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Nurses seeking UK jobs can only go through govt

NAIROBI

Nurses who want to work abroad will have to go through the government and not private recruiting agencies, the government has said. This is after the UK stopped active international recruitment of nurses from Kenya by the agencies.

"This is to protect the country from agencies who want to destabilize our health system by poaching nurses who are not supposed to leave the country," Health Cabinet Secretary Mutahi Kagwe said yesterday.

The existing agreement between Kenya and the UK stipulates that only nurses who are not employed should be exported to work abroad. "What the agencies do, they recruit nurses who are already working in various facilities in the country, even the specialists. This is definitely affecting our health system and Kenyans are left to suffer," he said.

"What we are saying, if any special nurse has to leave the country, then it has to be through the blessings of the government and since we cannot employ all the nurses, we are always happy to release

“We want to protect Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and so we really do not wish to have brain drain because this might destabilize the health system

those without a job," he said. Apparently, the agencies were bypassing the government and ferrying nurses who are already working in Kenya to the UK.

Employed nurses and those who have specialized in various fields such as nurse anesthetists, cardiac nurses and critical care, he said, will not be part of the team that will travel.

He added: "We want to protect Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and so we really do not wish to have brain drain because this might destabilise the health system."

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'Import fertiliser, avoid bulk procurement rule'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma



President Samia Suluhu Hassan visits the new Egypt Capital Museum in Cairo on Thursday evening. Photo: State House

THE government has lined up strategies to address fertiliser shortages and control retail prices, by purchasing directly from producers and allowing companies and individuals to import the commodity directly instead of using the bulk procurement system.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this observation in the National Assembly yesterday during the winding up session, saying that the government was doing all it can to ensure farmers obtain the commodity timely and at affordable prices.

Allowing importers to procure on their own has increased the amount of fertiliser imported in the country by October to 48,400 tonnes of Urea compared to 33,948 tonnes imported during the same period last year.

"The government is now encouraging the use of organic fertilizers like NPK, NPS, NPS Zink and many others, he said, directing regional and district commissioners to allow consignments by individual importers "and control fertiliser exportation via border posts."

Promoting local investments for fertilizer industries is the long term solution, with Itracom Fertilizer Co. of Burundi starting to build a factory in Dodoma, to produce 600,000 tonnes annually.

Production at Minjingu factory will also be increased to full capacity at 100,000 tonnes per year, he said, noting that consultations were being pursued with the government of Burundi to purchase Fomilmbura fertilizer produced in the neighbouring country.

The Tanzania Fertilizer Co. has ordered 20,000

“The government is now encouraging the use of organic fertilizers like NPK, NPS, NPS Zink and many others, he said, directing regional and district commissioners to allow consignments by individual importers "and control fertiliser exportation via border posts.

SGR trials to start next month

By Guardian Reporter

TRIAL runs on the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro standard gauge railway (SGR) speed train are now scheduled for next month.

Prof Makame Mbarawa, the Minister for Works and Transport, told reporters in the capital that the government has signed contracts for the purchase of two electric engines and 30 passenger wagons, expected in the country later this month.

Briefing journalists on transport and

“The feasibility study of these sections has been completed and the ongoing process is to prepare the tender documents

works sector achievements in the 60 years of independence, the minister said

a contract for the procurement of 17 locomotive engines and 10 wagons named high-speed electric multiple units (EMU) was signed on July 14, set to arrive after three years, 2024.

Conducting SGR trials was earlier expected this month but the ministry is now readying to receive the train locomotives and coaches, he stated.

Another contract for the purchase of 59 passenger wagons was signed on September 23 last year and advance pay-

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WB policy director to meet Samia next week

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Bank managing director for development policy and partnerships, Mari Pangestu (pictured), will visit Tanzania next week, meeting President Samia Suluhu Hassan and visiting some bank supported projects to hear directly from groups benefiting from those projects.

Four funded projects that will be visited include the Dar es Salaam metropolitan development project, the Tanzania

citizen-centric judicial modernization and justice delivery project, development support for Tanzania statistics project and the Tanzania productive social safety nets project, a World Bank statement indicated.

The director will be in the country for two days, on Monday and Tuesday next week, where apart from President Samia she will hold discussions with senior government officials and the development partners, youth representatives, members

of academia and research organisations.

As the director heads research and data functions at the World Bank headquarters, the visit and meetings will underscore the importance of data and evidence-driven decision making processes for strong development outcomes, it affirmed.

The World Bank project portfolio has 21 national projects whose total commit-



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Nurses seeking UK jobs can only go through govt

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The clarification from Afya House comes hours after the the UK Health Department issued a statement halting ongoing recruitment of nurses and other healthcare workers from Kenya. It cited workforce shortages in Kenya for the move.

"While Kenya is not on the WHO Health Workforce Support and Safeguards List, it remains a country with significant health workforce challenges...adding Kenya to the list in the Code protects Kenya from unmanaged international recruitment which could exacerbate existing health and social care workforce shortages," says the statement from the UK.

This means that British employers must stop all active recruitment of health and social care personnel from Kenya to the UK immediately. "If employers have already given conditional offers to nurses or other health or social care personnel from Kenya on, or prior to Thursday 11 November 2021, the recruitment process can continue. This recognizes the investment which has already been made to get the candidate to this stage and will ensure candidates who are fully expecting to be able to move to the UK to work are treated fairly," the UK Health Department said.

Kenya has sent about 2,000

nurses to the UK as it seeks to improve the welfare of its migrant workers abroad. Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui said the government has embarked on exporting highly skilled healthcare workers and professionals abroad.

The UK and Kenya signed a bilateral agreement in July 2021 to provide a framework for future international recruitment to benefit unemployed medics.

The UK is also upgrading Kenyan institutions to international standards to offer training to fit for its market. The first batch of nurses left in October.

The rush to leave Kenya and work abroad is mostly motivated by pay as those who left the country are now earning more than double what their Kenyan counterparts make.

A fresh university graduate, for instance, will earn at least Sh323, 326 per month in the UK compared to Sh99, 620 in Kenya.

However, the higher earnings in the UK may not give much relief to workers as the cost of living is much higher than the East African nation. The Royal College of Nursing has estimated that the average annual salary of a National Health Service (NHS) nurse is Sh4, 324,410.

AGENCIES



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa adjourns a meeting of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

WB policy director to meet Samia next week

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ments are put at \$4.8bn, notably in transport, urban development, education, energy, water, social protection, environment, natural resources, digital development and governance.

Tanzania is also part of five regional projects taking up \$698.3m, related to energy, environment and

education

Joining the World Bank Group last year, the director earlier served as Minister for Trade in Indonesia from 2004 to 2011 and Minister for Tourism and Creative Economy from 2011 to 2014.

The statement indicated that she holds vast experience with over 30 years in academia, second track

processes, international organizations and government, working in areas related to international trade, investment and development in multilateral, regional and national settings.

Pangestu was until her appointment a senior fellow at the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, as well as professor of

international economics at the University of Indonesia, adjunct professor at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian National University and board member for the Indonesia Bureau of Economic Research and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Jakarta.



Director of Public Prosecutions Sylvester Mwakitalu (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting to Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general CP Salum Hamduni a copy of a mutual legal assistance manual shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The manual has been produced with joint funding from the UK and the European Union. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'Import fertiliser, avoid bulk procurement rule' -PM

FROM PAGE 1

content of soil in the respective regions, he said.

He similarly dwelt on high interest rates floated by commercial banks, referring to government initiatives to get the banks reduce the charges, highlighting the setting aside one trillion shillings for loans to commercial banks at three per cent interest charge so that they lend out for less than 10 per cent interest charge.

He directed the Ministry of Finance and Planning to liaise with banks and other financial institutions on how to reduce interest charges, meanwhile as he directed the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure every district and region has an irrigation team in place, to coordinate irrigation activities.

Evaluation and renovation of dilapidated irrigation schemes must be done so that they are again operational, he stated, happy that as of now 84-percent of villages have electricity. By the end of next year the remaining villages will have been connected.

This year the country has obtained a food crop surplus of 3.63m tonnes, he pointed out, expressing expectations that the surplus will be purchased and be available in case of shortages in future.

He similarly emphasised that the relevant authorities must come up with a mechanism to ensure retirees get their benefits timely.

The government was consulting on universal health coverage to ensure that the programme becomes a reality by the next financial year, he added.

SGR trials to start next month

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ment has been made, he said, affirming that building the wagons had reached 45 percent by June.

In the two-year contract ending September 22, 2022 procedures will be finalised for the purchase of 1,430 cargo wagons, he said.

The Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) is preparing to start construction of the SGR second phase for the 411km-Tabora-Kigoma section, Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema (321 km), Keza-Ruvuma (36 km), Isaac-Rusumo 371 km and Uvinza-Musongati (240 km).

"The feasibility study of these sections has been completed and the ongoing process is to prepare the tender documents," he stated.

In efforts aimed to curb construction of substandard roads, the government has purchased a vehicle equipped with sensors to gauge the

road quality at each stage of construction. "The road scanner will measure the quality of roads every step so as to eliminate complaints," he remarked.

The government is in the process of modernising weighing stations to eliminate the current complaints by

more accurate tests, he said.

The new equipment will conduct weight rests while the vehicle is moving, meanwhile as officials of the Tanzania Roads Agency (Tan-Roads) and the ministry will be able to monitor the weighing back in their offices, he added.



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro addresses a news conference yesterday. Among other things, he called on all those in unauthorised possession of firearms to surrender them before end of this month. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

'6,168 children faced violence in Tanzania'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

A total of 6,168 children faced various acts of violence from January to September this year with several suspects arrested, the House was told yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Khamis Chilo made the remarks yesterday when responding to a question by Special Seats legislator Esther Matiko who wanted to know the number of children victims of violence in the period.

In response, deputy minister Chilo said, out of the number 5,287 were women and 881 were men adding that 3,524 were raped and 637 were sodomised.

The legislator said in her question that "violence against children was increasing in the country including sodomy rape, what was the government doing to address the matter?"

She added asking, 'Was there any data on the trend but also the tangible actions that the government was taking to address the matter?'

When responding the deputy minister said about 3,800 suspects have been ar-

rested and 2,368 cases are underway in various courts across the country while 88 have been given judgment.

Despite Tanzania's efforts to end child violence, awareness on the prevention and strategies are generally inadequate.

Violence against children has revealed a profound impact on core aspects of emotional, behavioural, and physical health as well as social development throughout life and mostly in education settings where child skills are developed.

Common abuses that are frequently reported are related to physical violence including corporal punishment and sexual violence to children living in rural areas. Such Cases of abuse in school settings are increasing in Tanzania.

Such incidences of violence in school settings have revealed several setbacks to the progress of child education.

It has often been experienced in rural areas than in urban areas cities in Tanzania.

School dropout due to fear of abuse from teachers, poor education results, feeling unsafe in school settings makes children fail to attain their education right.

Government to chart ways to promote effective teaching

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said plans were in the pipeline to expand the capability of the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HELBS) to promote learners in middle colleges.

PM Majaliwa was responding to a question by Special Seats legislator Rose Tweve (CCM) who wanted to know what was the government

plan to support students in middle colleges who are the majority and most needed in the industrialization agenda.

In Response, PM Majaliwa said after the end of the process to find ways on how to facilitate the board, the government will draft a law which will make the decision legal.

"Currently we are not supporting students in middle colleges because of the law

which established the loans board" he said.

PM Majaliwa said the decision not to support middle level student derives from the fact that the law that established the loans Board wants only those in Universities

The government will look into the matter to see how the government can support everyone including those in middle colleges.

In another development,

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the government has started a process to construct a modern Kariakoo Market which will accommodate all small scale traders who were affected by the fire accident that rocked the market.

According to Majaliwa the government has got a list of all small scale traders who were evacuated from the market to pave way for the construction of a new market saying they

will be given the first priority upon completion.

PM Majaliwa was responding to a question by Singida region special seats MP Nusrat Hanje who wanted to know what was the government doing to accommodate traders who are conducting businesses outside the burnt Kariakoo market.

Last week, MPs via the budget committee of parliament came up with recom-

mendations for implementation by the government meant to address challenges facing petty traders and avoid repeated confrontations that lead to losses.

Among the recommendations, the committee said the government via local authorities should set aside sites for petty traders to conduct their businesses at the same time facilitate them with necessary infra-

structure to attract customers.

Speaking in parliament when presenting a report on the proposed National Development plan 2022/23 the committee said the government must continue with the process of formalizing the informal sector which must be progressive to move away from the current trend of removing petty traders year after year.

DART, Tanzania Kaizen organise quality training

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DAR ES SALAAM Rapid Transport Agency (DART) in collaboration with the Tanzania Kaizen Unit (TKU) has organised a special training for its staff and stakeholders in the transport sector to impart them with essential skills that will help increase productivity and efficiency.

Speaking at the workshop held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, DART managing director Dr Edwin Mhede said the reason to organize the training was due to unsatisfactory performance.

He said the training brought together representative from UDA Rapid Transit Public Limited Company (UDART), Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Services Agency - (TEMESA), the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS), World Bank (WB), SUMA JKT and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Dr Mhede said the training was one step ahead to recover the sector which had been severely affected by the covid-19 pandemic.

According to him, in the country, kaizen philosophy had already been applied in some sectors like health sectors, business and finance.

He noted that KAIZEN is a human-oriented approach fostering teamwork, mindset change, self-reliance, creativity, and ingenuity to come up with ideas for solutions to the problems people face, including those here in Tanzania.

"DART becomes the first state owned corporation in transport sector to start training its staffs kaizen courses because it is very adding that it was very important to elimi-

nate other challenges.

He said the philosophy encourages all employees to constantly grow personally and professionally, to look for possible improvements and then to initiate positive change in an organization. "Kaizen strategy calls for never-ending efforts for improvement involving everyone in the organization. It sets the right mindset and business environment in a Continuous Improvement Firm (CIF)," he said.

"Training to our staff is part of the DART initiative to ensure the staff and other stakeholders in the transport chain participate fully and deliver quality and efficiency services," he added.

Representing the permanent secretary - in the President's office, regional administration and local government (PO-RALG), an official from the Dar es Salaam regional office, Zubeda Masudi said kaizen philosophy will help the sector to come up with new approach after severely affected by the covid-19.

She urged the participants to use the kaizen philosophy to make changes in their workplaces to ensure the sector becomes productive.

Stakeholders and players should also take the approach to create continuous improvement in the transport sector noting that ongoing positive changes can reap significant improvements.

"The approach is very useful to avoid unnecessary operation costs and delays customers face when waiting for buses as well as solve problems," she said.

Statistics show that over 200 industries have benefited from the kaizen training courses while more than 10 regions are in the list to benefit from the kaizen training courses.



East African Youth Parliament secretary Brian Odero (R) swears in Tanzanian national Paul Siniga (L) as Speaker of the House in Arusha city yesterday. Looking on is Tanzanian East African Legislative Assembly member Josephine Lomayan (C), who represented EALA Speaker Martin Ngoga. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

Worldwide Fund ensures continuous water supply

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

THE Worldwide Fund for Nature is now working on a project to ensure that the Mkomazi National Park, perched within the semi-arid leeward part of Pare Mountains gets continuous water supply.

The move is aimed at preventing movement of wild animals venturing out of the reserve to seek the resource elsewhere, where they sometimes cause mayhem.

"It is also intended to maintain clean and safe water to the Rhino breeding facility and related sanctuary within Mkomazi, because at the moment the park relies on delivering water using truck bowlers," explained Professor Noah Sitati the WWF Wildlife Species Expert.

In their quest for water, wildlife from Mkomazi including large species like elephants and buffaloes frequently comes

into confrontation with humans residing in villages located around the park, resulting in the infamous Human-Wildlife Conflicts.

Such head-on-collisions between man and beast frequently result in destruction of property and occasionally also result in loss of life for both parties.

Already WWF has constructed a large dam at the cost of 140m/- at the Ikonga Ijinyu Village in Kisiwani Ward of Same District.

The new rain fed facility is intended to hold water from the precipitations and provide the same for both wildlife and livestock, helping to wade off the conflicts.

Two similar ground water reservoirs were previously constructed inside Mkomazi National Park, but according to Dr Noah Sitati, it is high time the park

changed from depending on rain-fed dams to getting permanent water supplies.

"Expert engineers and ecologists are being involved in executing the project, ensuring that it is done stealthily without disturbing nature nor becoming an eyesore to tourists," he explained.

Measuring 3,245 square kilometers, Mkomazi is one of the newly established National Parks in Tanzania, having been gazetted in 2008.

The name 'Mkomazi' is a local 'Pare' word meaning a spoonful of water, reflecting the semi-arid landscape on which the National Park is mapped.

Previously Mkomazi used to be a mixed Game Reserve, a status it maintained since 1952 when people co-existed with wildlife within the location until 1987 when humans got forcefully evicted from

the Park.

Mkomazi shares ecosystem with Kenya's Tsavo National Parks on the Kenyan side and wild animals keep moving back-and-forth between the two reserves.

It is a bitter history, according to Lekey Ole Milekoni, the local community leader at Ikonga Ijinyu Village of Kisiwani Ward, because as far as he is concerned, the residents occupied the area long before colonial administrators declared it a Reserve.

But even after being pushed from the Park, the villagers are still confronted with other wildlife related problems, the beasts roam outside the reserve to cause havoc in their communities.

Human-Wildlife conflicts (HWC) are rife in villages surrounding Mkomazi but mostly due to the fact that the area being semi-arid faces acute water problems.

As elephants, buffaloes and hyenas

stroll out of the reserve in search of water; they destroy crops in farms, attack and kill people as well as feed on their livestock, especially goats.

At least two people were killed and several injured in the course of this year (2021), according to Same District Game Officer Prisca Sima.

And as water continues to dry from the windswept locality, livestock also meander far from the village, sometimes entering the park where wardens confiscate them.

Rachel Samuel a widow and mother of eight, was grieved when 12 of her sheep got impounded by wardens in the park. She was fined 600,000/- at the rate of 50,000/- per animal.

Raheli borrowed the money, solving one problem and landing into another, unpayable debt.

Government urged to make sure twins get the right care

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PARENTS and guardians with twin children have called on the government to recognize obstacles that contributes to their failure to provide proper care to the children.

They made the request yesterday when speaking alongside the twin celebration and awareness day at the TCCL Kijitonyama grounds, in Dar es Salaam.

The event was organized by the Eden Twins Foundation in collaboration with stakeholders from Dar es Salaam and Coast regions.

A Dar es Salaam resident Saida Gaddafi, who is raising her twins, said twin families face many obstacles especially economic ones, a situation that makes them unable to care for the children.

"We call upon the government to support us as they do to other groups because many parents who have twins live in poor conditions," Saida said.

She said there are many NGOs serving various groups, but for twin families, it is only the Eden Twins Foundation that provides supports to parents with twin children. She said most of the families with

twins suffer from an inability to provide for their children.

Zainabu Mlanzi, from Mkuranga District in Coast Region, who has nine twins, said she lives in poverty as she is unable to meet her children's daily basic needs.

"I am a widow, I have been left with 10 children including nine twins, I only depend on good Samaritans including the Eden Twins Foundation to assist me provide them, I plead to the government to recognize us and support us financially," said Zainabu. Fredrick Mwansasu, from Kongowe Kibaha, Coast Region, said he has three twins and that he is casual labourer earning little money to cater for all the need of his children.

Eden Twins Foundation Chairperson, Diana Joy Mbena, said she set up the organization to bring awareness and help identify the barriers facing families with twin children so that the government and the community can know and support them.

"The foundation is still in its infancy stage and this is the first time we organized a celebration with the aim of making it clear that the lives of those families are difficult and need unquestionable support," Diana points out.



Eden Twins Foundation chairperson Diana Joy Mbena speaks during Twins Day celebrations organised by the foundation at Kijitonyama in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

EAC mulls investment in antibiotic production

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) director of productive sectors, Jean Havugimana has highlighted the need for region to further develop the pharmaceutical industry as part of the region's social and political integration agenda.

