



CRIME



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JPM: Tourist arrivals too few relative to our status

Recent statistics released by the ministry show that the number of tourists entering the country increased from 1.3m in 2017 to 1.5m in 2018, with tourism generating \$2.4 billion, a 7.2 per cent rise from \$2.3 billion in 2017.

By Francis Kajubi

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has directed the Ministry of Natural Resources and

Tourism to employ more creative ways to increase the number of tourist arrivals which he termed as meager compared to the unique attractions Tanzania boasts.

In a speech read on his behalf in Dar

es Salaam yesterday by Chief Secretary Ambassador John Kijazi during the launch of a three-day Swahili International Tourism (SITE) Expo 2019, the president said the ministry and agencies tasked with tourism promotion

should do more to ensure that arrivals match the status of Tanzania as the land of Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Ngorongoro and other renowned tourism hotspots.

Recent statistics released by the ministry show that the number of tourists

entering the country increased from 1.3m in 2017 to 1.5m in 2018, with tourism generating \$2.4 billion, a 7.2 per cent rise from \$2.3 billion in 2017.

The president said that this is not enough given the size of the country

and its world-renowned attractions, advising the ministry and its agencies to increase more tourism products and conduct promotions to increase the number of arrivals and related income.

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'Ever booming use of internet not directed at development or productivity'

By Henry Mwangonde

EVEN as more than 20 million internet-connected devices are in use in Tanzania, the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has less to do with development, the government has cautioned.

Samson Mwela (pictured), acting director general of the Information and Communication Technology Commission (ICTC) said a number of local and foreign ICT products utilized in the country were not being used effectively for developmental ventures.

Mwela was briefing journalists on the coming Tanzania annual ICT Conference slated for Wednesday to Friday next week.

A report by the commission on the digital economy prepared for the International Chamber of Commerce shows that use of ICT products accounts for around 40 per cent of overall productivity growth among industrialized and emerging economies having membership in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) says that 40 million mobile phones are in use out of which about 24 million

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses participants of the President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards - 2018 ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday in tandem with an Annual Business Dinner. The twin events were organised by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries. Photo: PMO

TUCTA suspends Msigwa, deputy for 'abuse of office'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) has suspended its secretary general Dr Yahaya Msigwa and his deputy Jones Majura in the thick of allegations of misuse of funds and abuse of office.

TUCTA president Tumaini Nyamhokya confirmed yesterday when contacted by our sister paper Nipashe that the decision to suspend them was reached at an executive committee meeting on Friday last week which agreed that they should stay aside to pave the way for investigations.

"They have been suspended for investigations to take place regarding suspicions surrounding their conduct," he said.

Sources within TUCTA told The Guardian that allegations facing them include misuse of funds and selling a TUCTA house Mafinga

“We have suspended them just to pave the way for investigations and if they are found innocent they will be reinstated for we have not sacked them,

in Iringa.

It is said that the two sold the house without the consent of the executive committee as well as not conducting an analysis on the actual value of the building.

As to when the two will be reinstated, Nyamhokya said he was not in a position to assert anything as the decision belongs to the union's executive committee.

"We have suspended them just to pave the way for investigations and if they are found innocent they will be reinstated for we have not sacked them," he said.

It is expected that the result of investigations will be tabled before the TUCTA general assembly before the end of the year for a final decision.

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Boon for science projects as Dar hosts funding meeting

By Aisia Rweyemamu

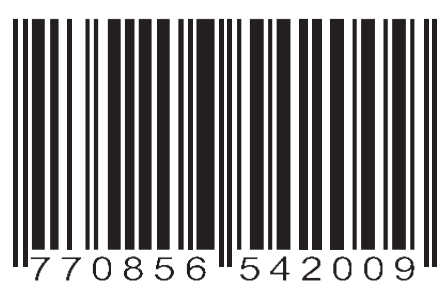
TANZANIA is set to host the African Science Granting Councils meeting next month which will bring together over 250 public funding agencies, scientists, innovators, policy makers and development partners.

The meeting scheduled

to take place from 11th to 15 November in Dar es Salaam is being organized by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Briefing reporters in the city yesterday, COSTECH Director General Dr Amos Nungu said 16 countries from across the African

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TUCTA suspends Msigwa, deputy for 'office abuse'

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The assembly will decide on whether they should be sacked or not.

TUCTA is a trade union federation established in April 2001 under the Trade Unions Act of 1998, later updating its registration under the Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2004.

It is a national umbrella organization of 13 sector-based trade unions with

a total membership of around 650,000 workers by June 2016, whose main function is to coordinate and conduct liaison functions for the trade union movement in the country. The organization promotes workers' interests through promoting social dialogue and advocacy for decent work in harmonizing labour relation at all levels.

Boon for science projects as Dar hosts funding meeting

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continent are scheduled to attend the meeting.

"Tanzanian scientists stand to benefit a lot because they will have an opportunity to meet heads of science funding agencies one-on-one. All they need to do is prepare well for them to benefit from this opportunity," he said.

He asserted that Tanzanian individual scientists and institutions stand a better chance of pulling off funding for viable projects that appeal to funders whom they will have ample time to converse with.

Hulda Gidion, the conference coordinator said that the meeting will engender strategic dialogue covering broad science, technology and innovation (STI) topics into open science for development and public engagement.

The meeting will also converge on mission oriented research in the context of global challenges, strengthening research systems in Africa, promoting gender and

inclusivity in research and strengthening strategic partnerships for STI, she elaborated.

On his part, Prof. Mohamed Sheikh, director for research, coordination and promotion said that the goal of making science open is to enable policy makers and other stakeholders to use it for sustainable development.

The African Science Granting Councils meeting is co-hosted by COSTECH in collaboration with the South Africa National Research Foundation (NRF) and the African Technological Policy Studies Network (ATPS).

This year's annual meeting themes including "Open Science in Research and Innovation for Development, Public Engagement Perspective and African Perspective on Mission Oriented Research."

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof. Joyce Ndalichako is expected to open the meeting.



Chief Secretary John Kijazi (2nd-L, front row) presents a gift to Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority senior assistant tourism officer Edward Ngobei in Dar es Salaam yesterday. This was at a ceremony to award NCAA for funding the recent Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE). Others include Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla (to the CS's left) and Tanzania Tourist Board chairman Judge (retired) Thomas Mihayo (L). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

JPM: Tourist arrivals too few relative to our status

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"There is a huge potential in cruise ship tourism, beach tourism as well as conference tourism. Make good use of these opportunities," he emphasized, underlining that the 1.5m arrivals are low compared to the tourist attractions the country maintains. "Mauritius attracts the same number of tourists only through beach tourism," he declared.

The ministry should keep on investing in new areas by collaborating closely with the private sector, he said, highlighting that this year's Swahili International Tourism Expo brought about 600 tourism stakeholders from around the world.

The global growth of tourism last year stood at an average of six per cent but for Tanzania the sector grew at 13 per cent. The sector leads in attracting foreign currency and had contributed 17.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Tourism is a sector that

has employed many Tanzania formally and informally. The government and every stakeholder and individual citizens need to play their part in making sure that the sector prospers," he asserted. The implementation of major projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway, construction of airports and the renovation of the national carrier, road building along with port expansion and rehabilitation show how the government is creating a conducive environment for investors, including those in the tourism sector," the president affirmed.

He however commended the contribution of the private sector in the growth of tourism especially through investment in hospitality, pointing at initiatives and commitments that the government has been entering with development partners such as the REGROW project for the Southern Highlands signed last year with the World Bank.

Dr Khamis Kigwangalla, the minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, said SITE Expo 2019 was being hosted by the Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) in collaboration with tourism stakeholders since 2014 and has been a great success.

"The Swahili International Tourism Expo is becoming popular in the continent and worldwide as years pass by. The essence of inviting stakeholders from different parts of the world is to attract business partners, exchange experiences in the tourism business and find new tourism markets," the minister affirmed.

Through the Expo, the ministry is expected to learn new techniques of promoting and advertising tourism attractions and how to do tourism through partnership with other countries, he said.

"The tourism sector contributes to the industrialization agenda through procurement of vehicle accessories for tour vehicles, procuring of

materials for hotel construction and infrastructure. From this perspective the ministry is crucial to industrialization," he emphasized.

On his part, the Zanzibar Minister of Information, Tourism and Heritage, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo said that Zanzibar had already met the target set for attracting 500,000 tourists to the islands by attracting 528,000 reached by the end of last year.

"We hope that by the end of next year we shall have been able to attract 700,000 tourists. From every 100 tourists visiting Tanzania, 28 out of them visit Zanzibar during their last three days. The growth of the tourism sector for the Mainland means further growth of the sector in Zanzibar," he pointed out.

About 30 per cent of GDP growth in the Isles is contributed by the tourism sector and also nets above 80 per cent of foreign direct investments. The sector contributed \$476million in 2018 to Isles GDP, he added.

Museveni brands opponent Bobi Wine enemy of Uganda

KAMPALA

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni (pictured) has called his leading critic, musician-turned-politician, Bobi Wine, an "enemy of the country's prosperity", in an interview with the BBC.

The 36-year-old, affectionately known as the "ghetto president", has been a thorn in the side of Museveni since his election as MP in 2017.

Bobi Wine, whose real name is Robert Kyagulani, recently declared that he would challenge President Museveni, 75, for the presidency in the 2021 election.

He is the leader of The People Power movement which accuses the president of overseeing a system of oppression during his 33 years in power.

Museveni rejected the accusation telling the BBC yesterday that his government is not repressive, but was dealing with Bobi Wine as an enemy:

"Bobi Wine went to America and said that people should not come invest in Uganda. That means he is an enemy of progress in Uganda. When you go and tell foreigners that they should not come and invest in our country, you are waging war on our prosperity. So why then do you want to come and take advantage of that prosperity?"

Added the President: "That may be one of the reasons [for the cancellation of Bobi Wine's concerts] I suspect, I have not talked to the police in details."

President Museveni said he still had unfinished business in Uganda as president and would only leave if asked to do so by his National Resistance Movement (NRM) party.

"My home is waiting for me, but we have issues as Uganda to deal with. It is



those issues that make us do what we decide to do politically along with our colleagues. If the fraternity of NRM thinks that they no longer require the contribution of the elders then we will happily go and do other things."

Museveni said that he saw unemployed youth in Uganda not as a "threat but an opportunity".

He said that there were unexploited opportunities in agriculture and IT which young people should be willing to go for.

"One of the issues is the mentality because some of the people are looking for white-collar jobs instead of looking for [other jobs], there's commercial agriculture, there's industries, factories and services and IT, we are deliberately working on them to create jobs for our people," he said.



Tanzania's Commissioner General of Prisons, Phaustine Kasike, has a feel of salt produced by the Mtwara Prisons factory as he toured Mtwara Region on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Tanzania Prisons.

'Ever booming use of internet not directed at development or productivity'

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are smart phone devices connected to the internet.

Most people who are online do not engage in developmental engagements online, as social media platforms are meant for chatting and passing time, it

was noted.

Mwela said minimal use of ICT for economic advancement is a challenge facing ICT administrators. "ICT can be very beneficial if used positively for development purposes," he said, underlining that "the potential is so huge."

The conference with the theme 'ICT for inclusive industrial economy' will also see various products made in Tanzania being showcased, in the meeting to be addressed by the president of the Austria based International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), Prof

Mike Hinchey.

During last year's meeting the government initiated a process to institute a professional body to regulate the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) profession in order to deter quacks and curb cybercrime, among others things.

On this subject, Mwela said the commission started registering ICT professionals saying so far a total of 1,400 have been registered.

"We have directed them to bring us their CVs and this will help us to know the exact number of ICT experts but also their areas of specialization," he

said.

The annual conference is the third to take place in the country, and it will help administrators and professionals to consult on what is their role in the worldwide fourth industrialization drive, he added.



DANGER LURKS: These houses in Dar es Salaam's densely populated Tandale suburb literally stand in harm's way, seriously threatened by soil erosion, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Nkasi villager 'commits suicide' for testing HIV+

By Guardian Correspondent, Nkasi

A WOMAN from Kakoma village in Nkasi district, Rukwa Region has reported hanged herself to death after medical tests confirmed that she was HIV positive.

According to report from the village's executive officer (VEO), Richard Kandege, the 23-year-old Shija Lutonja took the decision on Wednesday at around 9am at her home.

Kandege said that Lutonja committed suicide on a tree at her by using a piece of cloth and by-passers found her at the area who then rushed to the village's office to report the matter.

Patrick Mwani, the village's chairman said that the authority immediately took the decision to inform the police who arrived at the scene and collected her body.

"At the deceased left a note saying that she has decided to take her own life after finding out that she had tested HIV positive," Mwani

said.

According to him, the deceased also claimed that apart from being HIV positive, her husband was in jail so she found no reason to continue living.

The village chair further said that the incident has shocked the whole village bringing sorrows to relatives, friends and the villagers as it is the first incident for a woman to take such decision in the area.

For his part, Mkasi district commissioner Sid Mtanda urged the public to stop taking the law into their hands whenever they faced difficulties but always seek for advice and help from neighbours.

He said that testing HIV positive is not a ticket for death and there is a number of people living with the virus and continuing with their daily activities without fear.

"Learn to share opinions with your friends, neighbours or persons you trust

whenever you meet any challenges in life so as to get help," he advised the general public.

Statistics shows that about 1.4 million people are currently living with HIV, and approximately 11 per cent of them are children under 15. Among young people aged 15 to 24 years, the average HIV prevalence is 3.6 per cent and is significantly higher among females than males.



At the deceased left a note saying that she has decided to take her own life after finding out that she had tested HIV positive

Male midwife on the run after allegedly drugging, raping girl aged 16

By Guardian Correspondents,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC) has suspended a male midwife a 16 year-old girl after injecting her with a tranquilizer.

The midwife Damian Mgya will not conduct his professional duties for three years pending investigation of the matter.

A statement from the TNMC's registrar Agnes Mtawa stated that the suspect is accused of committing the of-

fence on October 9, this year at the Igunga district hospital.

Mtawa called on security organs to hunt the suspect so that legal measures could be taken against him.

"The midwife is accused of raping the 16 old girl who was looking after her sick mother

admitted at the hospital. It is said that the midwife is no longer at the hospital as he

ran away soon after committing the crime...we are appealing for the police force to hunt and arrest him," she said.

According to her, if the court will confirm that the midwife

is guilty, the council will take further measures against him.

Mtawa said that; "This is not the first time for the same midwife to commit such awful offence, he did the same in 2017 at Iguruki health centre in Igunga district but the court set him free in 2018."

Mtawa urged all midwives to ensure that they adhere to their professional ethics and oaths when executing their daily duties.

Last year, the Director of Criminal Investigation Robert Boaz called on community members to help the police to

tackle incidents of rape, noting that incidents of sexual violence had increased from 2016 to 2017 in the country.

The Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics Report for 2016 published by the Tanzanian National Bureau of Statistics shows that rape cases

Indian national in custody for ferrying in medicines illegally

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Anticorruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) is holding an Indian national allegedly for entering the Isles with 100 kilograms of human medicines contrary to the laws.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, ZAECA Acting director in charge of investigations and operations Makame Khamis Hassan named woman as 54-year-old Nootan Raimaiya.

"She was intercepting at the Abeid Aman Karume International Airport with the medicines stuffed in luggage upon arrival from India," Hassan said

He said the suspect had already been interrogated by the detectives and her file was being processed to be forwarded to the prosecuting authorities for legal action.

Speaking at the press briefing, a senior director from the Zanzibar Food and Drug Agency (ZFDA) Nassir Buhet said the medicines were not counterfeit hence safe for human consumption but were brought into the Island without following the due process.

"I call upon businesspeople involved in importation of products to follow laid down laws and procedures to avoid this kind of inconvenience," he said.

Tanzania Imports from India of Pharmaceutical products was US\$126.2 Million during 2018, according to the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics (COMTRADE) database on international trade. India being one of the largest exporters of medicines has procedures to be followed by individuals and companies engaging in

the business.

Exporters are required to apply for the Import Export Code number, register the product in the country of export and get the approval for export from Drug Controller General of India.

According to one of the country's largest pharmaceutical companies, Vibcare, exporters are also required to finalize the shipping method before you start exporting medicines from India they can choose a licensed trader, exporter, supplier of pharmaceutical company to the same on their behalf.

At time exporters are supposed to have purchase order from the country which is importing the medicines from India with attached proforma invoice with product details like type of packing, the rate of the product, freight details and so on.



Kongwa district commissioner Deogratius Ndejemi joins students of Dodoma District's Mtanana Secondary School in a physical fitness exercise yesterday while on a tour of education projects. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

BARRICK Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the provision of General Coating Specification, Protective Coatings & Linings Methodology for Shaft, Paste Plant, Filter Plant, Primary Crusher Building & Associated Corrosion Protection of Structural Steel & Equipment at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited intends to Contract a health and competent civil/building contractor for an Upgrade to the existing plant return water pond within the mine site Area. The upgrade shall be done as per recommendation stipulated to the mine by the National Environmental Management Council, NEMC. The project is aiming at minimizing the contamination of hazardous elements from storm water, runoff water to the natural soil hence soil pollution.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of:

- General Coating Specification, Protective Coatings & Linings Methodology for Shaft, Paste Plant, Filter Plant, Primary Crusher Building & Associated Corrosion Protection of Structural Steel & Equipment;
- The project shall involve Mobilisation of Skilled manpower and supply of tools, tackles and scaffold materials to carry out Scaffolding erection, Surface preparation, Coating application as per specifications;

The contract is intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents.

If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile that includes plants, equipment, organization structure as well as curriculum vitae of Key personnel;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, 2019 Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Submission of CRB documentation showing registration as a Tanzanian Structural & Mechanical Contractor at least Category 3;
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) compliance certificate;
- Must be registered with the Tanzanian Worker's Compensation Fund and NSSF as an Employer (Send Certificate of Registration & Compliance Clearance Certificate)
- With regard to aforementioned Civil Works for Upgrade of Plant Return Water Pond, submission of documentation to show:
 - A Detailed proven previous experience and client reference for similar works in Coating Application Works;
 - An exemplary Safety record working in similar environment;
 - An established pool of Manpower resources (Mainly - Supervisors / Safety officer / QA officer / Blasters / Painters / Scaffold erectors / Multi skilled), QA / QC officer should be NACE certified or similar certification;
 - Safety policy for the company.
 - Environmental policy for the company.
 - Quality control and assurance policy for the company
 - Contractor to allow and submit ownership documents, specifications for the following critical equipment, required to carry out projects works;
 - ✓ Measuring and Testing Equipment (blast profile gauge, wet film comb and an electronic dry film thickness gauge, psychometric conditions and the substrate temperature),
 - ✓ Spray equipment
 - ✓ Grit blasting equipment
 - ✓ Power mixers
 - ✓ Scaffolding materials.
 - An extensive track record with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility Programme and an evidence of utilising and developing skills of the local community surrounding your previous projects.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 27th October 2019. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number "Bul-Reference Number: CON-CO-BUL-2019-0005" in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED



Arusha district commissioner Gabriel Daqarro (3rd-R) graces the launch of a measles-rubella-polio vaccination campaign at the local Levulosi Hospital on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

Primary school leaving exams cost 100bn/- annually – NECTA

By Guardian Reporter

THE Executive Secretary of the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) Dr Charles Msonde has said that a total of 100bn/- is being spent annually during preparation and publication and publish the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE).

DR Msonde said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the meeting with the National Council of the Tanzania Teachers Union (TTU) calling upon teachers to ensure that they adhere to ethical guidelines when supervising the examinations.

According to him, cheating problems that occurs during examinations have been forcing the government to incur more costs in preparing and publishing other exams.

"Usually when schools or candidates are caught of cheating, NECTA has to nullify the exams results and obliged to prepare fresh examinations, this is where we incur unnecessary costs due to some unethical teachers who failed to supervise well the examinations," he said.

He added that "teachers are very essential when it comes to protecting examinations, so by executing their duties ethically, we will create a very good nation with good generation inside."

Dr Msonde further said that during the verification exercise of academic certificates a total of 290 teachers who are the members of TTU were verified but only 30 were found possessing fake academic credentials.

He commended TTU for the efforts they make to ensure that teaching professional

ethics remain maintained in the country.

"Despite various challenges including cheating during exams, but this year the challenge was not that big and you have continued to promote and supervise ethics in work places to ensure that we produce good workforce of the nation," he added.

For her part, TTU president Leah Ulaya urged the government to supervise the promotion of teachers as well as salary increment so as to enable the group work hard and deliver the best in class.

According to her, good number of teachers have been promoted but the salaries remain unchanged something which has been hurting them and thus failing to deliver well in job.

"We are appealing for the government to look in this area of promotion and salary increment for best results," she added.



Usually when schools or candidates are caught of cheating, NECTA has to nullify the exams results and obliged to prepare fresh examinations, this is where we incur unnecessary costs due to some unethical teachers who failed to supervise well the examinations

Traders found with banned cosmetics as TBS embarks on crackdown in Dar

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

OFFICIALS of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards in collaboration with police officers have conducted an impromptu inspection and confiscated a consignment of prohibited cosmetics which were being in various shops in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking during the exercise carried yesterday in Kariakoo area, a Senior inspector at TBS, Eng Donald Manyama said they

have nabbed three cosmetics traders who were found selling the banned products.

"We have confiscated the cosmetics and warned them not to engage into the business since it endangers users and cost the nation," he said.

Some of the confiscated cosmetics found in shops along Jangwani street were carolight, mo-vate, diprosone, caratone, bronz clear, tender white, clinic clear, baby face, Tcd, light up, bio

Claire and top lemon.

The total value of confiscated cosmetics were not easily established.

"We have focused on inspecting cosmetics and other products to ensure Tanzanians remain safe and consume approved goods," Manyama said.

He warned cosmetics traders to stop selling unauthorized products saying apart from such brands causing side effects to the users, they made them to

incur unnecessary losses or face jail or heavy penalty.

According to him, one of the most side effect is skin diseases and cancer to the users, who most of them are women.

He said the government organs have managed to control importation of the banned cosmetics, but there are some untrustworthy traders who continue the trade through unofficial routes (panya routes).

Speaking a trader identified

as Rose Joseph, said they are not aware of the banned products, urging TBS officials to continue educating them.

She said most traders still import the products without their knowledge, hence they are later found to be outlawed.

She asked the government through TBS to heighten security in border areas and control importation of the banned products for benefit of Tanzanian industries and traders.

"We are ready to cooperate with you to reveal the culprits, but more control measures are needed to curb the importation," she added.

In July this year TBS assumed new roles of food safety control and cosmetics which earlier was conducted by TFDA.

Tanzania's Parliament approved Finance Bill of 2019 which saw harmonization of regulatory bodies' roles which were overlapping or more less

the same.

Following the amendment of Section 130 of the Standards Act No. 2 of 2009, food and cosmetic products, currently under TFDA, now is regulated by TBS, effective 1 July 2019.

To that effect, TFDA has been renamed as Tanzania Drug and Medicinal Authority (TMDA) and will be responsible for controlling medicines, medical supplies and reagents in the country.



Porters hang onto their trolleys while waiting for customers near Dar es Salaam's Ubungo long-distance bus terminal yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Accountant in PCCB hands following loss of over 200 million/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) is holding two government officials including an accountant with Sokoine regional referral hospital in connection with misappropriation of 221,000,000/- .PCCB acting director general Brig Gen John Mbungu told reporters here yesterday that the money was meant for implementation of various projects aimed at improving services at the regional health facility.

He named those in custody as the hospital's accountant Clemence Olomi and a press officer with the Lindi District Council Zebedayo Selemani.

Brig Gen Mbungu said the suspects face charges of misappropriating the said 221,000,000/- in public funds which was meant for improvement of pediatric ward, laboratory and toilets.

"The suspects will be arraigned for inflating project costs over and above the ones indicated in the contacts entered by contractors who were implementing the project," he said.

Mbungu said the duo was arrested on Wednesday following the directive of President John Magufuli during his recent visit to the region for authorities to reign in corruption which affect service delivery to wananchi.

"The investigation into the matter is ongoing, once it is complete we will let the public know," he said.

Brig Gen Mbungu told editors in Dar es Salaam that PCCB had embraced on house-cleaning mission meant to root out corrupt elements within the bureau.

This includes a unit which deals exclusively with the conduct of its agents, he said, adding that the move is meant to boost public confidence in the agency.

This comes after it emerged recently that an unscrupulous official in the agency tasked with busting corruption engaged in the vice, tarnishing the image and credibility of the agency.

PCCB is mandated by law to take necessary measures for the prevention and combating of corruption in public agencies, parastatals as well as the private sector.

Police hold man over death of kin

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

POLICE in Ruvuma region are holding one Mohamed Luambano (70) a resident of Mtelamwai village in Nantumbo district for allegedly killing his young brother Abeid Luamban (65) due to family feud.

The younger Luambano died after being stabbed by his brother with a

sharp object on the head.

The Ruvuma Police Commander Simon Maigwa said the incident occurred early this week at 8pm at Doroba village in Mtelamwai village.

The Police Commander explained that before the death, Abeid was suddenly attacked by unknown people at his house and then taken out of his house and was attacked and later on

was found murdered.

He said that Abeid's brother (Mohamed) had already been arrested for further investigations in connection with the murder.

