, and that they "displayed a proper mastery of procedures.

They were in possession of voter lists which permitted them to better followup and verify the voting." Since no candidate won more than 50 percent of the ballots during the first round that was



Prime Minister Joaquim Raphael Branco

held on Nov. 24, the top two candidates, government and the National Popular Domingos Simoes Pereira, candidate of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, and Umaro Sissoco Embalo, supported by the Movement for Democratic Alternation, competed on Sunday for the presidency of Guinea-Bissau for the next five years

The National Election Commission (NEC) of Guinea-Bissau had also on Sunday disclosed that the results presidential election would be announced on Jan. 1, as it urged the candidates not to disclose election results, since "the publication of the results is exclusively reserved for the NEC."

candidates in the election," also on Tuesday called for calm and restraint while they await the announcement of the results.

The preliminary election outcome statement also urged the Guinea-Bissau

Assembly to work towards the preservation of social peace and national unity, reinforce the means of NEC to enable it to better accomplish its missions, as well as to improve the voter registration system. It also called on the NEC to reinforce

and harmonize the monitoring of electoral personnel in the polling stations on the entire national territory, while the presidential candidates have been also urged to resort to legal means in the case of election contests, promote gender balance and youth involvement in politics, give priority to consensus and the competition of ideas, as well as to en-The AUEOM, which welcomed "the deavor to avoid conflicts of identity; The spirit of patriotism and fair play of the AUEOM also called on the international community to continue its support to Guinea-Bissau in its effort to consolidate the achievements of democracy in order to engender peace, stability, the rule of law and sustainable development.

Law on liberalisation of currency control comes into force

MOSCOW

AMENDMENTS to the law 'On currency regulation and currency control' relates to the liberalization of restrictions for international trade settlements, entered into force on January 1, 2020. The government of the Russian Federation spearheaded those amendments to legislation. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the law in early August 2019.

The law lifts restrictions on currency transactions by residents using accounts (deposits) opened with banks located outside Russia, and the repatriation of funds. The document was drafted by the Finance Ministry in accordance with the federal project: 'Systemic Measures to Develop International Cooperation and Exports' within the National Project "International Cooperation and Export'.

The legislation removes the requirements for residents to repatriate export revenues in Russian currency regarding non-resource commodities and a gradual removal of that requirement regarding the export of raw commodities starting January 1, 2020.

Meanwhile, the repatriation requirement has not been lifted on international trade agreements (contracts) concluded by residents and non-residents with the

amount of liabilities denominated in Russian currency, which may also stipulate payment in rubles, envisioning the transfer of goods related to timber and wood products by a resident to a non-resident.

The repatriation requirement regarding international trade agreements concluded between residents, who are participants in the budget process at the federal level, federal state budget (autonomous) institutions, federal state unitary enterprises, and non-residents, has not been removed as

Senior Lawyer at Deloitte Legal in the CIS Elina Koskina said the removal of the repatriation requirement would enable

currency residents to terminate their obligations on such contracts using any permitted method, even by offsetting counter claims, which is not possible under the majority of contracts now.

"That amendment may particularly contribute to the expansion of the use of the Russian ruble in international trade settlements," she explained.

According to Senior Lawyer at KPMG Law Russia & CIS Anton Rudney, by supporting the national currency, lawmakers virtually provided exporters with a reasonable commercial choice: either shift the risks of currency fluctuations to non-residents by obliging them to settle contracts in

rubles, or continue incurring the repatriation obligation if payments for the exports are made in foreign currency.

"It is necessary to keep in mind that apart from international trade contracts, liberalization did not affect loan agreements, which provide for lending to nonresidents.

Under such agreements, residents are obliged to ensure the repayment of money to their accounts in authorized banks irrespective of the currency stipulated by the contract or the currency, in which the respective settlements are made," Rudnev

China actively opens up to achieve win-win development with the world

AGAINST the backdrop of increasing uncertainties and destabilizing factors in the world economy, China has taken firm and strong actions to open wider, which is of significance for boosting confidence in the global market.

China ranks 31st out of 190 economies in terms of ease of doing business, up from the 46th last year, according to a newly-released report by the World Bank. It is the second year in a row that the country has ranked among the top 10 economies in the world that improved the most on the ease of doing

Such rankings fully demonstrate that China has gained a vote of confidence from the international community for its reform and opening-up and economic prospects.

China has made pragmatic efforts against difficulties to improve its business environment. Since the beginning of this year, the country has introduced a series of policies and measures to create a more attractive business environment.

In March, it passed the foreign investment law to provide stronger protection for overseas investors. Later in June, the country rolled out new negative lists for foreign investment market access and a revised catalogue of industries that encourage foreign investment to further open up, both of which went into effect starting from

China also set up a new batch of pilot free trade zones in the six provincial regions in August, including Shandong, Jiangsu

In October, the country revised the regulations on management of foreign-invested insurance and of foreign-invested banking firms to further open up its insurance and banking sectors to foreign investors.