"As a region we recognize the strategic importance of developing local production of pharmaceutical products in promoting access to affordable, high quality, essential medicines; an aspiration we pursue through

the implementation of the EAC regional pharmaceutical manufacturing plan of action," he said. Speaking during the opening of the two-day workshop to validate a draft study report on investment incentives for antibiotic production in the region, he said that the pharmaceutical sector was one of the priority areas for the EAC according to the EAC industrialization policy.

He observed that there was still a high dependency on imported pharmaceutical products across the region, while local firms lack capacity to man-

ufacture advance formulation.

"Today, the EAC partner states import between 70 to 90 per cent of the medicines that the region's population consumes. There is need for Partner States to develop a harmonized regional list of essential medicine and medical devices that can be manufactured and procured from the region to promote local pharmaceutical sector," added Havugimana.

Speaking during the meeting, UNCTAD representative Ermias Biadgleng said that regional approaches were critical in build-

ing a sustainable pharmaceutical sector.

"Middle and high income countries provide subsidies for their pharmaceutical sector; the EAC region should establish pricing incentives for locally produced pharmaceuticals if the sector is to grow in the region," said Biadgleng.

Biadgleng disclosed that UNCTAD was keen to support the region in the production and supply of antibiotics in an effort to address the shortage of different types of antibiotics across the region.

"As the WHO recommends the controlled use of antibiotics, UNCTAD has taken the initiative to review infrastructure and policy frameworks to combat the causes of AMR and address the public health needs of the region," he said.

The meeting was also set to consider the recommendations of the study report on supply and production of antibiotics within the context of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and propose priority actions for the EAC-UNCTAD project on Antibiotics.

In 2020, UNCTAD and the WHO teamed up on a three-year project to help build the needed partnerships and guide governments on the policies needed in the EAC. The project is expected to help align local production of antibiotics in the EAC to the regional public health needs as well as to increase currently undersupplied antibiotics while reducing excess supplies of those causing antibiotic resistance in patients.

UNCTAD is set to lend its expertise in the areas of investment, trade facilitation,

intellectual property, business development and industrialization, while the WHO will help governments and businesses understand the regulatory laws and standards

The meeting brought together representatives of the National Medicines Procurement Agencies, National Medicines Regulatory Agencies, National Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association; Federation of the East African Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (FEAPM) and National Coordinators for the AMR stewardship programmes.



Angelica Pesha (R), Tigo's chief officer for mobile financial services, briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing documents on an agreement with Norwegian firm Wakandi Group AS. The pact involves accelerating the digitisation of financial services for registered savings and credit cooperative societies as well as microfinance institutions through Tigo Pesa. She is Wakandi CEO Espen Kvelland. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Indian community celebrates Diwali

By Guardian Reporter

INDIA community in the country gathered in Dar es Salaam late last month to celebrate Diwali, a holiday that symbolises a fresh start and the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali is one of the very important celebrations celebrated all over the world especially by Indian communities.

The festive celebration was held at the High Commission of India where by the High Commissioner, Binaya Pradhan hosted a banquet for Diwali and a special cultural evening on October 30, this year.

Speaking during the occasion, the High Commissioner said Diwali is the festival that removes darkness and brings the light. It is a festival that conveys the message of victory of truth. Such festivals are occasions to allow people to mingle and celebrate.

He conveyed his wishes and expressed his hope as this Diwali will bring light into everyone's life.

Tanzanian Dancers of Chiku Dance School showcased their talent to dance well to fusion Bollywood songs. Fardili, a Tanzanian boy, sang Hindi Bollywood songs, winning hearts with his melodious voice.

The main attraction of the evening was the traditional dance performance by Baba Gorekhnath Gotipua Dance Association; a cultural delegation arrived in Tanzania on ICCR's Sponsorship.

This team is from the temple town Puri of Orissa state in India. The spectacular Odissi and Sambalपुरi dances appreciated by everyone. Audience watched breathtakingly and applauded the Gotipua dance performance.

They are impressed by the unique style of performance, a combination of acrobatics and classical dance. Gotipua dancers recreated various Puranic (mythological) scenes on the stage.

Spectacular fireworks show that lit up the sky with colourful sparks took viewers to a different world and made the Diwali celebration memorable.

The event was organized as a part of Iconic week celebration to mark 75 years of India's Independence.

By Getrude Mbago

Firms throw weight behind spices industry

SPICE growers in Morogoro Region and neighbouring areas have a reason to smile, thanks to Sustainable Agriculture of Tanzania (SAT) and Holistic Group Limited for constructing a special factory to collect and process spices.

Located at Mtamba village in Kisumu ward, Morogoro District, the factory is part of the outcomes of the "Uluguru Spice Project (USP)," a five-year project which is aimed to empower farmers with new skills and knowledge on sustainable spice cultivation and marketing strategies to improve their yields and income.

Speaking recently, Eliminata Marmetus, field facilitator of the Uluguru Spice Program (USP), said the factory which was launched this year, will benefit thousands of spice farmers in Morogoro District, especially those in the Uluguru Mountains.

She was briefing journalists who visited various projects including the Uluguru Spice Project.

Implemented by SAT with support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), USP focuses on farmers working in the Ruvu river catchment area in the Uluguru Mountains.

Eliminata noted that SAT Holistic Group Limited is a social business, co-owned by small-scale farmers in Tanzania and affiliated with the NGO "Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT)".The company's business directly connects over 3,500 farmers to lucrative local and international organic markets, promoting sustainable farming practices and reducing poverty.

"We commenced the project in 2017 and will go until 2022, so far several farm-

ers have started to reap big from their activities due to the skills and knowledge given by SAT experts," she said.

According to her, farmers in the slopes of the Uluguru Mountains who have been engaging in spice farming for some years will earn more income and even more are assured of a reliable market of their produce.

"Upon completion also, the project will reach thousands of people that benefit either from education through their relatives or by farmers who were already taught before. Moreover, open source information will be available to a broad audience, comprising marketing through internet and social media as well as throughout annual agricultural events in Tanzania. In addition, through the imple-

mentation of water protection measures, the project will benefit many more people," she asserted.

The Uluguru Mountains are surrounded by a forest that reaches to the farmers' fields. Spice cultivation is very suitable to such areas, because many of the cultivated spices find shade under the trees.

"If farmers benefit from spice cultivation, then they benefit as well from the present trees and therefore won't clear land for conventional agriculture. Conventional agriculture comes mostly with monoculture and is therefore especially prone to erosion," she noted.

"Farmers in Uluguru Mountains are earning windfall profits thanks to a project which has introduced to organic agriculture practices and use of hybrid

seeds."

She added; "So far over 1,387 farmers from the Uluguru Mountains catchment area and in 57 farmers groups in 25 villages."

The Uluguru Mountains are surrounded by a forest that reaches to the farmers' fields. Spice cultivation is very suitable to such areas, because many of the cultivated spices find shade under the trees and if climb needed can up the existing vegetation. If farmers benefit from spice cultivation, then they benefit as well from the present trees and therefore won't clear land for conventional agriculture. Conventional agriculture comes mostly with monoculture and is therefore especially prone to erosion.

The Mountains provide habitat for various endemic plant and animal species and are therefore a biological hotspot in East Africa.



Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) director general Latifa Mohamed Khamisi (2nd-L) visibly moved by the computer-aided innovation these College of Business Education students (R) deployed in devising this calibration and monitoring system. They are pictured at the college's premises in Dar es Salaam yesterday experimenting with the system at the college's 57th convocation. Left is the CBE rector Prof Emmanuel Mjema. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TPDC moves to ensure oil is available at stable prices

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) is now one of the petroleum bulk procurement importers of petroleum products, a move aimed to ensure price stability and product availability.

TPDC managing director, Dr James Mataragio told reporters in Dar es Salaam that 67 per cent of the consignment of diesel that is expected to dock in the country next month has been imported by the corporation.

He said the decision also aims at ensuring the public gets the products at affordable prices. According to Dr Mataragio, TPDC's future plans are to become an energy hub in the region, serving all the landlocked countries.

"We want to have enough stock of fuel that can serve for up to over five months to control prices as well as ensuring the nation's security," he said noting that TPDC is poised to become an energy hub-supplying oil and gas to landlocked countries within the region.

He said it was important for the country to have its tank farms to store petroleum

products for its future security and stability. He said from the tank farms, petroleum products are distributed to end users and other storage facilities.

According to him, the prices of the petroleum products in the local has continued to be high even when the world prices are down, the thing which he said is not fair.

He added that users must also enjoy fuel price drops when the prices of oil barrels in the world market drops.

TPDC official, Engineer Aristides Kato said that since Tanzania started using its natural gas to generate power, it has saved over 38trn/-.

He said natural gas has reduced power rationing and reduced gas emissions adding that it has assured to have reliable electricity. Commenting on the Compressed Natural Gas project (CNG), Eng. Kato said TPDC has already registered 10 companies that will install plants to distribute the product.

He said the company winning the tender will have to build CNG stations at Ubungo terminal to be used by the UDART, Ferry fish international market and Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Experts demand sustainable energy for developing nations

By Felister Peter

ENERGY experts have suggested for establishment of a special body to regulate the development of renewable energy as the country strives towards clean energy transaction

This is due to the fact that about 80 percent of the country's population use biomass as their primary source of energy.

2020 data from the Rural Energy Agency (REA) shows that 63.5 percent of the households in Tanzania use firewood as the main source of energy for cooking, followed by charcoal 26.2 percent, liq-

uefied petroleum gas 5.1 percent and electricity 3.0 percent. Other cooking energy comprises of 2.2 percent

"The government should establish a single institution responsible for spearheading development of renewable energy projects, similar to Tanzania Geothermal Development Company Limited (TGDC)," said a Geologist and Director of MTL Consulting John-Bosco Tindyebwa in his presentation during a journalists capacity building workshop held in Bagamoyo, Coast Region recently that was organized by HAKIMADINI, a Non-Governmental Organisation dealing in minerals and

community health.

Tindyebwa said formation of the body could be done through the review of the roles and mandates of TGDC to include all other forms of renewable energy available in the country.

"Clean energy transition is crucial; there should be efforts to ensure the majority Tanzanians using energy sources that produce carbon dioxide such as fuel, coal, petrol and gas shift to renewable sources including wind, water, solar and geothermal," stated Tindyebwa, adding the sun is the mother source when it comes to renewable energy.

Renewable resource does not run out because they are naturally replaced, unlike non-renewable which cannot be recovered once exhausted.

According to Tindyebwa prevailing policies should also be reviewed to come up with a single renewable energy policy which will incorporate regulations, rules, orders and guidelines.

Data from the Ministry of Energy indicates that the contribution of renewable energy to the country's electricity sub-sector (capacity fed to main grid) is still small at 20.7Megawatts being from small hydropower (10.2 per-

cent), biomass (10.5 percent) solar (0 percent) and wind (0 percent).

The country's renewable energy sector is governed by a number of Acts and policies including the National Energy Policy 2015, Electricity Act 2008 and its 2020 amendments, Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Act 2001, REA Act 2005, Water Resources Act 2009 and the Environmental Act of 2004.

Eng. Arthur Karomba, National Coordinator, Tanzania Chapter-Africa Mini-grid Developers Association (AMDA) also mentioned policy and regulatory uncertain-

ty among major challenges facing mini-grid developers. Others are inadequate financing and subsidy mechanism

According to him, Tanzania is poised to lead the rest of Africa in ensuring universal electrification through mini-grids. He said Tanzania has been a pioneer in the continent, leading other countries in off-grid electrification with more than 109 mini-grids.

Eng. Karomba added that with more than 50 mini-grids operated by AMDA, Tanzania was the first country in Africa to develop robust mini-grid regulations which were adopted by Nigeria, Rwanda and Mali.

Japhari Chinjala, Energy Engineer at Ministry of Energy mentioned some of the challenges derailing implementation of renewable energy projects as climate variability impacts on hydro resources, inadequate human capacity with technology know-how, and inadequate awareness for some decision makers, local financial institutions and high initial investment capital costs.

Chinjala noted the government under the National Energy Policy 2015 is determined to develop the renewable energy resources with the private sector as a key actor to developing the sub-sector.



This Dar es Salaam city commuter bus was plying the Tegeta Nyuki-Madale-Mbezi route yesterday when it skidded off the road and fell into a trench at Madale Nguzo. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Photo: John Badi

Kagera authorities want all extension officers trained at coffee research body for efficiency

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

AUTHORITIES in Kagera region have been challenged to train village and ward extension officers at the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TaCRI) for them to transform the knowledge on modern coffee farming to farmers.

Through the training, farmers will not only increase the quantity but also quality of the strategic cash crop.

Dr Nyabisi Ng'homa, TaCRI Kagera zone manager made the call on Tuesday when addressing participants to a special agricultural training to extension officers from Bukoba district held at the Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI).

"Coffee is one of the key crops for Kagera farmers as well as other regions; not all agricultural colleges offer coffee cultivation training, the opportunity availed by TaCRI to farmers should be taken seriously to boost coffee production," said Ng'homa.

He added that once the knowledge is transformed to farmers, they will improve their income, thus transforming their lives.

Training facilitator, Augustus Urassa said participants to the training were taught on the different varieties of disease resistant seedlings, cleanliness of the farm, as well as proper application of fertilizers and other agricultural inputs. "It is our hope that the knowledge you have gained here will be shared among coffee farmers, we expect to see great changes on how farmers prepare their farms and use fertilizers from planting stage," said Urassa.

Kasharu ward extension officer, Hamad Msuya said the knowledge they have gained would be shared to farmers, and that Kagera Region should prepare for bumper coffee harvests in coming years.

He pleaded to the government to support them with motorcycles, to be able to reach farmers in remote villages. He also suggested for farmers to be subsidised with some agricultural equipment and inputs to cultivate commercially.

Kagera is a leading region in coffee production, producing an average of 50 tonnes per year. On-going initiatives are meant to see farmers increasing their harvests to 2,000 kilograms per hectare from 500 kilograms recorded in 2017/2018.

Recent statistics from the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) depicts that coffee exports for the 2019/2020 season was estimated at 50,000 tonnes, down from 68,000 tonnes in 2018/19 farming season.

Until 2000, coffee used to contribute to at least five percent of Tanzania's export earnings accounting with Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions accounting for 20 percent of the export.

NGO supports provision of inclusive public education

By Guardian Reporter

THE Organisation for Community Development (OCODE) has for years been working to promote inclusive education in public schools in Ubungo District, Dar es Salaam whereas within three years they have seen a good number of children with disabilities enrolled to primary schools.

The program which includes capacity building to teachers provision of ba-

sic school facilities and improvement of infrastructure is implemented at Kibwegere, Kibamba, Kiluvya and Malambawili primary schools in three wards namely-Goba, Kibamba and Msigani.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam early this week during an inclusive education conference organized by OCODE, Jonas Mchunguzi, Ubungo Municipal Education Officer (Special Needs) introduction of inclusive education at its primary schools has increased the enrolment number of

children with disabilities.

"We have over 630 pupils with disabilities, among them, 355 are registered at special schools while the remaining are learning with others in general classrooms.

"We direct our teachers to make sure they consider the requirements of pupils with disabilities while teaching in mixed classes. We also insist on children with disabilities to be given front seats" said Mchunguzi noting they do not have spe-

cial teachers for provision of inclusive education.

He added: "We have nine special primary schools and one secondary school (Mugabe); the nine special schools are simply special classrooms designated for pupils with disabilities. The only secondary school is special for deaf students."

The Education Officer noted that they are facing challenges in facilitating teachers training. He commended OCODE for introducing the program which has seen

many of its teachers gaining skills and knowledge on provision of inclusive education.

Asia Amasi, Ubungo Municipal Academic Officer (primary education) said they have a total of 181 primary schools whereas 65 are public and 117 privately owned

"We are thankful to OCODE for implementing a teacher's training program; we can see some improvement in provision of inclusive education as well as increased academic performance," said Asia.

READ Tanzania renovates building for Lukanga Secondary School library

By Guardian Reporter

READ Tanzania has renovated a library building at Lukanga secondary school in Mkuranga District, Coast Region equipping it with all essential tools such as chairs, tables, books, computers and shelves.

Worth 28.5m/-, the renovation enables over 400 students at the school to study in a conducive environment and comfortable environment which will also help improve academic performance.

Speaking during the handover ceremony held at the school grounds on Thursday, Magdalena George, executive director of Read Tanzania said the organization's core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality education in the country which include improving the learning environment in schools.

Magdalena said that Read Tanzania is a committed partner to education prosperity.

"Apart from the renovation of the building, we have donated 1175 textbooks, 194 story books, 25 chairs, five tables, three shelves, three computers with their tables and other supporting tools so as to facilitate smooth learning for the students," she said.

The organization also supported

the school with a new television and generator. It has also supported a dispensary at Njopeka village in Lukanga ward with health tools.

She commended Songas and Globeq and all other partners for their continued financial support which facilitates renovations of school libraries in various parts in the country.

Johnson Makaranga, a representative from the District Commissioner office commended Read Tanzania for extending its help to support student's learning.

"We are so impressed with these supportive efforts, This renovation will help our students here to study comfortably in their extra time but also during practical and thus perform well in class and national exams," he said.

Nicodemus Chipakapaka, socio-economic development manager of Songas said the company has been issuing support to the areas that have impacts to the community.

"We have been supporting Read Tanzania to renovate a number of libraries and other education programs, with this we hope that our children will study in a comfortable environment and thus be able to achieve their dreams," he said.

Broke Mwita, school headmaster commended Read Tanzania and the supporting partners for reno-



Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) commercial manager Kemilembe Kafanabo (L) and Vivo Energy Tanzania managing director Khady Sene show samples of Shell lubricants shortly after a launch held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Vivo Energy relaunches Shell lubricants in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter,

VIVO Energy has officially launched Shell lubricants in the Tanzanian market.

The energy firm is the Pan-African retailer and marketer of Shell lubricants and Engen-branded fuels.

Speaking yesterday at the official launch of the lubricants, Vivo Energy Tanzania managing director Khady Sene said: "In line with our goal to be the most respected

energy business in Africa, we are committed to delivering high quality products in the country. This is why we have chosen to partner with the world's number one lubricant company in the world."

According to Sene, for most of the twentieth century, Shell has been one of the most recognized brands in the world.

"Decades of effort have gone into establishing our brand's reputation for quality products and services customers can trust.

Today, Shell is the number one global lubricant supplier, delivering market-leading lubricants to customers in over 100 countries.

Shell lubricants brings world-class technological insights to its products, offering the best formulations for vehicles."

Vivo Energy's Central Technical Manager, Fred Omondi went further to explain and said Shell Lubricants offer African customers the same high levels of engine pro-

tection, performance and efficiency found elsewhere' In Tanzania we offer three sub-brands, Shell Rimula for truck heavy-duty engines, Shell Helix for passenger cars and Shell Advance for motorcycle engines.

Kemilembe Kafanabo Commercial Manager - Petroleum at Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) officiated the launch by commending Vivo Energy Tanzania's efforts in using natural gas in production of lubricants that are good for

the environment and vehicles. She went on to urge Vivo Energy to ensure that quality standards are not compromised and committed to offer the necessary support.

Vivo Energy Tanzania is proud to offer the very best of Shell's products in the country.

These include Shell's high quality lubricants; industry-leading technological and technical expertise; and personal dedicated customer service.

Tanzania now looks forward to a bigger coffee market in China

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

ON a coffee plantation at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Cleopatra Mambo was checking the growth of coffee trees in the scorching sun.

The rainy season was later than usual this year, so she decided to increase irrigation to ensure the coffee crop.

"It takes two to three years for beans to go from planting to harvest, and any failure at any point in the process can affect the final yield," Mambo said.