Commander Maigwa explained that, it is alleged that in recent days there had been misunderstandings between the two after Abeid's house was razed and then accused his

brother and his son to be involved in the incident. According to Police, the son named Msajiri Mohamed disappeared to an unknown place after the incident.

In another development, Nuru Milanzi who is an entrepreneur and resident of Mshujaa in Songea Municipal in the region was found dead after hanging herself by using a rope in his

bedroom.

The Police Commander have explained that the incident occurred early this week around 7pm where the chairman of Mshujaa street reported the incident at Songea police station. He said that the source of the suicide was allegedly to many debts with the Village Community Bank (VIKOB).

Kinondoni cuts GBV incidence by 30 pc

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Kinondoni district council has reduced incidence of gender based violence by almost 30 per cent from 7,000 incidences in 2017 to 5,000 incidences in 2018.

The achievement has been obtained as a result of combination of initiatives embarked by government and private organizations that work to advocate for gender based violence.

Speaking at the event to mark the International day of girl child held recently in Dar es Salaam, Kinondoni district administrative officer (DAS) Stella Msofe said the drop of incidence was also contributed as a result of the increase of gender desks in the police stations which helps to settle matters of violence as well as providing education to family.

Msofe said the district authority is working hard to eliminate any form of gender based violence which face the children especially the girl child who are experience a great risks of early pregnant.

The officer urged the parents to stop hiding their children who faces the violence in fear of the society, they need to understand that, doing so is not the proper means of helping the children instead they put them in a risk of facing the diseases.

Msofe who represented the District

Commissioner for Kinondoni, further urged the police officer to use the gender desks to provide education to the society to understand the opportunity of using the desks to settle their problem.

She also received the building for gender desks built at Kawe Police station by Save the Children to be used specifically to reconcile incidence of gender based violence to children.

Themed; girl force: "Unscripted and unstoppable" the achievements by, with and for girls since the adoption of the Beijing declaration and platform for action. The International Day of the girl is a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to mark progress on the Beijing declaration and to equip girls with the power, knowledge and space to continue to voice their passions and concerns.

For her part director for programme operation at Save the Children Angela Makota the available data shows that three third of children in the country has experience violence and brutality something which retard the progress of children.

She said Save the Children in collaboration with Police Force has strengthened the capacity of forensic investigation by donating a motorcycle to Police as a means of transport to facilitate the process.



Residents of Kiomboi township in Singida Region pictured yesterday waiting for veterinary officers to vaccinate their dogs under an Education for Africa Animal Welfare operation. Photo: Correspondent Elisante John

Kenyatta stuns youth by appointing pensioners to plum jobs

NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta who is known to be friendly to the youth has pulled a stunner by appointing mainly elderly people including retirees to key state jobs.

Former Kenya Revenue Authority Commissioner-General John Njiraini has returned from retirement to head an energy parastatal.

In a Gazette Notice dated October 17, 2019, President Uhuru Kenyatta announced that he has picked Njiraini as the chairman of the Board of the Geothermal Development Company.

His appointment comes only two months after he withdrew his candidature for the position of the National Land Commission (NLC) chairperson, saying he wanted to pursue "other interests."

He replaces Gershom Otachi who was appointed as the NLC chairman. Otachi is a lawyer who was among the team that represented the President during his post-election violence case at The Hague.

Kenyatta has come under sharp criticism for appointing retirees in plum government jobs at the expense of the youth.

Njiraini, reached the retirement age of 60 in 2012 while at KRA but left the tax agency in June 2019 after expiry of an extended term.

When he was shortlisted for the NLC job, there was a public uproar and he released a statement thereafter declining to interview for the post.

Now he has re-emerged as the GDC chairman in the same week 69-year-old former Othaya MP

Mary Wambui was appointed to chair the National Employment Authority.

Also appointed in the Wednesday Gazette Notice is former Nyeri Senator Mutahi Kagwe to the Petroleum Regulatory Authority as a member.

Prof Losenge Turup will chair the Uwezo Fund Oversight Board as David Waithaka, Lucy N. Magello, and Nicholas Longole Tepeso

join the team as members.

Ms Njoki Kahiga has been appointed as the chair of the Women Enterprise Fund Advisory Board with Hellen Ajiambo, Frida Njue, Julius Mugo, Tendai Mtana, Loitareng Selina Chemasach being members.

Dr Victor Mwongera was appointed as the non-executive chair of the Youth Enterprise Development Fund Board. His board

members are Dr Susan Mambo, Dr Mugendi Birundi, Catherine M. Kasimu and Amos M. Isoe.

In a bizarre appointment, the late Robert Kochalle, who died on May 28, 2018, was named as board member of the Kenya Film Classification Board.

But after public uproar, his widow Charity Kochalle has been handed the post in a special Gazette notice dated October 18.

BARRICK

Advertisement

BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the provision of Civil Works for the Upgrade of Plant Return Water Pond for Bulyanhulu Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited intends to Contract a health and competent civil/building contractor for an Upgrade to the existing plant return water pond within the mine site Area. The upgrade shall be done as per recommendation stipulated to the mine by the National Environmental Management Council, NEMC. The project is aiming at minimizing the contamination of hazardous elements from storm water, runoff water to the natural soil hence soil pollution.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of:

- Civil Works for Upgrade of Plant Return Water Pond;
- The project shall involve clearance works, setting out works, earth works, piping works & concrete works as per detailed drawings and project specifications;

The contract is intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile that includes plants, equipment, organization structure as well as curriculum vitae;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, 2019 Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Submission of CRB documentation showing registration as a Tanzanian Civil/Building Contractor at least Class 2;
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) compliance certificate;
- Must be registered with the Tanzanian Worker's Compensation Fund and NSSF as an Employer (Send Certificate of Registration & Compliance Clearance Certificate)
- With regard to the mentioned Civil Works for Upgrade of Plant Return Water Pond, submission of documentation to show:
 - A Detailed proven previous experience and client reference for similar works in Civil Works for an Upgrade of Return
 - Water Ponds similar to that of BGML;
 - An exemplary Safety record working in similar environment to those encountered at Bulyanhulu Mine;
 - An established pool of key personnel familiar with project management techniques;
 - Safety policy for the company, Environmental policy for the company and Quality control and assurance policy for the company
- Contractor to allow and submit ownership documents, specifications for the following critical equipment, required to carry out projects works;

• 1 No crane (Not less than 30 Tonnes lifting capacity).	• 1 No certified "banana shaped" concrete bucket (1 - 1.5 m3 volume capacity)
• 4 Sets of Certified Lifting Slings (4 Tonnes capacity each)	• 1 No Back hoe machine.
• 1 m3 concrete mixer.	• 4 Tonnes concrete dumper.
• 2 Nos Dump Truck (15m3 Capacity each)	•

- An extensive track record with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility Programme and an evidence of utilising and developing skills of the local community surrounding your previous projects.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 27th October 2019. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number "Bu-Requestion Number: SR010875" in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the provision of Civil Works for Cladding Works for TSF 4 wall development, for Bulyanhulu Mine

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Barrick Gold Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited intends to Contract a healthy and competent civil/building contractor for cladding works for TSF 4 wall development. The development will involve lifting of an existing dam walls so as to increase the life without overflowing of wet tailings to the environment. The lifting of walls is carried out in phases where lift 7 & lift 8 will be carried out in phase 4. The lifting will be carried out using tailings materials from the dam basin and cladded outside using properly blended mix of materials as per blending procedures with vegetation planted all around.

During lifting, the existing walls will be regarded as starter walls and all the lining system should be in proper conditions so as to avoid contamination of tailings with the environment. The cladding works for wall development should be carried out as per scope of works and detailed drawings.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of Civil Works for cladding works for TSF wall development.

- The project shall involve survey works, setting out works, lifting works, cladding works, ramp repair works and commissioning works as per detailed drawings and specifications.

The contract is intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile that includes TSF, equipment, organization structure as well as curriculum vitae;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, 2019 Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Submission of CRB documentation showing registration as a Tanzanian Civil/Building Contractor at least Class 2;
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) compliance certificate;
- Must be registered with the Tanzanian Worker's Compensation Fund and NSSF as an Employer (Send Certificate of Registration & Compliance Clearance Certificate)
- With regard to the mentioned Civil Works for Cladding Works for TSF 4 wall development, submission of documentation to show:
 - A Detailed proven previous experience and client reference for similar works in Civil Works for cladding works for TSF wall development similar to that of BGML;
 - An exemplary Safety record working in similar environment to those encountered at Bulyanhulu Mine;
 - An established pool of key personnel familiar with project management techniques;
 - Safety policy for the company, Environmental policy for the company and Quality control and assurance policy for the company
- Contractor to allow and submit ownership documents, specifications for the following critical equipment, required to carry out projects works;

• 4 Nos Articulated Dump Trucks (ADT).	• 3 Nos Excavators correct model as per site works
• 1 No Front End Loader	• 1 No Fuel Bowser with Fuel dispensing unit/mechanism

- An extensive track record with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility Programme and an evidence of utilising and developing skills of the local community surrounding your previous projects.

Kindly send your response by email to bulytender@barrick.com by latest close of business on the 30th October 2019. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number "Bu-Requestion Number: SR010892" in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED

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Manyara regional commissioner Alexander Mnyeti (R) reads out poster messages on grievances by residents of Namelock village in Kiteto District when he toured the area yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

CCBRT's initiatives on clubfoot get vital boost

By The Guardian Correspondent

The CCBRT disability hospital yesterday received 110M/- donation from telecom TIGO in support of the facility effort to eradicate clubfoot condition among children.

This contribution also serves as a public awareness initiative about the importance of following up with a treatment to ensure recovery and preventable disability.

Speaking during the press briefing held at CCBRT, Tigo Managing Director, Simon Karikari said: "Access to health service has remained a critical component of the success of clubfoot patients. Clubfoot treatment in the country is a topic that needs publicity and as Tigo we are here today to change the narrative, we need community participation and will-power to ensure every child with clubfoot in Tanzania receives timely and quality treatment using the Ponseti Method as a gold standard treatment hence providing them with equal opportunities to lead active and productive lives."

Karikari also called upon other private stakeholders to join Tigo in improving the lives of the children born with clubfoot. "With this donation, we continue to highlight our on going and long-standing commitment towards helping to rise a healthy nation that will contribute meaningfully to Tanzania's development."

We also urge other stakeholders to

work with CCBRT to bring about positive changes in society."

"Tigo Tanzania has set an example of the key role that the private sector plays in alleviating and resolving societal problems. CCBRT has, over the years, been able to tackle one of the most challenging aspects of clubfoot treatment - ensure continued follow-up treatment."

Through Tigo's innovation and support, CCBRT's SMS reminder platform can send mobile reminders to clients to promote follow up so that patients are fully treated, with little or no risk of reversal. I would, therefore, like to urge other private sector players to follow their lead."

Recognizing the power and potential of SMS technology to improve patient communication and follow-up, CCBRT partnered with Tigo to develop an SMS reminder platform.

Launched in 2013, it is an essential component of clubfoot care as attendance at weekly castings and follow-up appointments is crucial for successful treatment.

The platform sends SMS reminder messages to the parents of all clubfoot patients, four days, and one day before their scheduled appointments. It has helped CCBRT significantly to reduce the dropout rate.

More than 1500 children have benefited from life-changing Ponseti Method clubfoot treatment and over 400 received life-changing surgeries at CCBRT over the past four years.

Youth gather for food security, agricultural issues

IOWA

YOUNG people from around the world gathered in Des Moines Iowa at the Global Youth Institute yesterday to interact with Nobel and World Food Prize laureates.

This year, 450 exceptional high school students from 10 countries attended the three-day Global Youth Institute hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation to

facilitate discussion on pressing food security and agricultural issues.

The director of youth leadership development at the World Food Prize Foundation, Kelsey Tyrrell, told the young audience that African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina had been invited because of his advocacy and promotion of agriculture as a career for young people.

"After winning the World Food Prize in 2017, he dedicated his prize money to youth empowerment programmes. We wanted you to know that you have the power to make global change, and Adesina knows the incredible power that young people have," Kelsey said.

The African Development Bank is committed to ensuring that Africa's agriculture is digitally ena-

bled and has launched the Digital Solutions for African Agriculture program, which supports government and the private sector.

Digital Solutions for African Agriculture program supports the public and private sector to introduce and scale-up transformative digital solutions. This includes super platforms for e-registries, e-extension, soil information maps, e-commerce

and digital marketplaces for agri-inputs and outputs, tracking and traceability systems, and e-Agri-governance.

The Bank is implementing programs that harness the power of technology to drive the future of agriculture, such as using drones to survey fields and monitor harvests.

"Building the food industry of tomorrow requires that we build

the leaders of those industries today. The opportunities offered by the Global Youth Institute are intended to construct for you the highway to becoming tomorrow's leaders of the food and agriculture industry," the Bank President told the students.

Adesina is the 2017 World Food Prize Laureate.

"Digitisation will attract more young people like you into ag-

riculture. Agriculture is really where you want to be," he said.

Former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo attended the morning session.

On Wednesday night, Adesina hosted a dinner in honour of the President of the World Food Prize Foundation, Kenneth Quinn, who is retiring from the organization.

Quinn described the Bank's work as transformative.



China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation workers lay the groundwork for the installation of a commuter bus stop earlier this week as part of the ongoing construction of the road linking Dar es Salaam's Sinza Kijiweni and Tandale suburbs. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Mbeya's PCCB regional office submits report on projects rejected in Sept

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mbeya Region has submitted the investigation report for five projects out of six that were rejected by the national Uhuru Torch leader in September this year.

The report has already been submitted to the corruption watchdog head office in Dar es Salaam. This was said yesterday by the Head of PCCB in Mbeya Julieth Matechi when issuing a quarterly implementation report of institutions in the region.

The projects were among those that President Dr John Magufuli handed over to the bureau during the event to mark 20 years since the death of founding further held in Lindi region where the president instructed the legal action to those who failed to implement the projects.

Matechi explained that the said projects are available in four councils in the region of Mbeya, adding that the bureau continues to work on the remaining project and they will submit their report later.

The councils whose projects were rejected include Kyela, Rungwe, Busokelo and Mbarali district council.

"We are currently working on one project that we cannot mention for investigative purposes but when we are done we will prepare a report and submit it to headquarters and the information will be released," said Matechi.

However, Matechi told reporters that the PCCB in the region has conducted a special analysis in procurement departments, EFD's and the whole system of revenue collection.

She said during the period of July to September this year, the Mbeya Regional Commissioner received 113 reports of suspicion of corruption as well as other offenses involving councils, private and public sectors including police force and court.

Matechi added that during the three months, they opened three cases of corruption in Kyela, Mbeya and Chunya councils where four suspects have already been brought to court.

Police embark on inspections of school buses to curb accidents

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

Police in Kilimanjaro region have embarked on an inspection exercise that seeks to ensure that the entire fleet of school buses in the region is road worthy.

The move aims at slowing down number of road accidents and assuring safety of pupils and students.

Speaking with this paper in exclusive interview on the ongoing exercise,

the Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Superintendent of Police (SP) Zauda Mohammed explained that, for safety reasons, they decided to inspect all school and college buses.

"The inspections exercise which started over the weekend will cover more than 150 vehicles in Kilimanjaro region compared with the last year's exercise whereby a total of 113 school vehicles were inspected..." the regional traffic boss explained.

She added that, last year all vehicles that were found with mechanical problems were forced out of service, and released after undergoing mechanical services.

"We have already contacted all school owners to bring their school buses for inspection for the safety of the pupils and students who use them in their daily transportation..." she explained.

The RTO further cautioned all

school bus owners to obey road safety regulations for safety transportation of their pupils and students.

The Kilimanjaro traffic chief further explained that the exercise also aims at reducing road accidents, cautioning reckless drivers.

"My appeal to all school and college owners is to bring all their school buses for mechanical inspection for the sustainable safety of their children..." the Kilimanjaro RTO noted.

Speaking with this paper, one of the school owner, Peter Nayar whose vehicles were inspected said that: "We are concerned with safety as well. And it's certainly not ok with me to have things out of inspection. And that's why we're working diligently with the state police to get those remedied."

Nayar says every mechanical problem identified in his vehicle will be fixed soon for the safety of their pupils and students.

Businesses close in Uganda town over unpaid tax arrears

KAMPALA

THE Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has closed several wholesale and retail businesses in Soroti district town over tax arrears amounting to millions of shillings.

The exercise conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday respectively saw key businesses like hotels, wholesale shops and supermarkets closed and manned by soldiers, as the owners rushed to clear their arrears.

Among the closed premises are OM hardware and supermarket, Golden Ark Hotel, Landmark Hotel, Teso shopping mall among other retail shops in the town.

Stephen Mutabazi, general operation manager OM supermarkets said the URA officials accompanied by armed personnel in military outfit took them by surprise and closed the premises.

"The enforcement team surrounded the counter while others rushed behind the shelves to push customers out of the supermarket, they told us we had tax arrears to pay," he explained.

"We were all shocked, we thought we had been raided by armed robbers dressed in military uniform because they had not introduced themselves and some of our clients ran behind the shelves to take cover in fear before they were all pushed out of the supermarket," he added.

The affected business owners were then referred to URA offices for further discus-

sions.

By Wednesday evening only Teso shopping mall had been reopened while OM supermarkets and Land mark hotel were still closed with URA seals and letters of notice pinned on the doors.

Mutabazi said whose arrears amount to over Shs100m claimed that the money was way too much and yet he had always filed his returns on the prompt.

Faustino Etilu, the proprietor of Teso shopping mall on his side acknowledged that his premises were closed due to laxity in reporting returns in time.

"I had not filed my returns since the financial year ended," he confessed.

"They wanted Shs 20m on rental tax and for them if you don't report irregularities in your business they will assume you are making huge sums of money," he said.

However, the assistant commissar public and corporate affairs at URA, Vincent Sarema, said it's their mandate as a tax body to ensure that all business personnel comply with their tax obligations as stipulated under section 39 of the tax Act.

He reiterated that the authority will continue to inconvenience and embarrass entrepreneurs who are not compliant.

"If they don't want to be inconvenienced and embarrassed, let them start by meeting their obligations and filling their returns on time," he added.



Despite decades-long campaigns targeting environmental degradation in part fuelled by rampant invasion of forest cover, the felling of trees for charcoal is still common in many parts of the world - with Tanzania no exception. Our roving photographer captured this scene yesterday at Chanika on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

ICJ postpones Kenya-Somalia maritime border case

THE HAGUE

THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) yesterday postponed the maritime border case between Somalia and Kenya to June 2020.

The Hague-based court has agreed to Kenya's request for a one-year delay of the public hearings, after the country said it need-

ed time to reconstitute its legal team.

The hearings were due to start on 4 November.

"The court has duly considered the views and arguments of the parties regarding Kenya's request. It has decided to postpone oral proceedings to the week beginning on Monday 8, June, 2020. This

postponement is granted on the understanding that both parties will be represented in the hearings and that no further postponement will be granted," the court said in a statement.

The court had earlier this month summoned the governments of Somalia and Kenya to discuss the case over the maritime boundary

dispute at the court.

Somalia took Kenya to court in 2015 over a disputed territory in the Indian Ocean that stretches for more than 100,000 sq km (62,137 sq miles) and which has off-shore oil and gas reserves.

Somalia wants the maritime border to continue along the line of the land border to the south-

east, while Kenya wants the sea border to go in a straight line east.

Somalia's Attorney General Ahmed Ali said that his government would present a 150-page document arguing its case at the ICJ, which is UN's top judicial body, based in The Hague.

Kenya's Attorney General Githu Muigai said that Somalia had no

right to claim what is Kenya's territorial water. He also confirmed that some concessions have been given to foreign companies to explore oil and gas.

The application comes days after the Kenyan government said it had received a pledge from Mogadishu that it wanted to solve the case out of court.

In 2014 the ICJ gave Somalia the go-ahead to file the case after efforts to settle the dispute outside the court had failed.

The ICJ has asked the Kenyan government to respond by 27 May 2016, after which hearings will begin formally.

It may take several years before the court rules on the matter.



Irish potatoes on sale at a makeshift roadside market along the Urafiki stretch of Dar es Salaam's Mabibo Road yesterday, the going price being a negotiable 9,000/- per 20-litre bucket. Photo: John Badi

South Sudan's position on oil deals unchanged

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's Petroleum minister, Awow Daniel Chuang, has reaffirmed the country's continued support of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Declaration of Cooperation.

In a bid to accelerate the stabilization of the global oil market, the Declaration of Cooperation, initially agreed December 2016 and subsequently extended, stipulates that OPEC-member states, together with 11 non-OPEC oil producing countries, have agreed to voluntary production adjustments of 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in the interests of producers, consumers, investors and the global economy at large.

"We are committed to upholding the OPEC and non-OPEC Declaration of Cooperation to show solidarity with our oil producing partners, friends and counterparts globally," the Minister said yesterday.

South Sudan's pre-conflict oil production was 330,000 bpd. Current resumption efforts target 250,000 bpd, an output figure that continues to support the global cuts and stabilize the

market. The most recent oil discovery, in the Adar oilfield in Block 3, contains 37 million barrels of recoverable oil.

To further attract investment, the Minister will announce the details of its inaugural licensing round in Juba, in October. The Ministry intends to officially launch the round by the last quarter of 2019 or the first quarter of 2020.

Over one year from the signing of a revitalized agreement to ease conflict in South Sudan, the country's political leaders have met some, but not all of the expectations laid out.

Briefing the UN Security Council in New York recently, Special Representative and head of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), David Shearer, explained developments and downfalls he had witnessed since the official peace ceremony last year.

President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar, entered into a peace accord last September, which would see him return as Vice President, in a move to end the country's brutal six-year civil war - the result of on-going clashes between opposing party loyalists in 2013.



We are committed to upholding the OPEC and non-OPEC Declaration of Cooperation to show solidarity with our oil producing partners, friends and counterparts globally

Twenty cheat death as bus catches fire in Shinyanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

TWENTY passengers yesterday escaped death by a whisker after the bus they were traveling in caught fire at Mhizi ward, Usanda in Shinyanga rural.

The passengers in a bus Christened Freys Coach were traveling from Shinyanga to Tanga region.

Shinyanga Regional Commander (RPC) Richard Abwao said that the incident occurred at around 12.30am involving a passenger bus with registration number T119 BDY being driven by Msami Atwayi (39).

RPC Abwao cited mechanical faults in the break system as the cause of the accident.

"Preliminary investigations show that after some faults in the vehicle's break system which led to malfunctioning which later caused fire. However, passengers teamed up and started to put off the fire from further spreading something which made it easier for the Fire and Rescue Force to put out the

fire after arriving at the scene of the accident," explained Commander Abwao.

According to him, all passengers were rescued and there were no injuries.

An eyewitness Josephine Charles who was also one of the passengers said that while on the way, they started to notice

that there is something unusual going on due to foul smell coming out from the bus.

"...but we continued with the journey a small car behind us which also noticed the matter informed our driver. The vehicle then stopped and we were ordered to disembark from our bus for our safety and by

that time two tires had already caught fire. We started battling the fire by using sand before the Fire and Rescue Force appeared at the scene to put out the fire," he said. Recently, 40 passengers survived death after Kaprikon bus they were traveling in overturned near the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) in Hai

district, Kilimanjaro region.

The bus owner, George Benedict Mberessero, confirmed that the accident happened at 4pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 after the driver of the bus, which was traveling from Singida to Moshi, tried to overtake another vehicle carrying cash, which was heading to Arusha.

Society needs more on climate change than experts often give

Is every problem being faced by people in the rural areas arising from climate change? One might be pardoned for thinking that this is the impression that researchers are portraying at present, where climate change becomes a whipping horse for all our ills. That doesn't mean it has little to do with our problems, but it creates an impression that we are victims of problems created by other people, elsewhere. Aren't most problems here of our own making?

To be sure, even climate change related problems have a lot to do with local activities, for instance when city authorities prohibited people from mining sand along the Jangwani valley to 'preserve the environment' they created room for massive siltation. Not the water level from the bridge is scarcely more than one meter, instead of three or four meters earlier, and any massive downpour leads to the silted seasonal stream filling up and overflowing. The key road connection to the city centre is cut off. It isn't climate change per se.

That is why some queries can be raised as to whether poverty stricken rural areas only have climate change to blame, or other ills besides. Research conducted by various experts at the Mwanza branch of the Institute of Rural Development Planning (IRDP) has shown that residents of Busega and Bunda districts in Simiyu and Mara regions face extreme poverty like missing one or two meals in a day. This is explained as arising from vagaries of climate change.

The research sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and conducted in villages of the two districts found alarming levels of poverty. Some

households are unable to have any substantial meals practically every day. This research was conducted over a small area that is not statistically representative of the whole country but experiences can be compared across the board to determine if it doesn't nearly always apply. Unless there is a well placed family member, like father or mother, who earns a dependable salary.

It is not clear that at a meeting that saw participants from various sections of society touched by the study had any real suggestions on what to do. Most areas don't have forests anymore from which rains depend, and soils are tired while no regular use of manure (apart from phosphates, etc) is available. Nor can irrigation be assured either for lack of water or topography, or both.

Scaling all those problems requires altering the speed of disruption of soil and rainfall sustainability, all of which is beyond reach for peasants.