A few days ago, China made public a regulation on optimizing business environment to legalize effective practices of streamlining administration, delegating powers, strengthening regulation and improving services in the past few years.

Aligning with advanced international levels, the regulation specifies the basic principles and directions for fostering a fair and equal business environment for all market players, including both domestic and for-

eign companies. The new policy will ensure equal market access and protect fair competition, Reuters commented.

China is determined to deepen reform and open wider to the outside world. As a contributor to and a beneficiary of economic globalization, China will remain steadfast in pursuing the path of peaceful development and an opening-up strategy of mutual benefit to continue adding impetus to an open world economy, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory letter to the fourth Understanding China Conference that opened on Oct. 26 in Guangzhou, south China's

Guangdong province. China will work with other countries to promote economic globalization and make it more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all, he said.

By creating a law-based, in-

ternationalized and businessfriendly business environment, China is able to form a new pattern of all-round opening-up. Increasingly, the country is playing a leading role in further integrating into the world economy and securing common development with other countries.

Martin Jacques, a British scholar, thinks that China contrasts sharply with some western countries in terms of the attitude towards openness and globalization, as China is becoming more and more open, while some western countries are showing the opposite tendency.

A sound business environment makes the economy more productive, competitive and attractive. With a constantly optimizing business environment, China and foreign companies have achieved more win-win

results. While global foreign direct investment slid for the third consecutive year in 2018, 30,871 foreign-invested enterprises were newly established in China in the first three quarters of this year, with the actual use of foreign capital increasing by 6.5 percent year on year.

According to a report from the Ministry of Commerce, foreigninvested enterprises, which account for less than 3 percent of the total number of enterprises in China, contribute nearly half to the country's foreign trade, a quarter of the output value and profits of industrial enterprises above the designated size, and one fifth of the tax revenue. They have become a vital part of

China's open economy. U.S. electric automaker Tesla Inc. said the trial production of its Shanghai gigafactory ahead

of schedule is a major reason for the company's better-thanexpected financial results in the third quarter. China's opening-up gathers

strong momentum. Earlier this

month, the first Qingdao Multi-

nationals Summit was successfully held, where more than 100 companies on the Fortune Global 500 list shared their vision about China's opportunities. The 2nd China International Import Expo, which will be held from Nov. 5 to 10, has attracted

terprises to participate than the first one. China is opening wider to the world and taking active actions to create new opportunities for the development of all countries

the world.

more countries, regions and en-

and inject strong impetus into People's Daily

Guardian



Simba SC's midfielder, Said Ndemla (2nd R), attempts to shoot the ball past Ndanda FC defenders when the two clubs clashed in a Vodacom Premier League duel, played in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Simba won 2-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

A refined Kapalua presents different test to start new year

KAPALUA, HAWAII

LUSH green grass, Pacific blue horizon.

That much about the Plantation Course at Kapalua hasn't changed for the 34 winners on the PGA Tour last year who have assembled for the Sentry Tournament of Champions. Fifteen players are competing for the first time and won't notice the \$12.5 million refinement project by designers Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw.

Dustin Johnson did.

"It's definitely a little harder," said Johnson, who has been playing every morning as the sun climbs over the horizon and is done with 18 holes before the breakfast buffet has been cleared. "The greens are firmer because they're new. The greens are firm and the fairways are soft. I think it will play more difficult."

What really got his attention was the third hole, which for 10 years has been a driver and a wedge. With a new tee some 30 yards farther back, and facing a stiff trade win, Johnson blasted driver and reached for a 6-iron.

"I knew it was longer and that I'd have longer in," Johnson said. "I didn't think I'd have that far. It's a difficult green with wedge to get it close. With a 6-iron, it's not that much

This refinement was not all about length. The Plantation Course had grown old enough that it lost its speed from so much thatch in the grass. The idea was for this course to play fast. That would make it more difficult for elite players to control their shots, and make it easier for resort guests who found the course too long because the ball wasn't rolling as far as it once did.



In this Jan. 7, 2017, file photo, Dustin Johnson hits for the fourth fairway during the third round of the Tournament of Champions golf event at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. The course has gone through a refinement to prepare for the winners-only event on the PGA Tour that starts Thursday, Jan. 2. (AP Photo)

The entire course was grassed with a new strain called "Celebration Bermuda." The greens were redone with TifEagle Bermuda, with some ridges and plateaus added to create more hole locations and restore some shot-making value. Missing on the wrong spot of certain greens becomes more penal.

"Instead of having one gradual slope, now it's kind of turned into shelf," Justin Thomas said. "And you have to maybe focus a little bit more on being on the correct side of the shelf, or the correct side of the hole."

The course re-opened two months ago. The first big test is the Tournament of Champions.