Mambo, 38, is the plantation's administrator and has worked there for 10 years. Since her parents worked on coffee plantations in the area, Mambo was familiar with the growing cycle and habits of coffee beans from an early age.

According to Mambo, Kilimanjaro is Tanzania's largest coffee-producing region, and its high altitude and fertile volcanic ash provide excellent conditions for growing beans, producing high-quality beans.

Moshi, a small city near Mount Kilimanjaro, is known as the 'Coffee City' because of an integrated industry system for growing, processing and selling coffee beans.

In downtown Moshi, the fine coffee competition was into the final. During the competition, judges scooped up the coffee in turn and rated its aroma, acidity, sweetness, balance and other factors.

The Moshi-based Tanzanian Coffee Board (TCB) has held the competition since last year, selecting

the top 10 coffee varieties of each category and posting the scores and rankings online.

"We hold this competition to motivate the producers, exporters so that they can be proud to produce the best coffee," said Balam Hinyula, the competition's chief judge.

Statistics show that Tanzania produces about 70,000 tonnes of coffee beans a year, of which more than 90 percent are exported, making it the backbone industry of Tanzania.

At the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held in Shanghai, Tanzanian specialties such as coffee beans, cashews, spices and red wine are attracting many visitors.

"This is the first time the coffee beans have been exhibited, but the results have been so good that many people have asked us how to buy authentic Tanzanian coffee," said Wang Xiangyun, General Manager of Linghang Tanzania Company Limited, who is attending the exhibition in Shanghai.

According to Prismus Kimario, Director General of TCB, Tanzanian coffee was mainly exported to Europe and the United States, but in recent years, Chinese consumers have an increasing demand for coffee and have high requirements for coffee quality.

He introduced that Tanzanian coffee will enter Chinese e-commerce platforms to make it more easily available to Chinese consumers.

"China has 1.4 billion people and huge potential for the future. We are optimistic about the Chinese market," said Kimario.



Residents of Songa in Muheza District, Tanga Region, take part in the preliminary stages of the construction of four secondary school classrooms on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

'Nearly 240 million children in the world are disabled'

By Guardian Reporter

THE number of children with disabilities globally is estimated at 240 million, according to a new report by UNICEF.

The report includes internationally comparable data from 42 countries and covers more than 60 indicators of child well-being - from nutrition and health, to access to water and sanitation, protection from violence and exploitation, and education.

The report makes clear the barriers children with disabilities face to participating fully in their societies and how this often translates to negative health and social outcomes.

"This new research confirms what we already knew: Children with disabilities

face multiple and often compounding challenges in realizing their rights," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

She added: "From access to education, to being read to at home; children with disabilities are less likely to be included or heard on almost every measure. All too often, children with disabilities are simply being left behind."

"Exclusion is often the consequence of invisibility," said Fore, adding, "We have not had reliable data on the number of children with disabilities for the longest time. When we fail to count, consider and consult with these children, we are failing to help them reach their vast potential."

Maria Alexandrova, 20, a UNICEF

youth advocate for inclusive education from Bulgaria said: "Inclusive education cannot be considered a luxury. For far too long, children with disabilities have been excluded from society in a way that no child ever should be. My lived experience as a woman with disabilities supports that statement. No child, especially the most vulnerable, should have to fight for their basic human rights alone. We need governments, stakeholders and NGOs to ensure children with disabilities have equal, inclusive access to education."

Compared with children without disabilities, children with disabilities are 24 percent less likely to receive early stimulation and responsive care, 42 percent do not have foundational reading and

numeracy skills, 34 percent are more likely to be stunted and 53 percent have symptoms of acute respiratory infection.

About 49 percent of the disabled children have never attended school while 47 percent are likely to be out of primary school and 33 percent likely to be out of lower-secondary school.

Despite widespread agreement on the importance of education, children with disabilities are still falling behind.

The report finds children with difficulty communicating and caring for themselves are the most likely to be out of school, regardless of education level.

Out-of-school rates are higher among children with multiple disabilities and disparities become even more significant when the severity of the disability is

taken into account.

UNICEF called upon governments to provide children with disabilities with equal opportunities and work together with persons with disabilities to eliminate the physical, communication and attitudinal barriers that keep them out of society, and ensure birth registration, inclusive health, nutrition, and water services, equitable education and access to assistive technologies.

Government must also work to eradicate stigma and discrimination across communities.

The UNICEF analysis seeks to increase the inclusion of the 1 in 10 children and young people with disabilities worldwide by ensuring they are counted, consulted and considered in decision-making.



Shinyanga regional commissioner Sophia Mjema (in hat) has an eyewitness account of the ongoing construction of classrooms at Mwalimu Nyerere Secondary School at Segese in Msalala Council, Kahama District, earlier this week. Right is Kahama district commissioner Festo Kiswaga. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

TGNP calls on public to report issues related to sexual violence

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIA Gender Network Programme (TGNP) is calling on the public to report issues related to sexual violence in their respective areas and so as to help eradicate the challenge in the country.

TGNP executive director Lilian Liundi made the call in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during the closure of the "Gender and Development Seminar Series (GDSS)."

"There are incidents occurring in our areas but are not reported, we should not fear speaking about violence issues, with this we can help eradicate the challenge in our societies," she said.

She cited one of the incidents where a disabled child was raped by his uncle, but the case ended up in negotiation among family members.

"People with disabilities face more violence; imagine a disabled child being raped, with a family member. Society should consider people in these particular groups and make sure they protect them from abuse," she said.

"There is also a need to change society's mindset. Together we can say stop sexual violence and have a well-mannered society," Mariam said.

Zahara Omary, one of the participants said most sexual abuse practices are done by the close relatives and friends adding that it becomes difficult to be reported in police posts.

"A child aged 13 years of age has delivered a baby after she was raped by her step father. However, the society kept silent and did not collaborate with police on this issue," Zahara said.

Sexual violence occurs throughout the world, although in most countries there has been little research conducted on the problem, available data suggest that in some countries nearly one in four women may experience sexual violence by an intimate partner, and up to one-third of adolescent girls report their first sexual experience as being forced.

Sexual violence has a profound impact on physical and mental health wide range of sexually violent acts can take place in different circumstances and settings, include, rape within marriage or dating relationships; rape by strangers; systematic rape during armed conflict; unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment also including demanding sex in return for favours.

Dar receives consignment of medical equipment worth 164m/- to enhance fight against coronavirus pandemic

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Region has received a consignment of medical equipment worth 164m/- to enhance the fight against the coronavirus pandemic which will be distributed to various health facilities.

The medical equipment donated by three faith based non-governmental organization (NGOs) includes oxygen machines and personal protective gears (PPE) to be distributed to health workers within the region.

gion.

Speaking shortly after receiving the equipment from the NGOs—An Nahl Trust, Nice Tanzania and Malasia's NAMA Foundation, Dar es Salaam Regional Administrative Secretary, Hassan Rugwa said the donated equipment will be immediately distributed to health facilities as most of them experience the shortage.

Rugwa said following the government's efforts to expand and improve health care services through construction

of new dispensaries, health centers and hospitals, the demand for medical equipment, working tools and ambulances have also increased.

"The medical equipment would reduce the shortage in most health facilities in our region. We still need such kind of support for our newly constructed hospitals as well as ambulances to ensure all the patients requiring specialized medical treatment are rushed to specific hospitals," said Rugwa.

Representing the NGOs, Hamza Jabir said they have aside some 500m/- for the purchase of medical equipment at different hospitals within Dar es Salaam. He said the medical equipment are meant to boost efforts in combating the spread of COVID-19.

"We have bought all the medical equipment from the Medical Stores Department (MSD), we will hand over another consignment as soon as we receive it from the supplier," said Hamza, noting the

decision to come up with the program was reached in support of government's efforts to protect Tanzanians against Coronavirus and save lives.

Dar es Salaam Regional Medical Officer, Dr Rashid Mfaume thanked the NGOs for the donation insisting the equipment will be used for intended purposes.

He said there are still admitted patients suffering from COVID-19 at Dar es Salaam hospitals, calling upon residents to continue adhering to

experts' recommended prevention measures.

Early this week, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima said in the National Assembly that number of Tanzanians who have died of Covid-19 since the pandemic was reported in the country has reached 725.

Dr Gwajima said the number of those who were tested positive reached 26,164 while 25,330 recovered.

Minister Dr Gwajima said

the government has spent 158bn/- on purchasing PPEs as well as machines for production of medical oxygen which have been installed in various hospitals across the country.

Dr Gwajima said the health sector received 466.78bn/- from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which will be used in the fight against Covid-19 but also install 115 equipment at Emergency Medical Departments (EMD) in hospitals across the country.

MP pleads for palm oil value chain in Tanzania

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has directed all local government authorities with suitable environment for cultivation of palm oil trees to set aside sites for production of the crop through block farming to end cooking oil shortage in the country.

Deputy Minister for agriculture Hussein Bashe made the remarks in the National Assembly when responding to a question by Muleba North legislator Charles Mwijage.

Mwijage urged, "The country has had various plans and projects to produce enough cooking oil to cater for the local market why is the government not improve palm oil production?"

The MP added why was the government failing to mobilize farmers in regions of Kagera, Katavi, Tanga, Mbeya and Coast to use block farming to ensure the crop was grown extensively.

In response the deputy minister Bashe said his ministry in collaboration with regional secretariats are working to sensitize farmers to grow the crops in areas that are suitable for production.

"Sensitization includes calling upon all local government authorities to establish blocks to produce seeds, train farmers as well as establish small processing industries in areas near the production

sites," said Bashe.

According to Bashe following the sensitization campaign, some local government authorities have established block farms for palm oil seed production whereby Ngara in Kagera has a block farm of 100,000 hectares seeds, Mkuranga (Coast) 20,000 hectares Tanganyika (Katavi) 70,000 and Kyela (Mbeya) 26,600 hectares respectively.

Other local authorities includes Uvinza (Kigoma) 5,000 and Uyui (Tabora) 12,000 hectares.

Earlier this year Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the government has embarked on a plan to improve the Palm Oil crop in Kigoma where it is expected that 20 million nursery trees will be planted in a period of four years and save about 400bn to 600bn/- that is currently used to import cooking oil annually.

He said the strategy started in 2018/19 financial year and that during the year various studies will be conducted to ensure quality seeds for the crop are found.

The strategy according to the PM also aims at ensuring that five million palm oil trees are planted every year so that farmers easy access quality seeds.

He said the strategy involved other key players such as the Tanzania Prisons and the National Service (JKT) through its various camps in Kigoma.



Tanzania Assurance Ltd operations manager Ankit Babla (2nd-L) pictured yesterday at the National Financial Services Week exhibition in progress in Dar es Salaam briefing Bank of Tanzania director of banking Agaton Kipangule (R) on the firm's services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Pakistan calls for direct import of tea from Tanzania

KARACHI

THE Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said on Thursday that tea prices could be quickly curtailed if imports were facilitated directly from Tanzania, one of the major producers of tea in the world.

FPCCI President Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo said Pakistan should explore every possible avenue to control food inflation, and tea was one of the major food items fuelling inflation, as it was dependent on imports heavily.

"It is perturbing to note that currently only 2 per

cent of tea is being imported from Tanzania directly and pricing pressures in Kenyan tea markets are causing an added strain to foreign exchange reserves of Pakistan and exchange rate volatility; and, exchange rate volatility is adding up to the miseries of importers and general

public alike," he said.

FPCCI Vice President, Hanif Lakhany apprised the Pakistani exporters of the potential to export a number of products to Tanzania in large quantities such as value-added textiles, pharmaceuticals, surgical goods, sports goods, fruits and vegetables and

plastic ware.

Zeeshan Maqsood, Convener of FPCCI's Standing Committee on Tea Trade, said that Pakistan imports a huge amount of around 240 million kilograms of tea annually and Tanzanian share was only 3.5 million kilograms.

Pakistan is a \$600 million

tea market and Tanzania stands to benefit a lot from getting a share out of it.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, CEO of Tanzanian Horticulture Association, led the counterpart delegation and invited the Pakistani traders to explore the opportunities in textiles, pharmaceuticals, gem stones,

minerals and fruits and vegetables.

FPCCI considers the current trade volume of approximately \$220 with Tanzania too short of the real potential and considers the psychological mark of \$1 billion achievable within a short span of two to three years.

Glasgow climate summit: Let all nations be on board

FOR all nations to be on board, the developed countries must fulfil their promises. The 26th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, is unlike other conferences. At the sessions which ended yesterday, there have been a sense of urgency for global leaders to move from mere pronouncements to action in dealing with carbon emissions that heat up the earth, causing extreme weather conditions like flooding, drought, and wildfires.

There has also been an urge to fast track the implementation of these commitments entrenched in the Paris Agreement to ensure the survival of all humanity. The ultimate goal is to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement, to keep the rise in the global average temperature to well below two degrees above pre-industrial levels while leaders at COP26 settled for 1.5 degrees, as recommended by scientists.

Specifically, the target is to achieve net zero emission of carbon by 2050 with considerable reduction by 2030 to show that there is identifiable progression to the goal. To achieve this, countries submitted their nationally determined contributions, that is, what they intend to implement to reduce carbon emission and to ultimately stop the emission by 2050.

These actions include stopping the burning of crude oil, coal, and gas to power their factories, and to stop manufacturing vehicles and power plants that use these fuels. The focus is on the use of renewable energy - solar, electric and wind,

among others.

However, there are salient issues of equity. There are suspicions by developing countries that this pledge may not be honoured. The critical point is that the developed world is under pressure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This means reducing investment in fossil fuels (crude oil and coal) and speeding up the transition to green energy. But Africa, especially Nigeria, is yet to achieve progress in fossil fuel energy, let alone discussing transition to greener energy.

According to the World Resources Institute, Africa's per capita emissions of carbon dioxide in the year 2000 were 0.8 metric tonnes per person, compared with a global figure of 3.9 tonnes per person. In fact, the highest emitters in the G20 are responsible for around 80 per cent of global emissions, while Africa's only 2.3 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions from energy and industrial sources. This accounts for the strident calls for provision of support to Africa and other developing nations, particularly with the commitment to mobilise \$100 billion from developed to developing nations.

The questions therefore are: should there be a transitional provision for African countries or should Africa leapfrog along to greener energy in the hope that we can reap the benefits while being stuck with our dirty fossil fuel dependent economies? Can Nigeria survive without its hydrocarbon dependency? So many questions to ponder, but we suspect our leaders are not even paying attention to what is going on.

Raising awareness, education on antimicrobial resistance crucial

The World Health Organisation has warned that the lack of understanding of antibiotic resistance is part of the reason the treatment and prevention of bacterial infections remains a challenge.

In a 12-country survey published as part of the world antibiotic awareness week last year involving 10,000 people, almost 64 per cent of the respondents said they know antibiotic resistance could affect them and their families, but they did not know how that happens and what they can do to address the problem.

Antibiotic misuse, sometimes called antibiotic abuse or antibiotic overuse, refers to the misuse or overuse of antibiotics, with potentially serious effects on health. It is a contributing factor to the development of antibiotic resistance, including the creation of multidrug-resistant bacteria, informally called 'super bugs': relatively harmless bacteria.

Antibiotics have been around since 1928 when penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming. In the 1980s, antibiotics that were determined medically important for treatment of animals could be approved under veterinary oversight. In 1996, the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) was established. Starting in 2010, publications regarding antimicrobial drugs in food became an annual report. Starting in 2012, there was publicly solicited input on how data is to be collected and reported for matters relating to the use of antimicrobials for food-producing animals.

Antibiotic misuse drives drug resistant bacteria in Tanzania

As nations today marked the

World Pharmacy Day, medical experts in Tanzania have raised an alarm over rising antimicrobial resistance triggered by the wrong use of antibiotics, increasing chances for dangerous bacteria to outsmart the drugs designed to kill it.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global public health threat with the potential to kill 10 million people by 2050, let alone ravaging the economy, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The problem, which mostly affects poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa, occurs when bacteria, fungi or viruses become unresponsive to drugs and evolve to resist it.

In Tanzania, where cash-strapped people often rush to a local pharmacy to buy over-the-counter antibiotics at the slightest hint of a fever or cold, the prevalence of infections with multi-drug resistant bacteria is high, officials said.

Deus Kitapondya, a renowned emergency medicine physician based in Dar es Salaam, said the use of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription is highly discouraged because the patient may be attempting to treat a symptom that is not caused by bacteria. "Even if the symptom is caused by a bacterial infection, there are chances that the drug might be unresponsive to such bacteria, thus increasing the risk of antibiotics resistance," he said. Random use of antibiotics has high chances of creating bacteria tolerance, resistance and mutation. In 2017, Tanzania launched the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance to curb antimicrobial resistance and deter misuse of antibiotics among its citizens.

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Ethiopia at risk of balkanisation

By Ludger Schadomsky

TWO years after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, his country is engulfed in a war with the potential to destabilize the whole region for decades to come, says DW's Ludger Schadomsky.

Jeffrey Feltman's visit to Ethiopia is the West's last, desperate attempt to rescue the tottering country. The US special envoy to the Horn of Africa will try to persuade Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to agree to a cease-fire and peace talks. The hope is to bring an end to the war between the Ethiopian government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) before it descends on the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The war, which has been going on for a year now, has long spilled out of Tigray and has devastated half of the country. Neighboring countries Sudan and Eritrea are involved, as well as other nations such as Iran, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and China.

The Horn of Africa is of particular geostrategic importance, and the conflict has the potential to destabilize the region for years, and possibly decades, to come. It is already driving a wedge through the international community and, once again, Beijing and Moscow are playing power games with their vetoes in the UN Security Council.

The fact that the prime minister, who was initially celebrated for his reforms, is now giving the cold shoulder to the US and the EU and looking eastwards is

a bitter lesson for the terrifyingly naive decision-makers of the Old World who are writing up foreign and security policy.

Tragic end to 'Ethiopian Spring'
The bloody end to the "Ethiopian Spring" is tragic in many ways: Firstly, for the 110 million people who had hoped for a better future after the 2018 peace deal; and secondly because the economy, already battered by rampant inflation and the pandemic, will suffer from the burden of war for years. The vicious cycle of poverty and hunger will continue.

It's also tragic because it shows that even before the Afghanistan debacle has subsided, the country's partners in the West have failed miserably yet again. It was also grotesquely ill-advised of them to support the nomination of the supposed reformer for the Nobel Peace Prize. To recap - Abiy was nominated because of his peace agreement with Eritrea. The same Eritrea whose soldiers would go on to carry out terrible human rights violations two years later on invitation from the laureate himself.

The governments of the West were blinded by their eagerness to support reform. It was simply too tempting to support a young, charismatic prime minister who promised to bring peace and stability to Africa's second-most populous country and to stabilize the region.

But they woefully underestimated the dynamics of a country

that boasts over 80 ethnic groups. A cursory glance at history would have sufficed to understand that the deep rivalry between the Oromo, the Amhara and the Tigrayans could not be plastered over with gestures and symbolic politics. The fact that the African Union, whose headquarters is in Addis Ababa, has once again failed to live up to its promise of offering "African solutions to African problems" goes without saying.

National dialogue is crucial

Of course, it would be too easy to blame the international community for the latest failed reforms. Ethiopia has a culture of deep-seated mistrust, and an incompetent and ethnocentric political caste stifles even the most modest attempts at democratization. Anyone who has heard Ethiopian intellectuals express astonishment at German coalition talks knows it will take generations before a culture of political compromise can establish itself here. Civil society is still very weak in this post-authoritarian country, which is essentially a powder keg that can be easily ignited by saboteurs. Ethnic hatred, for instance, is rampant on social media.

As an alliance of convenience between Tigrayans and Oromo marches on the capital, it would be presumptuous to predict any future power constellations. However, what can be said is that if there is not a serious national dialogue involving

all relevant powers - important religious leaders and traditional authorities, jailed opposition politicians and actors of civil society - it will be difficult to halt the Balkanization of Ethiopia.