It becomes easier to say it is climate change. Some peasants complained of elephants from nearby Serengeti National Park invading their villages and destroying food crops, consigning them to hunger and prolonged poverty. Others pointed at pests destroying the cassava crop which many people in the Lake Zone area district depend for food, a problem that belongs both to science as well as to regulation. Sticking with native species of staple foods makes it easier for pests to make their usual ravages and out colleges conduct interminable researches.

That might also have to be reconsidered to adapt to climate change vagaries, ability of pests to reproduce more and with ease, for all sorts of staple crops.

Lack of energy is significant impediment to Africa's economic, social development

AFRICA is often considered and referred as the 'Sun continent' or the continent where the Sun's influence is the greatest. According to the 'World Sunshine Map', Africa receives many more hours of bright sunshine during the course of the year than any other continent of the Earth. Many of the sunniest places on the planet lie there.

Despite the large solar potential, penetration of solar power in Africa's energy sector is still very low.

The whole continent has a long duration of sunshine, and excluding the large areas of tropical rainforests, Africa is dominated by clear skies even beyond deserts for example Sahara, Namibia and Kalahari), however, the regions located along the equator are considerably cloudier than the tropics and subtropics

G5 Sahel heads of state have expressed commitment to fully supporting Desert to Power, an initiative led by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

They made the pledge at a summit on "harnessing solar energy for the socio-economic development in the G5 Sahel countries."

The summit came on the heels of a high-level technical meeting attended by the region's energy ministers, development partners including the World Bank, and regional institutions such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union and ECOWAS.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, executive chairman of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, participated in the high-level meeting and endorsed the initiative.

Addressing journalists, G5 Sahel President Christian Kabore of Burkina Faso urged the private sector to support the initiative and underscored the strategic and critical role of power provision in the Sahel region.

The African Development Bank is

our bank and the private sector must be involved in this important initiative for our countries.

With the goal of Desert to Power being to propel the Sahelian economies to higher growth and prosperity, Adesina outlined the initiative's ambitions of providing 10,000 MW of solar-generated electricity to 250 million people across the Sahel.

"The African Development Bank is fully ready to work with all partners to make this Baobab of Energy a success. Your strong political support and policies to make solar energy affordable across the Sahel will be critical," said Adesina.

"Generations of people in the Sahel have waited for light for too long. Generations today and in the future can wait no longer! The time for action is now. The time for Desert to Power to provide electricity for all in the Sahel is now," he urged.

G5 Sahel heads of state acknowledged that limited energy access and that dependence on fossil fuels underscored the necessity of an energy shift and the need to accelerate the economic development of the region and ensure its stability.

The priority areas for the G5 Sahel include expanded utility-scale solar generation capacity, extending and strengthening power transmission networks, accelerating electrification through decentralised energy solutions, revitalising national power utilities, and improving the business environment for increased private sector investments.

Donor and development partners were asked to help mobilise US\$140 million for the initiatives project preparation phase.

Desert to Power has already galvanised huge political support at the global level, including during the recent G7 Summit in Biarritz, France.

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Why the wheels of justice are turning so slowly

By Pierre De Vos

HARDLY a week passes by without new evidence emerging that many SA politicians and their business benefactors are involved in corruption, money laundering, theft and fraud. Why, then, has there been so little movement from the National Prosecuting Authority to charge and prosecute the army of suspects?

When advocate Shamila Batohi started work in February this year as National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), it raised unrealistic expectations with the public that the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) would soon begin to charge and prosecute the very many corrupt politicians and businesspeople.

This was never going to happen as there are severe constraints on the ability of the NDPP to speed up prosecutions. While it would have been marvellous if it had been different, it is not possible for the NDPP to fix internal NPA problems overnight. Some of the reasons why prosecutions are not happening also have very little to do with the NPA.

On the last point: The NPA cannot prosecute cases unless these cases have been properly investigated and unless investigators have prepared dockets containing sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution. Normally (more about this later), the NPA does not itself conduct criminal investigations. It relies on either the South African Police Service (SAPS) or on the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (also called the Hawks) to investigate criminal activity and to collect the evidence which would be used by prosecutors to try and secure criminal convictions in court.

The problem is that political interference in both the SAPS and the Hawks has had a devastating effect on the willingness and ability of those employed by these bodies fearlessly to investigate corruption, money laundering, theft and fraud perpetrated by well-connected politicians and by their business benefactors.

The long list of disastrous political appointees as commissioner of the SAPS is just the tip of the iceberg as far as the politicisation of the SAPS is concerned. As anyone who has ever attended a protest march will attest, many SAPS members are badly trained and

unable to distinguish between their loyalty to the governing party and their duty to uphold the rule of law.

The Hawks has its own problems, having been born in sin. Recall, the Hawks was created to give the impression that the Zuma government was not indifferent about corruption while protecting the Zuma faction from prosecution for corruption. To ensure political control over the Hawks, it could not originally operate independently from the political influence of the government. Most importantly, the minister of police retained final control over which cases could be investigated by the Hawks.

A few weeks after the Constitutional Court removed the power of the minister of police to control decisions by the head of the Hawks on which cases to investigate, the minister suspended the then-head of the Hawks, Anwa Dramat, from his position.

Eventually, the minister relied on trumped-up charges to remove Dramat from his position as head of the Hawks. Dramat had to be removed because the crooked politicians and their crooked private benefactors believed he was too honest and too independent to be trusted with their freedom.

Dramat was replaced by the odious General Bernard Ntsemeza, whose appointment was later declared invalid by the High Court. In the judgment declaring his appointment invalid, the High Court held that Ntsemeza had a "contemptuous attitude towards the rule of law and the principle of legality and transparency". Another court had previously found that Ntsemeza was guilty of dishonesty and of acting in bad faith.

Ntsemeza has now been replaced by advocate Godfrey Lebeya, while the SAPS is now headed by General Khehla Sitole. But many of the senior people appointed by their less than honest predecessors are still working in the SAPS and the Hawks. Worse, the political interference into the Hawks and the SAPS also led to an exodus of many of the best and most honest investigators employed by these bodies. There is now a dire shortage of skilled investigators who can collect the appropriate evidence required for a successful prosecution of complex financial crimes.

Which means that to speed up investigations of politically

tainted corruption, money laundering, theft and fraud, and to improve the chances of successfully prosecuting the corrupt politicians and their private-sector benefactors, one would need to rid the SAPS and the Hawks of a large number of senior officers and replace them with more professional, more honest, more competent and more diligent people.

This has not happened and, for both political and legal reasons, is not likely to happen. Which means that for the time being it would be naïve to hope that the SAPS and the Hawks will speedily and effectively investigate the large number of priority crimes involving politicians and politically connected businesspeople. If the NPA had to rely on the Hawks to gather sufficient evidence to ensure prosecution, very few of the so-called State Capture culprits would ever see the inside of a courtroom.

It is true that some of the vacancies within the Hawks have recently been filled and that it has completed some investigations into corruption and is awaiting feedback from the NPA, but I would be very surprised if Hawks investigations do, in the short to medium term, lead to a large number of high profile corruption prosecutions.

I suspect this is exactly why in March 2019 President Cyril Ramaphosa created a Special Investigative Directorate inside the NPA. The directorate - headed by advocate Hermione Cronje - is situated within the NPA. This allows the directorate to conduct investigations in which both prosecutors and other investigators are involved - similar to the method used by the former Scorpions.

The proclamation establishing the directorate gave it extraordinarily wide jurisdiction to decide which crimes to investigate. Apart from common law offences "including" fraud, forgery, uttering, theft and any offence involving dishonesty, the directorate also has the power to investigate statutory offences relating to corruption, money laundering, organised crime, and offences committed in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, Municipal Management Act, Financial Intelligence Centre Act, and "any other statutory offence involving dishonesty".

It is also empowered to investigate any unlawful activities relating to serious, high profile or

complex corruption including but not limited to offences or criminal or unlawful activities arising from the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, the Nugent Commission of Inquiry into the Public Investment Corporation (PIC).

If the Special Investigative Directorate is properly funded and managed, it is most likely to have significant success in bringing the high-profile politicians and their enablers to book.

But this is not the end of the story. The NPA itself is in crisis. Ever since it was created, the NPA has been mired in controversy. While the Constitutional Court has confirmed that the NPA and specifically the NDPP enjoys constitutionally protected independence and that politicians and other powerful role-players are not permitted to interfere in prosecutorial decisions, there has consistently been political interference in the work of the NPA and the NDPP.

Moreover, ever since Vusi Pikoli was unlawfully removed from his post as NDPP, a long line of full-time and acting national directors of public prosecutions contributed to the weakening of the NPA - often with the assistance of then-president Jacob Zuma. Many politically motivated senior appointments were made by Zuma and by various NDPPs. (Ramaphosa recently moved to nullify the appointment of several senior NPA leaders "appointed" in the dying days of the Zuma regime - but this move is being challenged in court.)

During the era of Menzi Simelane, Shaun Abrahams and Nomgcobo Jiba many skilled and committed prosecutors also left the NPA. NDPP Shamila Batohi inherited a dysfunctional and weak institution and it is going to take years to fix the NPA. Just because the NPA is now headed by an honest and fearless person does not mean that all the institutional problems and weakness of the organisation will magically disappear.

No wonder that Hawks head Lebeya complained to Parliament this year that it "still takes months" for the NPA to make decisions on whether to prosecute cases prepared by the Hawks. One outstanding decision was in respect of alleged R11-million fraud over misrepresentations former Eskom CEO Brian Molefe made to the power utility's pension fund as ventilated at the parliamentary State Capture inquiry in 2017.

The NPA faces another problem not of its own making. This is a problem faced by prosecuting authorities in many parts of the world. Those who have stolen millions (or even billions) of rand now have very deep pockets and can spend vast amounts of money on their criminal lawyers. The NPA, on the other hand, does not have unlimited funds to secure the successful prosecution of the rich culprits. In such cases there is no equality of arms between the defence and the accused, which means that the NPA is likely to be legally outwitted unless it takes extraordinary care with the preparation of its cases.

To make things even more difficult, accused persons with deep pockets can - with the assistance of ethically challenged lawyers - exploit procedural rules to delay the proceedings and can place extra pressure on the NPA by drawing it into an expensive and time-consuming fight over procedural issues. Zuma and his lawyers did this brilliantly because Zuma had access to unlimited state funds to pay for it all - dragging out his case for more than 10 years.

When a case is politicised, every small technical victory for the accused against the NPA will also be politically exploited to try and discredit the NPA and the prosecution. (Imagine what would happen if the NPA prosecuted Ace Magashule, Julius Malema or Floyd Shivambu and the court then ruled that the search warrant used to gather evidence in the case was invalid - it would be like Christmas for the accused.)

All this means that if the NPA decides to go after extremely rich or powerful individuals, it would have to make absolutely sure that it has its ducks in a row. It would therefore not be surprising to hear that the NDPP is holding back some high-profile prosecutions because of procedural weaknesses in the various investigations.

Botswana's election will go down to the wire

BY PETER FABRICIUS

FORMER president Ian Khama is the wild card in next week's Botswana elections. His bitter public fallout with his successor Mokgweetsi Masisi has made the outcome uncertain and raised some concerns about political and economic post-election stability.

Up to now, it's been largely a given that the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) will always win, as it has done in the past 11 elections since independence in 1966. But Khama's angry departure from the party has threatened to end its unbroken run of victories.

Stung by Masisi's ditching of many of his cherished policies, damaging his legacy, curbing his ex-presidential privileges, and allegedly using undemocratic manoeuvres to win the BDP's presidential nomination, Khama is backing a new party. The Botswana Patriotic Front (BPF) is an 'ad hoc loose electoral alliance' with the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC), the opposition coalition presenting the greatest threat to the BDP's chances.

This alliance could hurt the BDP mainly by splitting its rural vote, especially in central Botswana - the seat of Khama's Bamangwato chieftainship. This has always been the heartland of the BDP.

But it's complicated. The BPF was formed recently, and by then the UDC had already nominated its candidates. So in many seats the UDC and BPF candidates are standing against each other, which could split the opposition vote enough to give the BDP victory. And the BDP and many analysts believe that associating with Khama and the BPF will conversely dent the UDC's chances in the urban areas, which are its stronghold, and where Khama isn't widely popular.

When Khama was in office, the UDC lobbied for him to be arrested on corruption charges. Now they are in the same coalition. Even within the UDC leadership there is some open dissatisfaction about this alliance. Prince Dibeela, deputy leader of the Botswana National Front, the main party in the UDC, told ISS Today in Gaborone recently that it had been a 'blunder' to ally with Khama's BPF.

Pundits also caution against over-



simplifying the electoral arithmetic. In the 2014 elections the BDP lost the popular vote, winning around 47%. It was saved by Botswana's first-past-the-post constituency system which gave it 37 seats to the opposition's 20.

Even on a constituency-by-constituency basis, the UDC and Botswana Congress Party's (BCP) combined votes would have given them more seats than the BDP. In 2014, though, the UDC and BCP were separate. Now they have joined forces in the UDC.

Will that give the UDC victory next week? Not necessarily. One of the many reasons is that the UDC has also changed since 2014, losing two of its important constituent parties. And if Khama is an unpredictable factor in these elections, so is Masisi. Many believe he has made a reasonably good start at cleaning out corruption and building necessary infrastructure and that he is more engaging than the rather austere former military commander Khama.

The net effect of all these changes could be another victory for Masisi's BDP, two Botswana analysts said at an Institute for Security Studies seminar this week. Both Keith Jefferis, former deputy governor of the Bank of Botswana and now director of Econsult, and University of Botswana political scientist Leonard Sesa, stressed however that the election was still too close to call.

The UDC and others argue that vic-

tory for them would put the seal on Botswana's democratic credentials as it would be the first time power had passed from one party to another.

Economist Jefferis worries, though, that the UDC has made too many populist promises in its election manifesto, such as creating 100 000 jobs (in a population of 2.2 million), tripling the minimum wage and increasing old-age pensions.

He fears that tripling the minimum wage would collapse jobs in an economy where unemployment is already some 30% (including those discouraged from seeking jobs).

The only way the UDC could create 100 000 jobs would be in the public service which already employs 45% of the country's workforce. And that would collapse the economy.

Jefferis and Sesa both predicted that if the UDC/BPF won it would have difficulty holding together because of its internal tensions. Even more so if it failed to secure a majority of seats and had to seek more coalition partners.

Even Masisi and the BDP would face major economic challenges if they won, Jefferis said. Although Botswana has lessened its dependence on diamonds, which contributed about half of GDP 20 years ago to about 20% today, it's still too dependent on the gems, which constitute about 80% of exports. Strong diamond exports inflate the pula and make other exports uncompetitive, aggravating Botswana's abiding challenge

of diversifying its economy.

Jefferis noted that the BDP - like other regional ruling parties - talks a lot about ambitious economic plans such as creating a knowledge economy and harnessing the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Instead what Botswana really needs is just to get the basics right - such as fixing roads and traffic lights; avoiding 3 km queues of cargo trucks at the South African border because waybills can't be accessed online; ensuring schools have textbooks; and cutting back on the public service. Diplomats ISS Today spoke to added a few other vital reforms, such as privatising state-owned enterprises and slashing the state boards that still control much of the economy.

It is striking how many of Masisi's challenges mirror those of his neighbour South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, including having to retain in his cabinet too many holdovers from the past regime to secure his party base. If Masisi wins, Jefferis says, he has to quickly make the necessary reforms, allowing enough time for them to impact the economy before he faces the electorate again.

For over half a century, Botswana has been an island of peace and stability in a stormy regional sea. But was that stability founded purely on the fact that one party has ruled since independence?

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant



Models of Chinese high-speed trains and passenger airplanes C919 are exhibited at the first CIIE. (File photo)

CIIE constantly benefits foreign companies with expanding spillover effects

By Tian Hong

SINCE the conclusion of the first China International Import Expo (CIIE) a year ago, a large batch of exhibits displayed at the event have been put onto shelves, and a series of relevant policies have been and are being implemented, satisfying the upgrading consumption demands of the Chinese people and facilitating the entry of foreign enterprises into the Chinese market.

Obviously, the mega trade fair is showing increasing spillover effects.

Elekta, a Swedish company that provides cancer care devices and solutions is one of the beneficiaries of such spillover effects. Only three months after it debuted its latest self-adaptive accurate stereotactic radiosurgery treatment system at the first CIIE, the system has been officially equipped at the Shanghai Gamma Knife Hospital. So far, the system has served over 2,000 Chinese patients.

The company received dozens of orders at the first CIIE and many of its products have been put into use at hospitals, said Liu Jianbin, vice president and marketing director of Elekta's Chinese branch.

Elekta (China) Investment Co. Ltd. was established at the end of 2018. Now, the number of its employees in China has exceeded that at its headquarter in Sweden. Its R&D personnel in China account for about half of the company's total in the world.

Such performance can be attributed to the 30 permanent trading platforms established by Shanghai a year ago - the first batch of this kind aiming to turn exhibits into commodities.

Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Center is one of the permanent trading platforms where bonded exhibition, transaction, logistics and storage services are all available. As a major platform that demonstrates and expands the spillover effects of the CIIE, it is positioned as a distribution center of imported goods that connects the Yangtze River Delta, serves the whole nation, and even radiates the Asia-Pacific region.

Starting operation since May this year, the center has attracted more than 400 brands and 2,500 commodities from 26 countries, exploring the new models of bonded exhibition and post-exhibition trading.

On Sept. 25, a Type B bonded logistics center at the Shanghai Hongqiao Central Business District started operation, which can carry out bonded exhibition, transactions and cross-border e-commerce business.

Since imported commodities are directly shipped from merchants to the bonded platform, the operating costs of logistics and other procedures are re-

duced, said Cai Jun, general manager of the Hongqiao Import Commodity Exhibition and Trading Center, adding that many of the imported products are now sold at the same price in China and overseas.

Greenland Global Commodity Trading Hub, another permanent exhibition and trade platform, is located next to the venue of the first CIIE. So far, it has received more than 350,000 visitors and held over 50 trade and business activities.

It has welcomed more than 700 professional buyers groups from home and abroad and helped 150 merchants match downstream channels.

New Zealand dairy brand Theland was wowed by the visitors at the first import expo last year for delivering fresh milk from New Zealand dairy farms to Chinese customers in just 72 hours. Now, the products of the company are sold in 26 provincial-level administrative regions in China through offline channels, and are available in all provincial-level administrative regions online.

It is a result of not only the opportunities provided by the CIIE, but also the trade facilitation policies rolled out by the Chinese government.

During the first Expo, China's General Administration of Customs and other regulatory departments optimized the system and procedures for overseas companies to enter the Chinese market. Gradually, the piloted new system and procedures turned into regular operation, covering more and more foreign companies.

Such trade facilitation policies are particularly effective in the medical industry. Alecensa, a cancer medicine developed by healthcare company Roche and exhibited at the first CIIE, was approved by relevant Chinese departments just 9 months after its approval in the US, and was prescribed to Chinese patients within 47 days of its approval.

It used to take five or six years longer for imported new medicines to be approved in China than in Europe and the US, said Lily Long, vice president and head of communications at Roche Pharmaceuticals China. She believes that the fast approval of Alecensa came from the innovative policies made by the Chinese government.

As the second CIIE is approaching, Li Qiang, Party Secretary of Shanghai, said it is necessary to set higher standard, present finer exhibition, create better atmosphere and stimulate more innovation, so as to upgrade the exhibition through its service, reputation and achievement, and expand the spillover effects of it.

People's Daily

South America's longest-serving leader seeks another term

By Bloomberg

BOLIVIA'S President Evo Morales faces his toughest electoral challenge yet as he seeks a fourth term in office amid voters' waning enthusiasm for South America's longest-serving leader.

Morales needs 50% of the ballots in a first-round vote tomorrow - or 40% together with a 10-point lead over his closest rival - to avoid a run-off vote. Polls suggest he has a good shot at pulling that off, though unlike in previous contests, the result may be close. An Ipsos Bolivia poll published Oct 13 put Morales at 40% with his closest rival, Carlos Mesa, at 22%, with a 2% margin of error.

The lone survivor of the so-called pink tide of leftist leaders that reshaped the continent's politics during the 2000s, Morales has presided over more than a decade of strong economic growth, rising incomes and falling poverty. But after ignoring the result of a 2016 referendum on presidential term limits, Bolivia's leader faces an opposition increasingly critical of his democratic credentials as well as signs that his unorthodox economic model is starting to run out of road.

"It's going to be a tighter race without a doubt," Kathy Ledebur, the director of the Andean Information Network, a think-tank in Cochabamba, Bolivia's third-largest district. "But there's a good chance he'll win in the first round."

Mixed model

An Aymara Indian in a country historically ruled by a richer, white elite, Morales swept to power after his 2005 election promising to "nationalize everything." In fact, his Movement Towards Socialism party (MAS) has proven considerably more pragmatic than much of his rhetoric suggests.

"It's neither an absolutely socialist model or a strictly liberal one," Hugo Siles, an economist in La Paz, said by telephone. "It's main characteristic is



President Evo Morales

the nationalization of strategic public companies combined with a free market economy when it comes to determining the prices of basic goods."

To date, that model has proved remarkably successful, with GDP expansion averaging 4.9% between 2004-2014, the longest period of growth in the country's history. Both poverty and inequality have fallen significantly.

But just three commodities make up over 70% of Bolivia's exports: gas, zinc and gold. With exports of gas in decline, the country's future sources of income look less secure.

When commodity receipts started to fall, the Morales administration stepped in to maintain levels of public spending. Public sector debt rose from 38% of GDP to 53% between 2014 and 2019 while Bolivia's international reserves sank from just over US\$15 billion to US\$8 billion.

Bolivia had one of the highest fiscal deficits in the region in 2018 at 8.1% of GDP. Though the government is aiming for under 7% this year, that's still an "unsustainable" level according to Siles.

But despite the prospect of tougher times ahead, the election campaign has barely touched on questions of economics, focusing instead on issues

like healthcare and security. Bolivian dollar-denominated bonds maturing in 2028 yield just slightly over 5%, well below other South American nations like Argentina and Ecuador.

Election campaign

The chief threat to Morales comes from Mesa, a former journalist who spent a little under six months as president from 2004-2005 during a period of severe political turmoil. Some polls have put him within the 10-point margin behind Morales that would force the election to a second round.

But Mesa, a long-serving politician, has alienated both the left and the right over the years, according to Ledebur, and has no real electoral base.

In an interview in June, Mesa accused Morales of having "authoritarian" inclinations and fostering "brutal corruption." Mesa himself has also been dogged by allegations of graft.

In third place appears Oscar Ortiz, a senator from the wealthy agricultural heartland of Santa Cruz, who enjoys a clean reputation but hardly represents a political rupture. Running under the banner "Bolivia Says No!" - in reference to the 2016 referendum - Ortiz's campaign is also focused on attacking Morales.

All three candidates' plans for gov-

ernment reveal few significant differences, according to Amaru Villanueva, a sociologist and coordinator at the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation in La Paz.

"The main opposition parties are not aiming at privatization, fundamentally reducing taxes or removing conditional cash transfers, but at improving state governance," he said.

While Mesa may stand a chance if the election goes to a second round on Dec 15, there's no guarantee that Ortiz's voters will back him over Morales, particularly given the former journalist has a famously difficult relationship with Santa Cruzenos, after labeling them provincial.

Many of Bolivia's business elite - including those in agriculture - may prefer continuity over change.

"Business sees Evo as the best guarantor of stability," Eduardo Gamarra, a political science professor at Florida International University said. "It's curious, but he's probably a 21st century socialist in name only."

Future challenges

Even if Morales pulls off a fourth presidential victory, most analysts expect his MAS party to lose its two-thirds majority in Congress. But should Mesa win, he'll have to work with a legislature that's likely to contain a simple majority of lawmakers loyal to Morales.

Some form of adjustments to stanch the bleeding in the public finances also seems inevitable even if austerity is likely to prove a tough sell in a still-poor country that has benefited from years of generous government spending. When Morales attempted to eliminate a fuel subsidy in 2010, he was forced to backtrack following major street protests - in much the same way as his Ecuadorian counterpart, Lenin Moreno - more recently.

"No matter who wins, the fact that they are going to have to deal with the economic situation is going to trigger unrest," Gamarra said. **AGENCIES**

Data gaps threaten achievement of development goals in Africa

BY SARA JERVING

DATA gaps across the African continent threaten to hinder the achievement of the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, according to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's first governance report released early this week.

The report, 'Agendas 2063 & 2030: Is Africa On Track?', is based on an analysis of the foundation's Ibrahim index of African governance. It found that since the adoption of both of these agendas, the availability of public data in Africa has declined.

With data focused on social outcomes, there has been a notable decline in education, population and vital statistics, such as birth and death records, which allow citizens to access public services.

The index, on which the report is based, is the most comprehensive dataset on African governance, drawing on ten years of data of all 54 African nations. An updated index is released every two years.

The AU's agenda, a 50-year framework for the continent that was adopted in 2015, looks at areas such as inclusive social and economic growth, regional integration, and security. The goals, a 15-year global framework also adopted in 2015, focus on sustainable development in the areas of economy, society, and the environment.

The report found that almost half of the 255 targets of the AU's agenda are not directly quantifiable and fewer than 20 per cent have an indicator to measure progress.

It further found that, on average, fewer than 40 per cent of the 17 SDG indicators have sufficient levels of data to track progress accurately, over half of the data sources on SDG indicators are estimations and a product of statistical modelling or global monitoring, and only one-third of data originate from direct country sources.