Because the grass is new, and with ample rain over the last month, the fairways remain relatively soft. That should change over time. but there have been enough examples during practice to let players know what to expect.

Defending champion Xander Schauffele hammered a drive on the downhill, 667yard closing hole and was surprised to see it hop out of pitch mark instead of bouncing forward. The pitch mark was 8 feet behind where his ball finished.

"If it firms up, it's going to be awesome," said Kevin Kisner, who needs some roll to play a 7,596-yard course at par 73.

All the bunkers were rebuilt with drainage. Some were moved to tighten the landing area, such as on the 16th and most noticeably on the par-5 fifth. It appears to be in the middle of the fairway, but it narrows the landing area. For now, that might not be an issue because the fairway is soft enough it's hard for anyone to reach it.

The biggest change, at least for the players who have previously played this winnersonly event, are the sharpened slopes on some of the greens and the length, mainly on No. 3, 4, 9 and 10.

"Another one they renovated they didn't make shorter. I've yet to see that," Kisner said

Kisner hit 3-iron into a strong wind on the 409-yard third hole. On the ninth, playing the new tee, he hit driver and a 3-wood that barely reached the second portion of the fairway. That wasn't just because he doesn't hit it a country mile. J.B. Holmes, one of the longest hitters, said he barely cleared the steep slope to get back to the fairway.

Holmes wouldn't expect that tee to be used dead into the wind.

"They can set it up and make all the changes look terrible, or they can set it up and make it look good," he said. "Overall, I think they did a good job."

Holmes had a few complaints, such as the severity of the 13th green and the length on No. 3, saying the green wasn't designed for the club required into the wind.

Then again, no one is ever happy with change, especially on the PGA Tour.

"I've seen a redo on some golf courses and was like, 'What the hell were they thinking?' It's not like that here," Holmes said. "I think they made the shots more challenging."

Either way, it's the hardest event on the PGA Tour to play – winning is the only criteria. It's on the west end of Maui with endless views of the Pacific and the occasional splash of a humpback whale. There's no cut. Last place gets \$64,000.

"You never complain about being in Kapalua," Kisner said.

Harden has 35 as Rockets down Nuggets 130-104

HOUSTON

OW that the Houston Rockets are healthy, James Harden is excited for his team's

But he knows there will be ups and downs as his teammates figure out how to play together.

Harden scored 35 points after missing the last game with an injury to lead the Rockets to a 130-104 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night.

The Rockets were back to full strength after Harden missed his first game of the season because of a sprained right toe in a loss to New Orleans on Sunday. Clint Capela (bruised heel) and Russell Westbrook (load management) also returned after sitting out on Sunday in the 127-112 defeat. They got Eric Gordon back on Sunday after the guard sat out for about six weeks after arthroscopic knee

"We've just got to find a way," Harden said. "It will get there. We're not where we want to be obviously. It's still early in the season. But we've got to find a way to sustain it for four quarters and once we get that it's going to be pretty tough to beat us."

Houston pushed a small lead to a big advantage with a 19-3 run to start the fourth quarter. The Rockets were up by 17 when Harden scored five quick points, with a 3-pointer, to make it 118-96 with about 3 1/2 minutes left and end his night and that of most of Houston's starters.

Nikola Jokic scored 21 points for the Nuggets, who had a twogame winning streak snapped.

"Our defense wasn't there all night long," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "The turnovers were too much. Give them credit, they're a good team, but a really disappointing fourth quarter."

Westbrook had 28 points for his 11th straight game with 20 or more, the longest streak by a Rockets player besides Harden Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots as Denver Nuggets forward Torrey Craig defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, in Houston. (AP Photo) since Yao Ming did it in 14 games in a row in 2006.

The Nuggets used a 37-point third quarter to cut the lead to three, but the Rockets scored the first 12 points of the fourth to make it 104-89 with about 9 minutes left. Ben McLemore had two 3-pointers to power that spurt.

Denver got its first points of the quarter on a 3 by Torrey Craig after that. Houston then scored the next seven points, capped by a 3 from Harden to stretch the lead to 111-92 midway through the period.

Coach Mike D'Antoni was happy with the way the Rockets opened the fourth quarter, but was disappointed that they let up in the third to allow the Nuggets to cut the deficit.

"If you stop them and it went the other way the game could have been over (earlier)," he said. "But we have that tendency of letting people back in and we've got to develop better habits. Because if you want to go deep in the playoffs you can't just turn it on.'

The Rockets were up by 12 after a 3-pointer by Harden with about 7 minutes left in the third quarter. Jokic then scored four quick points to cut the lead the Raptors recorded their fifth to 78-70 midway through the quarter.

Houston remained up by eight later in the third when Harden, who had six 3-pointers, made three free throws to push it to 86-75.