The choice to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Abiy Ahmed, a man who started out as a dynamic reformer and charming mediator but is today indulging in threats of war and conscripting civilians for the last stand, will go down in history as one of the Nobel Committee's worst decisions - and it has made many notoriously bad decisions over the years.

And the former ruling TPLF clique, which controlled politics, the economy and the military in Ethiopia for over a quarter of a century, could soon be back in the fold. This will particularly please nostalgic, Western-based experts who like to praise the discipline and morals of the former guerrilla movement. The majority of the Ethiopian population, on the other hand, will surely have very mixed feelings.

The Ethiopian Tourism Commission promotes the country as one with "13 months of sunshine." Abiy Ahmed's own sunshine policy has failed miserably. When will the next political spring arrive? Nobody can make any serious predictions. For now, it is a question of avoiding more bloodshed and a storm on Addis Ababa.

Is World Health Organisation slowing down efforts to reduce tobacco harm?

By Marie Camara

ON the 2nd of November 2021, the Vapour Products Association of South Africa (VPASA) organized a Diginar (digital seminar) with an unequivocal title: WHO's (World Health Organization) Dictatorial Tobacco Control Policies Ahead of COP-9.

The ninth session of Conference of the Parties (COP 9) is being held from November 8th to 13, 2021. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the World Health Organization treaty. It has a secretariat that holds a biennial COP in order to influence the global agenda on tobacco control.

Thus, ahead of the international Conference, the VPASA organized a meeting which was led by Asanda Gcayi. As the Chief Executive Officer at VPASA he led the conversation along with international experts on tobacco harm reduction who lamented an "outdated global approach" from the WHO.

"We as an association deeply disagree with the decision by the WHO not to invite organizations such as ourselves and as well as harm reduction experts from across the globe, to participate in the discussion on ENDS regulation. Instead WHO has cherry picked who can and cannot join the conversations on regulation of ENDS.

As we all know, if you are from the ENDS (electronic nicotine delivery systems) industry or are an individual who advocates for the differentiation of regulatory policies that seek to look at combustible tobacco and ENDS differently, you are not at the COP 9 table."

She pursued on the same vein: "So what this means is that the outcomes of the discussions to be held at the COP 9 will not be balanced. It will be an eco-chamber for the anti-tobacco lobby where decisions will be taken on behalf of the industry that is glaringly absent and have no mechanism to contribute to the discourse... Our belief is that it is only through open and robust consultations that we can move closer towards establishing proper ENDS regulations that will support the global agenda of reducing tobacco consumption and harm."

LMICs cover around 80% of the world's smokers according to WHO.

Dr Kgosi Letlape is former President of the Health Professions Council of South Africa, former chair of the South African Medical Association, and ex-President of the World Medical Association. He said that as a physician he always advised his patients to quit smoking but if they could not do so, switch to less harmful nicotine products.

1.2 million deaths worldwide due to

tobacco are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. On the African continent, 48.2% of young people are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke in public spaces according to WHO.

For Dr Letlape, switching is more than welcome and has shown its efficiency to reduce this alarming proportion: "When we move from combustible tobacco to alternatives, a lot of the other harms are already reduced or eliminated altogether, but few talk about the benefits to others when people switch."

Clive Bates is the Director of Counterfactual, a public interest policy consulting and analytical advocacy organization. He directly castigated WHO and FCTC for using strategies and tactics to dictate its rules to countries, in particular Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs):

"What they do is set the tone. The message they are sending is: 'this is a signal from the premiere public health body in the world about who should be doing what and how we should be thinking about these things, especially in LMICs'... They prepare papers for the COPs, they issue guidelines and global status reports which are funded by Bloomberg, scientific papers, which I would say are very poor quality., They also produce Q&A sheets, speeches, me-

dia and social media campaigns and distribute awards. Through these activities what they do is repetitively suggest what the right approach to the treaty should be."

He continued: "What many of the parties get from the WHO in reality is what we call an authorizing environment. So it doesn't tell you that you must do something but if you want to do something, it provides a kind of authority to support it or dissuade you from perusing it... FCTC is largely exhortation".

John Dunne is Co-Founder and current Director-General of the United Kingdom (UK) Vaping Industry Association (UKVIA), which is the largest and most diverse vape trade organization in the UK.

UK is often cited as the epitome when it comes to THR. It is regularly applauded for its unique approach to this specific problem.

According to John Dunne: "Despite the treaty commitment to tobacco harm reduction, the WHO and FCTC have never embraced e-cigarettes but have instead called for excessive regulations. The FCTC secretariat and COP meetings are not fit for purpose. In their relentless opposition of vaping and other reduced risks products, they have become a threat to global public health."

Craving your own career path



NOBODY wants to stay unemployed after wasting precious time, 3 or 4 years studying and throwing that graduation cap in the air.

Checking in for lectures, turning in assignments, showing up and putting in the effort for group assignments and discussions, sitting mid tests and exams isn't a walk in the park, college is hard. Getting a job experience after college is even harder.

As brain cracking as this having a job experience thing might get to you, you must stay sane and keep a clear head because you are not alone and the transitioning period into a new life after college will come. Get your life together and buckle up because the journey to building a fulfilling career path (if you really can put in the work) has also began. So where should you start?

Don't Wait

Don't wait for the perfect moment, put your hands on everything that will offer you an opportunity to learn, grow and network. Don't sit back and dream of a helping hand but instead do it yourself. Talk to people, lay it all out there, your skills, knowledge, everything that translates to what you can offer. Getting a jumpstart on your career gets you ready for the trials of landing a professional job without having any prior job experience. Get as much of that work experience as early on and as fast as you possibly can, why wait? You're not getting any younger.

Just Do It

Jumping into the shark tank as a tiny undergrad is intimidating, but that doesn't mean you're bound to fail. In fact, rejection gives you the chance to learn what your strengths and limits are and what not to do. Just remember that these people put on their pants and showed up to work the same way you ought to do every morning. It doesn't matter who

you're talking to.

If you really don't want to start applying for jobs just yet, at least start networking with professionals. Establishing a relationship with employers in advance and showing that you care can save you from a world of post-graduate pain. Start by introducing yourself at career fairs. Put yourself out there. Just showing up gives you an advantage. I have worked with several students who secured opportunities by mistake because they went to events and got noticed or connected with a representative who was willing to coach them to be prepared for a future opportunity.

When you have zero job experience but know the companies you're interested in, aim for less formal gigs like shadowing a professional, volunteering or attend info sessions and workshops. "Interact with professionals in various settings and establish rapport with them in advance. It can give you perspective and open doors in the future."

Focus On What You Know

So your resume extends as far as babysitting and mowing lawns. As if that big engineering firm cares. Well actually, on resumes, during interviews and when wooing employers, don't worry about what job experience you don't have—focus on the job experience you do have.

Sometimes, a lot of what makes you competitive is attitude. The 'unique' component is what's most important. But they're also personable. They can communicate like an adult professional...and talk about themselves not just as an undergraduate student but as a human being with knowledge on something...and for your prospective employer, what's important is finding the exceptional human being under the professional.

Because CVs are often the one of the first things companies receive from you, make sure yours commu-

nicates what you do best. Remember though: CVs serve more as an introduction.

Do Your Research

Research is critical to making a solid first impression when speaking to or being interviewed by employers. Prospective employers want somebody to come in and tell them what they know about their company, not that they are just another company that they're interviewing with.

Take the cliché that "Google is your best friend" to heart. Spend time getting to know companies

through their websites, social media profiles and newsletters. As you research, note any questions you come up with. At the end of any interview, your interviewer will ask if you have any questions for them. And you don't want to look at them with a blank stare.

Love Your Work

The most important part of the job hunt is to never settle. Don't apply just to apply. Really consider what you want out of a job and what experience you'll gain.

Moreover, don't be afraid to dip

into different fields. Some of you will have to work about 100 different jobs before the age of 24 to 35 and even more before eventually starting your

own companies. If you don't know what it is you love just yet, just keep doing a bunch of different jobs. Fail first fast.

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Fourth CIIE kicks off with more participants

By Tian Hong

THE 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) kicked off in Shanghai on Nov. 5. A total of 58 countries and three international organizations have attended the online country exhibition of the event, and nearly 3,000 companies from 127 countries and regions have brought their products to the business exhibition.

The numbers of enterprises as well as countries and regions that have been attracted to the event both surpassed those of the 3rd CIIE last year.

Many products of German pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim made their global or Asian debut at the 4th CIIE.

In 2020, the company launched its external innovation hub in Shanghai, the first of its kind ever built by pharmaceutical multinationals in China. This year, it completed the phase II expansion of its biopharmaceutical base in the Zhangjiang High-Tech Park, Shanghai, tripling the production capacity of the base.

"We have attended the CIIE for three years in a row because we really value and have confidence in the prospects of the Chinese market," said Felix Gutsche, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Boehringer Ingelheim China.

"We have also benefited from the spillover effect of the CIIE. Not only have our exhibits at the CIIE turned into commodities, but our company has evolved from an exhibitor to an investor in China," he added.

This year's CIIE is holding the country exhibition online for the first time. With 3D modeling, virtualization en-

gine and other technologies, it has set up immersive digital pavilions for countries to showcase their development achievements, leading industries, representative enterprises as well as culture and tourism, fully demonstrating the economic situations of various countries and diverse civilizations in the world.

The Republic of the Congo, Kiribati, Mauritius, Solomon Islands and Palestine have joined in the CIIE for the first time. The active participation of companies in the CIIE not only mirrors the appeal of the platform, but vividly reflects overseas enterprises' expectation and recognition of the Chinese market, said Sun Chenghai, deputy director of the CIIE Bureau.

Thanks to the CIIE, Jungheinrich AG, a leading intralogistics solutions provider based in Germany, has grown from a hidden champion in the industry in Europe into a world-famous brand, pointed out Bai Daping, general manager of Jungheinrich AG China. The company has attended the CIIE for four consecutive years.

"Our exhibits at the 1st CIIE have now boasted a market share of more than 50 percent. The products we brought to the second CIIE can now be manufactured by a factory in Kunshan city, east China's Jiangsu province, which helps cut our costs by 25 percent. Our factory in Qingpu district, Shanghai, can not only feed the Chinese and Asian-Pacific markets, but make products for European markets," Bai said.

As one of the first batch of bonded artworks for the 4th CIIE, a pumpkin sculpture made by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama that worth over one million dollars, arrived in Waigaoqiao bonded area, part of the China (Shanghai) Pilot



Photo taken on Oct. 30, 2021, shows statues of Jinbao, the mascot of the China International Import Expo (CIIE), standing near the National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai), venue for the event.

Free Trade Zone (SHFTZ), on Oct. 25.

For the first time, the CIIE has set up a section for cultural relics and artworks at the exhibition area of trade in services. Contemporary artworks, decorative arts, ancient paintings and calligraphy works, porcelain and other kinds of cultural relics from 11 countries and regions are displayed at the 4th CIIE. They are estimated to be worth nearly two billion yuan in total, noted Wang Jiaming, deputy director of an international cultural investment company registered at the

SHFTZ.

A tax exemption policy rolled out since the 3rd CIIE has made auction house Sotheby more motivated to participate in this year's expo.

The policy, issued by China's Ministry of Finance, General Administration of Customs and State Taxation Administration last year, specifies that exhibitor of artworks, collectible objects and antiques can be exempted from paying import tariffs, import value-added tax and consumption tax for a maximum of five

items sold at the 3rd CIIE.

In fact, all measures for further opening-up announced by China at the previous expos are being implemented.

Focusing on world economy amidst profound changes, the 4th Hongqiao International Economic Forum, a part of this year's CIIE, provides a platform for people from political circle, business, and academia to discuss global economic cooperation in the post-COVID era.

Guests at the 12 sub-forums of the 4th Hongqiao International Economic Fo-

rum are expected to exchange ideas on hot topics including green development and digital economy and explore paths to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The World Openness Report 2021 and World Openness Index, which evaluate the openness level of 129 economies since 2008, are expected to be released during the forum.

Social movement voices fall on deaf ears of governments at COP26

GLASGOW

One element that runs through all social movement climate summits is their rejection of the official meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the low ambition of its outcomes - and the treaty's 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) was no exception.

The leaders of the UNFCCC "gladly welcome those who caused the crisis. COP26 has done nothing but pretend and greenwash," Mitzi Jonelle Tan, a member of the non-governmental organization Youth Advocates for Climate Action from the Philippines, told IPS during a rally at the Glasgow Screening Room, a few blocks from the venue where the official meeting is being held until Friday, Nov. 12.

The COP26 Coalition, the alternative summit to the climate conference, has been a motley crew of organizations and movements whose common demand was a real effort to fight the climate crisis through concrete and fair measures and whose 200 events in this Scottish city included workshops, forums, artistic presentations and protests, which ended on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Among the demands with which the alternative meeting in Glasgow lobbied the 196 Parties to the UNFCCC were the abandonment of fossil fuels, the rejection of cosmetic solutions to the climate emergency, the demand for a just transition to a lower carbon economy and the call for reparations and redistribution of funds to indigenous communities and the global South.

The movement also called for a gender perspective in policies, climate justice - that those primarily responsible (developed nations) take responsibility and pay for their role -, respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, and a halt to air pollution.

Due to logistical issues and the limitations imposed by the covid-19 pandemic, which postponed the official summit for a year, the parallel sessions of the social movements were held in this Scottish city in a hybrid format, combining face-to-face and virtual participation. Exhibitors and online participants struggled with the quality of their internet connections.

One of the most unanimous and loudest criticisms from non-governmental social and environmental organizations focused on the exclusion of civil society groups from Latin America, Africa and Asia, due to the UK host government's decision to modify the admission criteria according to the level of contagion in each country and the extent of vaccination.

In addition, they complained about the strict hurdles imposed by the COP26 presidency, held by the United Kingdom, supported



The climate summit COP26 was accompanied by protests by social movements, with demonstrators arriving in Glasgow from all over the world and expressing themselves in their own language or dressing up as dinosaurs to symbolize their criticism. But government delegates did not listen to their demands for ambitious and fair action to contain the global warming crisis. CREDIT: Laura Quiñones/UN

by Italy, to the presence of NGO observers at the official negotiating tables, which undermined the transparency of the Glasgow process, whose agreements are to be embodied in a final declaration, which is weakening every day and whose final text will be released on Nov. 12 or 13, if the negotiations stretch out.

The alternative movement also had a formal but unofficial space in the so-called COP26 Green Zone, located in the same area as the official negotiations, in the center of Glasgow.

In-depth solutions

One of their key proposals was for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty aimed at moving towards the end of the era of coal, gas and oil, the con-

sumption of which is primarily responsible for the growing planetary climate emergency.

The initiative, which imitates the name of the treaty against nuclear weapons, demands an immediate end to the expansion of fossil fuel production, a fair phase-out and a just energy transition.

Countries and corporations "continue to invest capital in the extraction of fossil fuels. We need to see efforts to phase them out, to stop the financing, subsidies and exploitation of fossil fuels," Tzeporah Berman, the Canadian chair of the anti-fossil fuel initiative, told IPS.

The idea for the treaty emerged in 2015 from a call by leaders and NGOs from Pacific island states - whose very existence is threatened by the climate crisis - and it was formally launched in 2020.

So far it has received the support of some 750 organizations, 12 cities, more than 2,500 scientists, academics, parliamentarians from around the world, and religious leaders, indigenous movements and more than 100 Nobel Prize winners.

Climate policies are the focus of COP26 which has addressed carbon market rules, at least 100 billion dollars a year in climate finance, gaps between emission reduction targets and necessary reductions, strategies for carbon neutrality by 2050, adaptation plans, and the working platform on local communities and indigenous peoples.

Indigenous people and rights of nature tribunal in the spotlight

Indigenous people, especially from the Amazon jungle, have been key participants at the latest edition of the alternative summit, with at least 40 activists present in Glasgow to complain about harassment by the government of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and demand more protection for the rainforest, whose destruction can have dramatic effects on the environmental health of the planet.

"Our main demand is demarcation of our territories," because this guarantees a number of rights, Cristiane Pankararu, a member of the Pankararu people and leader of Brazil's non-governmental National Association of Indigenous Women Warriors (ANMIGA), told IPS.

Her organization belongs to the Association of Indigenous

Peoples of Brazil, whose demands are demarcation, climate solutions based on indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices, and investment in forest protection.

One of the most symbolic activities of the counter-summit was the Fifth International Rights of Nature Tribunal, which tried the cases of "False solutions to the climate change crisis" and "The Amazon, a threatened living entity".

In the first verdict, the tribunal, which sat for the first time in 2014 and was composed this time of seven judges from six countries, found the UNFCCC at fault for failing to attack the roots of the climate emergency.

In the second ruling, the jury, composed of nine experts from seven countries, accused developed countries and China, as well as agricultural, mining and food corporations, of destroying the Amazon, the planet's main rainforest ecosystem, which is threatened by these extractive activities.

Nick Dearden, director of Global Justice Now, listed three serious problems: the role of large corporations, the protection of corporate intellectual property, and the power of corporations to sue states that want to protect the environment, in international arbitration tribunals.

"It is a profound symptom of how the global economy protects the interests of large corporations, especially extractive ones, and that has not been addressed at the COP," he told IPS.

A dialogue of the deaf has prevailed between the UNFCCC and civil society, as the official summit has ignored the demands of social movements.

"They have not listened to us. We are here to demand action. We don't need another COP to solve the climate crisis, we need change," Tan complained.

Despite the obstacles, "we will not stop participating actively. The women's movement is unifying. It is a slow process, because people are not used to being led by women," Pankararu said.

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In the forums parallel to COP26 in Glasgow, indigenous women were major protagonists with their demands for respect for their rights and effective participation in the negotiations. In the picture, indigenous women delegates take part in a forum on women of the forest at the peoples' summit. CREDIT: Emilio Godoy/IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUUYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Guardian Reporter

Cop 26: Coastal and marine conservation critical to Zanzibar's blue economy drive

AS world leaders convene at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, the Zanzibar Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Union delegation to Tanzania and embassies of Ireland and France, are calling for increased commitment to coastal and marine conservation.

The partners were speaking at a blue economy and seascape governance event held from 9-10 November 2021 in Zanzibar. The event titled 'Towards a Resilient and Inclusive Blue Economy in Zanzibar and Tanzania' was held ahead of the Great Blue Wall initiative launch scheduled to take place at the UNFCCC COP26. The Great Blue Wall initiative is a movement that will accelerate and upscale ocean conservation actions to the benefit of over 70 million people in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

Opening the two-day event, Dr Abdallah Hussein Kombo, Minister of Blue Economy and Fisheries, said: "Zanzibar, and indeed the United Republic

of Tanzania, is on course to engage in regional and global dialogue processes that address Blue Economy and Ocean Governance. Ocean governance is at the centre of the current climate discussions at the COP26 in Glasgow. Given Tanzania's commitment in implementing the Great Blue Wall Initiative, this new partnership that we are all witnessing between Tanzania and the development partners bears testimony to the commitment that our governments have shown in embracing Blue Economy and conservation of our ocean ecosystems."

The Ministry's Principal Secretary, Dr Aboud Jumbe, said: "Ocean-based economy is not a new phenomenon in Zanzibar. Although the people of Zanzibar have engaged in domestic and international ocean-based activities for many centuries, the current Blue Economy Policy along with its strategy and implementation plan are designed to transform the



livelihoods of the present and future generations through sustained programs of empowerment, social inclusion, industrial investments and ocean conservation."

The event included three strategic sessions—Blue Economy Symposium; Launch of a new project titled "Towards a Blue Tanga-Pemba Seascape and a National Dialogue on Governance of Marine Protected and Conserved

Areas.