"We are deeply worried by the inability to accurately monitor progress against these targets on the continent. Data are an essential foundation for effective policymaking and resource mobilisation," said Mo Ibrahim, chair of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, in a press release.

"Without data, we drive blind - poli-



cies are misdirected and progress on the road to development is stunted. We must all act urgently to close the 'data gap,' if indeed we aim to leave no one behind," he noted.

The report said the main challenge in the production of quality, timely data, is a lack of funding and lack of independence of the national statistical offices.

Only one country, Mauritius, had a perfect score in terms of independence of its national statistics office - meaning that its office can collect the data it chooses, publish them without approval from other arms of the government, and is sufficiently funded. Fifteen African nations scored zero in terms of the independence of their offices.

With respect to governmental statistical capacity, Egypt and Seychelles also scored highly, whereas Somalia and Libya scored the lowest.

Between 2014 and 2017, Sudan, Ivory Coast and Seychelles strengthened their statistical capacity the most, whereas the Central African Republic, Chad and Comoros saw the greatest levels of deterioration in national capacity to collect statistics.

One area that many countries are failing in is conducting national censuses. Only about half of the continent's population live in a country where a census was conducted between 2009 and last year. Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Somalia haven't conducted a census since before 1990.

Nineteen of the AU's agenda goals are also qualitative, having an aspirational nature, making them hard to measure. An example is the goal that "cultures, values and norms of local communities are respected and protected".

According to the Open Data Watch's Open Data Inventory, on average African nations score the lowest on data pertaining to energy use and pollution. Over the past four years, the largest declines have been in statistics on education outcomes, education facilities, population and vital statistics.

But glaring data gaps don't exist in all areas. On average, African nations score highly in terms of data related to economic and financial statistics.

There are efforts to improve the quality of data collection across the continent. For instance, the "Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century" pushes for the improvement of data in low-income and lower-middle-income countries to design, implement and monitor national statistics strategies and nationally-owned and produced data for SDG indicators.

Currently, 37 nations are implementing strategies, five are waiting for the adoption of the strategies by their governments, 11 have expired strategies, and one country, Somalia, has no strategy - with no plans to create one.

The Praia Group on Governance Statistics was also created in 2015 to encourage countries to produce quality statistics and is creating a handbook on best practices. The AU Institute for Statistics in Africa opened in Tunis, Tunisia, last year.

Through the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are working to build unified policy frameworks around collecting civil registration and vital statistics.

The use of mobile phones and geospatial information also has shown promising signs that these technologies can help to bridge data gaps, the report said. It added that to really harness this, "the production of data needs to be more agile and adaptable to user needs".

What and who to decide the good or bad of Russia's presence in Africa?

By Special Correspondent

RUSSIA'S return to Africa has been the subject of wide media coverage, governmental concerns and civil society reactions in recent weeks, especially as Sochi gears up to host the first ever Russia-Africa Summit next week.

Most commentators have come from Europe and North America to voice concerns over Russia's dodgy arm deals in Africa, political meddling with unstable African regimes, and the country's overall challenging of the status quo on the continent.

The problem is that when these comments are not outright hypocritical, they are missing a key point: competition is good for business, and this is just what Africa needs right now.

First, Russia's presence in the continent cannot be summarised into sensationalism. It is complex and needs to be put back into context.

Russia's modern relations with African governments and institutions started building up in post-independence Africa, time when the Soviet Union offered key diplomatic and military support to young African nations in need of it.

This assistance was multi-form and much-needed for countries seeking fast development following harsh independence wars and conflicts.

"The Soviet Union provided significant economic assistance, including infrastructure, agricultural development, security cooperation, and health sector cooperation," wrote Paul Stronski of the Carnegie's Russia and Eurasia Programme earlier this week.

Consequently, President Vladimir Putin's vision for Africa is resuming and building up on a cooperation that started in the second half of the 20th century and was only put on hold by the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In short, while arriving late to the party, Russia is no stranger to the African playground. Beyond military cooperation, its state-owned natural resources companies have already made inroads into the continent, and could be a game changer for many African countries in need of investment and electricity.

Key Russian energy companies such as Gazprom, Lukoil, Rostec and Rosatom are already present in Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria or Uganda, while mining and minerals ones such as Nordgold or Rusal are developing world-class mines in Guinea and Zimbabwe.

On a global stage, Russia's involvement in OPEC has also sent strong signals that it is committed to marketing stability and global energy cooperation, which ultimately benefit African producers.

"Russia's influence is increasing through strategic investments in natural resources, and such investments are welcomed by African governments and companies," says. They bring in key Russian capital and know-how to the continent which is seeking to diversify its investors basket and attract much needed investment into its energy industry," said African Energy Chamber executive chairman and Centurion Law Group CEO Nj Ayuk.

"The African Energy Chamber is supporting such efforts and has seen a definite uptick in Russian companies' interests for the continent," he noted, adding: "We predict a lot of deals to be signed during and after the Sochi Summit for Russian energy companies

to develop African resources and do business in Africa. This will be especially beneficial as Africa develops gas-based economies."

Amongst the most recent agreements are, for instance, last year's MoU between Atlas Oranto Petroleum and Rosneft, under which the pan-African E&P company agreed to explore the joint development of its assets across Africa with the Russian state-owned giant.

Another one is the signing of several agreements between Russia and Mozambique this summer, involving again state-owned Rosneft but also Nordgold. In Central Africa, Gazprom is also lifting gas from Cameroon's the FLNG Hilli Episeyo, the world's first converted FLNG vessel.

As such investments and activity pick up, the real game changer will be Africa's ability to make deals that work for its people and its economies.

Deal-making is what will shape the future of Russia-Africa relations and will tell whether Russia's renewed influence in the continent is good or bad for its people.

Rightly so, the ability and capacity of African governments to make better deals with investors is becoming central to the global business narrative on Africa.

In his much-anticipated book coming up this month and already best-seller on Amazon, "Billions At Play: The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals", Nj Ayuk dedicates an entire chapter to the critical art of deal-making.

"For Africa to truly realise all of the benefits oil and gas operations have to offer, we need to see good deal-making across the board," he writes, adding: "Clearly, good deal-making has far-reaching implications for African people, communities and business."

Negotiation of contracts is in fact the key element missing from the current debate on Russia's increasing influence in Africa.

There is no doubt that Africa is welcoming Russia's interest for doing business on the continent, not only because it comes without the conditionality of actors such as the IMF and the World Bank but also because Africa needs critical energy investment and a giant oil producer like Russia has good technology and know-how to export.

The only thing is that sub-Saharan Africa has seen several regulatory developments in the near future, with a particular focus on local content regulations across energy markets.

Employment creation, domestic capacity building and the growth of a strong base of local energy companies are high up on the African agenda.

If African governments are able to negotiate contracts that deliver on these expectations and Russian companies are committed to seeing the continent grow, then the future is bright for Russia in Africa.

At the end of the day, it is all about how African governments and institutions will negotiate future contracts with Russian companies.

As Nj Ayuk writes in Billions At Play, "governments must give investors a chance to generate income from the resources they are interested in and recoup their investments". "At the same time, governments need to look at creating value for their country and its people. It's a balancing act. It's challenging, but it's doable," he aptly adds.

Whether Sochi will result in that balancing act remains to be seen, but the challenge is given and Africa is up for it.

African Energy Chamber dispatch filed from Johannesburg

Water scarcity in South Africa and the precarious road ahead

By Lelethu Tonisi

WE are living in a semi-arid country with variable rainfall, and unless a solution is found soon, South Africa will eventually be unable to support inclusive growth and economic transformation. This is according to Treasury's 2019 Budget review.

Re-inforcing this challenge, Ron Tluczek Senior Associate: Dams, Hydropower and Underground Works at Gibb, told the round table gathering: "SA receives an estimated rainfall of half a metre of rainfall per year, that's about half of the world average. We don't get a lot of rainfall in this country and at this stage we are experiencing the scarcity of available water."

Gauteng presently receives water from two major schemes: the Lesotho Highlands water project and Thukela Vaal water transfer scheme and both feed the Vaal Dam. The most recent one is the Lesotho Highlands water scheme, operational for about 12 years.

The original plans were to have water transferred to Gauteng in 2024 but due to various delays the project will not be taking off. Original projections were that demand would exceed supply water supply by 2024 in Gauteng.

"At the moment the Lesotho Highlands phase two has been constructed. Lesotho Highlands phase one was initially at Katsi Dam, and then Mohale Dam was built which feeds into Katsi. Phase two is now Polihali Dam which will also feed into Katsi. Once Polihali is built the transfer tunnels from Katsi to South Africa will reach capacity. So, there are plans to do further development in Lesotho but that would entail



constructing tunnels to transfer the water," said Tluczek.

He said that while a plan is in motion, you can only transfer so much water, so you have to look at innovative alternatives to see what water is available. He pointed to water treatment works put through a second series of pipelines to irrigate recreational spaces such as sports fields.

Towing icebergs as an alternative for fresh water supply had also been mooted, although it would need some careful planning. "This may seem like a pie in the sky, but Lesotho Highlands has a pie in the sky for 20 years. It may sound like it but in engineering terms anything is possible," he said.

But Technical Executive and professional Engineer Dave Clark said the financial resources could be better spent elsewhere. "An iceberg is two-thirds under water, so most of it is dragged around by some current.

The wind is pushing in a different direction. You must break it off from somewhere and then get on top of it to

mine water. It's a nice idea but I don't think it would fly. There are much better ways to use our money," he said.

He added that we shouldn't be using clear treated water to flush toilets and use more grey water. They are working on a project in Sharpeville re-appropriating toilets and sinks to prevent water wastage. This was a small intervention that needed money to thrive.

Building new infrastructure will help address the issue of water scarcity but before we start embarking on building new infrastructure, we first need to have a look at our current water sources, said Trevor Balzer, former director general (DDG) of the Department of Water and Sanitation.

South Africa shares its river basins with five of the neighbouring countries. Those shared river courses cover 60% of the land masses in SA and we get 40% of our water from there. There's a relationship between South Africa and her neighbours in terms of water sharing, which is done through protocols in the UN in terms of shared water courses.

Why water truly of great value in fighting hunger, improving diets

By Stefan Uhlenbrook

IT is often said that the human body needs water before it needs food. And the reality is that we need a lot of water in order to produce food.

As the world's focus now turns to healthier diets, we must radically transform the way water is accessed, used and conserved to address the needs of the more than 800 million people suffering with insufficient food.

Take the hundreds of millions of people living in rural areas, reliant on increasingly erratic rainfall on which rain-fed agriculture is dependent. When extreme weather changes due to climate change impact water availability, the effects on their food security can be devastating.

And this is only at risk of getting much worse, as population and water demands grow whilst climate change increases the severity and number of floods and droughts in many parts of the world, but especially in vulnerable developing countries.

So, this World Food Day, as millions of people across the world show their commitment to zero hunger and healthy diets, one crucial piece of the puzzle must not be forgotten: water.

This means addressing three central priorities.

Firstly, a focus must be given to irrigation with a consideration of the needs of water. Less than 20 per cent of the world's farmland uses water from rivers, lakes and groundwater for watering their crops, meaning millions still must count on increasingly unreliable rainfall for their harvests.

Without irrigation, farmers cannot grow a variety of crops needed for a healthy diet, including off-season vegetables to supplement diets largely re-

liant on staple crops.

Many smallholder farmers lack access to water pumps and necessary electricity or fuel that can provide irrigation water. However, a solar-powered irrigation system offers a clean solution, allowing farmers to access a critical water supply that can make the difference between a failed harvest and a bountiful one.

Secondly, building climate resilience to floods and droughts is vital. Improving the monitoring of weather conditions as well as better forecasting systems that reach out to all, especially smallholder farmers, is critical. Better information allows better preparedness, helping farmers and those managing water supplies to take adaptive measures to cope with extreme weather.

That is why the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) have been working with local communities across Africa and Asia, to ensure their water sources are adequately managed in case of disasters. One way is by building water storage facilities like ponds and tanks that can be tapped into in dry seasons.

Another is through helping communities and governments appropriately use rivers like the Nile, Zambezi and Volta. These rivers are severely vulnerable to droughts, but provide a crucial water source for the irrigation needs of millions.

Their use will only be exacerbated by the increasing water demands of growing populations, developing economies and climate change.

Lastly, it is critical that all rural people are given access to water. Otherwise, it prevents the most vulnerable members of society, including women, youth, and the elderly, as well as minorities, from growing enough food.



And whilst the reasons behind migration are complex, when people go hungry it can drive them to cities, contributing to additional problems like the growth of slums, unemployment and social unrest.

For women, in particular, increasing their access to vital inputs like water, often ultimately leads to better nutritional outcomes for their entire household.

Collecting more and better data to understand why certain groups continue to have unequal access requires data that is divided by sex, age, income, migration status, and ethnicity, amongst others. This can then help policy-makers to adequately address it.

With 80 per cent of the poor living in rural areas, their capacity to cope with and to adapt to increasingly tougher climatic, environmental and societal changes is low.

The critical role of water for healthy people and a healthy environment cannot be overemphasised.

However, transforming the way water is managed can be part of the solution towards healthy diets and zero hunger. If we do not address this, ending hunger can only ever be a pipe

dream.

Meanwhile, though women make up 43 percent of the agricultural labor force worldwide and they produce 60-80 percent of the food in the developing world, traditional power structures in the food system means that their contribution is, at best, undervalued.

What's more, women, smallholder farmers, poor and marginalized communities carry an uneven burden of the negative impacts caused by today's industrial food system.

The low power and visibility of those vulnerable populations leaves us with major blind spots and creates a situation in which those exposed to the greatest risks are not seen or heard. This is especially the case when it comes the impact of climate change.

Yet, we ignore women at our own peril. Across the world, women are taking matters into their own hands, transforming food systems to tackle food insecurity, playing an essential role in the dynamic management of agricultural biodiversity and improving their communities' climate resilience.

In 2018, I visited the climate resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming

(ZBNF) initiative in Andhra Pradesh, India. This government-backed, chemical-free programme promotes food resilience through traditional farming and regenerative, agroecological processes and principles.

It is a holistic, natural alternative to high-cost chemical inputs-based agriculture, freeing farmers from the use of harmful pesticides and other expensive inputs, and the burdensome loans required to fund them.

While I was there, I met a woman named Lakshmi who, against social conventions, independently bought a plot of land and farmed it using agroecological practices. At its zenith, she revealed it to her family to prove its success and convert them to a new nature- and people-based way of farming.

Today, Lakshmi is not only working as a successful small-holder farmer, but as a ZBNF farmer trainer as well, and thus a central part of a growing movement.

There are 180,000 farmers involved in the ZBNF way of growing food and managing the biodiversity of the land, feeding communities in 3015 villages. It plans to scale to 6 million by 2024.

Like many women, Lakshmi had to

navigate social and cultural barriers to succeed. It's clear that by changing how food in her community is grown and cultivated, she opened up not only a sustainable way to provide for her family but also a climate-smart and culturally relevant way to do so too.

With ZBNF, natural inputs like cow dung and cow urine are used to rejuvenate soil, improve productivity, and increase the soil's ability to sequester carbon.

This is a nature-based approach to food systems that replenishes the land which, in turn, helps mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The recommendations of the IPCC Land report support scaling up of agroecological farming techniques that enable the land to absorb and store more carbon dioxide, lowering greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Given there are some 3.6 billion acres of agricultural soil on the earth, our food systems are an immediate, scalable, effective, and affordable opportunity to respond to climate change.

The case for systemic change has never been clearer. From new policies to a shift in power dynamics, we need to transform the conditions that are keeping the current industrial food system in place, and exporting it beyond its current boundaries.

A good place to start is with a shift in narrative and in mindsets. World Food Day's message has long been about needing to feed the world. This needs to change from how "we" feed 9 billion, often driven by the Global North, to how will 9 billion people feed themselves well through empowering farmers, citizens, and communities.

There is sufficient food available for everyone to be well-fed. That this is not happening points not to a lack of food but to systemic failure in the way we grow, process, distribute, market, eat, and dispose of food with a disregard for equity and meeting basic human needs.

Our future food systems must be made resilient and equitable. Only then can we ensure that no one is left behind and that those upon whom our food systems depend - women and smallholders - have the ability to achieve a decent livelihood, food security and sovereignty.

By changing the paradigms and disrupting the status quo, Lakshmi's lived experience shows that change is possible when there is real action.



World Bank

The World Bank and IMF mark 75th Anniversary

By Soren Ambrose

AS ordinary citizens around the world are taking to the streets to disrupt the status quo and demand climate action, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are quietly marking their 75th anniversary at their annual meetings in Washington DC.

In a year of unprecedented public protests demanding transformative system change to tackle the climate emergency, these international financial institutions and their policies are looking decidedly outdated.

Between 2014 and 2018, the World Bank Group has advised on fossil fuel projects in 45 countries, and provided over \$12 billion in direct finance. This came after a majority of governments signed up to the Paris Climate Agreement and undermines its goals to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The IMF also has a role to play in the climate crisis. Its incessant calls for reductions in public spending have left many developing countries, where climate disasters are most likely to hit, seriously under-prepared for such shocks. Even clearer is the problem of debt.

Earlier this year, Mozambique was forced to take out more IMF loans to recover from Cyclone Idai instead of receiving debt relief and grants from the rich countries that have caused climate change. ActionAid is campaigning for climate justice - this means those that have done the most to cause climate change, providing finance to support those whose lives and livelihoods are being destroyed as a result.

We're calling for a funding mechanism, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, that would automatically provide relief funds and debt relief to countries recovering from climate disasters. Support from the IMF and World Bank for this proposal would help make it a reality.

Meanwhile a new debt crisis is looming. After a lengthy campaign for debt relief in 2005, the institutions finally agreed to substantial write-downs, which also came with substantial conditions. But now many of the countries that received relief are back in trouble, as they continue to try to raise money for development - everything from bridges and ports to schools and hospitals. Levels

of debt are now increasing dramatically, with over 100 countries in, or close to, a designation of 'debt distress'. In 2016, more than 40% of Ghana's government spending was on repaying debts.

The World Bank lends money to governments for large infrastructure projects, and is often questioned about those projects' impacts on the environment and on governments' capacity to repay the loans, or instead just build up more debt. It also aggressively pushes for the privatisation of state-owned companies, the use of public-private partnerships that tend to assign the risks to governments and the profits to corporations.

Without enough public investment in health, social care and education, and increasing privatisation of essential services, the extra burden of caring for older relatives and children falls on women. A recent report by ActionAid Ghana investigates how IMF policies have squeezed financing of essential public services, such as health and water. In Accra, the privatisation of water provision is restricting access and forcing young women to spend lengthy periods queuing for water. Prices have doubled in the past year, leaving those who cannot afford to pay, travelling long distances to find streams.

An ActionAid Malawi project to open community based childcare centres is reaching over 92,000 children. These centres are enabling women to spend more time on farming and selling their produce, helping campaigners make the case for increased government funding for early childcare.

When I worked with the 50 Years Is Enough Network - founded on the 50th anniversary of the IMF and World Bank - we were highlighting the harm caused to developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in the name of efforts to help them develop. Twenty-five years on, the fundamental problems we identified remain.

What's needed is transformational reform of these outdated institutions whose policies are putting them on the wrong side of history. It's time that governments in the Global South take back control of their policy making and public spending.

The World Bank should fully support public projects, without insisting that governments take on the risk of the private sector while turning over the revenues made from providing services and infrastructure.

Have Mozambicans voted to give peace a chance?

By William Niba

RULING Frelimo party expected to extend decades-long rule over the impoverished country as oil and gas wealth beckons.

Mozambicans voted in general elections on Tuesday which are widely expected to extend Frelimo's decades-long rule over a country that is set to become one of the world's main gas exporters in the coming years.

Some 13 million of the country's 30 million people were eligible to cast ballots in the process to pick the president, parliament and provincial governors.

The vote is seen as a test of a fragile peace deal signed two months ago between the Frelimo-led regime of President Filipe Nyusi and the national resistance movement Renamo, which waged a 16-year civil war that cost the lives of about one million people.

Preliminary results are expected on Thursday with the law allowing 15 days for the final verdict to be announced.

President Filipe Nyusi's Frelimo has ruled the country since inde-

pendence from Portugal in 1975.

After casting his ballot at a school in the capital Maputo, he called on voters to show "the world we stand for democracy and tolerance".

RENAMO leader Ossufo Momade vowed never to accept the results of a rigged election after voting in his hometown in the Island of Mozambique in northern Nampulla Province.

Opinion polls predict the 60-year-old Frelimo leader to win a second five-year term, but analysts expect the main opposition Renamo to take control of three to five of Mozambique's 10 provinces.

"Polling day started smoothly with more than 20,000 polling stations opening despite some reports of delays" said Borges Nhamire with the Mozambican Center for Public Integrity in Maputo.

His NGO is one of several civil society group which have deployed more than 4,000 observers to monitor the process.

As Nhamire drove around polling stations in the capital, he projected a close result, which he believed would likely reflect the

outcome of last year's local elections, which the ruling Frelimo won by 51 percent.

According to the anti-graft campaigner, during the campaign, the main opposition RENAMO party tried to capitalize on a major public debt scandal, in which a former finance minister and several ruling party officials are implicated.

The loans amounting to more than two billion dollars (equivalent to 13 percent of Mozambique's GDP) were contracted in secrecy between 2013 and 2014 by three state-owned companies, behind the backs of parliament and the public.

President Filipe Nyusi's popularity has also been eroded by the country's debt burden which reached 8 billion dollars or 67 percent of Mozambique's external concession debt by the end of 2017, according to the World Bank.

The stakes are particularly high for RENAMO's new leader Ossufo Momade who must win big, to prove to party rebels that he was right to sign the peace deal with the FRELIMO-led government in August.

A good score would also give the movement an opportunity to demonstrate that it is now a functioning political party with the capacity to govern effectively.

It's worth noting that under the peace accord, provincial governors will now be picked by the main party in each province, rather than the government in Maputo.

The build-up to the vote was marred by sporadic violence, including the killing of an election observer and attacks from a group of fighters who broke away from the former rebel movement RENAMO now the country's main opposition movement.

Whatever the outcome of the vote, some experts don't expect any improvement in the security situation in the oil-rich northern region of Cabo Delgado, where Islamist insurgents have killed more than 250 people since 2017.

While several multinationals are scrambling to the region for contracts to develop one of the biggest offshore gas finds (estimated to be worth some 27 billion euros), poverty remains the fuel of the violence there, according to experts.

The future of work: Are robots key to reducing unemployment?

LONDON

WITH the rise of robots, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI), the employees of today are in panic mode about the state of their future career prospects. Will they have a job in 20 years' time... ten years' time... or even next year?

New technology continues to burst out daily to change the way we work and, on the surface, this automation of processes previously done by human hands would seem to present companies with the opportunity to downsize.

The spectre of an apocalyptic, dwindling future workforce is naturally terrifying for most people, especially in Africa, which is traditionally manpower-centric. However, the reality is that these super-intelligent machines and robots might well be doing mankind a massive favour.

"Machine learning will enable technology to replace the work of hands and the workplace of the future will probably include much more head-work, so it doesn't necessarily mean that machines will reduce the number of jobs available," says Deseré Orrill, Chairman of OLE!CONNECT, a company that is a pioneer in the field of personalised, data-led marketing.

"They will change the way we work and the definition of what 'work' is," he added.

Orrill, a successful global entrepreneur, is lined up to deliver the welcome address and chair the Future of Work session at AfricaCom 2019 on November 13.

He will also moderate the discussion on Creating a Culture of Lifelong Learning, an issue that is crucial to Africa's harnessing of its human potential.

The panel will share insights into how education and reskilling



are decisive if Africa is to make the most of its human capital, as well as the importance of ensuring effective lifelong learning in the modern economy.

Future of Work @ AfricaCom 2019 will seek to unpack a wide range of issues at the top of the agenda for business owners and industry leaders.

In the African context, this includes coming to grips with digital literacy for the modern workforce, building a solid talent pipeline and succession planning through reskilling, as well as strategic workforce planning to harness AI in order to improve organisations and their employees.

However, it's not just employees

who face challenges in the new workplace frontier. Employers have to get a handle on issues such as understanding what the future of work means for employees AND themselves, how to achieve executive support for new workplace initiatives, and how technology can play a game-defining role in human resources.

The battle between old school and new school has plenty of spark points in the modern work environment. Business leaders will benefit from the discussion about harnessing workplace technologies as well as using design thinking to create an integrated digital workplace.

Discussions and presentations

will include Leveraging New Ways of Working to Create Sustained Results in Africa as well Closing the Skills Gap: Preparing for an Uncertain Future.

Humans in the workplace complete tasks with hands and heads but, also with heart. Orrill highlights the fact that AI and ML cannot replicate human creativity, sensitivity and sensibility, which are essential ingredients in all creative and caring professions along with those where human intuition and the fabled 'sixth sense' play a role.

"These functions and skills just can't be replaced by machines, although machines and AI can certainly offer incredible support to the humans involved in these professions," says Orrill, adding: "We also believe robots and automation will contribute to the creation of positive, dynamic and fluid workplaces of the future."

He elaborates: "In fact, in advanced economies where greater use of robotics, automation and AI is prevalent, unemployment today is at the lowest it has been in decades. So, the future of work is not a gloomy wasteland... on the contrary, it's a bright and promising place."