The Rockets had pushed the lead to 10 with about 3 minutes left in the third before the Nuggets used an 11-4 run to the fourth. Malik Beasley led the Nuggets in that stretch, scoring five points capped by a 3-pointer with 2.7 seconds left.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, Kyle Lowry kept injury-ravaged Toronto rolling along by finishing off 2019 with another 20-point performance.

Terence Davis matched his compete every night. That's career high with 19 and the why his teammates always love Raptors beat the Cleveland him." Cavaliers 117-97 on Tuesday

Serge Ibaka had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored 14 points in his first start with Toronto as straight home win over the Cavaliers.

Toronto won for the fourth time in seven games since losing starters Pascal Siakam (groin), Marc Gasol (left hamstring) and Norman Powell (left shoulder) to injury.

Lowry, who did not speak to reporters, has scored 20 or more in eight of his past nine cut the lead to 92-89 entering games. He had 14 in a Christmas Day loss to Boston.

"Kyle Lowry is a Hall of Famer," Cleveland's Tristan Thompson said. "He's a fivetime All-Star, Olympic gold medalist, an NBA champ. He's their backbone.

"He keeps this ship running and he's playing at a high level. Lowry scored 24 points, Kyle's a bulldog, he's going to

AP



Bukima Village residents watch a canoeing race hosted by Rural Musoma Constituency's Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo, and took place at the village early this week. Eleven wards in the constituency entered teams in the race. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Kisses, cheers, fireworks welcome 2020 in Times Square



Eve celebration on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2019, in New York.

COUPLES kissed. Others cheered and waved balloons as fireworks burst into the night sky and confetti fell to welcome the start of 2020 in New York City's Times Square.

In one of the globe's most-watched New Year's Eve spectacles, the crowd counted down the last seconds of 2019 as a luminescent crystal ball descended down a pole. Throngs of people cheered and sang along to the X Ambassadors' soul-stirring rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine" just before midnight.

About 3,000 pounds (1.360)kilograms) confetti showered the sea of attendees, many of whom

as they waited in security pens for performances by stars including rap-pop star Post Malone, K-pop group BTS, country singer Sam Hunt and singer-songwriter Alanis Morissette.

The frenzied moment of celebration came after many hours of waiting for much of the crowd.

Eric and Aileen Sanchez-Himes brought their son and nephew from Framingham, Massachuetts, experience what they consider a "bucket list item." Eric packed granola bars and water in his coat in case they got hungry. They arrived at 10:30 a.m.

"I grew up in New York, in Brooklyn and the Bronx and I've never done this were also briefly rained and this was the first time

on earlier in the evening for us and what better year than 2020 to do this." Aileen said.

Mathieu Plesotsky, 25, visiting from Hesse, Germany, said he wanted to be a part of the spectacle after watching it for years on TV. He arrived in Times Square at 1 p.m. with his girlfriend and bopped along to the performers while waiting for the ball to drop.

"We've just stayed, stand, tried not to pee, danced to the Village People," he said.

Ever since the NYPD tightened security and began cracking down on public drinking years ago, Times Square on New Year's Eve has been an endurance contest as much as a raucous celebration.

AP



Mane set to crowned king of Africa as troubles rumble on

been erratic as they seek an unprecedented third straight title,

battling to overcome a Chadian

club then defying the odds to defeat

They have lost several 2019 title-

winning stars, including Algeria winger Youcef Belaili, and the

starting line-up for a group match

last weekend included only four

Record eight-time champions Al

Ahly of Egypt, TP Mazembe of the

Democratic Republic of Congo,

Mamelodi Sundowns of South

Africa and Casablanca clubs Raja

A new name will be engraved

on the trophy this year as recent

winners Ahly, Etoile Sahel of

Tunisia, Mazembe, Raja and

Zamalek of Egypt are all competing

Judged by group form up to the

halfway mark, Cairo outfit Pyramids

could become the third Egyptian

winners of a competition modelled

Emirati Salem al Shamsi has

containing stars from Burkina Faso,

Ghana, the Ivory Coast, Tunisia and

Zamalek are threatening to

boycott the February 14 match

against Esperance scheduled for

Qatar, a country Egypt accuses

of destabilising the Middle East

Controversial club chairman

Mortada Mansour says Zamalek will

change their stance only if ordered

"I do not understand why CAF

want to stage the match in a country

which is an enemy of Egypt. We

are African clubs so why should

we play in Asia?," Mansour asked

The six-month secondment

of FIFA secretary general Fatma

Samoura to crisis-plagued CAF

ends on January 31 and there will

be huge interest in what progress

Her brief was to introduce

reforms, notably in governance,

competitions and refereeing, to

an organisation World Soccer

magazine labelled the "biggest

Assisting Samoura is CAF

Ahmad

who has not commented on

various allegations against him,

including corruption, financial

There have been no broadcasts

in sub-Saharan Africa of CAF

national team and club fixtures

since November after a 12-year TV

deal with a French company was

Lagardere Sports paid one

million dollars (890,000 euros)

in 2017 for the TV and marketing

rights, but separate judgments

ruled the deal illegal because there

Desperate football followers have

resorted to streaming, but fixture

options are limited and the high

cost of internet data is an additional

was no tender process.

obstacle.