"The stewardship of our marine and coastal resources is extremely valuable in ensuring ecosystem services support the national economy and livelihoods of many. This event aims to promote synergies for collective action amongst different stakeholders. IUCN believes equitable partnerships and the inclusion of local communities are a key to achieving a sustain-

able blue economy," said Luther Anukur, IUCN Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

The event sessions aimed to improve understanding on the linkages between biodiversity conservation and a sustainable Blue Economy as well as map key opportunities, barriers, recommendations and priorities for integrating biodiversity considerations in the Blue Economy. Further,

the event showcased programmes that demonstrate the development of a blue economy while contributing to long-term effective, equitable and inclusive conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

"France sees the ocean as a common good. As the producer of more than half of the oxygen we breathe, the ocean is the lung of humanity. It is ur-

gent to protect this sanctuary of our biodiversity. Our President Emmanuel Macron called the first edition of the One Ocean Summit which will take place in Brest in January 2022. We support the design and implementation of a resilient and inclusive Blue Economy. France is committed to work closely with Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland as we share the same ocean, the same values and objectives: the preservation and protection of the Indian Ocean for the future generation." said France Ambassador to Tanzania Nabil Hajlaoui.

"The EU has a longstanding approach for a responsible use of oceans and the Blue Economy, and it will continue its efforts through the European Green Deal. This region is blessed by the Indian Ocean that offers climate regulation, sustains communities with oxygen and food, and provides many opportunities for economic, social and cultural development. There

cannot be green without blue and that is why we are wholeheartedly supporting Zanzibar's Blue Economy Drive," said EU Ambassador Manfredo Fanti.

IUCN and IRISH AID

Ireland's Ambassador H.E. Mary O'Neill reiterated the importance of the blue economy to both Ireland and Zanzibar, saying, "As an island, Ireland recognizes the importance and challenges faced by oceans and coastal communities. Our development policies prioritize oceans and sustainable blue economy, thus our Embassy in Tanzania is proud to be working with authorities in Tanzania and Zanzibar and Team Europe in Tanzania to catalyze ocean conservation, governance and sustainable blue economy efforts".

The event brought together more than 80 delegates from across Zanzibar and Tanzania Mainland comprising of Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Ambassadors, Mission Heads, Embassy Heads of Cooperation, Directors of Public and private Institutions, Programme Leads, Conservationists and community groups.

'Tanzania should borrow leaf from Rwanda on women's participation in leadership positions'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA needs to learn from Rwanda as it is the only country in Africa that has made significant strides in women's participation in leadership positions be it government and even private institutions.

Tanzania Media Women's Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) director Dr. Mzuri Issa made the remarks yesterday at the organization's offices in Tunguu area, Unguja North District, a day after her and other members of Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) and Pemba Environment, Gender, and Advocacy Organization (PEGAO) came back from Rwanda for an official visit.

She said: "Since Rwanda is a world leader in the representation of women in leadership positions, there is a reason for our governments to learn from them along with society as well as to see more women and have a greater role in government structure and civil society."

Elaborating further Dr Mzuri said Rwanda in its Legislative Assembly, women are 61 percent more than men and their country is making more progress every day.



Women's participation in leadership positions play a key role in scaling up country's socio-economic development

Citing examples, Dr Mzuri said the 53 percent of cabinet members in Rwanda are women, something which needs to be replicated in other African countries including Tanzania.

"When you look at the district councils, women are 41 percent and the private sector 42 percent," she said, calling Zanzibar and Tanzania, in general, to borrow that leaf and increase the number of women in different decision-making platforms.

In view of the Zanzibar situation, Dr Mzuri said the government has also ratified various treaties emphasizing gender equality, including the 1995

Beijing Platform for Action, which flagged 12 key areas where urgent action was needed to ensure greater equality and opportunities for women and men, girls and boys. It also laid out concrete ways for countries to bring about change. Other treaties include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development (2008) requires that "States Parties shall endeavor that, by 2015, at least fifty percent of decision-making positions in the public and

private sectors are held by women including the use of affirmative action measures as provided for in Article 5. The AU Protocol emphasizes equality for women and men at decision-making levels.

She added that despite the various challenges facing many women so far, Zanzibar has 40 percent representation of special seats as stipulated in the Zanzibar constitution through its 2010 amendments.

For her part, ZAFELA director Jamila Mahmoud said that Rwanda has created a conducive environment for women to hold leadership positions.

CSOs push for govt to ratify international conventions to curtail human rights abuses

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the past ten years, human rights defenders through their umbrella organizations have been coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. The UPR is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations.

They are being represented by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and Save the Children.

In a joint statement the three CSOs on behalf of more than 200 human rights defenders lauded the Tanzanian government for its active participation in this process of reviewing the human rights situation since 2011. "Until now where Tanzania has been submitting its reports on time and participating in the UPR process, this is a commendable effort," the statement said. In the review of the first UPR session in 2011, Tanzania received 153 proposals where a total of 107 proposals equal to 70% were accepted as they were, 33 proposals, equivalent to 21.5% were partially accepted, and four were rejected.

In the second review, which was held in 2016, Tanzania received 227 recommendations of which 133 equal to 58% were accepted and 99 equal to 43% rejected.

"As one of the UN member states, Tanzania has been actively involved in this Human Rights Review process and this year 2021. During the 3rd Universal Periodic Review 39th Session (October-November 2021), a total of 252 recommendations were made from various countries," human rights defenders said.

At the session, Tanzania was represented by Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, who received 252 recommendations, whereby 108 recommendations (43 percent) were accepted by the government. Out of that 12 proposals

(4.8percent) were considered and 132 (52 percent) recommendations were rejected. But, recommendations that accepted were reduced from 70 percent in 2011 to 58 percent in 2016, to 43 percent this year.

According to CSOs, the process is not yet complete since this information is preliminary and official and final report is expected to come out soon. A large number of approved recommendations (108 equivalent to 43 percent) were of women, children and social rights, in the improvement of social services—health and education inclusion, the rights of people with disabilities especially people with albinism; and the right to development in implementing national and regional development plans.

A total of 132 (52 percent) recommendations that were rejected include civil and political rights including the right to bail, illegal detention, abolition of the death penalty, as well as countries ratifying international treaties aimed at ending human rights abuses and protection against abduction; changes to the laws governing the operation of civil society and the functions of human rights defenders; refugee rights; children's rights regarding changes to marriage law 1971 against child marriage.

Some of the suggestions that were not accepted in the 2021 review, touches on fundamental rights in various areas such as; social rights; freedom of expression; economic rights; the rights of human rights defenders; independence of institutions civil rights, political rights, international treaties, legal improvements and human rights in general.

"Tanzania as one of the UN and AU member states has the responsibility to ensure that the human rights situation is upheld and adhered to. Together with the ongoing improvements in our country, there are still many legal challenges, policies and systems that affect human rights," the statement said, adding:

"The government should look at the revised proposals, especially those that are relevant fundamental rights, so that it can be recognized by the broader interests of Tanzanians since human rights are the foundation of any nation's development."

Vivo Energy launches shell lubricants back to Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

VIVO Energy has officially launched Shell lubricants in the Tanzanian market.

The energy firm is the Pan-African retailer and marketer of Shell lubricants and Engen-branded fuels.

Speaking yesterday at the official launch of the lubricants, Vivo Energy Tanzania managing director Khady Sene said: "In line with our goal to be the most respected energy business in Africa, we are committed to delivering high quality products in the country. This is why we have

chosen to partner with the world's number one lubricant company in the world."

According to Sene, for most of the twentieth century, Shell has been one of the most recognized brands in the world.

"Decades of effort have gone into establishing our brand's reputation for quality products and services customers can trust. Today, Shell is the number one global lubricant supplier, delivering market-leading lubricants to customers in over 100 countries. Shell lubricants brings world-class technological insights to its products, offering the best

formulations for vehicles."

Vivo Energy's Central Technical Manager, Fred Omondi went further to explain and said Shell Lubricants offer African customers the same high levels of engine protection, performance and efficiency found elsewhere' In Tanzania we offer three sub-brands, Shell Rimula for truck heavy-duty engines, Shell Helix for passenger cars and Shell Advance for motorcycle engines.

Kemilembe Kafanabo Commercial Manager - Petroleum at Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) officiated the launch

by commending Vivo Energy Tanzania's efforts in using natural gas in production of lubricants that are good for the environment and vehicles. She went on to urge Vivo Energy to ensure that quality standards are not compromised and committed to offer the necessary support.

Vivo Energy Tanzania is proud to offer the very best of Shell's products in the country. These include Shell's high quality lubricants; industry-leading technological and technical expertise; and personal dedicated customer service.

BUSINESS

RESTITUTION

Tears, dance as Benin welcomes back looted treasures from France

COTONOU

With drums, dancing and tears, Benin on Wednesday welcomed back nearly 30 royal treasures looted from the West African state during France's colonial rule more than 130 years ago.

The artefacts, some considered sacred in Benin, arrived in the economic capital Cotonou by plane before being transported in three trucks, escorted by horses, to the presidential palace. The return of the artefacts comes as calls mount in Africa for Western countries to hand back colonial spoils from their museums.

Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany have also received requests from African countries to return looted treasures. In Benin on Wednesday, hundreds of people from all over the country thronged the streets to watch the treasures arrive.

Adults and children, mostly dressed in colourful loincloths, applauded as the trucks passed, some bowed to the ground, others weeping and crossing their hands in a sign of respect. "I am devastated with the emotion," said Benin president Patrice Talon, visibly touched, before delivering a 30-minute speech focused on national unity.

"It is the symbol of the return to Benin of our soul, of our identity," the president declared. President Talon and the country's culture minister had travelled on Tuesday to Paris to bring home the 26 artefacts, part of France's President Emmanuel Macron's bid to restore African heritage.

So moving

Martine Vignon Agoli-Agbo, a resident of northern Benin, travelled with her two daughters more than 500 kilometres (310 miles) to witness the artefacts' return. "It is so moving," she told AFP. "I did not want to be told about this moment. And if my children are with me, it is so that one day they will be able to tell their own children."

"When the truck passed me, I got the chills. I knelt down, out my forehead against the ground, as a sign of loyalty," Marcel Hounkonnou, a craftsman, told AFP. "All these objects that these kings, our ancestors, touched, they represent them in a way today," he said.

Among the works are totem statues from the ancient kingdom of Abomey in the south of present-day Benin as well as the throne of King Behanzin, looted during the sacking of the Abomey palace by French colonial troops in 1892. When the trucks arrived at the presi-

dency, two small girls, dressed in white and wearing necklaces, spilled water as an offering on the ground.

The crate containing the throne belonging to King Ghezo, who reigned over the kingdom of Abomey between 1818 and 1858, was unloaded on a red carpet. Dancers performed rituals from the old kingdom, as well as those of the other kingdoms that made up Benin, before it became a nation.

After the ceremony, the current king of Abomey Sagbadjou Glele, present during the ceremony alongside other traditional leaders, told AFP of his immense emotion. "I cannot explain the joy that embraces me. These objects were intended from their departure to return. Sooner or later they would return so that the words spoken by our ancestors may be fulfilled."

Large-scale restitution

In France, most African artefacts are held by the Quai Branly museum, which has begun a review of its collection to identify works some say were acquired through violence or coercion. French lawmakers last year passed a bill allowing Paris to return artefacts to both Benin and Senegal, another former French colony.

In Benin, they will be exhibited at several sites, including a former Portuguese fort in Ouidah, while awaiting the completion of a museum in Abomey. For Didier Marcel Houenoude, Beninese professor of art history, the return of works "represents above all the restoration of dignity." It is also "used for the reconstruction of memory. It is not only the people and objects that have been looted, but also memory."

Some were seized by colonial administrators, troops or doctors and passed down to descendants who in turn donated them to museums in Europe and the United States. But others were gifts to missionaries or acquired by African art collectors at the start of the 20th century or discovered by scientific expeditions.

An expert report commissioned by Macron counted some 90,000 African works in French museums, 70,000 of them at the Quai Branly alone. Nigeria said last month it had agreed with Germany on the return of hundreds of so-called Benin Bronzes - metal plaques and sculptures from the 16th to 18th centuries that were stolen from the palace of the ancient Benin Kingdom in present-day Nigeria.

Related story on page 14



Some of the artefacts from the kingdom of Abomey returned by France to Benin this week.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Woolworths now has solar-powered delivery vans – saving 3,600kg of CO2 emissions

JOHANNESBURG

Retailer Woolworths now has solar-powered vans delivering goods ordered online to people's homes, and it has saved almost 3,600kg of carbon dioxide emissions over the course of two months.

It is the first retailer in South Africa to introduce electric panel vans for online delivery services. In a Twitter

post on Tuesday, Woolworths said the move is in line with its vision to be one of the most sustainable retailers in the world.

"... In collaboration with DSV and Everlectric we are trialling electric panel vans into our online shopping delivery fleet, a first in the South African retail space," the retailer said. "Everlectric packages electric vehicles and charging infrastructure and

also offers finance solutions for electric vehicles and related products.

"To power the vans, we source electricity from renewable and sustainable sources including rooftop Solar PV installations. Where onsite generation of renewable energy is not available or practical, we offset 100% of the electricity emissions via renewable energy certificates," Woolworths wrote.

With the growing awareness around sustainability, many businesses are turning to more eco-friendly methods of doing business. Woolworths has set lofty sustainability targets for itself, including that all its energy should be derived from renewable sources by 2030. It also wants to have net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, among other goals. In an electric van, the diesel or

petrol tank and the engine are substituted by an electric system that powers it. They offer a wide range of benefits; besides being better for the environment, they are also more cost-effective as they eliminate fuel costs. Retailers in other developed markets such as UK's Tesco and Waitrose have also fast adopted electric vans for deliveries. Woolworths's introduction of elec-

tric vans comes a month after Estonia headquartered E-hailing company Bolt announced its rollout of electric taxis in South Africa. Bolt users can now select to ride in an electric car or a hybrid vehicle under its "green category." Earlier in the year, it launched an electric bicycle pilot in Cape Town with its food delivery service, Bolt Food.

ACTIVIST

Sceptical Ugandan youths plead for COP26 goals to be met now

GLASGOW

The rich world heard an emotional plea from young climate activists to "prove us wrong" by turning pledges at Cop26 into real action to save the planet.

With two weeks of talks nearing their end, attention is turning to whether the promises made in Glasgow will really lead to forests being saved, money flowing into climate action and coal power being consigned to history.

While negotiators have expressed hope that the pledges could limit global warming to below 2°C, the head of the UN spoke of a "deep and real credibility gap" and announced a plan to monitor progress. Vanessa Nakate, a campaigner from Uganda, went further by telling delegates she did not believe some of the promises made at Cop26.

She said a pledge to unleash \$130 trillion of financial firepower on the climate crisis was undermined by the rich world's failure to meet a decade-old promise of \$100 billion in annual funding for developing countries. "We don't believe you. We don't believe that banks will suddenly put trillions of dollars on the table for climate action when rich countries have struggled to find \$100bn," Ms Nakate said.

"We don't believe that promises made by financial companies to end deforestation will actually prevent trees from being cut down. I am here to beg you to



Vanessa Nakate, a campaigner from Uganda speaks at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

prove us wrong." Ms Nakate was applauded by delegates after telling the summit that pledges alone would not stop global warming.

"Only immediate and drastic action will pull us back from the abyss," she said. "I hope you can understand why many of the activists who are here in Glasgow, and millions of activists who could not be here, do not see the success that is being applauded."

Talks in Glasgow will continue into Friday as negotiators agree a final text, with host country Britain welcoming a series of pledges but critics such as Ms Nakate casting doubt on progress in Glasgow. Even the most optimistic estimates do not suggest that the Paris Agreement's goal of capping global warming at 1.5°C would be met under current plans.

The talks were given a lift by a rare agreement between the US and China to increase co-operation on tackling

climate change. But many young campaigners are unhappy about how little they have been at the table during the 12-day summit.

"Those who are happy with the current pace of progress clearly won't see their lives threatened by the climate breakdown. But we will," said Saheer Rashid Baig, 24, an activist from Pakistan. "How many more Cops will we have where the decisions do not include our young people, children and future generations?"

Kelo Uchendu, an activist from Nigeria, spoke about the injustice of young people inheriting a planet damaged by the greenhouse gas emissions of previous generations. "Climate change threatens their access to health, good-quality air, food and quality education. This is the height of injustice," he said.

Mary Robinson, a former president of Ireland and UN commissioner for

human rights, said young people should be more prominent in official delegations. "I do think, at this stage, that every delegation should include at least one, hopefully even more than one, young person with the delegate badge," she said.

"Then they get into the room. I do think we need more young people, because we've heard you, you have the ideas, you have the passion, you have the understanding." The penultimate day of talks was dedicated to the role of cities and regions, which will play a key role in implementing the Glasgow pledges.

The UK pledged £27.5 million (\$36.8m) of funding for the an Urban Climate Action Programme to support cities targeting net zero emissions. "In cities, we're doers," said London Mayor Sadiq Khan. He touted policies to tackle air pollution in the UK capital.

Summit president Alok Sharma welcomed the involvement of private companies in setting ambitious targets at Cop26. But the UN is responding to scepticism of these pledges by appointing experts who will set criteria for keeping track of progress.

COMPETITIVE

South Africa's Gert Johan Coetzee created these garments for Barbie

JOHANNESBURG

South African designer Gert Coetzee has collaborated with doll brand Barbie in a ready-to-wear clothing range, including a couture dress that took 50 hours to make. The range, which has been named "Barbie Loves Gert" comprises 31 original and diverse looks created by the designer that represents varied body sizes, genders, and cultures.

Speaking at the launch of the collection this week, Coetzee said he wanted Barbie to experience South Africa to its fullest by integrating the cultural elements of the country into the collection; including the Sepedi people's common use of striking pink, which have been complemented by geometric patterns inspired by the Zulu culture in the designs.

Coetzee also used beadwork in black and white, inspired by beading work in the Xhosa culture. "I wanted this collection to encapsulate a true South African experience," said Coetzee. The clothing collection has both couture and ready-to-wear items with 15 of the ready to wear items available for purchase on Coetzee's website. The couture items can be ordered and made.

The collection features a show-stopper couture gown that took over 50 hours to create. Coetzee describes it as a "one-of-a-kind gown



South Africa's Gert Coetzee and his set of garments for Barbie dolls.

- even in doll size - it's absolute haute couture." More than 3,000 genuine rhinestone crystals and pearls were manually applied to the fabric to create the replica for Barbie and the dress is made of more than 40 meters of bright pink tulle ruffles.

"Barbie has collaborated with designers many times, but I really wanted the African interpre-

tation to stand out," said Coetzee. "When people look at the collaboration from around the world, they must really feel inspired by the diversity of Africa, the richness of our culture and the beauty of our men and women," Coetzee said.

Scott Hobson, South African country manager for Mattel, the makers of Barbie dolls, said it was

an honour to work with Coetzee. "As the most diverse fashion doll in the market with over 170 different diverse looks, shapes and sizes, Barbie continues to show the impact of representation and we are absolutely honoured and inspired to be working with South African designer Gert-Johan Coetzee whose work embodies these values," Hobson said.

WINDFALL

Nairobi hybrid art auction earns Sh23 million

NAIROBI

Art buyers spent Sh23.18 million on Tuesday at an auction held in Nairobi's Radisson Blu Arboretum. The 9th Art Auction East Africa organised by Circle Art Gallery defied pandemic fears of slow spending on collectibles.