AfricaCom is part of the Connecting Africa series of events that expose delegates, the media and the savvy to the latest advancements and opportunities in technology and the digital ecosystem.

Taking place in Cape Town from November 12 to 14, AfricaCom is Africa's largest technology, media and telecommunications conference & exhibition.

The conference programme covers the most strategic issues affecting companies in Africa's digital market - services, efficiency, profitability, customer experience, partnerships, policy and more.

Discussions and presentations

How neo-colonialism wreaks havoc in Africa

By Mandla Makhanya

IN a 2009 study of 114 countries that had been colonised, Matthew Lange and Andrew Dawson presented a statistical modelling to assess the extent to which the legacy of colonialism has given rise to forms of conflict that afflict many countries - communal violence, political rebellion and civil war.

While Lange and Dawson had intended to challenge what they regarded as a simplistic generalisation that colonialism does cause post-independence violence, their study indicates there is indeed a direct link between colonialism and violence.

Lange and Dawson found that "...a history of colonial rule promotes either oppositional communal identities, communal divisions of labour, ethnic-based stratification, animosity between indigenous and non-indigenous populations, or some combination of the four".

Many would agree this is what manifests in most African countries, where the largely British colonial strategy of divide and rule encouraged ethnic enclaves, some of which have been the sources of conflict.

The phenomenon of dividing indigenous peoples to rule them effectively with little resistance from them has been eloquently theorised by Mahmood Mamdani. He argues that the first step was to define the indigenous people, categorising them into ethnic enclaves. In that way, the colonialist could drive wedges between the indigenous peoples, who began to see themselves no longer as having a common plight but as varied ethnic groups with distinct identities and therefore different interests.

Dividing the people into different ethnic groups was, for Archie Mafeje, the creation of an artificial device of something that did not exist in real terms but has had to be invented in order to divide the people - tribal identities. Mafeje argues that tribal identities were a deliberate distortion of clans, to divide the people under colonial rule, and later in our



case under apartheid.

Whereas the British adopted divide and rule as a strategy to maintain colonial rule, and later neo-colonialism, the French, on the other hand, used assimilation. Thus, indigenous peoples were made to aspire to become French. In that manner, the people would cease to see themselves in their own right but begin owing allegiance to French identity.

Portugal, on the other hand, largely because of its economic backwardness at the time, sought to turn its colonial conquests into extensions of itself, so that it could extract as many natural resources as it could to build its own economy. It thus adopted a three-pronged strategy of: "destroy[ing] traditional African societies and cultures; infiltration and adulteration of African societies by Portuguese culture; and integration of detribalised Africans to Portuguese society".

Lastly, Belgium created "two societies" within its colonial conquests, one white and privileged, the other black and impoverished. In a similar manner to the British, the Belgians further divided the indigenous communities into rival

social and ethnic categories that were "fixed" and made to compete against each other; hence the later Rwanda and Burundi genocides that came out in the form of ethnic cleansing.

This brief assessment of how colonial power was practised is, however, not sufficient for us to arrive at the conclusion that colonialism gave rise to later post-independence violence and lack of peace. Let us consider another cause.

The violence of colonialism

In his seminal books *Black Skin, White Masks* and *The Wretched of the Earth*, Frantz Fanon presents detailed analyses of the effects of the violence meted out by colonial powers on the psyche of the colonised.

The brutality of colonial rule is so negative it destroys the inner soul of the colonised, taking out their humanness and leaving them as "...a shell, a shadow of man, completely defeated, drowning in his own misery, a slave, an ox bearing the yoke of oppression with sheepish timidity".

It is this emptiness, what Paulo Freire terms dehumanisation, that leads to the

self-hatred that both Fanon and Steve Biko wrote about; the self-hatred that leads to so much violence between the colonised, the oppressed. Thus, the black person would not hesitate to take the life of another black person.

The black person would not hesitate to destroy the property of another black person. The black man does not hesitate to violate the black sister. He does so because he sees no person; he sees a "thing" that deserves no respect but only violation.

It is this violence of colonialism that refused to die when Africa was "decolonised". I say "decolonised" in a qualified manner because, as Kwame Nkrumah and others after him, including Fanon, Walter Rodney, Oginga Odinga, Mohammed Babu and many others have noted, Africa must still be fully decolonised.

It is this state of neo-colonialism, or what some now call coloniality, combined with the stubborn ethnic/tribal mentality left by colonialism, that contributes to the many conflicts we see on the African continent.

Having considered the colonial strategies of control - divide and rule, assimilation, and destruction of African social structures and identities - let us now consider the third element, which hopefully brings us to contemporary considerations: continued extraction of the riches of the African continent.

Continued extraction of the riches of the African continent

If there is one example that one can give to any person who is a novice in African politics, and how Africa continues to be colonised, that would be the relationship that exists between France and its former colonies.

Mawuna Remarque Koutonin has produced an excellent summary on how France controls the economies of its former colonies. It does so by:

Forcing the former colonies to pay for the infrastructure that France built during colonisation;



The Nobel committee recognises all stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and the region. File photo

Nobel gives Ethiopia's Abiy momentum to consolidate sustainable peace

BY ROBA D SHARAMO AND ANTON DU PLESSIS

THE Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy

Ahmed Ali last week is a boost to reformist African leaders across the continent. It amplifies the voices of progress and reconciliation at a critical juncture for Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region. The award should inspire political leaders to work towards economic progress and a collective determination to transition from repression and conflict to peace and sustainable development.

Abiy, 43, still faces many daunting challenges, especially on the domestic front. But he has achieved more in a year than many African leaders have managed in decades. His Nobel is recognition of his commitment to regional peace and crucial national reforms since taking office in April 2018.

He won the prestigious peace prize for his work both at home and abroad, with the Nobel committee notably saying it recognised all stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and the region.

Abiy's new status should inspire other African leaders. It tips the scales in favour of progressive peacemakers over aging autocrats, and rewards reconciliation and non-violent dispute resolution over festering conflicts that drain resources and block development and pan-African cooperation. Abiy represents a new type of African leader whose ambition and innovation can help the continent deliver on its economic potential and human security promise for its people.

Abiy got the award for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve a long-running stalemate with neighbouring Eritrea following their 1998 - 2000 border war. He reached out to Eritrea's president Isais Afwerki and unconditionally accepted the 2002 arbitration ruling by an international boundary commission.

This illustrated both a spirit of compromise and commitment to an international rules-based order. The Nobel committee said it hoped the award would strengthen Abiy and 'help to bring about positive change for the entire populations of Ethiopia and Eritrea.'

At home Abiy has navigated challenging headwinds and still managed to promote reconciliation and social justice. He lifted Ethiopia's state of emergency, granted amnesty to many political prisoners, reduced media censorship, dismissed some leaders suspected of corruption, reviewed the civil society organisations law, and increased the role of women in Ethiopian political life. He has pledged to hold free and fair elections and plans to

open up the private sector to external firms such as in the telecommunications sector.

The committee noted that much work remains in Ethiopia, but said Abiy had started important reforms that give his people hope for a brighter future. Turning this hope into reality will however be challenging. Abiy needs to ensure that political reconciliation, management of diversity and inclusivity continue to be cornerstones of his political vision and governance.

Abiy has aided other regional peace processes too, including normalisation of diplomatic relations between Eritrea and Djibouti after many years of hostility. He has sought to mediate between Kenya and Somalia in a protracted maritime dispute, and played a key role in the process that led Sudan's military regime and opposition back to negotiations and a new peace deal.

The Nobel committee has in the past attracted criticism for rewarding aspiration over achievement, particularly when its peace prize has gone to new leaders like Barack Obama, or to those who have not yet taken power, like Nelson Mandela.

Abiy is another early-term leader whose record is still being written. After an impressive start, he and his government still face massive challenges both at home and in the region. The peace he forged with Eritrea is tenuous, and he must contend with intractable conflicts in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.

At home he has created expectations in a country facing complex structural political and security problems. Ethiopia has seen recent attempted coups and assassinations of senior political and military leaders. Some regions have experienced violent ethnic conflicts, with growing demands for self-determination and political representation. Parts of the country still face humanitarian crises, with millions of internally displaced Ethiopians as well as refugees and asylum seekers from neighbouring states. These challenges will take time to address.

More than ever, Abiy is now under an African and global spotlight, and expectations on him to deliver are enormous. He needs to marshal local, regional, continental and international resources to promote peace and stability in Ethiopia and Africa at large.

Africa's latest peace laureate needs to show that he can consolidate his vision with support from his party, the nation's bureaucracy and its people, while engaging with political opponents. The Nobel Peace Prize gives Abiy valuable moral and political momentum to press ahead with his domestic and regional ambitions.

Roba D Sharamo, Regional Director, ISS Addis Ababa and Anton du Plessis, Executive Director, ISS

BUSINESS

EXCELLENCE

Glass manufacturer wins presidential awards for 2019

By Guardian Reporter

Glass products manufacturer, Kioo Limited has emerged as the winner of President's Manufacturer of the Year Awards in the category of large industries this year.

The annual Confederation of Tanzania Industries' awarding ceremony was graced by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who represented President John Magufuli and was held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Speaking after receiving the trophy from Majaliwa, Kioo Training and Development Manager, William Bongo expressed his appreciation for the recognition by ATE adding that his company's management is committed to continue working hard for the benefit of the nation.

Bongo commended the government for putting a better investment climate while Confederation of Tanzania Industries was also commended for introducing that awards which encourage industries to continue performing better.

"This is not our first time to win such a trophy, we have been doing better since the introduction of the

awards and we promise to continue performing better in the coming years," said Bongo.

"This award has given us strength that the market recognize and appreciates what we are doing so we promise to keep it up," he added while promised that the Dar es Salaam based glass products manufacturer will win next year's PMAYA overall award.

He attributed the success and continued good performance of KIOO to good relationship existing between employees and management but also other stakeholders who work in partnership with the company in its daily activities.

Bongo said the company also invests in community projects as part of its corporate social responsibility naming Temeke Municipality as one of its important partners in such regard.

"We are there whenever they need us to participate in development issues, we don't hesitate to be part of such initiatives because we are based in Temeke and feel proud to be a good corporate citizen," Bongo noted.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa graced PMAYA 2019 ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

INVESTMENT

Toddlers targeted in new British Council English language programme

By Guardian Reporter

TO bridge the spoken and written English language gap facing many Tanzanians, British Council has introduced a programme targeting toddlers aged between 6-11 years.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the programme dubbed Primary Plus, British Council's Head of the Teaching Centre, Doris Likwile said eligible candidates are those in primary schools and those who have completed elementary school.

Likwile said the Primary Plus programme represents a unique formula for how kids learn English and establishes regional standards for Sub-Saharan Africa for all aspects of work with children and young people.

"Our aim is to be the most trusted global and local provider of English language services for children in Tanzania," said Likwile who pointed out that the courses will be launched next Saturday morning in Dar es Salaam.

"All parents interested are encouraged to bring their children and learn more about the course on Saturday," she added while stressing that the new programme targets every aspect of the learning environment for Young Learners of English.

Among them are how teachers are recruited, how timetables link with the school system and how course content matches age and culture. Primary Plus focuses on developing life skills and confidence in English.

Communication, teamwork and creativity are promoted in the classroom, giving children the essential language and social skills, they need to succeed in today's world. Interesting and motivating topics will be used and implemented through engaging activities in a positive and supportive learning environment, the BC Head of Teaching Centre noted.

Child Protection is a key focus for the British Council globally and for our Young Learner programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa region. "We have a 'Child friendly School' agenda. Children can only fulfil their potential in safe, non-threatening learning environments where building strong relationship with parents is highly valued and learning content challenges and engages, and teaching approaches recognise individual needs and differences," Likwile stressed.

The British council draws on over 50 years of experience of working with Young Learners with over 109,000 young people in its 65 Teacher Centres worldwide, with expertise from within and



The various displays at the Annual Orchid Show at the Sarit Centre Exhibition Hall by the Kenya Orchid Society.

NATURE

Orchid lovers show off their prowess

NAIROBI

Orchids are one of the most celebrated plants on the planet. Renowned for their glorious beauty, diversity and complexity, they can grow almost anywhere.

But nowhere are more exquisite orchids grown than in Kenya, a fact that will be indisputable for those who attend the 62nd Orchid Show which opened last Thursday running through Sunday at Nairobi's Sarit Centre.

The exhibition hall is brimming over with more than 20 exquisite orchid displays, all of which were in competition for a wide array of trophies. On Wednesday, eight judges, headed by one senior judge, Michael Tibbs, spent hours appraising every flower and floral display.

The evening before the trophies were handed out, lifelong orchid society members, like Heather Campbell, aged 91, came early to ensure she got a good seat so she could hear the judges' selections and see if their choices tallied with her own.

"I've been a member since 1964 when my family first moved to Kenya," says the nonagenarian who judged past orchid shows for several decades. "I also won trophies for my orchids, and I still have a lovely garden. But I no longer play an active part in the show. There's too much hard work involved," she admits.

Yet Heather fits in well with this year's Orchid Show theme which is "The Vintage Collection." For just as she is a 'vintage' society member who has witnessed the way the orchid show has matured and changed over the years, the theme was also in keeping with the Orchid Society itself.

"This is the oldest orchid society in Africa," observes Michael, who flew in especially for this year's 62nd annual exhibition. "But what's exciting about this show is not just its being the oldest. It's also one, if not the most beautiful show in the region and possibly in the whole world."

Dazzling displays

Having been a qualified judge of orchids for many years, Michael travels all over the world appraising orchid shows. "This year alone, I have done it in the US, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru as well as in China, Taiwan and the UK," he says. "The Kenya orchid show never fails to amaze me with the quality of members' orchids and their dazzling displays."

Noting that he has been coming to Kenya for the past 22 years, Michael says he has observed big and beauti-

ful changes over the years. "One reason the Kenya show has such fabulous orchids is because its members make the effort to bring in new species [and hybrids] whenever they go out of the country and come back with new orchids to plant," he says.

One other thing that Michael finds impressive about the Kenyan orchid show is that it displays plants every year that have been there since the society's inception. As he speaks, he also points the Dendrobium orchids that are hanging near the entrance of the show.

"There are also Ansellia Africana and Cymbidium which, like the Dendrobium, were in the first orchid shows over six decades ago," he says. Asked what he thinks has contributed to the longevity of these species of orchids, Michael is quick to respond. "It's because they have been well looked after, well cared for."

Admitting he has a deep appreciation of those older orchids, he says, "I prefer old orchids that have been looked after well more than I do newer hybrids that are grown badly." Michael can easily tell the difference since he has been raising orchids since he was six years old. Growing up in the fertile Franschhoek Valley, not far from Cape Town, South Africa, he recalls how his father built him a greenhouse as a child.

"It was just four poles that he covered in plastic sheet, but I loved it and learnt early about caring for my plants," he adds. Michael is like many of the Orchid Society members that I met, who grew up surrounded by flowers.

For instance, Nishi Raja grew up on a coffee farm with a father who also loved tending orchids. "I grew up surrounded by plants," says Nishi whose joint display with Nita Shah at the show earned several trophies this year, including one for having the 'Best Phragmipedium species.'

Anand Savani also comes from a family that loved to grow orchids. His display at the show is beautifully decked out with an elegant array of both exotic and indigenous orchids. "We call our display 'The Whiskey Room,'" says Anand who created his exhibit to embody the show's 'vintage' theme. Whiskey rooms were popular back in the 1920s during the pre-prohibition days.

"We only included tiny whisky bottles since we knew children would be passing through the show. We didn't want to offend anyone," says Anand as he sits casually on a cushy leather sofa

meant to be a cozy prop in his display.

Anand is not the only one who has included aspects of vintage culture in their displays. One extraordinary exhibit features an old (but well-maintained) Mercedes Benz from the late 1950s. The owner has filled the front seat with a beautiful display of orchids. He also has opened up his Mercedes' boot and filled it with even more pots that host more multicoloured plants.

"I believe this display set the record this year for the highest number of trophies received," says Nishi shortly before the winning orchids were announced. The various displays at the Annual Orchid Show at the Sarit Centre Exhibition Hall by the Kenya Orchid Society themed

The various displays at the Annual Orchid Show at the Sarit Centre Exhibition Hall by the Kenya Orchid Society themed "The Vintage Collection" which includes School Arts Competition for various ages and a sale of some of their plants while stocks last. PHOTO | DIANA NGILA | NAIROBI

"I think it won 11 trophies altogether." Other displays that have paid attention to the vintage theme include one that has an antique bicycle with carriers filled with exotic species of orchids. Another one has a wooden sculpture of an ancient African man seated amid a gorgeous orchid display. And right above the old man is a beautiful blood-red Oncidopsis hybrid that also won a trophy.

The other group that has stayed true to the vintage theme is the students who took part in this year's Orchid art exhibition. Organised by Jackie Guest who's been running the exhibition for the last 12 years, the entries came in from all over the country from 23 schools. The youngest artists to take part are six years old and the oldest 19.

"When we launched the art competition, we only received 300 entries. But this year we received 750, all of which we included in the exhibition," she says with a touch of pride. "The idea is to get young people interested in orchids and the environment generally."

That interest is evident in the way the youth include all things 'vintage' in their paintings, everything from old cars, bikes and an antique Victrola to 19th century ladies fashions and a dusty skull. One student even sculpted an ancient tortoise which reminded us of the 344-year-old Alagba, who died recently, his owners claiming he had been the oldest tortoise in Africa.

Fortunately, she had plenty of room

to display all the artworks. Jackie says young people's exhibition can be found at the far end of Loita Hall. "But none of us was quite sure how we would fit into the new exhibition hall since this is the first time we held the orchid show in the new wing of Sarit Centre," Jackie says.

In fact, the new hall is more spacious than the old expo space. There is even room for a glorious display of Michael's cut flowers that he flew in from Thailand and the Netherlands. "The cut flowers are purely for display, but I do sell plants for a living," says the man with an encyclopedic mind when it comes to orchids and other plants.

Explaining that every species and hybrid of orchid has a designated name, Michael (who also lectures on orchids and other plants all over the world) says there are approximately 25,000 species of orchids and between 300,000 and 400,000 registered hybrids.

Asked if orchid species are more highly valued than hybrids (which are simply the result of a cross-pollination process, when two or more different kinds of pollen are used during the planting process), he explains that both plants are of value. "What elevates the value of an orchid is its rarity," he says.

Others won special Firth trophy for including no less than six healthy indigenous orchids in their display. "Most of these orchids come from forests in Kenya. They are classified as Epiphytes or plants that grow on trees, but they are not parasitic," says Nishi. What is extraordinary about orchids that are epiphytes is that they are aerial and never touch soil in contrast to terrestrial orchids that only grow in the ground. "The one other classification of orchid is the Lithophyte, meaning it's a plant that grows on a rock or a stone," adds Michael, who admits that he like millions of plant-lovers all over the world is deeply fascinated by the infinite variety of orchids.

"But one thing that is not always understood about orchids is that they are not nearly so difficult to grow as some people think. In fact, orchids grow everywhere in the world apart from on permanent snowcaps and in arid deserts," he says.

That is to say that anyone can grow orchids almost anywhere. The secret to being a successful orchid-grower is looking after your plant with tender loving care. That is how the Dendrobium has lived for many decades and how your orchids can also thrive.



Vehicles crowd around a wildebeest river crossing.

PRECAUTION

Conservation body warns against too much tourism in the Serengeti

By Guardian Reporter

US-BASED not for profit conservation organization, Serengeti Watch has warned against over tourism in Serengeti National Park saying the move is rapidly degrading the environment.

While acknowledging that tourism is extremely important for Tanzania and Kenya, both of which share the Serengeti ecosystem but too many tourists are endangering the ecosystem while also frustrating locals.

"Tanzanian tourism, for example, accounts for half a million jobs in direct employment and more than double that in jobs that indirectly support the industry. In a country where the average income is less than three US dollars a day, that's a huge asset." Serengeti Watch said in its latest report. "It's a seductive idea, therefore, to keep growing tourist numbers indefinitely to maximize the benefits," the report added.

Overtourism The term is being increasingly used, and for good reason. Wikipedia defines it as "the perceived congestion or overcrowding from an excess of tourists, resulting in conflicts with locals." But this definition is too narrow.

It may fit destinations like Barcelona or Venice but does not cover impacts on natural areas like the Serengeti.

In these areas, "locals" include wildlife and plants and the all the natural resources that sustain them. Impacts include land degradation by vehicles, stress on wildlife that impairs their hunting and reproductive success, demands on water and other resources, introduction of invasive plants, and barriers to wildlife movement.

Moreover, locals do include human communities around the Serengeti, which need to get tangible benefits from tourism. Otherwise, they may turn their backs on conservation, as this recent article suggests.

Overtourism, of course, impacts the visitor experience as well, degrading the very qualities that lure travellers. This is happening in parts of the Serengeti ecosystem. Serengeti Watch has received numerous reports from travellers about safari vehicles speeding and harassing wildlife. For instance, a BBC film unit told us of a safari vehicle racing toward sleeping lions in order to get clients good photographs. Guides, who depend on gratuities from travellers for much of

their income, are under pressure to produce. One traveller reported her experience in a blog: "A stressed out Cape buffalo charged our car because he was separated from his herd. A scared leopard was forced into hiding after being boxed in by a mass of tourist vehicles. Hyenas sleeping on the road were awoken and startled when our car got too close. While all of these experiences were phenomenal for us, I can't help wondering: is it fair to the animals?"

Scientists are now telling us how this does affect wildlife: Femke Broekhuis, a cheetah researcher at the University of Oxford, wrote an article entitled, "We need to limit tourist numbers to save cheetahs from becoming an endangered species."

A study of impalas in the Serengeti showed significant physiological stress in relation to roads and traffic resulting in a more female skewed sex ratio, lower observed reproductive and recruitment rate, and reduced time spent on restorative behaviour (i.e. resting).

And then there is the outright killing of animals by safari vehicles as reported in this article by a Chinese news agency, Tanzanian experts raise alarm over killings of cheetahs in Serengeti

by tourist cars. One report Serengeti Watch received told of a young zebra being killed by a safari vehicle jockeying for position at a crowded wildebeest crossing.

How many tourists are too many?

In the Mara, the saturation point has already occurred. In the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, there is much more land area (about ten times that of the Mara) and far fewer accommodations. But crowding and negative impacts are mounting, and there are plans to keep the numbers growing.

A World Bank study in 2015 entitled, The Elephant in the Room: Unlocking the Potential of the Tourism Industry for Tanzanians, advocated an eight-fold increase in Tanzanian tourism by 2025! The WB admits this is ambitious and acknowledges it would place a great strain on the Northern Circuit, which includes the Serengeti National Park. For this reason it advocated diversifying tourism to lesser used parks in the southern part of the country. But the Serengeti, like all iconic attractions, is unique and will continue to be the main attraction for travellers.

The way forward The model of tourism best

for the Serengeti ecosystem is High Value Low Impact Nature Tourism which is the opposite of mass tourism. Unfortunately, this usually translates to high end, expensive tourism for the relatively few who can afford it. There must be ways for East Africans to enjoy their own heritage.

Future tourism, however, may not follow this model. Governments are eager to maximize income. In the Mara, the body that administers the reserve would like to double tourism numbers (in one year).

Right now, tourists come primarily from Western countries, the US, UK, and Germany. But new markets are being targeted, especially in China and India. If these markets take off, the numbers could be staggering.

"The time to plan and act is now. There must not only be a wise strategy to keep tourism in check, but the will to enforce it. Governments need to plough back more tourism revenue into conservation and park administration rather than siphoning it off. And this should include support to local communities," Serengeti Watch argued. Finally, it's up to the tourism industry and travellers to step up and give back with real support.

EXCELLENCE

Two Rwandan entrepreneurs shortlisted as finalists for Africa's Netpreneur Prize

KIGALI

Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative (ANPI) has released the names of the top 10 finalists heading to its grand finale in Accra, Ghana on November 16. Two Rwandans are among the selected entrepreneurs.

They include Kevine Kagirimpundu, co-founder and Chief Executive of UZURI KY Rwanda, which is an African-inspired eco-friendly shoe brand, and Christelle Kwizera, the founder of Water Access Rwanda that pioneered a safe water microgrid that reclaims broken boreholes and transforms them into state-of-the-art solar-powered water kiosks and pipelines.

The ANPI is a philanthropic initiative spearheaded by the Jack Ma Foundation aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of African entrepreneurs. The finalists were chosen from nearly 10,000 applicants from 50 African countries.

The finalists were shortlisted and will now go on to pitch their business directly to four finale judges - Jack Ma, Founder of Alibaba Group and the Jack Ma Foundation; Strive Masiyiwa, Founder and Executive Chairman of Econet Group; Ibukun Awosika, Chairman of First Bank of Nigeria and Founder/CEO of The Chair Centre Group; and Joe Tsai, Executive Vice Chairman of Alibaba Group - during a televised finale event called "Africa's Business Heroes." The winners will receive a share of the \$1 million USD grant prize pool.

At the event, African and global entrepreneurs, investors, educators, and leaders will convene to discuss how best to enable entrepreneurship and the digital economy across the continent. Guest speakers at the conference will include Ban Ki-moon, Former UN Secretary General and Co-chair of the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens.