Ahmad,

sexual

to do so by the government.

during a press conference.

the Senegalese has made.

basket case in football".

misappropriation and

president

harassment.

CAF

on the UEFA Europa League.

Super Cup

and Wydad are potential threats.

Confederation Cup

in the Champions League.

Raja in Casablanca.

Tunisians.

JOHANNESBURG

LIVERPOOL sharpshooter Sadio Mane is expected to become the first African football headlinemaker of 2020 by winning the Player of the Year award in Egypt next week.

The January 7 ceremony will set in motion a year sure to be full of drama on and off the field with 2022 World Cup and 2021 Cup of Nations qualifiers in the mix.

AFP Sport looks at some of the issues facing the most popular sport in a continent where good footballers and bad administrators often share the media stage.

Consistent Liverpool scorer and Senegal talisman Mane is favoured to become the second star from his country after El Hadji Diouf to be named Player of the Year.

His rivals are Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah, the Egyptian who won the last two editions, and Algerian Riyad Mahrez of Manchester City.

The Player of the Year, and the winners of seven other male invested millions in a squad and female categories, will be dominated by Egyptians but also announced at a ceremony in Egyptian Red Sea resort Hurghada. World Cup

A couple of weeks after the awards banquet, Egypt will host another eagerly anticipated event, the draw in Cairo for the group stage of World Cup qualifying.

The latest FIFA rankings are expected to determine the seedings, meaning Senegal, Tunisia, Nigeria, Algeria, Morocco, Ghana, Egypt, Cameroon, Mali and DR Congo will be in pot one.

All those nations except Mali have played at the World Cup, and an Ivory Coast team that can call on the dazzling footwork of Wilfried Zaha could be the most dangerous second seeds.

Cup of Nations

Trouble lies ahead after a change from a January/February to June/ July tournament this year to avoid tug of wars between clubs and countries over the services of Europe-based stars.

The first revamped Club World Cup, featuring 24 teams, is set for June 17 to July 4 2021 in China, effectively ruling out a mid-year Cup of Nations in Cameroon.

Senior CAF officials say off the record that a return to January/ February dates is likely, and with it the possibility that an increasing number of players will put clubs

Nations Championship

Tunisia have reportedly decided because of fixture congestion to withdraw from the 2020 edition in Cameroon of the tournament for footballers playing in their country

Traditionally a biennial January/ February competition, it is slated for April 4 to 25 this year in three southern Cameroon cities, the capital, Yaounde, Douala and Limbe.

The 16-nation championship will test the readiness of Cameroon to stage the Cup of Nations next year after construction delays led to them being replaced by Egypt as 2019 hosts.

Champions League

Tunisian club Esperance have

Liverpool's desire to win trophies is immense







Jurgen Klopp

BY MARK OGDEN, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

AT some point this season, Liverpool's supporters will be able to enjoy the ride that will, barring an unprecedented loss of form or some strange alignment of the stars in the night sky, take them all the way to the club's first league title since 1990. But right now, despite enjoying a double-digit lead over their closest challengers at the top of the Premier League, nobody connected to the club -- player, fan, director or otherwise -- is daring to speak publicly about ending the 30year wait to be crowned champions of England again.

It's partly desperation and part fear of failure -- the scars are still raw from Steven Gerrard's slip against Chelsea which as good as cost Liverpool the title in 2014 -- but manager Jurgen Klopp appears to be the only person at Anfield who can see the funny side of the tension that is gripping the Liverpool fan base.

"They are [desperate for the title], Klopp laughs, during an interview with ESPN. "They are, but we cannot change that. We cannot change that it takes time, that you have to work, that you have to play all the games.

"It is not for sure that we will win it. We have a chance obviously. We've created a good base so far, but we have to fight in each game like crazy. Nothing is easy for us.'

But are the fans too scared of something going wrong to even dare mention their desire to see the Premier League trophy hoisted aloft by captain Jordan Henderson next May?

"No, no, no, people tell me that constantly," Klopp said. "When I see them, they constantly tell me that. But the only thing what I can say is 'I try' or 'we try.' I cannot promise more. That's how it is.