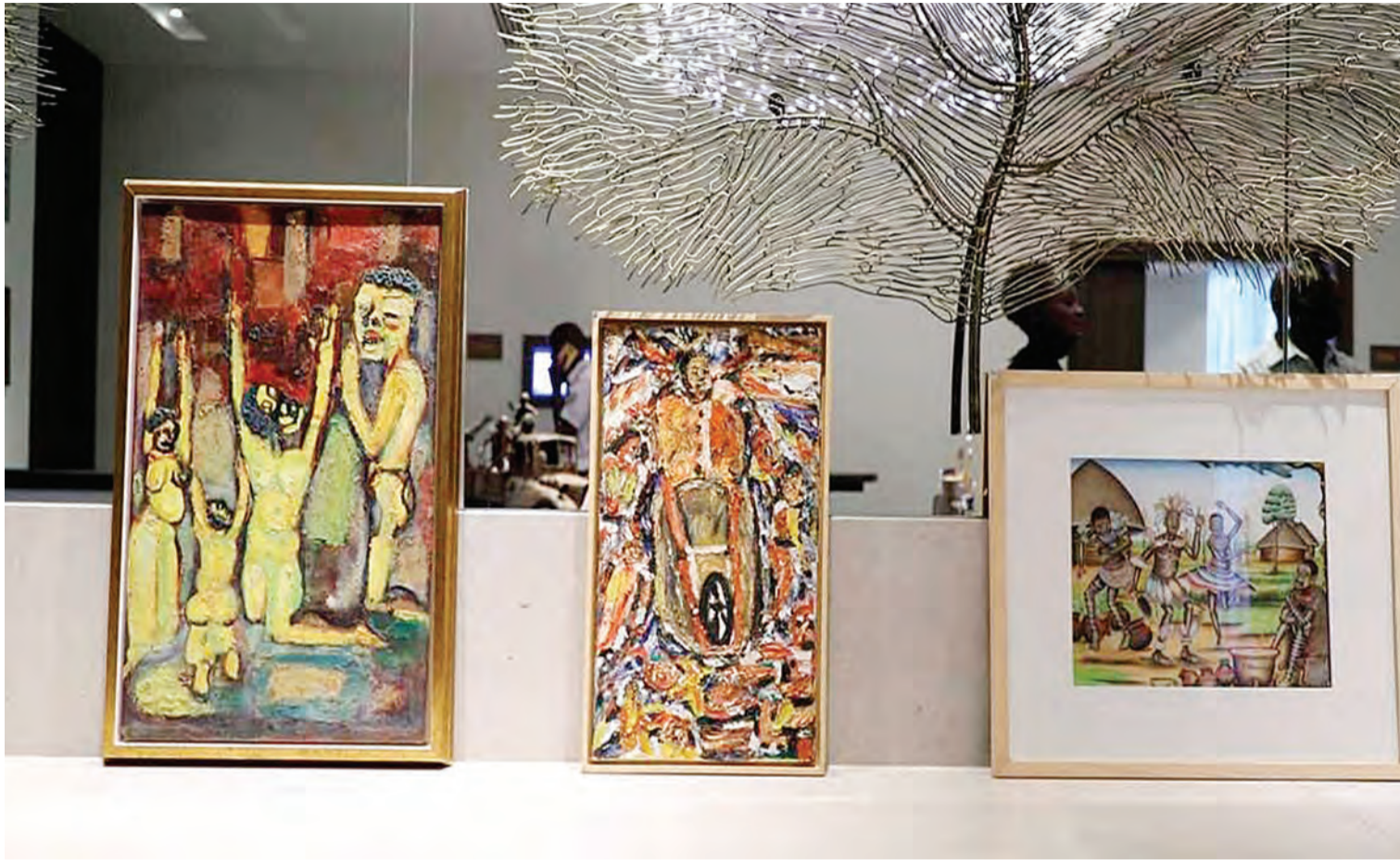
Serious bidders made a pitch for E.S. Tingatinga's Untitled 'Rhino' painting which was finally sold for Sh3.17 million. Geoffrey Mukasa's Untitled 'Blue Beauties' painting was sold at Sh2.6 million, Salah El Mur's 'Iris Flower' for Sh1.6 million, and there was even a bidding war over Ehoodi Kichapi's 'Man against City', with the winner paying Sh1.5 million for the oil on canvas Basquiat-like work created by Kichapi in 2008.

Other notable sales included 'A Kiss', the second Tingatinga painting created by the late Tanzanian artist which went for Sh1.05 million, Peterson Kamwathi's 'Monument II' for Sh798,320 and Cyrus Kabiru's 'Blue Mamba' bicycle sculpture that sold for Sh821,800 which will be donated to Kabiru's Art Orodha Art Centre.

Cyrus was one of three donations. The other one was by the Ethiopian artist, Tamrat Gezahegne whose painting, 'Adorned Body' sold for Sh493,080, which will be donated to the African Arts Trust. The other donated item that got auctioned off last night was a rare bottle of 26-year-old Glenfiddich whiskey which went for Sh50,000.

Physical and online This year's art auction was a hybrid affair, meaning bidders were not only able to vie for their favourite art pieces in person with a paddle in hand. They could also call in by phone, a method that has mostly been used by international bidders. They could even bid online through the popular art auction platform, Invaluable.

"That's what we did last October," Danda Jaroljmek told BDLife a



An art exhibition held at Radisson Blu Arboretum Hotel in Nairobi earlier this week.

day before the auction. "It was the first time we put the auction online and it worked very well," added the founder-curator and executive director of both Circle Art Gallery and the Art Auction East Africa. The October auction was an experiment of sorts, given the Covid-19 lockdown was still on.

But it proved that art lovers and prospective buyers did not need to be on hand to physically witness Kenyan auctioneer Chilson Wamoja handle all the lots of East African art (60 last Tuesday night) to take part in it from the comfort of their living room or bedroom. Like so many businesses that had found Covid-19 to be both a curse and a blessing in disguise, Ms Jaroljmek, and her team had to learn lessons and new ways of working during the pandemic.

"We were heading in that direction [of online auctioning] anyway, having seen how all the major auction houses, from Bonham's to Sotheby's, have been holding their auctions online for quite some time," she said. Nonetheless, October was a revela-

tion that opened their eyes to the immense possibilities of conducting this hybrid art auction.

"We now have more bids coming in from all over the world," said Chilson who has been conducting the auction for the last seven years. "We've always had international bidders, but the numbers have increased in the last couple of years," he added.

Putting the art auction on the Invaluable online platform is one factor that has widened global awareness of East African art. It also allowed anyone who had registered with Invaluable to watch the entire auction and place their bids online in real time.

Don Handa, Circle Art's gallery manager was watching the bids on the website as they came up at Invaluable, explained Ms Jaroljmek, and passed them onto Chilson who watched the phone lines as well as the bidders in the room at Radisson Blu. The success of this year's art auction which surpassed last year's Sh22.2 million pre-Covid earnings, shows the growing interest in East African art.

There has been a steady increase of interest in East African art since the auction took off back in 2013. That interest has increasingly come from all over the world. "We've heard from Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana, Nigeria, and South Africa as well as from Switzerland, France, Germany, UK, US, and Australia, and also Qatar and Dubai," said Ms Jaroljmek.

When asked by BDLife what she thought had caused the exponential fascination in regional art and the auction, she said there were many factors. One was signing on with Invaluable since many serious art collectors and investors are aware of the website and follow it closely. "We also signed on with Artsy [another leading art news online platform]," she added. Another factor was social media, and the other big issue was the global trend of increasing interest in African art.

"There is little doubt that [art lovers] are following global trends in contemporary art," she said. "Previously, it was Chinese art, then came Indian art, and now, there's new inter-

est in African art. It's had an impact on our work," she added. According to the local art collector and investor Tony Wainaina, Africa has gained greater attention in the global art world because it is accurately seen as "the last frontier" for exploring contemporary art.

Noting that not a week goes by without calls coming in from new voices expressing interest in East African art, Ms Jaroljmek added that art fairs have also had an impact in raising awareness that East African art exists. In the last few years, she [often with her assistant Don Handa] has attended a score of art fairs, raising the profile of contemporary East African art in the process.

"Right now, we have a presence in art fairs in Paris and Dubai. And we just finished another one in London where works by Dickson Otieno, Shabu Mwangi, Tahir Karmali, Jackie Karuti as well as several Ugandans and Sudanese all did well," she said, noting that all of Otieno's wire-weave sculptures were sold.

Secondary market

Ms Jaroljmek said nearly two-thirds of the works auctioned on Tuesday night came as part of the secondary market. Circle Art's catalogues had detailed information about the art and the artist. It also mentioned who has the provenance or prior ownership of work and whether it had come from a private collection or directly from the artist him or herself. "Technically, most art auctions only include works from the secondary market," said Ms Jaroljmek, who from the beginning has included original works coming from the artists themselves.

Among them were several well-known local artists, including Sane Wadu, Cyrus Kabiru, Edward Njenga, Kaafiri Kariuki, Tabitha wa Thuku. Ehoodi Kichapi's 'Man against City' came to Circle as part of the secondary. But either way, his painting surpassed all expectations in sales and elicited one of several dramatic bidding battles between those physically at the auction and those who were either online or on the phone.



Carved wooden doors of the Ise in Nigeria on display at The British Museum.

RESTITUTION

Looted art: A recap of the colonial ghosts haunting Europe's museums

LONDON

With France on Tuesday returning royal treasures taken from Benin in the 19th century, here is a recap of other disputes over artefacts looted from Europe's former African colonies.

France

In 2016 Benin demanded the repatriation of a part of its treasures from the Kingdom of Dahomey. They include totems, sceptres and sacred doors from the Royal Palaces of Abome which are held at the Quai Branly museum in Paris. French troops took them between 1892 and 1894. On Tuesday Macron hosted his Beninese counterpart Patrice Talon for a ceremony to return 26 of the treasures.

A 2018 report by French experts recommended a change in the law and the return of artefacts held in museums to Africa. Ivory Coast has also requested the return of more than 100 works of art, and Senegal has asked France to return all works taken from there.

Britain

In the first such move by a UK institution, a Cambridge University college last month handed back a bronze cockerel to Nigerian officials that had been looted in the 19th century. It was taken along with hundreds of sacred sculptures and carvings known as the Benin Bronzes during a British military expedition in the former kingdom of Benin in southern Nigeria in 1897.

A day after the Cambridge move, the University of Aberdeen in Scotland handed another Benin bronze to the same Nigerian delegation. Thousands of Benin Bronzes are held in museums across the United States and Europe.

The British Museum, which has the largest collection, refuses to return any of its bronzes. It has long argued that its vast trove of foreign artefacts, such as the Elgin Marbles taken from the Parthenon in Athens, are best housed there.

Germany

Nigeria has also pushed for around 1,000 Benin Bronzes to be returned from Germany. In September Berlin agreed to give back hundreds, starting next July.

Belgium

Belgium, which amassed thousands of objects during its brutal colonisation of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, is looking at ways of returning artefacts. The process could take years.

ENTERPRISING

How former high school models founded fashion house

KIGALI

FASHION DUO Gael Nziramuhindo and Olivier Gahamanyi started their journey in design as models in high school and, today, they co-own a fashion brand in Kigali called The Mysteries. The fashion company seeks to work on innovative projects to help Rwanda's fashion design industry thrive.

"We started doing fashion in high school, but we were just models at the time," Gael said in an interview with The New Times, adding that by the time they graduated from high school, they had bigger dreams in terms of fashion, which led to the creation of The Mysteries. Like all starters, it wasn't easy to find their footing in society, but with their passion, they found more courage to get to what they wanted.

"Sometimes we would have ideas but lack a way of putting it out, creating something from our minds, but with



Rwandese fashion duo Gael Nziramuhindo and Olivier Gahamanyi.

time we found ways," said Olivier, one of the designers. With the fashion industry in Rwanda levelling up, The Mysteries aim to bring designs that will

make Rwandans change their way of thinking regarding fashion.

"Our designs are a mix of unique classics and culture style. With this, we will build a brand

that will change the way Rwandans perceive fashion in Rwanda," said Gael. Having started in 2019, the founders believe that it was good timing since they have

been recognized and gained many clients since they started.

"Our biggest achievement so far is more and more people getting to know us plus we've

been getting a lot of clients since we started," said Gael, "we are now dressing Mcs, artistes, and journalists, it is a big step," he added.

Even if they got off to a good start, they had to face numerous challenges, but they managed to overcome them all. The designers say they get inspiration from each other while designing. Also, looking back at the African culture history, they get ideas of different designs to do.

"We live with inspiration everywhere, plus we look up to brilliant people with brilliant minds in the fashion industry," said Olivier. The young fashion designers who are doing what they love say it's a dream come true and advise everyone else who loves it to go for it because the sky is never the limit. "This is a good and growing business, and doing business in Rwanda is the best way to achieve your goals," the fashion designers explained.

WORLD

New COP26 draft deal keeps up pressure for climate action

GLASGOW

A new draft agreement drawn up for the UN climate summit in Glasgow yesterday presses countries to be more ambitious in their plans to tackle global warming but also walks a fine line between the demands of developing and richer nations.

While retaining its core demand for countries to set tougher climate pledges next year, the draft uses weaker language than a previous draft text in asking nations to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

The new draft, which attempts to ensure the world will tackle global warming fast enough to stop it becoming catastrophic, is a balancing act - trying to take in the demands of both climate-vulnerable nations and large economies reliant

on fossil fuels.

The retention of a pledge for countries to upgrade their climate targets in 2022 will be welcomed by poorer nations that want more action to tackle worsening floods and wildfires and rising sea levels.

But it was couched in weaker language than a previous text and failed to offer the rolling annual review that some developing countries have pushed for.

It also says the upgrade of pledges should take into account "different national circumstances", referring to the differences between rich and poor countries.

That could placate some developing countries, which say it is unfair to expect them to quit fossil fuels and cut emissions at the same speed as the rich countries whose emissions are largely respon-



The hints of sunlight begin to disappear behind a pair of pumpjacks, Sept 15, 2021 in the oilfields of Penwell, Texas. File photo

sible for causing climate change.

On fossil fuels, the draft included two words that dilute an earlier version, which had boldly stated that the world should pledge to phase out subsidies for fossil fuels in general.

But it would still be a first for any UN climate summit to have fossil fuels explicitly mentioned in a final agreement.

Now the text includes the word "unabated" before coal, and the phase-out of "inefficient" subsidies for fossil fuels. Unabated coal generation is where there is no technology in place to remove resulting carbon dioxide emissions.

Arab nations, many of which are big producers of oil and gas, had objected to the wording in the earlier draft.

The paragraph now reads: "(COP26) calls upon Parties to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies and the adoption of policies for the transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up clean power generation and accelerating the phase-out of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels."

NZ's PM Ardern hails Merkel as 'true leader', 'very good person'

NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern yesterday paid tribute to outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel, commending her 16-year leadership of Europe's largest economy and describing her as a "very good person".

The leaders, held in high regard on the international stage as role models for women in policymaking, met virtually at a CEO forum on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit where Ardern fondly recalled an early meeting between the pair in Germany.

"It's not often when you come from a small island nation that you'll find someone of such height in the world of international diplomacy who felt so genuinely interested in the views of a humble New Zealander," Ardern reminisced.

"Your constant engagement with the world, thoughtfulness and willingness to hear the perspective of others, in my



New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaking during her opening address at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Wellington recently

mind, is a reflection of a true leader but also just a very good person."

Merkel, 67, has cemented herself as an icon who has steered Germany since 2005 through milestone events such as the global financial crisis, the eurozone

downturn and the COVID-19 pandemic, and is hailed as a champion of European integration.

Ardern, 41, became New Zealand's youngest prime minister when she took office in 2017 and has garnered global

praise in recent years for managing the pandemic, cracking down on extremism and gun laws following mass shootings and assembling one of the world's most diverse cabinets.

Earlier this month, French President Emmanuel Macron gave Merkel a stylish send-off and praised her for keeping Europe united throughout her tenure.

The leaders agreed in the forum the challenges of the pandemic and of climate change were similar, since they were both exponential processes, the severity of which was hard to recognise at the start of a growth curve.

Agencies

Chinese, Rwandan presidents exchange congratulations on 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, yesterday exchanged congratulations on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

In his congratulatory message, Xi pointed out that since the founding of their diplomatic ties half a century ago, China and Rwanda have witnessed sound and steady development of their relations, and their traditional friendship has grown even stronger as time goes by.

In recent years, bilateral friendly cooperation has maintained a good momentum for development, and exchanges in various fields have been deepened, which has improved the well-being of the people of both countries, Xi said.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China and Rwanda have helped each



Visitors watch a performance at the exhibition area of Rwanda during the Second China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, Sept. 28, 2021. (Xinhua)

other and worked together to fight the virus, demonstrating the brotherhood of sharing weal and woe, said the Chinese president.

Stressing that he attaches

great importance to the development of China-Rwanda relations, Xi said he is willing to work with Kagame to take the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties and the new session

of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as an opportunity to deepen political mutual trust, strengthen cooperation in Belt and Road construction and other fields,

and push for continuous development of bilateral friendly cooperative relations, so as to create benefits for both countries and their people.

In his message, Kagame said that since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the friendship between the two sides has been continuously strengthened, and their friendly cooperative relations continuously deepened.

That, he added, is deeply rooted in the common principles upheld by both sides of mutual respect, solidarity and mutual help, as well as mutual benefit. China has provided support to Rwanda through various platforms, including the FOCAC and the Belt and Road Initiative, and played an important and positive role in Rwanda's national transformation, Kagame said.

Rwanda will continue to firmly expand and strengthen bilateral friendly cooperation in various fields, he added.

Xinhua

UK's queen to make first public appearance since hospital stay

LONDON

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth will attend a Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, Buckingham Palace said, in her first public engagement in person since she spent a night in hospital last month and was subsequently advised to rest.



Last month the 95-year-old queen spent a night in hospital for the first time in years for what the palace called "preliminary investigations" into an unspecified ailment.

She has been subsequently advised to rest, and has been undertaking light duties over the last few weeks including hosting some virtual audiences.

"The Queen will attend the annual Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph on Sunday 14th November," Buckingham Palace said in a statement on Thursday about the ceremony to remember those killed and wounded in conflict.

"Mindful of her doctors' recent advice, The Queen has decided not to attend the General Synod Service and Opening Session on Tuesday 16th November."

Elizabeth, who is queen of 15 other realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand and next year celebrates 70 years on the throne, is known for her robust health.

The queen, who has regularly carried out official public duties despite her age, has pulled out of events including the COP26 climate summit and a visit to Northern Ireland as a precaution following the ailment, which is not COVID-19 related.

However, the palace said that the world's oldest and longest-reigning monarch had a "firm intention" to be present at the main national service of remembrance for veterans.

Heir to the throne Prince Charles said of the queen that "she's all right" when asked how his mother was by a well-wisher during a visit in south London on Thursday.

Russia never had plans of invading Ukraine - diplomat

UNITED NATIONS

RUSSIAN First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky on Thursday dismissed a Bloomberg report, claiming that Russia could allegedly be planning an invasion into Ukraine.

"No, we never planned and we never will," he said, answering to a question from a reporter.

The diplomat added that this stance will remain in place "unless we are provoked by Ukraine or by somebody else, and there will be the issue of defending our national sovereignty, because there are a lot of threats coming from Ukraine."

Russia's precautions taken with regard to Ukraine are due to regular threats voiced by the Kiev government, Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky has told reporters.

"We have the right to concentrate our troops wherever we want. This is not the Ukrainian territory, this is the Russian territory."

If you read the threats, concrete threats that are being pronounced by Ukraine against Russia, against Russian territorial integrity, then you will understand that certain precaution is a logical step in such a situation," he said, commenting on media allegations that Russia was concentrating its troops on the border with Ukraine.

On November 3, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova took a swipe at articles published in US media outlets that claim Russia was allegedly amassing troops at the Ukrainian border, branding them to be part of a fake news campaign.

She noted that at least three US media outlets - Politico, the Washington Post and Foreign Policy published "as if on cue in a real panic attack" materials that Russia was allegedly moving its troops to the Ukrainian border.

"This wasn't one fake news item, this is an entire fresh fake news campaign in American media outlets," the diplomat said at a briefing on Wednesday.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday, citing several sources, that US administration officials had briefed their European colleagues about their concerns of Russia's possible preparations for an invasion of Ukraine.