"We launched the Africa Netpreneur Prize Initiative to identify top entrepreneurs from across the continent, not only to reward them but to inspire a whole new generation of potential gamechangers for Africa. I have been inspired by the entrepreneurs I met in Africa, many of whom are dealing with the same challenges we faced when we started Alibaba years ago. I truly believe the potential of Africa's business heroes is limitless," said Jack Ma, Founder of Alibaba Group and the Jack Ma Foundation.

ACQUISITION

Porini Safari Camps now expands into Kenya's Meru National Park

NAIROBI

Former Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) chairman Jake Grieves-Cook has received the nod from the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) to purchase Kindani Ltd which owns Rhino River Camp lodge located in Meru National park.

The authority in a notice dated July 19 and made public a fortnight ago excluded Porini Safari Camps owned by Mr Cook from the provisions of part 4 of the Competition Act since its combined turnover was below Sh1 billion.

"The merger will not affect competition negatively; the acquirer's turnover for the preceding year 2017 was Sh410,456,015 while the target's turnover was Sh18,013,527; and the combined turnover of Sh428,469,542 meets the threshold for exclusion under the Merger Threshold Guidelines," CAK said.

Hospitality firm Porini Safari Camps features nine properties spread across the country including in the Nairobi National Park which is home to the only tented camp. Other property are located within the Selenkay, Laikipia, Amboseli and the Mara wildlife conservancies. With this latest deal, Porini Safari Camps gains entry into Meru National Park.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 42 (1) of the Competition Act, 2010, the Competition Authority of Kenya excludes the purchase of the assets of Kindani Limited by Porini Safari Camps Limited from the provisions of Part IV of the Act due to the following reason..." said CAK Director General, Wang'ombe Kariuki in the statement.

FINDINGS

Stressed moms less likely to give birth to boys - study

NEW YORK

If you're trying to get pregnant and want to have a boy, science says you may need to practice relaxation. Researchers at Columbia University in New York have found that mothers-to-be who are stressed are more likely to have daughters.

The findings don't suggest that the pressures of everyday life can change a baby's sex in the womb, but rather that anxious women are less likely to have a successful pregnancy with a boy because male foetuses are less robust.

The study was carried out by researchers at the university's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, and collected data for 27 indicators of stress in 187 healthy pregnant women aged 18 to 45. Researchers made use of questionnaires, diaries, and physical assessments throughout the pregnancies

of participating members.

Five yoga moves for mums-to-be like Meghan

With Meghan Markle due to give birth soon, we take a look at five yoga techniques perfect for pregnant mums, with celebrity pregnancy expert Jane Wake. They divided the women into three groups - those who have a healthy pregnancy with no stress, those who show signs of physical stress and those with signs of psychological stress.

Of the sample group, one in six women were psychologically stressed, reporting negative feelings during their day, feeling overwhelmed and out of control, or indicating mild to moderate depression or anxiety.

A similar number of women showed signs of physical stress, such as higher blood pressure and a tendency to consume more calories, which is suggestive of comfort eating. Among the moms-to-



Stressed mom.

be who were physically stressed, less than a third (31%) gave birth to a boy, a ratio of nine girls to every four boys.

The study's findings were presented even more clearly among women coping with psychological stressors, with

only 40% giving birth to a boy - a ratio of two baby girls to every boy. According to study leader, Catherine Monk, male foetuses are less likely to "survive in suboptimal conditions" for an abundance of biological reasons.

For example, a 2010 study proved that male foetuses grow more quickly in the womb and therefore are more at risk of becoming undernourished and being born prematurely. Monk claims that the impact of stress on male births can be seen on a population level after catastrophic events.

"Other researchers have seen this pattern after social upheavals, such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City, after which the relative number of male births decreased," she says. According to a study, 12% more male babies were lost in September 2001 after the 20th week of pregnancy than expected.

"This stress in women is likely of long-

standing nature; studies have shown that males are more vulnerable to adverse prenatal environments, suggesting that highly stressed women may be less likely to give birth to a male due to the loss of prior male pregnancies, often without even knowing they were pregnant." The findings were published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal (PNAS).

However, the negative effect of stress appeared to be offset by social support from friends and family. For example, they found that the more social support a mother received, the more she was likely to give birth to a boy.

"Screening for depression and anxiety are gradually becoming a routine part of prenatal practice," Monk says. "But while our study was small, the results suggest enhancing social support is potentially an effective target for clinical intervention."

ABNORMAL

The most expensive gyms in Dubai and Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI
You can't put a price on your health but, if you could, would you be willing to pay more than Dh30,000 a month to achieve your best self? That's what one of Dubai's most elite gyms is charging for its new 28-day Ultra Rich programme, which launched this month - Dh36,000, to be precise.

Symmetry Gym in Dubai's Gold and Diamond Park, founded by Amir Siddiqui, takes an unorthodox approach to training. This has gained a legion of loyal followers, and is what, says Siddiqui, justifies its cost. "I've worked with more than 2,000 people in the last 15 years and have developed a system that goes against everything we know and believe about fat loss, health and general fitness," he says.

The system he's talking about is Fission Fusion Training, a concept that flips the age-old diet to exercise ratio on its head. Under this system, training is said to give you 80 per cent of your results, while diet gives you just 20 per cent.

"Our Fission Fusion Training system is the result of 15 years of scientific research, empirical study and [findings] based in the trenches, training with thousands of people," Siddiqui says. "It is a comprehensive, integrated and holistic training system that combines the mental and physical domains in equal measure to create a map for how to get results. It's designed to push your limits of speed, strength and endurance in just the right specific mix."

And it's this training system that will be used during the new programme, described as "the most expensive and intensive 28 days of fitness in the UAE". At Dh36,000 - roughly half a year's rent on an average one-bedroom apartment - it's a hefty price tag, but Siddiqui maintains it is value for money.

"I personally take charge of the client's 28 days of training, work schedule and life. I handle every single detail of how they live, eat and exercise," he says. "The client undergoes a life-changing transformation

using a custom programme, which includes intensive workouts, as well as the latest performance of mind techniques, and support from all gym personnel. We offer 24-hour support, food shopping, a fridge detox, nutrition programme, mentoring, weekly massages and daily performance assessments."

The key to success, Siddiqui says, is consistency and hard work. It's simple stuff, but he maintains that many people fall at the first hurdle. "The problem we see is that people do not know what 'hard work' means. My clients do," he says. "Every single one of them will tell you they have never experienced training this intense and demanding."

While Symmetry Gym wins the title of Dubai's most expensive, it is not the only UAE gym that comes with a lofty fee. In 2018, Dubai was named the world's second most expensive city for the average cost of a gym membership, coming in at \$119.20 (Dh438) a month. Tokyo came in first at \$127. If you are looking to invest in your fitness regimen, here are some of the UAE's most luxurious options.

The Body Company
If you want a luxe experience, but don't always have the luxury of time, The Body Company's EMS training is for you. EMS workouts are some of the most effective around, and, naturally, some of the most pricey. Trainers say only 20 minutes twice a week is enough to see results.

It works by hooking participants up to an electronic muscle stimulation machine via a neoprene workout suit that has been dampened for maximum impact. If you put your all into it - contracting your muscles when the machine is buzzing for maximum impact - The Body Company in Abu Dhabi promises one EMS session can be up to 18 times more effective than a regular workout, with 90 per cent of the body's muscles engaged, as opposed to the 40 to 70 per cent used in a regular workout.

The Body Company has recently opened a new studio on Abu Dhabi's Corniche, where

it offers users a boutique experience, with private parking spots and spacious changing rooms. Ten EMS sessions here start from Dh2,100.

Ultimate Performance
This DIFC gym has earned itself a reputation as one of Dubai's most hardcore. What sets it apart is its elite trainers, who will not only help you with all things fitness and nutrition, but also assess body-fat measurements, conduct hormone profiling, draw up sleep strategies, as well as help with stress management, smart supplementation and lifestyle optimisation. Ultimate Performance offers its members round-the-clock support, tracking and education to deliver results.

The trainers here pin themselves as the world's foremost body-composition



The Body Company Abu Dhabi uses EMS training.

experts, and their social media pages are filled with impressive transformations. It offers a number of 12-week training packages including fat-loss and muscle-building programmes, and the gym also runs regular group training sessions. Ulti-

mate Performance's 12-week sessions start from Dh16,560. Elite Fitness

As its name suggests, Abu Dhabi's Elite Fitness is not your average gym. The team of trainers have been hand-picked based on their knowl-

edge and expertise. The gym is both mixed and women-only. The trainers work with members every step of the way, offering support around losing fat and toning muscles, creating new habits, and making healthy and sustainable life-

style changes.

The facility, located near Zayed Sports City, features luxe changing rooms, with gold accents and velvet puff chairs, and a well-stocked kitchenette with a range of refreshments. The mixed facility membership costs Dh2,625 per month, while women's-only is priced from Dh2,350.

Embodiment Fitness
This is one of Dubai's most luxurious gyms. The exclusive gym, on the first floor of the Lamborghini building on Sheikh Zayed Road, is a concept imported from London. As well as personal training and group fitness classes, it offers nutrition advice, injury rehabilitation and sports therapy services, plus sports and therapeutic massages. To maintain its exclusivity, the gym is capped at 250 members, so it

can offer support to everyone who joins. Each member is assigned a full team, including a nutritional adviser, sports therapist and personal trainer, who will work closely to help members achieve their goals.

Classes range from core strength, yoga and stretching to high-intensity interval training and cardio designed to boost metabolic conditioning. The gym markets itself as having "Olympic-standard" training facilities, with luxury changing rooms and a members' lounge. It also offers a meal plan and home-delivery services. Each session starts from Dh450 for eight to 12-week transformation programmes (as opposed to Dh200 per hour, on average, for a personal training session), while group classes are free for members.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

SATURDAY 12 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
- 11:45 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 15:15 Igizo: Utelezi
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Kumbukumbu ya Mw Nyerere
- 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
- 19:30 Jungu Kuu
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Shangweka
- 21:15 Kipindi maalum: Wajibu
- 21:30 Kesho leo
- 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
- 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 23:00 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 CNN International

SUNDAY 13 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:45 Aibu Yako
- 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
- 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mrs Zinduna
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 Mr Tanzania
- 16:45 Igizo: Utelezi
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Biko
- 21:10 Mizengwe
- 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:15 Bongo Movie: Kishikwambi
- 00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

MONDAY 14 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
- 13:00 Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Aibu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Kipindi maalum: Kumbukizi ya Mw Nyerere
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45
- 22:00 Insta Bet
- 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 15 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 Habari
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Shamsham za pwani
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Shamsham za pwani
- 11:30 Shangweka rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Wajibu
- 14:15 Series rpt: The Slingshot
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
- 18:55 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari

- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
 - 21:30 Chetu ni chetu
 - 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
 - 23:00 Habari
 - 23:30 The Base
 - 00:30 CNN International
- WEDNESDAY 16 Oct**
- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 - 6:00 HABARI
 - 6:40 Kumekucha
 - 7:30 HABARI
 - 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
 - 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
 - 9:30 Isidingo
 - 9:55 Habari za saa
 - 10:00 Watoto wetu
 - 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
 - 10:55 Habari za saa
 - 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok
 - 11:30 Jungu kuu rpt
 - 12:00 Al Jazeera
 - 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
 - 13:00 Dakika 45
 - 14:00 Series rpt: The Slingshot
 - 15:00 Meza huru
 - 16:30 Watoto Wetu
 - 17:00 The Base
 - 18:00 Jiji Letu
 - 18:15 Mizengwe
 - 18:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
 - 19:00 Ijue Sheria
 - 19:30 Isidingo
 - 20:00 Habari
 - 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
 - 21:10 Kipindi Maalum:TanESCO
 - 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti maalum
 - 22:15 Series: The Slingshot
 - 23:00 Habari
 - 23:30 The Base
 - 00:30 Al Jazeera
 - 2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 17 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Igizo rpt: Utelezi
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Igizo rpt: Utelezi
- 11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt

- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Tanzania yetu
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Mr Tanzania Rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza Huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 00:00 The Base
- 01:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 18 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 11:30 Usafiri wako
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TanESCO
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 14:15 Mr Tanzania rpt
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru -live
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 19 Oct

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 - 6:00 HABARI
 - 6:40 Kumekucha
 - 7:00 Habari
 - 8:00 Al Jazeera
 - 9:00 Watoto wetu
 - 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
 - 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt
 - 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt
 - 11:45 Series rpt: The Slingshot
 - 14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
 - 15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
 - 15:15 Igizo: Utelezi
 - 16:00 Mr Tanzania
 - 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
 - 18:00 Jiji Letu
 - 18:15 Mapishi
 - 18:30 Pigo la moyo
 - 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
 - 19:30 Jungu Kuu
 - 20:00 Habari
 - 21:00 Shangweka
 - 21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Wajibu
 - 21:30 Kesho leo
 - 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
 - 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo
 - 23:00 Isidingo rpt
 - 01:30 CNN International
- SUNDAY 20 Oct**
- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
 - 6:00 HABARI
 - 6:40 Kumekucha
 - 7:00 Habari
 - 8:00 Al Jazeera
 - 09:00 Watoto Wetu
 - 10:00 Isidingo
 - 11:45 Aibu Yako
 - 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
 - 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mrs Zinduna
 - 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
 - 15:00 Mwangaza
 - 16:00 Mr Tanzania
 - 16:45 Igizo: Utelezi
 - 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
 - 18:00 Jiji Letu
 - 18:15 Mapishi
 - 18:30 Mizengwe rpt
 - 18:45 Matukio ya wiki
 - 19:30 Igizo: Pigo la moyo
 - 20:00 Habari
 - 21:05 Biko
 - 21:10 Mizengwe
 - 21:30 Mjue Zaidi
 - 22:15 Bongo Movie: Kishikwambi
 - 00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

PEER-PRESSURE

Why teens vape and how to prevent them from plunging into addiction

By Louisa Kierner, NEW YORK
I grew up in an age when smoking was the thing to do. Any rebellious teen was able to inhale without coughing and blow smoke rings like the caterpillar from Alice in Wonderland. We knew we weren't supposed to do it and yet we did it regardless. The risk of getting in trouble simply added to the charm.

Fast forward 20 years and now we have vaping, the more pleasant-smelling younger cousin of cigarettes (and other e-cigarettes) tempting today's generation of thrill-seeking teenagers. Think about it - a teacher walks out of the classroom and one pupil lights a cigarette while 15 others take a hit on a vape. Who is going to get caught?

The vapour dissipates quickly and the vape itself can be stowed away neatly. Teachers can be vigilant, but in the war against underage smoking, vape wins. At home, parents have lost the battle before they even know it's started. Teenagers who vape can do so in their homes every day without leaving a trace.

This is why, last December, the US surgeon general labelled vaping as an epidemic among adolescents. By February this year, five

million teenagers in the US were vaping. Now, with related illnesses being investigated, there are more reasons than ever for parents to increase their efforts to keep their children safe from this dangerous habit.

Why they start
While it would be convenient to blame the fruity flavours and inoffensive smell of vaping, the fact is that previous generations of young people were just as attracted to cigarettes, which taste and smell terrible. The real reason why teens start vaping today is the same reason they started smoking cigarettes in the past: because they think it looks "cool."

In my work as a hypnotherapist, I specialise in helping people to quit smoking. In recent months, I have been increasingly asked to help teenagers and adults to quit vaping. As with pretty much all of my work, the process is largely based on communicating with the subconscious mind. This is the part of your brain your emotions come from and also where your memories are stored. As habits are really memories repeated over and over again (normally for comfort), the subconscious is also where habits are programmed.

WORLD

Trump blasts 'crazy' Nancy Pelosi and Democrats, defends Syria pullout

DALLAS

U.S. President Donald Trump defended his Syria pullout at a campaign rally on Thursday and lashed out at "crazy Nancy" Pelosi and other Democrats who are trying to remove him from office through impeachment.

"The more America achieves, the more hateful and enraged these crazy Democrats become. They're crazy. They're crazy," Trump said at a packed American Airlines Center in downtown Dallas.

Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, accused Trump of having a "meltdown" after walking out of a White House meeting on Wednesday during which Trump called her a "third-rate politician."

She and other Democratic leaders had complained about his decision to pull U.S. troops from northeastern Syria and allow Turkey to attack America's Kurdish allies in the area.

"Crazy Nancy. That crazy Nancy, she is crazy," Trump said of Pelosi.

Trump has faced a backlash from his own Republican allies in Congress for the Syria pullout but he said on

Thursday a ceasefire negotiated by Vice President Mike Pence with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan had helped ease the crisis.

He told the Dallas crowd his approach was "unconventional" but he believed it worked. The death toll from Turkey's week-long incursion into northeastern Syria was unclear.

"Without spilling a drop of American blood, not one drop of American blood, we've all agreed on a pause, or a ceasefire, in the border region of Syria," Trump said. "Sometimes you have to let 'em fight for a while. Then people realize how tough it is."

Pelosi opened an impeachment inquiry in the House on revelations that Trump pressed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate unsubstantiated allegations against former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading Democratic presidential contender, and his son Hunter Biden, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

'WITCH HUNT'

Trump dismissed the impeachment inquiry as a "witch hunt" and said



President Donald Trump

Democrats are trying to overturn the results of the 2016 election.

"At stake in this fight is the survival of American democracy itself," he said. "That's what they want. But we will never let it happen."

Trump reviewed the Democratic presidential candidates who debated in Ohio on Tuesday night and accused them of seeking to give free benefits to migrants, saying they would "utterly eviscerate Medicare."

"They want to give more to illegal aliens than they do to American citizens," he said.

Trump's appearance in Dallas was aimed at rallying his core base of voter support in a state that he is favored to win in the November 2020 presidential election.

Texas has not voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since Jimmy Carter in 1976 but an increase in Democratic voters in big cities such as Austin and Houston could make it a closer race in 2020 than it has been in the past.

Trump, who would have trouble winning re-election were he to lose Texas' 38 electoral votes,

mocked those pundits who say Texas could turn Democratic and said he believed he will win the state.

Trump was concluding a long day in Texas in which he raised \$5.5 million for his re-election campaign and the Republican National Committee at two events.

He also cut the ribbon on a Louis Vuitton factory in Alvarado, Texas, where workers will produce the high-end fashion products made famous by the French company.

The company's billionaire controlling shareholder, Bernard Arnault, joined Trump for the event at the 100,000-square-foot (9,290-square-meter) plant.

"Louis Vuitton, a name I know well - cost me a lot of money over the years," said Trump.

Former U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke, a Democratic presidential candidate from Texas who is lagging in the polls, staged a competing event in Grand Prairie, Texas, featuring performances by Lil' Keke, Cure for Paranoia and Nu-Folk Rebel Alliance.

Agencies

Russia calls for condemning radicals in Kosovo for raising tensions in Balkans

MOSCOW

The Kosovo administration's intrusions into the Serb-populated areas undermine stability in the Balkan region, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"We consider the Kosovo administration's actions as a continuation of its overt policy aimed at raising ethnic tensions in the region, which may undermine stability in the Balkans," the statement reads. "These

developments are another striking example of the failure of Kosovo's 'statehood,' the Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out.

Moscow calls on the international community "to condemn the actions of Kosovo's radical forces and their violation of basic principles and standards of human rights that are accepted by the civilized world."

"This act of violence proves that the Pristina authorities are nervous because of their failed attempts

to fulfill their obsessive dream to ensure Kosovo's accession to Interpol. A while ago, facing the risk of a failure at the Interpol General Assembly, Kosovo had to withdraw its bid," the statement adds.

The Russian Foreign Ministry emphasized that a scandal "concerning some ballots allegedly sent from Central Serbia to Pristina during the October 6 'parliamentary' election in Kosovo only made the situation worse." "It is a clear attempt to question the results

achieved by the Serb List [political party], which won all ten seats reserved for the Serbs in the local assembly," the document reads.

On Wednesday, about 100 members of Kosovo's special police units intruded the Serb-populated areas on 25 vehicles in violation of existing agreements.

Kosovo's police explained the intrusion saying that an operation to detain those involved in the murder of Serb politician Oliver Ivanovic was underway. Two peo-

ple were apprehended during the operation.

Kosovo's independence Serbia's autonomous province of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence in February 2008. In 2010, its independence was recognized by the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Kosovo claims to have been recognized by 117 countries so far, while Serbia says Kosovo enjoys the support of less than 100 nations.

Agencies

Iran vows further cut of nuke commitments if parties fail

TEHRAN

IRAN will reduce more of its nuclear commitments if the remaining parties to the Iranian nuclear deal fail to help the country reap economic benefits of the accord.

Iranian President's Chief of Staff Mahmoud Vaezi made the remarks on Thursday, according to official IRNA news agency.

Vaezi referred to what he called Europe's "inaction" concerning its obligations under the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying "if Europe does not fulfill its commitments, Iran will take the fourth step in due time."

Since May, Iran has made three moves to build stockpiles of nuclear fuel and enrich low-grade uranium to a higher level of purity. It has started up advanced centrifuges to boost the

country's stockpile of enriched uranium which has been restricted by the accord.

Iran's moves came in response to the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the deal last year and re-imposition of sanctions against the Islamic republic.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also criticized the European signatories of the nuclear deal for being "unable" to fulfill their obligations under the pact, Tehran Times daily reported Thursday.

Zarif (pictured) pointed to Iran's commitment to its obligations under the JCPOA even a year after Washington's "illegal" withdrawal from the deal, saying "Iran's strategic patience ended and ... it scaled down its undertakings in three different steps."

"In case of lack of balance in fulfillment of obligations of both sides of the nuclear deal, Iran will embark on ma-



terializing necessary measures within the framework of next steps," Zarif was quoted as saying.

In other words, "Iran will take new steps to reduce its nuclear commitments," he said in a Wednesday meeting with the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor in Tehran.

Besides, Iranian deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Iran will reduce more of its commitments pertaining to

2015 landmark nuclear deal unless its interests are met by the signatories to the deal, Press TV reported on Thursday.

Iran is determined to take further steps toward suspending its nuclear commitments, and its policy "will remain unchanged until the desired conditions are met and Iran's economic interests from the JCPOA are ensured," Abbas Araqchi was quoted as saying.

Araqchi, also Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, made the remarks in a meeting on Wednesday with his Swedish counterpart Anika Soder in the capital Tehran.

Iran's one-sided implementation of the deal's terms is not justifiable, he said, urging Europe to "adopt constructive ap-

proaches" and "rebuild trust" with Iran.

The Iranian official said despite Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA and re-imposition of sanctions, "Iran tried to keep the windows of interaction and diplomacy open, while Europe has only relied on political support and refused to keep the accord alive."

He hailed Iran's decision to put up "maximum and active resistance" against U.S. "maximum pressures" campaign.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said the Islamic republic will continue reduction of its commitments pertaining to the nuclear deal until Iran "achieves a desired outcome."

Xinhua

Tibet helps farmers and herdsman out of poverty

SOUTHWEST China's Tibet Autonomous Region, the only provincial-level region among China's 14 national contiguous impoverished regions suffering from extreme poverty, has taken great efforts to help farmers and herdsman out of poverty.

With flocks of sheep and cattle as well as golden highland barley, Tibet is especially lovely during autumn and winter. Right after reaping highland barley, 45-year-old Chodron in Dagze District, Lhasa, capital of Tibet, hurried to a farmers and herdsman cooperative that produces and sells handmade traditional handicrafts.

Chodron is a seamstress at the cooperative. Recently, she and her workmates have been working overtime as the cooperative received a great number of orders for school uniforms. In the past, she became idle after the harvest time.

Established in 2012, the cooperative has provided jobs for 27 farmers and herdsman like Chodron and brings them a monthly income between 2,800 yuan (about \$394.49) and 6,000 yuan.

"In the recent three years, we have developed suitable poverty alleviation industries to help farmers and herdsman increase their income," said Zhang Gan, secretary of the Communist Party of China Dagze District committee.

Zhang added that in the first half of this year, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in Dagze District reached 4,623 yuan, more than 75 percent of which was generated by industries and paid by employers, representing a significant increase from the past.

Five years ago, policy-generated income accounted for about 40 percent of the per capita disposable income of rural residents in the district.

In the first half of 2019, the per capita disposable income of rural residents in Tibet was 4,009 yuan, up 12.5 percent year on year, which represented the greatest growth rate of per capita disposable income among provincial-level areas in the whole country. In particular, the per capita income from wages and salaries of rural residents grew by 47.3 percent.

While developing industries with local characteristics such as yak, highland barley, mineral water and handicrafts with ethnic minority characteristics, Tibet has managed to train farmers and herdsman and create jobs for them.

The region has properly integrated the development of industries and local employment, helping farmers and herdsman find jobs in areas closer to home and enabling them to fully share development dividends.

According to credible source, various infrastructure construction projects in Tibet in the first half of this year had created jobs for 193,000 farmers and herdsman, thus significantly increasing rural residents' income.

Currently, poverty headcount ratio in Tibet has dropped to less than 6 percent. In this year, the region aims to increase the disposable income of rural residents by more than 13 percent, and lift all the 150,000 people living in poverty and all the 19 impoverished counties out of poverty.

People's Daily



Villagers of the poverty-stricken Baka village, Bomi county, Nyingchi city of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region harvest highland barley, a main cash crop, so as to process and sell the products at an early date.

UN demands Libyan authorities establish fate of kidnapped lawmaker

TRIPOLI

THE UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Thursday demanded Libya's east-based authorities establish the fate of a parliament member who was kidnapped a few months ago in the eastern city of Benghazi.