"When I became champion with Dortmund, it was always the same question. It's always about 'come on, do you want to be champion?' Of course you want to be champion. 'But will you be champion?' I don't know. It's not interesting to me until

One thing that is certain amid all the nervous tension, however, is that no Liverpool supporter would rather have anyone else leading their title charge than Klopp. The 52-year-old German, who ended Borussia Dortmund's nine-year wait for a Bundesliga title back in 2010-11, has become the coach that every other club would dream to have since succeeding Brendan Rodgers at Anfield in Oct 2015. Pep Guardiola might have more trophies on the board than Klopp, but nobody connects to their club's supporters quite like Klopp, and it's difficult to argue that even Guardiola's City have been a more exciting, scintillating

the pressure that comes with chasing silverware to become a burden

shows why he's the perfect man for have and, if you work for it, it's not more trophies. If it's greed, I don't Liverpool. Expectancy is huge at Anfield, but Klopp has harnessed it as a positive energy -- Barcelona's capitulation in last season's 4-0 Champions League semifinal secondleg defeat is an example of the irresistible force he can create -- and the ability of his team to overcome the disappointment of finishing second on 97 points last season is down to the manager's refusal to focus on the negative.

"Common sense," Klopp said, when asked how he turned finishing second into a positive. "Yes, we were disappointed, but if your main contender is Man City, you can't expect to just get something only because you do your best, because they did it as well.

"We pushed each other through the league and we were disappointed, yes, but of course it helped that we had three weeks later a big final [in the Champions League] for us. It helped, for sure, but the disappointment after the season was not as much as we would maybe expect. And not because we didn't want it. I think everyone saw we really wanted it. Just because we accept the reality. That's how it is. That's what I said

"All Liverpool supporters wanted to be champion, and it didn't work out, obviously. We try again and again and it is what we do this year with a slightly better basis than usually. That is all."

There has been no hangover from finishing second. Instead, Liverpool have torn the field apart, winning 18 of 19 games so far in the Premier League. Klopp has built a team of all talents that dominated the ESPN 100, from the world's best goalkeeper, Alisson Becker, a colossus at centrehalf in Virgil van Dijk, two worldclass full-backs in Andy Robertson and Trent Alexander-Arnold and a forward line of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane that has proved to be the best on the planet in 2019. And now it has all come together to create arguably the best team in the world.

"We are not dreamers," Klopp said. "We work for the things we want to immense. It's big, it's massive to win about will we really be it or what."

guaranteed that you get it. It's only chance that you get anything, and that's what we try and that's exactly what we did again.

"The mood was brilliant when we started the season again. We play for everything. The Super Cup is a good example. We didn't know exactly how important it is. When we won it, it felt sensational, but we had no clue before."

The UEFA Super Cup, won via a penalty shootout against Europe League winners Chelsea in Istanbul in August, was the Reds' second trophy of 2019 following the Champions League success against Tottenham two months earlier. Liverpool then added the FIFA Club World Cup in December, beating Flamengo in Doha, Qatar, to become world champions for the first time.

who were becoming viewed as maybe 10 clubs who can win the "nearly men," Liverpool and Klopp Champions League.' There were have flipped it around to become a more teams in obviously at that team and coach that might just win everything this season. Two trophies are in the bag and they already have one hand on the Premier League moment like this, but we are. That's title. Who's to say they won't retain what we should try, and that's how the Champions League and win the FA Cup, too?

But for Klopp, wanting to win again and again is not greed. It is simply a desire to experience glory as often as possible.

"Is it greed? I'm not sure," he said. It's like this desire you want to have trophies. I don't think it's real greed. We have improved our opportunities obviously with different things, with the players we brought in and to work together for a while of course with more experience. Stuff like this.

"Getting used to different situations more and more [is helpful too]. You know a defeat is a defeat, but if you learn, it still makes sense, like the Champions League final [defeat to Real Madrid] the year before, when [Liverpool] lost that. It's not that we really learned something from the final, but the way to the final or the way to the next final, the experience for me before helped us a lot.

"I really think our desire is

know, but yeah. Who cares?"

Despite the insistence around the club, Liverpool are in a good position to sweep the board in 2020. Even Klopp admits that is basic numbers.

"A lot of teams can do that to be honest," he said. "OK, with the Premier League, maybe it's now three teams. I don't know exactly who can win it still, and the Champions League there are still 16 teams who can win it.

"The FA Cup? I don't know exactly how many teams are in still, but that's how it is yes. The good thing is that if you think about it, you don't think we have no chance, and that's a start. We have a chance. But we knew that.

"I remember two years ago, before when we qualified for the Champions League after the Hoffenheim game, we had a meeting. I said to the boys, From being a team and a coach 'look, in the competition there are moment, a lot of teams are part of it, but about 10 clubs can win it. We are one of them. It doesn't feel in the we took the Champions League, for example.

"With the Premier League, it's slightly different and difficult when you see the dominance of Man City for the past three years. You work on that, you hope for it but you don't know exactly. So we are no dreamers. We are just quite positive about our skills and our relationship and the things we do together and the things we want to achieve together.

"So we will see what happens. Nobody knows if we win one of these trophies, but we will work of course."