Those assumptions were reportedly based on some secret information, available only to the US. At the same time, Washington did not provide its European partners with this information.

Agencies

TAIKONAUTS Zhai Zhigang and Wang Yaping have completed their extravehicular activities (EVAs) and returned to the space station core module Tianhe, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said in the early hours of Monday.

It was the third extravehicular mission conducted during the construction of China's space station and also the first one in Chinese space history involving a female taikonaut.

The pair returned to the core module at 1:16 a.m. (Beijing Time) after 6.5 hours of extravehicular activities.

At 6:51 p.m., Nov. 7, Zhai opened the hatch of Tianhe's node cabin,

Shenzhou-13 crew completes first extravehicular activities

and the pair, donning China-developed new-generation Feitian spacesuits, were out of the cabin by 8:28 p.m. It was the second time for Zhai to perform EVAs, following his first 13 years ago. Meanwhile, Wang became the first Chinese female astronaut to walk in space, making history for female taikonauts. The third member of the crew Ye Guangfu assisted the EVAs from inside the station.

They performed a series of extravehicular tasks, including installing the dual-arm connector and the suspension device. These

tasks have further verified the performance of China's home-developed spacesuit, the ability of the taikonauts to work with the robotic arm, as well as the reliability and safety of the supporting equipment.

Robotic arm specialist Tang Zixin from China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) said the equipment was installed this time for future connection of a big and a small mechanical arms. The two, when combined, can stretch 15 meters to gain wider operation range.

Zhu Guangchen, deputy chief

designer of the space station system at the CASC, introduced that the EVAs this time also included attitude control, and the taikonauts' operation was precise.

During the EVAs, Wang recorded the operation of Zhai with a camera on her helmet.

Huang Weifen, chief designer of China's manned space program astronaut system, said the EVAs were performed very well, and China has gained further experience in such operations, laying a solid foundation for future missions.

The crewmembers of Shen-

zhou-13 spaceship have been working and living in space for over 20 days since they reached the space station on Oct. 16.

They carried out a series of routine work, including the transfer of cargos from the cargo craft, management of the space station, unsealing and testing new extravehicular suits, in-space health check-ups, physical exercise, and in-space experiments. Besides, they also conducted training in emergency evacuation, robotic arm control and medical aid.

People's Daily

Huang Weifen, chief designer of China's manned space program astronaut system, said the EVAs were performed very well, and China has gained further experience in such operations, laying a solid foundation for future missions

NATO may push Ukraine to stage military provocation in Donbass – Russian senator

MOSCOW

THE presence of US warships in the Black Sea may push Ukraine to try to stage a military provocation in Donbass with a view to secure the West's assistance, Russian Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) Deputy Speaker Konstantin Kosachev wrote on Facebook.

"Given a sharp reduction in communication channels between Russia and NATO, instigators such as Ukraine and Georgia can really flare up tensions and give rise to dangerous incidents," he pointed out. The senator believes that the US military presence is sending dangerous signals "to some regional powers whose sanity is subject to reasonable doubt."

According to Kosachev, Kiev's ongoing complaints about the alleged increased number of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border point to barely concealed plans to carry out a blitzkrieg in Donbass.

"Clearly, the Ukrainian authorities have been nurturing these plans for quite a while because saber-rattling could actually save them from domestic issues. However, the Russia factor keeps cooling Ukraine's hotheads as they realize - though they don't say it out loud - that they haven't yet faced any foreign aggression.

However, the US Navy's presence can cause a Saakashvili syndrome, triggering an attempt to stage a military provocation similar to Georgia's attack on Tskhinval in 2008, based on the well-known mantra that "The West will help us," the senior Russian senator emphasized.

Afghanistan's example makes it clear what kind of help the West offers, Kosachev went on to say.

"Still, many in Ukraine do believe that the Americans will grant them the impunity they long for as a reward for their attempt to use force to resolve the country's domestic conflict," Kosachev added.

He noted that unexpected multinational drills involving ships capable of coordinating activities on land, at sea and in the air "don't help to calm down the already explosive situation in the region."

"The provocative behavior of the United States and its allies within and outside NATO has long become Washington's signature style not only along our southern borders," the senator stressed.

The Russian Defense Ministry earlier issued a statement saying that US warships had arrived in the Black Sea region to take part in multinational drills led by the United States European Command.

According to Moscow, the guided-missile destroyer USS Porter, the USNS John Lenthall tanker and the USS Mount Whitney command ship are currently stationed in the region.

The Russian Defense Ministry emphasized that the United States' unexpected activities, in particular aimed at using Ukraine's territory for military purposes, constituted a regional instability factor. The Defense Ministry noted that Russia's Armed Forces were unremittingly monitoring the situation and keeping a close eye on the developments. **Agencies**

COVID-19 epicenter again: Europe faces fresh reckoning

LONDON

EUROPE has become the epicenter of the pandemic again, prompting some governments to consider re-imposing unpopular lockdowns in the run-up to Christmas and stirring debate over whether vaccines alone are enough to tame COVID-19.

Europe accounts for more than half of the average 7-day infections globally and about half of latest deaths, according to a Reuters tally, the highest levels since April last year when the virus first swept into Italy.

The fresh tumult comes as successful inoculation campaigns have plateaued ahead of the winter months and flu season.

About 65 percent of the population of the European Economic Area - which includes the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - have received two doses, according to EU data, but the pace has slowed in recent months.

Take-up in southern European countries is around 80 percent, but hesitancy has hampered rollout in central and eastern Europe and Russia, leading to outbreaks that could overwhelm healthcare.

Germany, France and the Netherlands are also experiencing a surge in infections, showing the challenge even for governments with high acceptance rates and dashing hopes vaccines would mean a return to close to normal.

To be sure, hospitalizations and deaths are much lower than a year ago and big variations by country in use of vaccines and boosters as well as measures like social distancing make it hard to draw conclusions for the whole region.

The World Health Organization's latest report for the week to Nov 7 showed that Europe, including Russia, was the only region to record a rise in cases, up 7 percent, while other areas reported declines or stable trends. Most EU countries are deploying extra shots to the elderly and those with weakened immune systems, but expanding it to more of the population and getting shots in teenagers' arms should be a priority to avoid steps like lockdown, scientists said.

The rate of hospitalization for unvaccinated over-60s is also considerably higher than those inoculated.

Still struggling to ramp up shots, central and eastern European governments have had to take drastic action.

Facing its most severe outbreak yet, Latvia, one of the least vaccinated countries in the EU, imposed a four-week lockdown in mid-October. **Agencies**



Germany, France and the Netherlands are also experiencing a surge in infections, showing the challenge even for governments

Washington's ulterior Taiwan plays a dangerous miscalculation

BEIJING

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has recently reiterated that Washington's role is to make sure Taiwan has the means for self-defense, claiming, "There are many countries ... that would see any unilateral action to use force to disrupt the status quo as a significant threat to peace and security."

These highly provocative remarks were among a series of little plays played by a bunch of Washington politicians on the Taiwan question that have encroached on the one-China principle, and enraged the Chinese people.

What Washington has done simply goes back on its promises. China and the United States have already made the one-China principle concerning the Taiwan question crystal clear in the three China-U.S. joint communiques.

In other words, recognizing the fact that Taiwan is an integral part of China is the political foundation of China-U.S. relations. That is also a policy upheld by successive U.S. administrations since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.

During a recent telephone conversation between the heads of state of the two countries, U.S. President Joe Biden said that the United States has never intended to change the one-China policy.

And yet glaring inconsistencies have been spotted between Washington's words and deeds, which not only violates its political commitment made when establishing diplomatic relations with China, but also runs counter to Biden's statement.

The fact that 180 countries worldwide recognize and support the one-China principle testifies to the rock-solid support of the international community for the one-China principle.

The national reunification of China is a historical inevitability. The one-China principle concerns China's core interests and brooks no trampling. The U.S. attempt to play tricks with the Taiwan question, and make some kind of "breakthrough" in this regard is a dangerous miscalculation.

It is an indisputable fact that the Taiwan authorities and some "Taiwan independence" separatist forces are imperilling peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. They try to deny and even challenge the one-China principle and conduct more "Taiwan independence" activities. That is the very source of the tensions in the region.

While the Chinese government and the international community firmly reject those separatist moves, the U.S. side is working hand in glove with the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces with



Photo taken on July 21, 2019 from Xiangshan Mountain shows the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan. (Xinhua/Zhu Xiang)

little regard for regional stability.

There is no future for Taiwan other than reunification with the mainland. The resolve and determination of the more than 1.4 billion Chinese people to realize national reunification is unshakable.

The U.S. attempt to play the "Taiwan card" for the purpose of containing China goes against both the will of the Chinese people and the

historical trend, and is thus doomed to failure. Colluding with the "Taiwan independence" separatist forces is like playing with fire, a dangerous game that will eventually burn those who dare to try.

Washington's dangerous political game on the one-China principle poses a huge risk to China-U.S. relations, and will in turn drag America in the mire. The U.S. side needs to

stay committed to the one-China principle and the three China-U.S. joint communiques, stop making wrong signals, and bear in mind the big picture of China-U.S. relations and maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait with practical actions. **Xinhua**

Toxic smog over Indian capital as temperatures, wind speed drop



Safdarjung Tomb is seen amid heavy smog conditions in New Delhi on Thursday. (AFP)

NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI'S air quality plummeted again yesterday, and a thick haze of toxic smog hung over India's capital due to a drop in temperature and wind speed, and a spike in the burning of crop waste in surrounding farmlands.

The haze reduced visibility and the Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 461 on a scale of 500, according to the federal pollution control board. This level of pollution means the air will affect healthy people and seriously impact those with existing diseases.

The concentration of poisonous PM2.5 particulate matter averaged 329 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The government prescribes a "safe" PM2.5 reading at 60 micrograms per cubic meter of air over a period of 24 hours.

PM2.5 is small enough to travel deep into the lungs, enter the bloodstream and can cause severe respiratory dis-

eases, including lung cancer.

"This is becoming a nightmare," said Gufran Beig, founder project director of air quality and weather monitor SAFAR that falls under the Ministry of Earth Science.

"Fire counts are in the range of 3,000-5,000 and not declining," Beig told Reuters, referring to crop stubble fires in the regions around the capital.

He said current severe conditions may ease by Saturday, but air quality would remain "very poor" until Nov 17.

Air quality might worsen if farm fires continued, as the SAFAR model forecasts calm wind conditions, Beig said.

India's efforts to reduce crop-waste burning, a major source of air pollution during winter, by spending billions of rupees over the past four years have done little

to avert a sharp deterioration in air quality.

Delhi, often ranked the world's most polluted capital, faces extremely bad air in winter due to the crop stubble burning, emissions from transport, coal-fired plants outside the city and other industrial emissions, open garbage burning and dust.

Residents of Delhi endured this year's worst air on Nov 5, a day after revellers burnt firecrackers during the Diwali festival, as AQI levels surged to 463 on a scale of 500.

Vehicular emissions contributed more than half of Delhi's particulate pollution between October 24-November 8, the Centre for Science and Environment think tank said in its report published on Thursday. **Agencies**

US inflation at highest in three decades

US consumers are facing the highest inflation since 1990, with the key rate climbing to 6.2 percent in October, driven by surges in food, gas and housing costs, government data showed on Wednesday. Supply shortages and strong demand also played a role.

The year-over-year increase in the consumer price index exceeded the 5.4 percent rise in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. From September to October, prices jumped 0.9 percent, the highest month-over-month increase since June.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, the so-called core prices rose 0.6 percent from September to October in the United States. Core prices are now up 4.6 percent compared with a year ago.

In response to the inflationary pressures, US President Joe Biden said in a statement that "reversing this trend is a top priority for me".

The CPI report showed higher prices in October from the previous month for basic necessities. The cost of food rose 5.3 percent; gasoline, 6.1 percent; and electricity, 1.8 percent. The price for fuel surged 12.3 percent. More moderate were the increases for restaurant meals, rental apartments and medical services, up 0.5 percent.

Though the US economy is experiencing a strong rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and spending across the economy has returned to its pre-coronavirus trend, increasing inflation has taken the spotlight.

It is eating away at strong gains in wages and salaries and putting pressure on the Biden administration and the Federal Reserve to act.

Robert Dekle, a professor of economics at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, told China Daily that the surge in the CPI wasn't surprising "given the massive fiscal spending and monetary expansion since 2020".

John Graham, a professor emeritus at the Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine, takes a similar view. "Given that US government spending is going up, the inflation is really inevitable," he said. Dekle said he doubted that inflation will dip below 3.5 percent before the end of 2022, and that financial markets expect interest rates will rise twice toward the end of 2022.

"There is still a lot of uncertainty in the economy owing to COVID. Next year is an election year, and the Fed wouldn't want the economy to slow before November of 2022, which would likely happen if interest rates were raised in the early part of next year," he said.

Gary Hufbauer, a senior fellow and trade expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, told China Daily: "The big story is the drop in labor force participation, about 3 percent or 4 million workers, plus the incredible increase in household income delivered by about \$4 trillion of spending in late 2020 and the first half of 2021."

More spending is on the way, on top of extreme monetary policy easing, like quantitative easing (QE) and negative real interest rates, so "it would be surprising if we did not have serious inflation", Hufbauer said. **Agencies**



Members of Indian dance troupe, Baba Gorekhnath Dance Association, stage a classical Indian dance performance, known as 'Odissi', at Diwali festival celebrations which took place at India's High Commission to Tanzania's venue in Dar es Salaam October 30, 2021. PHOTO: COURTESY OF INDIA HIGH COMMISSION TO TANZANIA

Azam FC hosts JKU in friendly clash today

By correspondents Ismail Tano & Nassir Nchimbi

NBC Premier League squad Azam FC hosts JKU SC of Zanzibar in a friendly match at the former's backyard, Azam Complex, Dar es Salaam today.

The friendly serve as preparations for the continuation of the league which is now on a break to pave way for the FIFA calendar for international fixtures.

Some Azam FC players, who were not called up to their respective countries national teams, will play the friendly match at the Azam Complex, to allow head coach George Lwandamina and his technical bench to identify shortcomings before returning to the Premier League next weekend.

Azam FC Head of Information and Communication Department Zakaria Thabit clarified that the biggest plan for the 2021/22 season is to do well in their league assignments and get three points.

"It is a technical match for looking at our deficit in previous games, as we have not had a game since we played our match against Geita Gold FC that took place at the same venue November 2, which ended with our squad posting 1-0 victory," Thabit noted.

"The team had a break and resumed training early this week, therefore, coach Lwandamina will get a chance to see his squad if they are back to normal or if there is a technical improvement before going to the match against Kinondoni Municipal Council FC on November 21 and the upcoming games."

The ice cream makers have started the season at a very slow pace as they were knocked out of this season's CAF Confederation Cup, losing to Egypt's Pyramids FC in the showpiece's second preliminary round.

Much as the Dar es Salaam squad roped in several popular players and put scintillating showing in several matches, the results have not been good for the club.

The squad will play friendly fixtures that are less stressful with the prospect of doing well in a league full of competition.

Azam FC has already played five Premier League games this season and collected seven points which have seen the outfit positioned eighth in the league standings.

The Dar es Salaam outfit's attacking line-up netted four goals so far in the fixtures

Tanzania to host World Oscars Awards in 2023

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE World Oscar's Signature Awards are expected to take place in Tanzania in 2023 after the government sealed an agreement with the founder of the awards, Fasi Khurram.

The awards, which bring together artists from around the world, will this year take place in Dubai on November 20, featuring a total of 150 artists.

This week the government hosted a visit by Khurram and other delegates in the presence of Indian actor, Sanjay Dutt, seeking to discuss how to boost the film industry in the country.

According to a statement from the Tanzania Film Board, upon completion of talks involving the Minister of Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, the Executive Secretary of the Board, Kiagho Kilonzo, and various artists, Khurram announced his commitment to hosting the awards in the country.

"Khurram explained to the stakeholders the importance of the awards and announced that they will be held here in the country in 2023," Kilonzo noted.

Bashungwa said they have discussed with Sanjay Dutt to bring in experts from Bollywood, who will work with the Film Board and the Bagamoyo Institute of Arts and Culture (TaSUBa) to teach local artists the best ways for producing films.

"We have discussed the film production, there is an opportunity for filmmakers from India and Tanzania to work together to produce a joint film using the themes of both countries to promote tourist attractions," he said.

Bashungwa said the arrival of the legendary artist will help advance President Samia Suluhu Hassan's journey to promote Tanzania through the Royal Tour.

He said Tanzania is implementing a strategy for identifying and advertising good filming sites in the country as some have attracted various foreign companies to produce their films.

Amazing Race, Criminal Mind, Serengeti, Forces of Nature, the Mating Game, On the Steps of Kuwait Sailor, Tanzania Beyond the Wild, Extreme Treks, Pechino Express, Big Cat, Ben Fogless, the Great African Migration, and Night of the Lotus are the films.

Taifa Stars lost to better opponents, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' coach, Kim Poulsen, has conceded the team's 3-0 loss to the Democratic Republic of Congo is a sure sign that the latter is a better side.

The Democratic Republic of Congo came out victorious in the African Qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup's Group J tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam on November 11.

Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, was one of the fixture's attendees.

Immediately after the clash, Poulsen said that their rivals are one of the toughest and most experienced teams in the qualifying tournament.

The Danish tactician revealed: "DR Congo is a tough and experienced team and we lost today's game due to individual player mistakes."

The defeat dashed away Taifa Stars' hopes of sailing through to the qualifiers' third round.

The tactician further revealed a team can be punished if it makes mistake in front of a team that is placed high in the FIFA ranking.

"You could pay for your errors once you play a team that is placed high in FIFA ranking, every offense will be punished."

The tactician apologized to the Tanzanians for losing the game, as they had high hopes.

He did not mince words, revealing his team was beaten by better opponents.

"I apologize for the results

because we had high expectations, we made mistakes after six minutes and were punished."

Taifa Stars headed to Madagascar on Friday for the group's remaining fixture against Madagascar, which will take place in Antananarivo tomorrow.

DR Congo's first goal in the clash against Taifa Stars was scored by forward, Gael Kakuta, in the sixth minute.

Iduma Fasika notched the second in the 66th minute and striker Ben Malango netted the third in the 85th minute.



Members of a local traditional dance troupe, Katwezya Nsimba Group, stage performance at the launch of the Twins Day celebrations at TCCL venue in Dar es Salaam two days back. Edén Twins Foundation hosted the celebrations. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Swimming squad solicits financial backing for Zone 3 Championships

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Swimming Association (TSA) needs 136,090,000/- to enable the national swimming team to compete in this year's African Swimming Confederation (CANA) Zone 3 Championships scheduled to be held in Kampala, Uganda early next month.

The amount would be used to facilitate the expenses of 26 swimmers and five officials who will lead the team to Kampala ahead of the competition.

TSA secretary-general, Inviolata Itatiro, said that they are expecting to have 31 sportsmen in Kampala, but their existence will depend on the funds to fa-

cilitate the national team.

Inviolata said apart from 26 swimmers, they will have two caches, a manager, and two national swimming governing body officials.

She said that each person costs US dollars 1,876 (4,390,000/-) to be used for traveling and meet other expenses during their stay in Kampala, Uganda.

According to Inviolata, they need support from sports stakeholders in the country to make the swimmers achieve their dreams of competing in the famous championships.

"We need support from stakeholders because our body has no funds to facilitate swim-

mers ahead of the event as they are representing the country."

The national swimming squad is made up of Part Motichand, Norbet Godbles, Austin Okore, and Christian Fernandes who will compete in the male swimmers' U-12 event.

Female swimmers who will compete in the U-12 category are Filbertha Demello, Bridget Heep, Crissa Dilip, Lina Goyayi, and Maryam Ipilinga.