"Three months ago, Siham Sergewa, an elected member of the House of Representatives (Parliament), was seized at night from her home in Benghazi. Since her violent abduction by armed men, Sergewa's fate remains unknown," the mission said in a statement.

"UNSMIL continues to follow up on the enforced disappearance of Sergewa and similar cases throughout the country. The Mission reiterates that relevant authorities in eastern Libya have the legal responsibility to establish the fate and whereabouts of Ms. Sergewa," the statement said. Xinhua

Pompeo seeks to assure Israel-US focus stays on Iran 'threat'

JERUSALEM

SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo underscored US-Israeli efforts to counter Iran in talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday, in an apparent attempt to ease concerns in Israel that Tehran could exploit a US military pullback in Syria.

Pompeo and Netanyahu met in Jerusalem hours after Turkey agreed with the United States to pause its offensive on Kurdish forces in Syria.

Turkey launched its assault against the Kurdish YPG militia in Syria last week after President Donald Trump pulled a US contingent out of the way, creating a new front in Syria's eight-year war and prompting 200,000 civilians to take flight.

Israel sees Syria's Kurds, once US allies, as a counterweight to Islamist in-

surgents in northern Syria. It also worries that its arch-foe Iran or local allies could fill the vacuum left by a disengaged United States.

The Kurds responded to the US withdrawal by inviting Syrian government forces, backed by Moscow and Tehran, into towns and cities in areas they control.

Pompeo said he and Netanyahu discussed "all the efforts we've made to push back against the threat not only to Israel but to the region and the world from the Islamic Republic of Iran."

"We shared our ideas about how we can ensure Middle East stability together, and how we would further our efforts to jointly combat all the challenges that the world confronts here in the Middle East," Pompeo told reporters with Netanyahu by his side.

Asked for his reaction to the pause



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, and Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, stand during statements to the press during a meeting at the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, yesterday. (AP)

in Turkey's offensive, Netanyahu said: "We hope things will turn out for the best."

Later on Friday, Pompeo will fly to Brussels for a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

Israeli concerns

Thursday's pause, brokered in Ankara by a US team including Pompeo and US Vice President Mike Pence, gives Kurdish forces five days to withdraw from a "safe zone" Ankara had sought to capture.

Pompeo's visit on the heels of the ceasefire was widely seen in Israel as an attempt to assuage Israeli concerns that a US force drawdown could expose it to attacks by Iran or its proxies.

Officials close to Netanyahu are quick to talk up the Republican president's unprecedentedly pro-Israel policies, such as quitting the Iran nuclear deal and recognizing Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and the Golan Heights as Israeli-annexed.

However, Trump's Syria about-face was the latest in recent steps that have stirred discomfort within Netanyahu's

conservative cabinet, which had previously seen itself and the Trump administration as marching in lock-step.

Indeed, Trump's recent diplomatic outreach to Tehran and firing of hawkish National Security Adviser John Bolton have cast a cloud over Netanyahu, who highlighted in two inconclusive Israeli elections this year what he described as his close relationship with Trump.

Amos Harel, military correspondent for the left-wing Haaretz daily, said the muted US reaction to the Sept 14 attack on Saudi oil facilities and abrupt end in support to Syria's Kurds "forces Israel to rethink its Middle East strategy".

"The American withdrawal raises questions about the extent of Trump's commitment to Israel when push comes to shove," he wrote on Thursday. Agencies



Chinese and Nigerian technicians share the joy of successfully breeding a new rice variety in a farm of Kebbi State, northwestern Nigeria.

China advocates, practices global science and technology exchanges with concrete efforts

By Yu Sinan

SCIENTISTS from more than 40 countries and regions across the globe gathered in Beijing for the first World Science and Technology Development Forum and other high-level meetings, which kicked off on October 16.

Centering on such topics as the impact of science and technology on human civilization and sustainable development, participants shared their research results and innovation experiences at the forum, further consolidating consensus on openness and cooperation.

Science and technology are the wisdom of all humanity. They push forward human society and flow across borders, providing means for us to deal with challenges of human development.

Looking back on the history of modern science and technology, none of the achievements in scientific research would have been realized if the scientists hadn't drawn the experience from forerunners. It is through competition and cooperation that the high-tech industry has advanced.

As scientific and technological exploration deepens, international division of labor and industry collaboration in various fields have become increasingly elaborate and complex. Meanwhile, science and technology cooperation has continuously widened and intensified, making countries more interconnected and interdependent with one another.

Currently, the new round of technological and industrial revolution is speeding up and new technologies and products, as well as new forms and models of business continue to emerge.

Against this backdrop, to reduce the costs and risks of innovation, improve its level and efficiency, integrate and optimize global resources and factors for complementing and sharing them around the world as well as intensify openness and cooperation have become an irresistible trend.

Technological progress stimulates world development and scientific cooperation brings mankind closer.

In the past few decades, human beings have achieved unprecedented results in areas including information, energy, medical service and healthcare through scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation.

Nowadays, common challenges such as development, food and energy security, health, and climate change have brought about more pressing needs for people around the world to join hands and cooperate.

To make technologies benefit more people and scientific achievements available in more countries, it is necessary to pool the wisdom of the world to jointly cope with the new issues and challenges of the times for the sake of the entire human civilization.

History flows like a mighty river, and openness and cooperation have become an irresistible trend of our times.

By holding the science and technology forum and providing a platform for scientific dialogues and exchanges, China aims to advocate scientific openness and cooperation and promote technological innovation to benefit humankind.

At the forum, participants discussed technological and industrial transformation, the influence of science and technology on education and culture, and the future of small and medium-sized enterprises, displaying that the scientists around the world expect to communicate and interact with one another.

As an advocate and practitioner of international science and technology cooperation, China has taken the initiative to build a network of global innovation.

Earlier this year, China announced the first batch of projects concerning scientific experiments on the Chinese space station and incorporated 23 researchers from 17 countries into the projects.

Foreign researchers are often seen on major Chinese scientific research platforms such as the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope (FAST) and the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST).

Meanwhile, Chinese scientists and researchers have actively contributed to scientific development in the world. They have joined the Human Genome Project, promoted advanced rice cultivation techniques in Africa, participated in taking the first-ever picture of the black hole in human history, and helped perfect the ecological system for world-renowned software and hardware companies on open-source platforms.

Science and technology become more colorful and active because of exchanges and interaction. As an advocate and practitioner of scientific and technological exchanges, China is willing to join hands with various countries to create a more open, inclusive, and better-coordinated ecology for scientific and technological cooperation, making its contributions to tackle common challenges faced by the world.

People's Daily

S. Africa calls for lifting of sanctions against Zimbabwe

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's parliament on Thursday urged members of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) to support a motion calling for an immediate lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

The motion was tabled to the PAP by Amos Masondo, chairperson of the South African National Council of Provinces, or upper house of parliament.

Masondo said he made this call in recognition and appreciation of the PAP's "gallant and heroic" 2016 campaign, which led to the successful lifting of economic sanctions imposed by the United States on Sudan.

The United States, Britain and the European Union have imposed



economic, financial and trade sanctions on Zimbabwe since 2002 when Robert Mugabe was president.

The unilateral sanctions, said Masondo, have caused "grave harm," not only to Zimbabwe's economy and its people, but also to the entire Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

"We are deeply concerned that these unjustified, unilateral sanc-

tions have a grave and unforgivable impact on women, children and ordinary citizens of the country," he said.

Masondo stressed the urgent need for the PAP members to join the SADC heads of state in demanding the immediate lifting of economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

The PAP, one of the organs of the African Union, is intended as a platform for people from all African states to be involved in discussions and decision-making on the problems and challenges facing the continent.

Zimbabwe has been suffering from high inflation and shortages of basic supplies such as fuel, power and water partly due to the sanctions.

Xinhua

Johnson returns to London to drum up support for Brexit deal

LONDON

AFTER winning the backing of European Union leaders for his new Brexit deal, Prime Minister Boris Johnson was in London yesterday looking to secure enough support to get the deal through the fractious British Parliament.

Johnson returned overnight for what is expected to be a busy day attempting to persuade lawmakers to vote for the divorce deal at a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament.

It is expected to be a knife-edge vote. The British parliament's Treasury Committee demanded that the finance ministry produce fresh economic forecasts of the cost of leaving the European Union under Prime Minister Boris Johnson's new deal before politicians have to vote on Saturday.

"It is unacceptable that the Committee has not received this information from HM Treasury. It appears to be an attempt to avoid scrutiny," the committee's acting chair, Catherine McKinnell, wrote in a letter to finance minister Sajid Javid.

Javid told reporters in Washington on Thursday that he did not intend to update finance ministry forecasts on the cost of Brexit that were last produced in November 2018.

Johnson's Conservative Party doesn't have a majority in the 650-seat House of Commons so he will have to rely on support from other parties and independent lawmakers to get over the line.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab started drumming up support early.

"We've got a real opportunity now to get Brexit delivered faithful to the referendum, move on as a Govern-



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson poses with French President Emmanuel Macron, right, during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium, on Thursday. (AP)

ment, and I think as a country, and lift the clouds of Brexit," he told the BBC.

Raab said the government has not given up hope of winning the support of its Northern Ireland ally the Democratic Unionist Party, which has rejected the new deal.

But the chances of that appeared slim. The DUP's Brexit spokesman, Sammy Wilson, said Johnson's Brexit package was bad for Northern Ireland.

"I can give you absolute assurance we will not be voting for this deal when it comes before the Commons tomorrow," he told the BBC.

The deal's fate could largely rest on a group of former Conservative Party rebels expelled from the party earlier this year and members from the main opposition Labour Party, which has 244 members. Around 20 of them, mainly representing pro-Brexit parts

of the country, have previously indicated a desire to back a deal in order to honor the June 2016 Brexit referendum result.

If Johnson's charm offensive manages to corral enough votes to pass the deal, Britain would leave the EU in an orderly fashion on Oct 31.

If lawmakers reject the deal – as they did three times with an earlier deal presented by Johnson's predecessor Theresa May – a law passed earlier this year compels the prime minister to ask the EU for another extension.

Asked Thursday what he would do if Britain seeks an extension, European Council President Donald Tusk said he would consult the other 27 EU nations in order to reach a decision – leaving open the prospect of another delay.

Agencies

Russian arms company to display new military equipment at Russia-Africa Summit

MOSCOW

THE JSC Concern VKO Almaz-Antey arms industry company will unveil a line of military and civilian equipment at the upcoming Russia-Africa Summit, including S-400 and S-300VM missile systems, the concern's press service said in a statement yesterday.

"By participating in an exposition at the Russia-Africa Summit, the concern expects to attract more potential customers among African countries," the press service quoted Vyacheslav Dzirkal, the company's director general for foreign economic activities, as



saying.

The press service underlined that the summit's participants will be able to get acquainted with the concern's military production – S-400 and S-300VM mis-

sile systems as well as Buk-M2E and Tor short-and intermediate-range missile systems.

Moreover, airspace surveillance equipment will be on show, including Kasta-2E2, Podlyot-E, Gamma-CIME, 55ZH6UME, 55HG-TE and ILI25E radar systems.

In a designated presentation zone, the concern will display civilian vehicles – fuel and energy complex equipment, air traffic control equipment, heat and climate vehicles, photodiode energy-efficient lighting systems, communication systems, digital land TV communication equipment and medi-



Martin Luther's daughter tells FB disinformation helped kill him

SAN FRANCISCO

DISINFORMATION campaigns helped lead to the assassination of Martin Luther King, the daughter of the US civil rights champion said on Thursday after the head of Facebook said social media should not factcheck political advertisements.

The comments come as Facebook Inc (FB.O) is under fire for its approach to political advertisements and speech, which Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg defended on Thursday in a major speech that twice referenced King, known by his initials MLK.

King's daughter, Bernice (pictured), tweeted that she had heard the speech. "I'd like to help Facebook better understand the challenges #MLK faced from disinformation campaigns launched by politicians. These campaigns created an atmosphere for his assassination," she wrote from the handle @BerniceKing.

King died of an assassin's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Zuckerberg argued that his company should give voice to minority views and said that court protection for free speech stemmed in part from a case involving a partially inaccurate advertisement by King supporters. The US Supreme Court protected the supporters from a lawsuit.

"People should decide what is credible, not tech companies," Zuckerberg said.

"We very much appreciate Ms King's offer to meet with us. Her perspective is invaluable and one we deeply respect. We look forward to continuing this important dialogue with her in Menlo Park next week," a Facebook spokesperson said.

Agencies

Ethiopia working hard to boost its coffee exports to China

ADDIS ABABA

EXPLOITING the opportunity from the Chinese emerging market for Ethiopian coffee is one of the areas on which the East African country is focusing, said Tatek Girma, Director of Market Development and Promotion at the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority.

Though the Chinese market has the potential, the export to the country of Ethiopian coffee is very low, when it is compared to its export of the commodity to other countries and regions.

Therefore, in addition to the traditional markets, mainly Europe, the U.S. and some Middle East countries, among others,

Ethiopia is now focusing on the Chinese emerging market for the export of its organic coffee, Tatek told Xinhua.

China imported around 4,000 tons of Ethiopian coffee last year, but its import of Ethiopian coffee shows an annual growth of around 16 percent, according to the Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association.

Reiterating that the country's exporters previously focusing on the traditional market as far as coffee export is concerned, the Director of Market Development and Promotion at the Authority underlined the need to take the opportunity created by the ever increasing coffee consumption by the Chinese.

"We have to come to the emerging market. We have to do a lot, to have a big share in the emerging market. So, we are doing; we have different cooperation with the Chinese government, and also we have also partnership with China Commodity Exchange, so we are doing our best to do, to maximize our export to China," Tatek said, "So, one of the main areas that we are going to do, our export focus is China."

According to the Director, the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority encourages and provides support to exporters to promote and boost export of Ethiopian coffee to China and other overseas markets, by facilitating platforms such as participation in expos

and their side events for business to business (B2B) and government to business (G2B) meetings or dialogues that primarily aim at enhancing export performances of the country in the sector.

He further reiterated that events like the China International Import Expo in Shanghai serves as a good platform for creating networking and facilitating dialogues on business of export issues.

Stating that Ethiopia and China are enjoying good relation and also that China is an emerging market for coffee, Gizat Worku, General Manager of Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association, said Ethiopian exporters are working hard to expand the Chinese market for Ethiopian coffee.

The Association has been encouraging Ethiopian exporters to tap the potential of the Chinese market, the General Manager said, expressing his hope that China would be the largest importer of Ethiopian coffee in less than 10 years.

"Ethiopia and China have a good relation; so, when we talk about coffee, we are always inculcating this relation how it has to be revealed in terms of business," Gizat said.

"But, as China is an emerging market for coffee, and an important business destination for Ethiopian coffee, we are working on it. We are going to China and promoting Ethiopian coffee," he said, "We have to do it because it is

an emerging market. Coffee in the coming 10 years, probably China might be the biggest buyer; so, we are working on that."

"We have different organic coffee, different varieties, more than 6000 varieties; when you talk about Ethiopian coffee, it is related to specialty coffee; it is all organic; it is traceable; it is sustainable; it is related to green growth, because all Ethiopian coffee grows in a shade, under a tree; so, in order to get a price we have to always promote Ethiopian coffee, especially in such emerging market."

Reiterating optimism of Chinese booming market for Ethiopian coffee, Asnake Kasa, Quality and Marketing Director at

Kerchanshe Coffee, the largest producer and exporter of coffee in Ethiopia, noted the opportunity being created by Chinese emerging market for Ethiopian coffee is huge.

"Nowadays in China, there is a big opportunity for Ethiopian coffee. For the last three years we are exporting to the Chinese, relatively when we compare the European countries, it is very low. But, there is a huge potential of Chinese market," he said.

"We are happy to send our coffee to the Chinese; and definitely it will get higher and higher in a year or two years. So, there will be a booming market there," Asnake added.

Xinhua

The
Guardian

SPORT



Brooklyn Nets' players arrive for a match against Los Angeles Lakers at the NBA China Games 2019 in Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019. (AP)

Back from China, Nets steer clear of controversy in remarks

NEW YORK

The Brooklyn Nets played well and ate great on their trip to China.

That was the tenor of their comments Wednesday after their first practice back home, downplaying the impact the ongoing international tension between the NBA and China had on them.

The Nets steered clear of any statements like those of LeBron James that could have further inflamed the situation. Players say they were not rattled by the turbulence they faced during their two exhibition games against the Los Angeles Lakers last week, which came as the NBA dealt with the fallout from Rockets general manager Daryl Morey's now-deleted tweet in support of support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

Joe Harris was just in China last month for the Basketball World Cup and said this trip wasn't much different.

"To be honest, you know there's a lot of stuff going on but the atmosphere was really very similar to what it was during the World Cup," Harris said. "The fans were extremely passionate. They love the game. They still sold out both games, so take out everything that was actually going on it really felt like almost exactly the same."

It was hard to ignore everything, with Chinese and NBA officials canceling events and news conferences, and advertising and local television coverage for the games in Shanghai and Shenzhen removed.

"At the end of the day we're human and we see those things, so we just tried to stick together as much as we could," guard Caris LeVert said.

The Nets who did speak to reporters – Kyrie Irving wasn't among them – said they hadn't seen Morey's tweet and couldn't recall when they learned of it. Both teams met with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver shortly after ar-

iving, where Harris said the commissioner outlined what was happening.

"It's not like he was standing in front of everybody and making some, like, dramatic commentary," Harris said. "He was basically describing what we already knew was going on."

Irving spoke up in the meeting, but Harris said those remarks were not political but rather related mostly to basketball.

"It was more just focusing on trying to get ready for the games," Harris said.

Harris said one of his community events, a visit with children at a play area, still went on. So did the team functions planned by new owner Joe Tsai, the co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Tsai posted a lengthy letter to fans on Facebook following Morey's tweet, which Harris said the owner encouraged the players to read. He was around the team during the week getting the know players and staff.

He made a good impression with his dinners, which Harris indicated were even better than Gregg Popovich's while playing for the U.S.

"I mean Pop had a lot of good dinners and stuff planned when we were out there too," Harris said, "but I'd say Joe Tsai is probably a little more familiar with some of the dining establishments in Shanghai and Shenzhen."

Meanwhile, China is refuting NBA Commissioner Adam Silver's claim that it demanded the firing of Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey over a tweet that supported anti-government protests in Hong Kong.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang says the "Chinese government never posed this requirement."

During an appearance in New York on Thursday, Silver said the NBA was "being asked to fire (Morey) by the Chinese government, by the parties we dealt with, government and business." **AP**

South Africa skipper seeks fighting response from battered team

NEW DELHI, INDIA

SOUTH Africa captain Faf du Plessis is hoping for a fighting reaction from his beleaguered team as they go into the final test against India at Ranchi on Saturday seeking to avoid a series whitewash.

South Africa suffered their heaviest loss to India in the second test, going down by an innings and 137 runs in Pune last weekend.

They were also clobbered in the first test at Visakhapatnam by 203 runs.

"It's important for us to understand that we have to fight our way out of these last two losses," Du Plessis told a news conference on the eve of the first day.

"We can't expect things just to happen. They won't happen, because India is a very powerful team at the moment. Their record at home is amazing."

"So for us, it's just about trying to keep doing the things well, keep practising hard, keep doing the processes as well as you can, and then hopefully it's just a matter of time and you start winning again."

South Africa, who host England in December and January, have lost their last four tests – two at home to Sri Lanka in February and the first two of the tour to India.

"It is tough. It is tough when you're losing," he

added.

"For us, we're very, very competitive people, so it does take a dent out of your confidence, but international sport is supposed to be hard, and the guys who have stayed at the top for a long time will tell you that it comes with ups and it comes with downs, personally and from a team point of view."

Cricketer South Africa's top officials have been blaming the retirement of the likes of AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla and Dale Steyn for the slump.

TOUGH DESTINATION

But when they were at their peak, India also proved a tough destination for the South Africans, added Du Plessis.

"We came here last time with a very experienced international team that did very well overseas, the best record abroad, and we still found it challenging," he said.

"There's an obvious reason that people who come to India find it tough to beat them at home."

"So it's not all doom and gloom for me in that aspect. It's about trying to improve as players."

"There are a lot of young guys in the team, and they need to make sure that whatever they get out of this experience, when they come back in three or four years' time, they're better and stronger for it."

REUTERS



Junior soccer players put their skills to show in a recent competition that took place in Dar es Salaam.

Why does Tanzania lose so much top level youth soccer talent early?

BY CORRESPONDENT, MICHAEL ENEZA

SUCCESS has been registered again at the regional level with the National Under-20 soccer side, Ngorongoro Heroes, lifting the East and Central Africa finals for that category, after the National Under-17 side, Serengeti Boys having scored notable successes in the recent past. In all, there have been three to four years of substantial successes in youth soccer, but not altogether a new generation of players either for leading premier league clubs or the senior national side, Taifa Stars, and Kilimanjaro Heroes where that subsidiary side is relevant. There appears to be disconnect from the two sets of events; why?

Different pundits have their answers for the problem, as what is unmistakable is that it is difficult to project junior team successes and senior side talents and achievements, as talents are only substantially appreciated not the way one plays but ability to win. In that case if it has been seen over the past three to four years that Serengeti Boys and Ngorongoro Heroes are capable of standing their ground against equal or superior competition, on the basis of habit, that ordinarily for instance Tanzania doesn't make it to the finals of the Africa Cup of Nations. On the contrary, a country like Zambia isn't surprised doing that, etc.

One particular view encountered in discussions concerning the rapid waning of talent as it were from school to club soccer among star secondary school selections from which the two junior national sides are picked is culture. It is asserted that our boys tend to be indulgent when they have a minimum of fame or public notice, some would say notoriety, such that

they don't stand the distance as their habits soften up their bodies rather rapidly. It is hard to disagree with this explanation either because one doesn't know enough of the young men, but also because this explanation hurts norms of equality, it even discriminates.

The issue is whether there is actual discrimination in this assertion or it is a cultural environment where such ills can scarcely be avoided. In that context it is hard for this explanation to be discriminatory as it is not fetched from outside, say a viewer speaking at SuperSport in London or their South African head offices, as one could also explain that kind of assertion as a relic of apartheid, etc. It is an explanation that comes from local analysts who don't have blinkers for the team, just sketching out elementary psychology on what happens in the failed transition period. Why do youth players who perform well soon fade out?

To be frank, those who make this assertion in many cases actually know those young men personally and can explain at length the sort of indulgent habits they took up, or identify three or four of the crop of youths in the past three to four years or earlier who made it to the top of the local premier league. It appears that such players are countable, and the majority of Serengeti Boys in particular are likely to be confined to the wilderness after initial success, while Ngorongoro Heroes are closer to premier league soccer age-wise. It means they have by and large succeeded the transition from the Under-17 talent level.

As a matter of fact, the phenomenon of good players failing the transition to adulthood and a career in premier league soccer is not strange as it is manifested in other situations as well,

and may indeed have common attributions. In the England premier league and other top level UEFA league competitions, top players who grew up in Europe tend to last the distance, while those coming from other lands are likely to fade out rather quickly, on account of the same indulgences that our young players are being accused of this side of the southern hemisphere. European players tend to have longer shelf lives by routine measure.

When one looks at the situation and tries an explanation, it appears that our young players could easily be overwhelmed by a change of fortune at a precocious stage, when most youths don't have money in their pockets in a regular fashion at that age. Whether it is regular earnings when in national team selection or post-competition bonuses, such players would be well above their peers in endowment at that period, and therefore face boyhood pressure of adjusting to 'high life'. Maintaining the rigour of a youthful soccer player and avoiding all such indulgences can be testy, and as it appears, many aren't likely to succeed.

Still there are exceptions to the number, with a good example cited being star FC Genk player Mbwana Samatta, that even when he comes home his routine is predetermined and it doesn't include luxuries. He is taken as an example of seriousness in his profession, eschewing the corrosive indulgences of local stardom and thus climbed the staircase quickly to the UEFA Champions League. It means that there is indeed a cultural problem but there is also a normal curve atmosphere where the majority will sink into comfort when they start having some disposable cash but some may endure, stay put to training rigors.

Tiger Woods targeting Tokyo Olympics

TOKYO

GOLFING great Tiger Woods is targeting the Tokyo Olympics as he seeks to add another glittering chapter to his storied career.

Golf returned to the Games in 2016 after a 112-year absence but Woods, who dominated the sport in the first decade of the 21st century, missed its return through injury.

"Making the Olympic team is a big goal," the 15-times Major winner told Reuters in an emailed interview. "I don't see myself having too many opportunities other than next year."

"Four years from now, at the next Olympic Games, I'll be 48-years-old. To be one of the top Americans at that age is going to be tough."

"I went to my first Olympic Games when it was in Los Angeles (1984). So now to have the opportunity to be a part of the Olympics, because golf in my lifetime wasn't a part of the Olympics, is an important aspect for us and the growth of the game."

"The game has become so global, and so reaching, that I think the Olympic Games is a great extension of that and I'd like to be a part of it."

Woods will get a taste of golf-



crazy Japan when he competes in 'The Challenge: Japan Skins' on Oct 21.

Woods will take part in a high-stakes challenge at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba alongside Rory McIlroy, Jason Day and Hideki Matsuyama.

The extravaganza, which will in part be floodlit, is being televised globally by GOLFTV and

will be played under the 'skins' format.