But unlike those at Liverpool who are facing sleepless nights as the long wait for the title ticks down, Klopp won't be worrying too much.

"I don't have to know when it will be or whatever," he said. "There is a final match day in May sometime, I don't even know exactly when it is.

"So if we are then top of the table, believe me we will celebrate it, but until then we don't have to think

Klopp EXCLUSIVE:

team than the current Liverpool side. Ultimately, Klopp's refusal to allow



Guardia Mark Mark Company Comp

CAF snubs Tanzania's referees for CHAN 2020 finals

Liverpool's desire to win trophies is immense

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Jonesia Rukyaa to officiate Dar derby for fourth time

By Guardian Correspondent

REFEREE Jonesia Rukyaa will take charge of the Dar es Salaam derby match pitting Simba SC against Young Africans (Yanga), scheduled for Saturday at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The clash, dubbed Dar derby, will be the only Vodacom Premier League game in the day and Rukyaa, who is among the country's six FIFA accredited referees, will officiate the match and she will be assisted by other FIFA accredited match officials, Soud Lila and Hamisi Chang'walu.

Hery Sassi, also a FIFA referee, will be the Dar derby's fourth official while Khalid Bitebo will be the match

Rukyaa is no stranger to Simba and Yanga affairs, with this being the fourth time she is officiating the Dar

Her first Dar derby she was chosen for happened in 2014. The game finished in a 2-0 victory in favour of Simba in promotional match, dubbed 'Nani Mtani Jem-

In February 20, 2016 she was in charge once again when Yanga won 2-0 in a Vodacom Premier League match where she sent off Simba defender Abdi Banda on the 21st minute.

The last Dar derby she was chosen for happened in 2018. The game finished in a barren draw.

In heated moments and highly charged atmosphere, Rukyaa has never been shy about showing the cards. In the three Dar derby games that she has officiated, she has brandished two red cards.

She sent off Yanga defender Kelvin Yondani for a bad tackle on Simba winger Ramadhan Singano in her first derby. She then followed it up with another marching order for Banda in her second derby.

Rukvaa was also in the spotlight in the Kagera and Simba suspension controversy where she was the fourth official and had to give evidence before a TFF committee set up to investigate Mohamed Fakhi yellow

There will be a lot more than bragging rights at stake this weekend as Simba are 10 points clear at the top of

A defeat for Yanga will not only extend their derby winless run to five games but also put them in a quite



By Correspondent Michael

match at 2020 Af-Nations Championship (CHAN) finals will be refereed by a Tanzanian official after a list of match officials released by the continental football governing body, CAF, deemed them not good enough to handle any game in Cam-

The tournament will run from April 4 to 25, 2020. Sixteen African nations including Tanzania and defending champions



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia (R), and the federation's vice-president, Athuman Nyamlani, speak to journalists at the body's recent press conference which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO; COURTESÝ OF TFF

Morocco will take part in the - Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Djiboucompetition.

Tanzania qualified for the second time after overcoming Sudan and Kenya.

CAF selected a total of 39 referees and assistants from 29 countries to officiate in the sixth edition of the tournament for home-based players.

Council of East Central Africa Football Associations(CECAFA) members

ti, Eritrea, Rwanda and Burundi - have officials in the champion-

The regional soccer body's other member, Ethiopia, is also has no single official in the tournament.

Tanzania has four centre referees on the FIFA male referees panel, Emmanuel Mwandembwa, Hery Sassi, Mfaume Nassoro and Martin Saanya.

There are as well as six male assistant referees, Ferdinand Chacha, Mbaraka Haule, Mgaza Kinduli, Frank Komba, Soud Lila and Mohamed Mkono.

Female center referees approved by FIFA include Jonesia Rukyaa and Florentina Zablon.

The continental football governing body has also approved four female assistant referees, Janet Balama, Hellen Mduma, Dalila Mtwana and Grace Wamala.

Mokos Teklu Tsegay (Eritrea), Jean-Claude Ishimwe (Rwanda), Zakaria Mahmoud (Egypt), Gatogato (Burundi), Daouda Gueye (Senegal), Samir Guezzaz (Morocco), Mahmoud Ismail (Sudan), Daniel Laryea (Ghana), Ali Moussa Mohamed (Niger), Lahlou

Benbraham (Algeria), Atchou Pierre (Gabon), Mohamed Mansour (Egypt), Rakotojaona Andofetra (Madagascar),Haythem Guurat (Tunisia), Peter Waweru (Kenya), Souleiman Ahmed Djama (Djibouti), Heerali Ahmad Imtehaz (Mauritius), Dahane Beida (Mauritania), Janny Sikazwe (Zambia), and Papa Gassama (Gambia)

Assistant referees:

James Fredrick Emille (Seychelles), Sanou Habib Oumar (Burkina Faso), Dick Okello (Uganda), Wahid Youssef Elbosaty (Egypt), Abdi Salah Mohamed (Djibouti), Jawo Abdul Aziz Bollel (Gambia), Mathew Kanyanga (Namibia), Jospin Luckner Malonga (Central Africa Republic), Abdoul Aziz Moctar Saley (Niger), Samuel Pwadutakam (Nigeria), Nouha Bangoura (Senegal), Dos Reis MontenegroAbelmiro (Sao Tome & Principe), Ditsoga Boris Mariaise (Gabon), Hassan Khalil (Tunisia), Styven Moutsassi Moyo Danek (Congo), Brinsi Zakaria (Morocco), Abdi Hamza (Somalia), Soulaimane Almadine (Comoro), and Lionel Haisinjaosoa Andrianantea (Madagascar).

Defense was our only option against Simba SC, says Ndanda FC coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

NDANDA FC's coach, Abdul Mingange, said he banked on a defensive strategy to keep Simba SC at bay on Tuesday and avoid an embarrassing score.

Ndanda FC barely tested the Simba SC defense in a Vodacom Premier League match played at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

FC's half but Mingange said he did not regret his approach.

"I have been with the team for only two weeks, this is my second match after import Francis Kahata was topped up might have played with their mind already

the Federation Cup. We were not overwhelmed, that was a strategic approach. I had not played against a strong opponent such as Simba before. The time I had was not enough to prepare for such an encounter," Mingange told reporters after the defeat.

"If you open up against Simba, they will punish you. Did you expect to see us play Most of the game, which ended with open football and be humiliated 7-0? I Simba winning 2-0, took place in Ndanda did not want to win, I needed to keep the score line respectable. Do you know how Ndanda players are?" he retorted.

A first half free kick strike from Kenyan

Ndanda FC winless streak to six matches since their 2-0 victory over Ruvu Shooting in November.

The results leave the Mtwara-based club second from bottom after collecting eight points in their opening fourteen matches.

In the opposite bench, Simba head coach Sven Vandenbroek stated that he was not happy with his side's display despite managing the victory that extend their lead at the top of the table by 10 points.

Vandenbroek explained he was pleased reported after the match. by the mentality shown by his players who

by another goal by Deo Kanda to extend in weekend's Dar derby match against

"Our tempo was too low, we played old school football with always asking the ball on the feet instead of running. We only woke up in the last five minutes of the games.

"I am happy John Bocco played 90 minutes, I am happy Deo Kanda and Kahata scored again but I'm not happy with the mentality and intensity of quite a few guys. We have to change," the Belgian told

England board to back four-day test proposal - report

NEW DELHI

ENGLAND will be "cautiously" backing a proposal to make fourday tests mandatory from 2023 under the World Test Championship, joining a growing push to shorten the game's longest for-

International Cricket Council (ICC) cricket committee is set to discuss the issue next year as the game looks for ways to free up a crammed international calendar and reduce player workload.

"We believe it could provide a sustainable solution to the complex scheduling needs and play-

er workloads we face as a global sport," an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesperson told London's Daily Telegraph newspaper.

"We're definite proponents of the four-day test concept, but cautiously so, as we understand it's an emotive topic for players, fans and others who have concerns about challenging the heritage of test cricket."

The ECB did not immediately reply to a Reuters e-mail seeking further elaboration.

Ashes rivals Australia already seem to be taking the same view. Cricket Australia chief executive Kevin Roberts said last week that the board would "seriously consider" playing four-day tests.

The other "Big Three" member of the ICC, the powerful Indian board, has yet to declare its stance on the matter, with its president Sourav Ganguly saying he wants to see the proposal before commenting.

Four-day matches were given the green light by the ICC in 2017, when South Africa hosted one against Zimbabwe, while England played one against Ireland in July this year.

With an increasing number of test matches ending premature-

ly, the administrators are keen to free up more space in the schedules for lucrative shorter form matches.

Australia batsman Travis Head believes test cricket should not be denied the possibility of late drama on a fifth-day wicket. "I think that (five-day tests)

plays a lot with the wicket, brings spin into play," Head told reporters in Sydney on Tuesday.

"So I'd like to keep it at five days," he added, echoing skipper Tim Paine's view that test cricket should remain a five-day affair.

The Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA) fears the new gaps in calendar could well be filled with more

"It would take pressure off the schedule but our concern would be that the ad hoc way the schedule currently works they would simply plug in more cricket into the gaps," FICA chief Tony Irish told ESPNcricinfo.

While four-day tests allow a Thursday-to-Sunday scheduling, they require a minimum of 98 overs a day to be played, a challenge considering five-day matches already often fall short of their daily quota of 90 overs. REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko

J DIFFERENT COLOURS S ONE PEOPLE, DIFFERENT COLOURS ONE PEOPLE 5