Swimmers, who will compete in 13-14 years' event, are Romeo Mihaly, Isaac Mukani, and Nabeel Gahhu that will compete in the men's event, while the age group's female swimmers are Amylia Chali, Natalia Ladha, and Sophia Latiff.

Male swimmers who will compete in events involving 15 to 16 years old are Delbert Ipilinga, Michael Joseph, Nathan Kagoro, Ethan Almana, and William Chengula while the age group's female swimmers are Ria Save and Eunike Mathayo.

Swimmers who will compete in 17 years and over are Mohameduwais Abdullatif, Aaron Akwenda, Delvin Barick, and Collins Saliboko.

She said the swimmers have been selected due to various criteria including participation in the Tanzania National Club Championships (TNCC), with all top four finishers in the tournament's events winning selection for the national team.



Dar es Salaam's Kivukoni Ward Councillor, Sharik Choughule (L), presents a scarf to world-reknown Indian actor Sanjay Dutt, after Dutt jetted into the city two days back. The actor is touring the country to promote domestic film industry and tourist attractions. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Kane feeling the strain after England's Euro heartache

LONDON

HARRY Kane admits he has struggled to cope with the mental and physical strain of returning to Tottenham duty in the aftermath of England's agonising Euro 2020 final defeat.

England were denied their first major trophy in 55 years when they lost to Italy on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the final of the competition at Wembley in July.

It was a heartbreaking loss for Kane, who had dreamed of becoming the first England captain to lift silverware since Bobby Moore at the 1966 World Cup.

Looking fatigued and lacking sharpness, Kane has scored just once in 10 Premier League appearances for Tottenham this season, in total managing only seven club goals in 16 games in all competitions.

The 28-year-old has fared better for England, netting three times in four matches, but he concedes the frustration of the Euro final has been hard to cast aside.

"It's always hard when you finish a major tournament. The last two tournaments we've got to a semi-final then a final, and it takes a lot out of you," Kane said on Thursday.

"Losing a European final for your country at Wembley will probably stay with me the rest of my career. You never really get over those things, unless we go and win a major tournament.

"It's not just physically, it's mentally as well. Then before you know it you're back playing in the Premier League so I guess you never really have a chance to take it all in and learn from what happened."

- City saga -

As well as contending with the fall-out from the Italy defeat, Kane also found himself embroiled in a transfer saga for the first time in his career.

The forward reportedly felt Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy broke a gentleman's agreement that he would be allowed to join Premier League champions Manchester City after the Euros.

With Levy refusing to accept City's reported £100 million (\$133 million) bid, Kane returned late to pre-season training after an extended holiday before finally issuing a statement confirming he would stay at Tottenham "this summer".

Kane, who has three years left on his contract, has cut a subdued figure for Tottenham in a season in which they have already sacked manager Nuno Espirito Santo and replaced him with Antonio Conte.

But he denies there is any lingering angst from his failed attempt to join City.

"There was a lot of speculation over the summer -- that's the first real time that's happened to me," Kane said.

"But that's part and parcel of being a big player, having to deal with those situations, and I think I dealt with it well. Now it's about focusing.

"I think from my point of view it's easy for people to look for an excuse when you are not on form or scoring as many as usual.

"There's still a long way to go at club level and we've got these two games to finish off what's been a great calendar year for England."

AFP

Premier League clubs unite to reject biennial World Cup plan

LONDON

PREMIER League clubs have united in opposition to FIFA's controversial proposal to hold the World Cup every two years.

FIFA's biennial World Cup scheme was mooted earlier this year by former Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, who now works as chief of global football development for the governing body.

The World Cup is currently played every four years, with the next tournament scheduled for Qatar in 2022.

Wenger recently said critics of his idea were making an "emotional" response.

FIFA also has plans for qualifying matches to be reduced and condensed into one or two international breaks per season, rather than the current five, from 2024.

But representatives of the 20 Premier League clubs unanimously rejected the proposals at a meeting in London on Thursday.

"The Premier League is committed to preventing any radical changes to the post-2024 FIFA international match calendar that would adversely affect player welfare and threaten the competitiveness, calendar, structures and traditions of domestic football," Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said.

"We are open to reforms and new ideas, but they must enhance the complementary balance between domestic and international football in order to improve the game at all levels.

"This process should also involve meaningful agreements with the leagues that provide the foundations for the game.

"We will continue to work with supporter groups, players, domestic and international stakeholders to find solutions that are in the best interests of football's long-term future."

AFP

Mane injured as Senegal draw, Mali qualify for final round

CAIRO

LIVERPOOL star Sadio Mane suffered an injury that forced him to be substituted for Senegal 27 minutes into a World Cup qualifier against Togo that finished 1-1 on Thursday.

The 29-year-old forward fell awkwardly after colliding with a defender as he sought to head the ball and had to be replaced after sustaining a suspected rib or hip injury.

Senegal, who had already won Group H and reached the final elimination stage in Africa, snatched a point in Lome via an added-time goal from Habib Diallo after a Pape Cisse own goal put Togo ahead just before half-time.

A Senegalese official told AFP that Mane would return on Friday to Premier League title contenders Liverpool, whose next fixture is at home to Arsenal on November 20.

The Mane injury overshadowed the other seven matchday five



Match-winner Teboho Mokoena (L) of South Africa heads the ball watched by Marvelous Nakamba (R) of Zimbabwe during a World Cup qualifier in Johannesburg on Thursday. (AFP)

qualifiers in which Mali became the third country to reach the third round after a 3-0 away win over 10-man Rwanda in Group E.

Rwanda had Jihad Bizimana red-carded after only eight minutes for a foul as the last defender and Mali took full advan-

tage to net twice within a minute.

Southampton winger Moussa Djenebo struck a superb opener with a low shot from outside the box on 19 minutes and Ibrahim Kone then notched his fifth goal of the qualifying campaign.

Kalifa Coulibaly com-

pleted the rout on 88 minutes and victory gave Mali an unassailable four-point advantage over Uganda, who were surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Kenya.

Kenya goalkeeper blunders - Captain Michael Olu-unga gave Kenya a 61st-

minute lead they retained until a blunder by goalkeeper Brian Bwire gifted Ugandan Fahad Bayo a late equaliser in Entebbe.

South Africa, the 2010 World Cup hosts, stretched their Group G lead to three points by edging Zimbabwe 1-0 in Johannesburg after rivals Ghana could only draw 1-1 with Ethiopia a few kilometres away in Soweto.

A Teboho Mokoena header off a pin-point Keagan Dolly cross on 26 minutes gave unimpressive South Africa victory over their northern neighbours.

Forced to host the qualifier in Soweto because they do not have an international-standard stadium, Ethiopia fell behind on 22 minutes when Andre Ayew scored direct from a free-kick.

But in a match where both captains scored, Getaneh Kebede levelled on 72 minutes with a close-range shot past goalkeeper Jojo Wollacott.

Despite the setback, three-time World Cup qualifiers Ghana will overtake South Africa if they win a top-of-the-table clash in Cape Coast on Sunday.

The Democratic Republic of Congo triumphed 3-0 away to Tanzania in Group J to surge back into contention for first place.

They trail Benin by two points, but will enjoy home advantage when the sides clash in the final round on Sunday with the Congolese needing maximum points to progress.

Mali, Group I winners Morocco and Senegal have secured places in the final round, which will consist of five two-leg ties next March with the winners qualifying for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Victory for a Mohamed Salah-captained Egypt in Angola on Friday will give them an uncatchable lead in Group F, which also includes Libya and Gabon.

AFP

Brazil qualify for Qatar 2022 World Cup with Colombia win

RIO DE JANEIRO

LUCAS Paqueta's instinctive strike gave Brazil a 1-0 World Cup qualifying win over Colombia on Thursday to book their place at Qatar 2022.

The five-time world champions join the hosts and Europeans Germany and Denmark as early qualifiers for next year's finals.

They have produced a near perfect qualifying campaign, winning 11 of 12 matches -- their only blemish a goalless draw in Colombia last month -- to qualify with six games to spare.

"This is the fruit of the work we've been building for some time," said the match-winner.

"Now I have to keep working hard to find my space" in the World Cup squad, he added.

Brazil were made to graze as Colombia had the better of the first half, but an attacking tactical switch from coach Tite at half-time paid dividends as the Selecao dominated after the break.

Colombia's defeat saw them drop out of the four automatic qualifying positions in the single South American group as Chile overtook them after a third successive win, 1-0 away to Paraguay.

Wilmar Barrios had the first chance of the match, lashing a half volley narrowly over the bar as Colombia made a bright start.

A typically muscular run into the box by Duvan Zapata saw him get off a shot that flashed past the post.

Colombia were proving tough opponents and creating the clearer chances.

William Tesillo should have done much better at the back post when picked out by Juan



Brazil's goalscorer Lucas Paqueta (center) celebrates with teammates Vinicius Junior (left) and Neymar (right) after scoring. (AFP)

Cuadrado's deep cross but headed into a crowd of players.

Brazil struggled to create any notable chances with Paqueta's shot from outside the box easily gathered by David Ospina and Neymar's free-kick blocked by the wall.

Colombia were always dangerous on the break and Luis Diaz whipped an effort from outside the box narrowly wide, but their failure to test Alisson Becker in the Brazil goal was indicative of a team that came into the match on the back of three successive goalless draws.

Brazil were unable to get behind Colombia's organized defense and a deflected cross from full-back Danilo that hit the side-netting was as close as they came until Marquinhos headed inches off target from a corner in first half stoppage time.

- Slick winner -

Tite was unimpressed with what he saw in the first half and hooked the goalkeeper then tipped a Neymar free-kick around the post.

Brazil were turning the screw and substitute Matheus Cunha should have done better with a header from eight yards that he sent over.

Brazil in 17 matches, testing Ospina with a low effort, before the goalkeeper then tipped a Neymar free-kick around the post.

Brazil were turning the screw and substitute Matheus Cunha should have done better with a header from eight yards that he sent over.

When the goal came on 72 minutes it was beautifully orchestrated as Marquinhos fired a pass from halfway into Neymar, whose first-time ball found Paqueta to hit an instant shot under pressure from two defenders that seemed to catch out Ospina.

Vinicius should have

sealed the win two minutes from time but stumbled as he rounded Ospina, who also saved from Antony, another substitute, in injury time.

A month ago, Chile's hopes of reaching Qatar appeared in tatters after a 2-0 defeat to Peru, but three straight wins have resurrected their chances.

An own goal from goalkeeper Antony Silva on 56 minutes gave them a 1-0 victory away to Paraguay, who they also beat last month to start their fine run.

It was a third straight defeat and fourth match in a row without a goal for Paraguay, who last month replaced coach Eduardo Berizzo with Guillermo Schelotto, and whose hopes are rapidly fading.

Peru boosted their qualification chances as goals from Gianluca Lapadula, Christian Cueva and Sergio Pina gave them a 3-0 win over Bolivia to move two points behind Chile.

Defender Piero Hin-capie scored the only goal of the game on 41 minutes to give Ecuador a 1-0 win over rock-bottom Venezuela and cement their grip on third place.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Mane injured as Senegal draw, Mali qualify for final round

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Taifa Stars' dream of qualifying for World Cup still far-fetched



Senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' defender, Bakari Mwamnyeto (R), seeks to dribble past Democratic Republic of Congo attacker, Gaël Kakuta, as the squads locked horns in African Qualifiers for 2022 World Cup's Group J match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars' dreams of playing in their first-ever FIFA World Cup finals went up in smoke after Benin emerged 2-0 winners over Madagascar on Thursday night.

This came after Taifa Stars' 3-0 crushing defeat at the hands of neighbours, DR Congo, in African Qualifiers for 2022 World Cup's match at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam earlier in the same day.

Goals from Gael Kakuta, Idumba Fasika, and Ben Malango helped DR Congo 'Leopards' to a comfortable victory that gives them a massive boost in Group J.

Taifa Stars started the day at the top of the group but dropped to third with seven points, three behind leaders Benin.

DR Congo climbed to the second position with eight points, one more than Tanzania.

The battle for the only qualifying ticket in Group J will go down to the wire in Kinshasa

when DR Congo hosts Benin on Sunday for their final group fixture. Tanzania travels to Madagascar for a dead rubber match tomorrow.

The results and overall performance proved that, once again, the national team was just not good enough. The game was decided by individual quality.

DR Congo had more quality, they managed a comfortable victory while playing in second gear.

Taifa Stars were meant to make a mark in their long-overdue World Cup sojourn, but in the end, it ended similarly.

At the current level, playing in the World Cup will remain a far-fetched dream for Tanzania.

We have never qualified for football's greatest showpiece in 10 successive attempts starting with our maiden participation in the 1974 qualifiers when Ethiopia eliminated us in the preliminary round.

Of these 10 futile attempts, our best effort was the 2010 South Africa qualifiers.

Back then, Taifa Stars under Brazilian gaffer Marcio Maximo got their

campaign with a 1-1 home draw against Mauritius before a goalless succumbing to a 1-0 away loss to Cape Verde.

They then frustrated Cameroon to a goalless draw in Dar and then limited the West Africans to a 2-1 victory in Douala in the reverse fixture in June 2008.

Stars shocked Cape Verde 4-1 and followed it with another convincing 3-1 win against Mauritius to end the campaign with eight points.

In the 2014 Brazil World Cup qualifiers, Tanzania edged out Chad in the preliminaries to land in a group with Morocco, Gambia, and Ivory Coast.

Under the current coach, Kim Poulsen, Taifa Stars started with an expected 2-0 away loss to group favourites, Ivory Coast.

They then beat Gambia 2-1 before getting the whole nation breathlessly excited about a possible World Cup qualification with a 3-1 mauling of Morocco in Dar es Salaam.

Six points in the opening three matches got the whole nation excited and politicians joined the bandwagon promising hefty cash rewards for players.

Morocco brought Taifa Stars back to the ground with a 2-1 loss in Marrakech. The World Cup dreams came to a crashing end, the light was blown away and the fears of the nation came to pass with a 4-2 home defeat in the hands of Ivory Coast.

In the current campaign, Taifa Stars started with a hard-fought 1-1 draw away to DR Congo. A 3-2 home victory over Madagascar meant we had our best in a World Cup qualifier campaign.

Even when Benin was shocked to a 1-0 home defeat we still had hoped.

It seems matters were on our hands when we managed to avenge the 1-0 loss in Dar es Salaam with a similar scoreline in Benin.

The long-suffering, glory-starved, die-hard Taifa Stars fans got excited seeing we were only two games away from history and going into their next round of games of playoffs.

Then DR Congo came and shocked us into silence before Benin victory quashed any lingering qualification hope. It is hoped that kills.

Rule number one in any qualifier, be it in the World Cup, or Africa Cup of Nations, you have to win all your home games. Taifa Stars lost two of its three home games. Without a solid home record, the campaign was always going to end in tears.

Secondly, in 36 World Cup qualifiers, Taifa Stars has lost 15 games, drawing eleven and winning ten. Simply put, with this record Taifa Stars has no business playing at the World Cup.

Despite all attempts to hype the campaign, the outcome was too predictable. It does not need a football pundit to conclude that Taifa Stars' mission to qualify for the 2022 World Cup was a doomed one from day one.

First things first, let us make AFCON finals regular appearances a reality instead of dreaming for the World Cup which as it matters stand we don't have the muscles to rub shoulders with the big boys of African football.

5 EATV
TONIGHT @ 9:00
MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

UJENZI
TONIGHT @ 9PM
Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor
And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus
It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO
88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM
06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

Tanzania's visual artists urged to market their works

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

TANZANIA's visual artists have been urged to be industrious to market their works internationally, rather than sitting back and waiting for people to give them jobs.

French graffiti artist, Da Cruz, who is touring Tanzania, issued the advice at Alliance Française in Dar es Salaam on Friday.

Da Cruz noted that art, if used properly, is an opportunity for young people but they need to be dedicated and creative.

"I have traveled to many African countries although this is the first time for me to tour East Africa, this region lags," the artist disclosed.

"Many artists in this region create artworks when they get offers, but I tell them they should not wait for people to come and give them work. They have to be committed and creative to advertise themselves," the Paris-based artist noted.

He said his presence in Tanzania has taught him various things that he did not know about the country and its art.

Mawila Khamis, one of the domestic visual artists who collaborated with Da Cruz to work in the country, said they are learning a lot through the artist and his arrival will be more beneficial to them.

Alliance Française Director, Flora Valleur, whose institution brought Da Cruz to the country, said that to promote culture and build a bridge between street art in Dar es Salaam and France, the institution has launched a project, D'Art, which will focus on backing realistic painters.

"This project is in three phases and it started on October 30 and this is the last phase in which we have witnessed the arrival of Da Cruz, we believe he in collaboration with local artists will share knowledge and develop this art," Flora revealed.

Flora said the project has also brought in a journalist and short film producer, Liz Gomis, a Frenchman of Senegalese descent who will also impart his skills to Tanzanian youths through the project.

Arusha, Tanga progress to CRDB Bank Taifa Cup tourney semi-finals

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA and Tanga women basketball teams have secured qualification for the last eight of 2021 National Basketball Tournament, known as 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', which is taking place at Chinangali courts in Dodoma.

The two emerged victorious in the last eight fixtures against their opponents held at the venue yesterday.

Arusha frustrated Coast Region's efforts to book a place in semi-finals after the former notched 52-34 victory in a duel held early morning in court A.

The tie eventual winners' Judith Edward emerged leading scorer for her side after slotting in 25 points, followed by teammate Flora Wandugi who ended with 13 points.

Irene Muhonja had most points Coast Region, which had failed to make it to the last four's stage which will take place today.

Coast Region, for that matter, will not secure semi-finalists' cash prize totaling 500,000/- from the



Unguja women's basketball squad's forward, Caren Anderson, slots in a point when her side battled it out in this year's national basketball tournament, known as the 'CRDB Bank Taifa Cup', which is taking place at Chinangali courts in Dodoma. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CRDB BANK PLC

showpiece's main sponsor, CRDB Bank.

In women's discipline's other quarterfinal clash, Tanga ladies outshone Mbeya Queens 49-44 in a tough encounter.

The match was getting

tougher as time ticked off. Mbeya, as a result, failed to avenge their male counterparts' defeat to Tanga.

Mbeya's title defense campaign in men's discipline was ended following their 76-70 loss to Tanga.

In the third game of the last eight, Unguja was too good for CRDB Youth, commanding 53-43 victory and garnering their ticket to the semi-finals.

CRDB Youth's Faith Mziray, Lilian Mwalusasa, Ely Ntandu, and Annamarie Cyprian were impressive in the encounter, they, however, fell short, seeing their Unguja counterparts, Umyy Amin, Lucy Peter, Sabrina Abdallah hold sway in the four periods.

The day's last quarterfinal fixture in ladies' discipline was to pit Dar es Salaam Queens, the defending champions, against Dodoma in the evening to determine the former's quest for a title defense.

In men's discipline quarterfinals, also played in the evening, CRDB Youth was to confront Unguja while the other fixture was to witness last year's finalists, Dar es Salaam 'Dream Team', face hosts Dodoma.

The category's stage was set to culminate with a fixture between Arusha and Tanga.

The competition's

winners in men and women categories will rake in 5m/- apiece, whilst runners-up will receive 3m/- apiece.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) will take home 500,000/- apiece.

Squads that will cruise to the semi-finals will each receive 500,000/-, those which will make it to the finals will rake in 1m/- apiece, there will also be prize money for most disciplined teams for both categories.

The tournament's main sponsor, CRDB Bank, has also set aside a 10m/- scholarship for sponsorship of youths who will excel in the tournament to pursue further studies in various higher education institutions.

CRDB Bank disclosed the increase in cash prize for this year's edition is the outcome of the increase of the bank's sponsorship package, amounting to 300m/-, aiming at encouraging youths' involvement in sports through the bank's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) policy as well as making the showpiece worthwhile.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