The format, designed to encourage aggressive play from start to finish, forces players to win a hole outright to take a "skin", with tied holes resulting in a "push" of the skin to the next hole.

Woods, who won the Masters earlier this year to end an 11-year

wait for his 15th Major, says he is thrilled to be back at the top of the sport after injuries caused four back surgeries between 2014 and 2017.

"To be able to have played the last couple of years after where I was (with injury)... and to have two wins in my last two years - I definitely would not have foreseen that at the time, pre-surgery."

"So I'm just excited and ecstatic to be able to participate in golf at this level again. I missed it. I missed competing against these guys."

"The interesting thing about now is that when I was out, there was a whole generation of guys that I didn't really compete against."

"Whether it was Jordan (Spitheth), JT (Justin Thomas), Bryson (Dechambeau) or Patrick (Reed) these guys were just coming out and I missed that. Now they're established and I'm coming back into the game, so it's been fun to compete against those guys, not to mention some of the older guys."

If he is to realise his Olympic dreams it seems likely Woods will be competing against players from this new generation to earn a spot at Tokyo.

REUTERS

El Clasico to be rescheduled over safety concerns

MADRID

THE La Liga Clasico between Barcelona and Real Madrid originally scheduled for Oct. 26 will be rescheduled to a date in December due to the growing social unrest in Catalonia, under a proposal by the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF).

The competition committee, acting on behalf of the RFEF, have requested the club's agree a new date by 10 a.m. CET on Monday, and if one isn't agreed, the committee will make the final decision. The possibility of swapping the fixtures and playing at the Bernabeu, as proposed by La Liga, has been ruled out.

A demonstration is scheduled for Oct. 26 in Barcelona following the imprisonment of nine separatist leaders for their roles in the failed 2017 push for independence, and the Spanish football federation, in consultation with government officials, said Thursday it wasn't safe to play on the same day of the rally.

The league has proposed moving the game to Dec. 7, a Saturday, which would mean the teams' matches that had already been scheduled for that weekend would have to be moved. There was also the possibility of playing the game Dec. 18, a Wednesday, but then Copa del Rey matches would have to be rescheduled.

In addition, the league doesn't want the game to be played midweek because it could hurt television rights holders. The Oct. 26 match was scheduled for a 1 p.m. kickoff local time, which favours the important Asia market.

On Thursday, La Liga requested the Spanish football association switch the encounter from the Camp Nou to the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, with the second league Clasico of the season to be played at Barcelona's ground on March 1, 2020.

The competition committee of the RFEF turned down La Liga's proposal, however, instead ruling the postponement of the encounter "for circumstances beyond its control."

Both Real Madrid and Barca were reluctant to agree to La Liga's request of a change of venue, with the capital side believing it would affect the nature of the game, and the Catalan club's coach Ernesto Valverde having said he wanted the fixture to go ahead at the Camp Nou as initially planned.

"This game can perfectly take place - it's a good opportunity to play it as normal," he said Thursday. "It's a good opportunity to do so against all those that are pessimistic."

"[Oct. 26] is the date it was set. This is my opinion, but I don't know what decision the [competition committee of the Spanish FA] will take."

"There are nine days left to play, and the normal thing would be to play in our stadium. If you told me the game was today or tomorrow, then fine. But we still have time. It's an important game for people to see. It should be played under normal circumstances."

"We would go into the game having one day less to rest than Real Madrid, so I guess if you look at it that way, it would be us [to suffer]. However, in these type of games that is not that important, as players are always ready to play these games."

Earlier this week, the anti-violence committee declared the match "high risk," although federation officials said that is a common designation for matches of the calibre of the Clasico, which is the biggest event on the La Liga calendar.

Spain's interior minister, Fernando Grande-Marlaska, appealed Thursday for calm after reporting that 97 people have been arrested since Monday and 194 officers hurt as a result of the escalating violence on the streets of Catalonia.

(Agencies)

Woodward: 'Myth' I pick Utd players 'insulting'

LONDON

ED Woodward has hit back at criticism of his Manchester United leadership by branding suggestions he picks which players to buy as "a myth" and "insulting."

Woodward has overseen a trying spell since taking over for chief executive David Gill in 2013, during which time United have slipped from Premier League champions to regularly missing out on a place in the Champions League.

Much of the fans' fury has been directed at the owners, the Glazer family, and the board - particularly after a dismal start to the season that has seen Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team collect just nine points from eight games and sit two points above the relegation places in 12th.

Some supporters have pointed the finger at Woodward for the club's underwhelming recruitment record since Sir Alex Ferguson retired six years ago, but United's executive vice-chairman has rejected the suggestion he handpicks players to sign.

"There is a myth that we have non-football people making football decisions, and I think it's insulting to the brilliant people who work on the football side in this club," said Woodward.

"Many of the senior staff on the football side of the club have been in their roles for over 10 years. Some of our scouts have worked with us for more than 25 years."

"We've expanded our recruitment department in recent years and we believe this now runs in an efficient and productive way."

"Player recommendations and decisions are worked on by this department and by the first team manager and his staff, not by senior management."

Woodward has also addressed concerns that the commercial side of the club - which has remained healthy despite a lack of success on the pitch - takes priority at Old Trafford over investment in the playing squad.

"Our commercial business allows us to reinvest in the football side," he said. "It's how these two interact with each other at Manchester United that results in us having a competitive advantage in

this area.

"What's important is the commercial side is never allowed to take priority over the football side."

The impact of summer signings Harry Maguire, Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Daniel James - identified by a revamped recruitment department - has been a bright spot during United's miserable start to the season that could reach new depths on Sunday if Liverpool win at Old Trafford.

Solskjaer has managed just five wins from 21 games since being appointed permanent manager in March, and despite mounting pressure after defeat to Newcastle, Woodward insists the Norwegian is still the right man for the job.

"Ole's vision maps exactly to the core three football objectives we have," said Woodward.

"We must win trophies, we must play attacking football, and we must give youth its chance."

"The middle section of last season, after Ole's arrival, feels most relevant to what we want to achieve and where we want to be."

"We saw a team playing fast, fluid football, with a clear representation of the style and philosophy the manager wants."

While new signings Maguire, Wan-Bissaka and James have been early successes, Solskjaer has been left with a squad short in midfield and up front after the summer departures of Ander Herrera, Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez.

Lukaku and Sanchez were allowed to leave late in the window with no prospect of bringing in a replacement, but Woodward has hinted the decision was made for the good of the group.

"Ole has instilled the discipline back into an environment where we may have lacked it in recent years," said Woodward.

"He is building a squad that respects the club's history, in which players work hard and respect their teammates. No one is bigger than the club."

Meanwhile, Brandon Williams has signed a new contract at Old Trafford. The 19-year-old left-back, who made his first senior start against AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League, has penned a deal until at least 2022.

(Agencies)

Why Kante is one of the most valuable players in soccer

BY RYAN O'HANLON, ESPN

A COUPLE of years ago, N'Golo Kante might have been the most valuable soccer player in the world.

In August 2015, Leicester City signed the relatively unknown French midfielder from Caen for £5.6 million. The season before his arrival, Leicester finished with 41 points. In Kante's only season with the club, Leicester finished with 81 points, winning the most improbable championship in the history of modern sports.

Then, in July 2016, Chelsea signed the by-now-well-known French midfielder for £32 million. The year before Kante's arrival at Stamford Bridge, the club finished with 50 points, by far the worst tally since Roman Abramovich bought the club back in 2003. In Kante's first season with the team, Chelsea finished with 93 points, winning their fifth Premier League title. Leicester, meanwhile, held onto all of the other key contributors to their championship team, but without Kante, they almost slipped right back down to where they were before he'd arrived, finishing with 44 points.

Ignore any other context and it looks like Kante alone was worth something like 40 points a year. That's obviously not quite true, but it certainly seemed like Kante was one of those rare players who could significantly elevate his team's performance without putting the ball into the back of the net. And in the summer of 2017, a group of researchers from the University of Salford and University College of London published a paper that supported this very idea.

They created a number of models to determine a player's "plus-minus" rating, that is comparing how a team performs when a player is on the field with how it performs when he's not. These models are tricky and imperfect because unlike in basketball, most teams don't spend a significant amount of time with their starters off the field; therefore you get things like Manchester City's Claudio Bravo being the second-highest rated player in the world for the 2016-17 season. However, the results of the research also seemed to verify what everyone at Stamford Bridge and the King Power Stadium was thinking about Kante.

"The paper presents a method for estimating how important each player is to a team's success," Ian McHale, one of the paper's authors, said over email. "For



the seasons under consideration, Kante was found to be the player contributing the most to a team's success. And this doesn't just mean Leicester and Chelsea, but a hypothetical team made up of any set of players: Kante would contribute the most."

Except, in the two seasons since then, something has happened that had never happened before ... and it's happened two seasons in a row: The team Kante plays for didn't win the Premier League. In 17-18, Chelsea finished in fifth and last year, they landed third.

"Kante has plummeted down the rankings in the last 12 months, probably because he was played out of position for much of that time," said McHale.

Much of the discussion surrounding Kante over the past year-and-a-half echoes what McHale suggests. Since Chelsea signed Jorginho, a relatively immobile player who needs to sit in front of the defense and constantly have the ball at his feet in order to be effective, Kante has been deployed higher up the field under both Maurizio Sarri and current manager Frank Lampard. This discussion between BBC pundits Alan Shearer and Ian Wright serves as a good summary of the general sentiment:

However, Sarri claimed he needed a different player profile in his holding midfield role. "In that position, I want a player able to move the ball very fast... N'Golo is very useful for us, but this one is not his best characteristic."

In August, Lampard echoed those

thoughts. "This idea that he wins the ball probably as well as anybody in world football doesn't mean that he has to sit in front of the back four and do that. He also has too much in his game to drive forward with the ball, to lead midfield areas and win the ball back high up the pitch. That's what I want to give him the freedom to do."

Even when France won the 2018 World Cup, Didier Deschamps opted to play Paul Pogba, of all people, in the holding role with Kante given the kind of freedom that Lampard talks about: license to win the back higher up the field.

Three separate coaches have envisioned a more aggressive role for Kante. Could they all be wrong?

Last season under Sarri, all of Kante's defensive numbers declined except one. In his sole season at Leicester, he made 5.22 tackles per 90 minutes and 4.65 interceptions, both of which led the Premier League. In his two seasons under Antonio Conte, he averaged 3.67 tackles and 2.45 interceptions and last year, he was down at 2.18 tackles and 1.28 interceptions. In the Leicester and Conte years, he won possession in midfield an average of 4.85 times per 90 minutes, ranking in the top three in all three years. Under Sarri, that number dipped down to 3.26. What didn't dip, though, was the number of times he won possession in the attacking third. That rose up to 1.02 per 90 after not being above 0.63 in either of the previous three seasons. In fact, only Mohamed Salah and Richarlison won more possessions in the final third than Kante last season. The difference, of course, is that Kante's a midfielder and they're both attackers. So when Kante wins possession that high up the field, there tend to be more players ahead of the ball and therefore more players capable of capitalizing on re-gaining the ball. Why is this important? Because winning possession in the attacking third has also been shown to correlate with, well, winning games.

On top of that, Kante found his way into the penalty area more than he ever has before. He took 73 touches in the box last season after taking 58 touches in the box in the previous three seasons combined.

Winning possession in the attacking third and finding space in the opposition box are two of the most valuable things that a player can do that don't directly involve taking or setting up a shot. Kante

may have been playing a new role, but he did more of these things than ever before. He also set or matched career highs in shots, chances created, goals and assists.

However, the value that Kante provided in years past was that he did the defensive work of multiple players and allowed Claudio Ranieri and Conte to often only play two midfielders instead of the customary three you see employed by the best teams in the Premier League. That made room for another attacker: basically another player who could win the ball back in the attacking third and make runs into the box.

The running joke at Leicester was that they "played three in midfield, Drinkwater in the middle with Kante either side." At Chelsea, Eden Hazard said of Kante's omnipresence: "I think I'm playing with twins."

Those teams were at least partially built around Kante's unique skills. His value wasn't necessarily in what he did; it came from everything he allowed his teammates and managers to do. But it's still not clear that one role is better than the other.

In Conte's last season with Chelsea, with Kante in his supposedly more natural role, they won 70 points on a plus-24 goal differential. In Sarri's one season, with Kante playing higher up the field, Chelsea won 72 points on a plus-24 goal differential. In terms of their expected goal differential last season, Chelsea were the clear third-best team behind Manchester City and Liverpool. Kante has only started three Premier League games so far but it seems like we're in for more of the same this season.

Kante hasn't really played enough to define his role within Lampard's preferred system, but early signs suggest that he's going to be used as something of a hybrid; his number of possessions won in midfield is up from last year, but he's already scored two goals. And so, perhaps the truth of the Kante conundrum is that he doesn't have a best position. He's never been a pure holding midfielder. He's never been a box-to-box runner either. He's always been somewhere in between but, in playing either role, he's proven to be indispensable.

Remember the year Leicester won the title? Kante won the third-most possessions in the midfield among all Premier League players. His teammate, Danny Drinkwater, was No. 1.

Arsenal were famously 'invincible' in the mid-2000s. What the hell happened?

BY TOM WILLIAMS, ESPN.COM WRITER

WHEN Emery took over from Wenger in the summer of 2018, he inherited a flaky squad with no clearly defined defensive principles, the influence of the old back four and the defenders from the "Invincibles" era having become more and more diluted as the long, slow second half of the Frenchman's reign wore on.

Where once the Arsenal defence meant Adams' rugged tackling, Campbell's peerless heading ability or Cole's lung-busting surges down the left flank, it now stood for Khaka failing to track his runner, Mustafi losing his man in the box or Petr Cech sardonically fishing the ball out of his own net.

At Sevilla, where he won three successive Europa League titles, Emery's teams were renowned for playing high-energy, relentlessly vertical football, but they were not an especially solid side defensively.

His attempts to introduce a more dynamic style of play at Paris Saint-Germain were unsuccessful, and although PSG had few problems keeping clean sheets in Ligue 1, their frailties were brutally exposed in the famous 6-1 defeat by Barcelona in the Champions League in March 2017.

Emery hasn't yet had any discernible impact on Arsenal's defensive robustness. Arsenal conceded 51 goals in Wenger's final league season - the club's worst defensive figures in 34 years - and in Emery's first campaign at the helm, they shipped 51 goals again.

This season, things have been scarcely better. Emery's men are mid-table in terms of goals conceded (11), but their expected goals against figures (12.88) are the sixth-highest in the division, and only promoted sides Aston Villa and Norwich City have granted their opponents more shots on goal than the 136 Arsenal have allowed.

Not that you need statistical evidence to tell you that all is not well in Arsenal's defensive third, where a porous midfield and calamity-prone centre-backs have combined to create a perfect storm.

Costly defensive mistakes have been a consistent feature of Arsenal football, be it Khaka's kamikaze penalty-box challenge on Son Heung-min in the North London Derby, David Luiz's error-strewn display in the 3-1 defeat at Liverpool or Sokratis Papastathopoulos's catastrophic loose pass in the recent 2-2 draw at Watford.

"At the moment, it doesn't look any better than last year, which wasn't good enough. I think there's a lack of understanding between the back four, in terms of each individual player and the responsibilities in their roles," Winterburn said.

"And at times, the opposition play through the lines too easily. The more pressure that's put on the back four, the more mistakes they will make."

Can Emery turn things around?

Emery's thinking on defensive matters also seems muddled. He arrived

at the Emirates promising aggressive, front-foot football, and there were signs of that in his first season, most memorably in December's 4-2 win over Spurs.

But the intensity has steadily disappeared from Arsenal's play, and when they come up against supposedly inferior opponents, Emery can be curiously reactive, seemingly more inclined to focus on the strengths of the opposition than the strong points of his own side.

On top of all that, his determination to see his team play out from the back can seem like more trouble than it's worth.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang complained to Canal+ after the draw at Watford that Arsenal were "literally giving goals to the opposition," but Emery has remained steadfast, declaring that building up play from the back needs to become part of the team's "identity."

Recent weeks, at least, have offered a faint promise of better days ahead. Arsenal have kept three clean sheets in their past four games across all

competitions, and with Héctor Bellerín, Rob Holding and new signing Kieran Tierney all now free of injury, there is hope that a new defensive unit might emerge to put Emery's team on a surer footing.

"On the flip side, there's potentially three players who will be starting who haven't started [in the league] yet," Winterburn said. "Once you've had another seven or eight games, it might be the right time to have a look and see whether we've improved defensively or not. If we haven't, I think Unai Emery will have to answer a lot of questions."

Arsenal, the team who forgot how to lose, have become the team who forgot how to defend. Remember how to defend, and they might one day remember how to challenge for titles.

CAPTION: Arsenal's Invincibles finally fell to defeat against Man United in October 2004, and it was the first time opponents realized that being aggressive was enough to rattle the Gunners, a theme that continues to this day. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why Kante is one of the most valuable players in soccer

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Sarfراز sacked as Pakistan's Test and T20I captain

LAHORE

PAKISTAN'S customary post-World Cup clear-out is complete after the PCB sacked Sarfaraz Ahmed as the Test and T20I captain ahead of the November-December tour of Australia. To add to his woes, Sarfaraz has also been dropped from both the teams following a run of poor form in the two formats. In his place, Azhar Ali has been named the Test captain and Babar Azam leader of the T20I side. A decision on the ODI captaincy has been put on hold, as Pakistan's next 50-over assignment isn't until July next year - logic would suggest it is highly unlikely Sarfaraz will retain that captaincy either.

Sarfراز's removal means Pakistan now have a new coach, new chief selector and new captains after the 50-over World Cup, where they narrowly failed to reach the semi-finals; Mickey Arthur and Inzamam-ul-Haq are long gone as head coach and selection head, Misbah-ul-Haq having taken over both positions. Azhar, whom Sarfaraz replaced as the white-ball captain in 2016, has been appointed Test captain for the 2019-20 World Test Championship matches, which begin with a two-Test series in Australia next month. Babar will be in charge of the T20I side till at least the men's T20 World Cup in Australia late next year.

The case for Sarfaraz's dismissal had been building steadily for a while now, predicated as much on his own form as Pakistan's results under him. Just last week he had stood down from leading Sindh in the National T20 Cup, though continued playing for the side. But he has overseen a dismal run for the Test side, currently at No. 7 in the rankings. In their most recent Test series, they were swept 3-0 in South Africa in December-January, and, prior to that, had lost a three-Test series in the UAE 2-1 to New Zealand - that was a second loss in three Test series (including one to Sri Lanka the season before) in the UAE, as near a fortress as Pakistan had until Sarfaraz took over the captaincy.

It is the decision to remove him from captaincy in the shortest format that will hurt Sarfaraz the most. Although they suffered an embarrassing 3-0 defeat at home earlier this month in Lahore at the hands of a Sri Lanka side without a number of their top players, Sarfaraz's captaincy has led Pakistan to be the leading national side in the world in the format.

Results this year have been poor, but their run since the disastrous showing at the 2016 World T20 - after which Sarfaraz took over - had been outstanding. And the loss to Sri Lanka had as much the imprint of Misbah on it, with his selections for the series, as any other player - indeed it is believed Sarfaraz was not happy with Misbah's decision to recall Ahmed Shehzad and Umar Akmal to a side that didn't need such drastic selections.

But it hasn't helped that Sarfaraz's form has been poor across all formats. He hasn't made a Test century in five years and in his most recent Test assignments in South Africa, he made three ducks in six innings. Since the day he scored an unbeaten 61 to get Pakistan through to the 2017 Champions Trophy semi-final, Sarfaraz has led Pakistan in 44 ODIs, averaging less than 29 - and that includes 18 games in which he has not batted or finished unbeaten for under 15. In a further 12, he's managed fewer than 15 runs, and scored just three fifties. His productivity in T20Is has been much the same post-captaincy; if his average was slightly down (26.6 from 28) his strike rate was up (134 from 126 previously).

Ehsan Mani, the PCB chairman, acknowledged the decision to sack Sarfaraz from the two formats had been a "difficult" one. ESPNcricinfo understands Sarfaraz was given the option to resign and announce it in a press conference, but he chose not to.

"It has been a difficult decision to drop Sarfaraz Ahmed, who has performed well as a player and a leader," Mani said in a statement. "But, his loss in form and confidence is visible and, in the best interest of the team, it has been decided to leave him out and provide him the opportunity to reflect and regroup himself and try to reclaim his form away from international cricket."

"Sarfراز Ahmed's contributions are second to none and being the gutsy cricketer and fighter that we all know he is, I have no doubts he will be back in Pakistan colours at some stage."

Yanga chairman admits interest in re-signing Haruna Niyonzima



Haruna Niyonzima

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) may be in the market for a midfielder, and Haruna Niyonzima has been identified as a potential target.

During an interview with a domestic radio station, Radio One, Yanga Chairman Mshindo Msolla confirmed that he met Niyonzima.

Msolla admitted to meeting the former Simba and Yanga midfielder while in Kigali, Rwanda and explored the possibility of adding him to head coach Mwinyi Zahera squad.

"I happened to meet Niyonzima in Kigali, we said hello to each other and talk-

ed about many things. In fact, I had previously watched him in a local match and was surprised to note he was the outstanding player," Msolla said.

When Msolla was asked if they were interested in signing Niyonzima, he said: "We still got it. We will definitely explore the possibility of resigning him taking into consideration the opinion of our coach."

"We have to follow due procedure and see if the coach would approve him, the matter would be handed by the transfer committee and if they deem him a necessary addition we will sign him in the mini-transfer window, we have time," he said.

To further emphasize the club's interest in bringing Niyonzima back to its base at Jangwani Street, Msolla said the midfielder has expressed his desire and willingness to don the Yellow and Green jersey once again.

"It's clear how much affection Niyonzima has for Yanga. He reiterated his love for the club and how he enjoyed his time with us."

The Rwandan international spent six years with Yanga winning four league titles, Federation Cup as well as qualifying for the CAF Confederation Cup group stage in 2016.

At the end of the 2016/17, Yanga were not successful in extending Niyonzima's contract, giving him the chance to sign with arch rivals, Simba.

When news of the Simba was confirmed, angry Yanga fans burned a shirt bearing Niyonzima's number, prompting a response from the then club's secretary, Boniface Mkwasa, who calmed them down.

Niyonzima faced a difficult time at Simba due to lack of playing time. He was injured for much of his first season before he made sporadic appearances in his second and final year due to the arrival of Zambian star Clatous Chama at Msimbazi Street club.

Despite his limited role, he won back-to-back Mainland Premier League titles, Federation Cup and qualifying for the quarter finals of the CAF Champions League in the Red and White of Simba.

The achievements made him one of the most decorated footballers to ever play in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

After eight years in Tanzania he returned to Rwanda and joined the ambitious AS Kigali in one of the biggest deals in the history of Rwanda football.

He also has the distinction of playing and winning titles for both Rayon Sports and APR, two of the biggest clubs in Rwanda Premier League.

Tanga teams excel in TCA Women Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

THE quest for the trophy in the maiden TCA Women Premier League has started in earnest, as Tanga's Twiga Girls and Simba Queens, and Dar es Salaam's Dar Trackers (TGT) venue, Annadil Burhani and University of Dar es Salaam grounds, and Usagara venue in Tanga.

Meanwhile, the national cricket governing body's efforts to develop the sport from grassroots have gathered pace, given the association has conducted coaching courses in Morogoro and Arusha this month.

Rehemtulla noted the association hosted the beginners coaching course in Morogoro Urban and Gairo districts early this month.

He pointed out he oversaw the training in cooperation with the association's Senior Development Officer, Hamisi Abdullah, with 12 teachers from primary schools from across the region taking part in the course.

Several national U-19 cricket side's players as well took part in the course.

Rehemtulla noted the course focused on theory and practical training. The participants then took part in a test to substantiate their ability to implement skills they gained in the training.

He pointed out that he, assisted by national team players Kibwana Salum, Wilbert Mollé and Fatuma Omary, oversaw a

cricket coaching clinic at Mafiga, Mji Mkuu and Kikundi primary schools in the following three days.

He said the schools' teachers who participated in the course went for practical session, which included bowling, batting and fielding drills.

Hamisi disclosed: "TCA handed over 160 books, 32 compass sets and 32 school uniforms to winners and runners-up of junior competition, known as Chanzo Kriketi, which involved teams made up of the region's primary schools' pupils."

According to the official, the event brought together 32 boys

squads and 24 girls' squads. Kanisani Primary School's B squad won the boys' category, cruising to victory over the school's B team in the final.

The top honour in the girls' category went to Magadu B squad that cruised to victory over Mji Mkuu B team.

In Gairo, as noted by Rehemtulla, TCA held coaching courses in the district's 10 primary schools last weekend.

The association, the official disclosed, went on to conduct a coaching course in Arusha on Wednesday.

Three TCA development officers and 13 primary school teach-

ers took part in the course with the aim of improving their knowledge of the sport.

"The course's opening day covered cricket equipment, role and types of coaches, emphasis on basics, training methods, planning a cricket training session, introduction to batting and the importance of basic fundamental principles of batting," he noted.

"In the second day, the course covered introduction to bowling and bowling action, and introduction to fielding. The participants as well performed practical sessions of batting and fielding to put theory sessions into practice."



Dar es Salaam's Dar Combine Girls' cricket side warm up before facing Uluguru Girls of Morogoro in the TCA Women Premier League match at the University of Dar es Salaam venue early this month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

