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CCM to employ new campaign styles to reach voters in regions

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

CCM yesterday said it intends to deploy new campaign styles to reach more voters as the clock ticks towards the general election scheduled for October 28.

CCM Ideology and Publicity Secretary Humphrey Polepole (pictured), told journalists here yesterday that the party started campaigns nearly a month ago with a strategy which has seen party cadres of different levels dispersed countrywide in search of votes.

He said new styles which will be introduced in the last 15 days of the polls countdown are aimed at keeping opponents guessing what next is coming.

"We have a lot on the drawing board, and we expect to deploy new strategies as time goes by, as our simple evaluation so far indicates that we have rounded the country within a short period of time," the secretariat official noted.

One example of such strategies was the introduction of a helicopter to accompany the party's presidential candidate, Dr John Magufuli's convoy.

CCM has deployed a helicopter in recent days which flies for time around the rally premises to grab voters' attention.

CCM was conducting a strategic campaign in which it has dispersed party cadres of different levels countrywide, including running mate Samia Suluhu Hassan, former president Jakaya Kikwete who is in the southern regions.

Others are former prime minister Mizengo Pinda and Speaker Job Ndogai, canvassing from southern highlands and central zones respectively, he elaborated.

The large turnout during rallies in the past few weeks was a source of confidence that the ruling party was likely to emerge victorious in the polls, he declared.

CCM has scheduled its campaign in six phases where two have now elapsed, the first trek starting from Dodoma to Lake Zone regions, and from there to the central and north east areas.

Polepole used the platform to respond to some reports which he termed as fake issued by opposition presidential candidates.

PCCB rings tanzanite dealers, advocates in smuggling query



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zuberi bin Ally (L) holds sample copies of *Nasaha 10*, a Kiswahili book on the run-up to Tanzania's October 28 General Election, shortly after launching it in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are the book's author, Sheikh Mohamed Iddi (C), and Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) Dar es Salaam regional chairman Sheikh Hussein Afif. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) officers have reported holding seven Arusha-based businesspersons and miners, among them two major mineral dealers, for allegedly bribing government officials in order to continue with their tanzanite smuggling rackets.

The suspects, who are currently under investigations, include Joel Saitoti Mollel, the manager of Gem and Rock Ventures Ltd; Daudi Saimale Lairumbe of the Northern Law Chambers (said to be the lawyer representing Gem and Rock Ltd), and Caren Saitoti Mollel, the wife of Joel - and similarly a businessperson.

Others on the PCCB's gemstone racketeering list include Rakesh Kumar Gokhroo, the director of Colour Clarity Co. of Arusha; George Paul Kivuyo Lekoo, a miner and gemstone

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PCCB is working with the Director of Criminal Investigations in its inquiries, and they (the suspects) will soon be taken to court. Should they be found guilty, then all their properties will be confiscated in addition to jail terms

Govt offering wildlife breeds, touts ranching

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE government yesterday lowered the prices of wildlife breeding stock by 90 per cent to encourage wildlife ranching businesses as game meat butcheries are set to open in all regions in Tanzania Mainland.

Speaking here yesterday, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Aloyce Nzuki, said the move is meant to allow more Tanzanians to keep wild animals in their farms and private reserves for later

"harvesting"

Our target is to have these private ranchers as main game meat suppliers to butcheries whose licences we shall start issuing next month

"Our target is to have these private ranchers as main game meat suppliers to butcheries whose

licences we shall start issuing next month," he said.

The price of buffalo breeder has been cut from 4.1m/- to 210,000/- with an antelope now going for 90,000/- down from 300,000/-.

Dr Nzuki, who spoke at the head offices of the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), said apart from private ranches, other sources of game meat for sale will be tourist hunting.

"Animals that are killed by sport

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Tanzania, South Africa form new investment liaison team

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

TANZANIA and South Africa have taken their bilateral relations a step further by forming a joint committee to oversee matters like industrialization, trade and investment linking the two countries.

This was said here yesterday after a meeting between the Deputy

We want to increase the volume of trade between our countries. Apart from cooperation within SADC...

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ally Gugu and the Chargé d'Affaires in the country's mission in Tanzania, Sizwe Mayoli.

Speaking at the signing ceremony for that agreement, Gugu said the bilateral committee is meant to foster industrial projects, trade and investment in the two countries.

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



Shein calls for promotion of private sector in Z'bar

By Florida Raymond, TUDARCO

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called upon the private sector to continue cooperating with the government to promote the business sector.

Dr Shein made the call at the opening ceremony of the Sheikh Thabit Kombo building which has been built jointly by

the ruling party CCM and the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF).

He said to achieve growth in the business sector; the government will continue to improve businesses and investment environment.

"CCM's election manifestos for the 2015-2020 and 2020-2025 general elections emphasises on strengthening the

tourism, trade and transport sectors; we have largely succeeded to achieve the targeted goals", he noted.

Dr Shein said that he was impressed by the ongoing opening of shops at the Michenzani area insisting the development is a result of the construction of Thabit Kombo building.

He called upon the residents to vote for CCM presidential

candidate since the party is committed to ensure development for Zanzibaris.

The President asserted that there are plans to further develop Michenzani area through construction of houses and business centres. He said the area was previously known for accommodating entertainment and recreational centres including the 'African Dancing

Club'.

In another development, Dr Shein appreciated traders and investors for paying their taxes on time saying the monies are crucial in implementation of various development projects.

He said the new building has been christened after Sheikh Thabit Kombo due to his great contribution in Zanzibar's development when he was a

leader in the Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) and CCM.

Earlier, Minister of Finance and Planning, Ambassador Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa said the Zanzibar Social Security Fund (ZSSF) was responsible for its members as well as the entire Zanzibar community.

Vice Chairman of the CCM Board of Trustees, Pandu Ameir Kificho said: "It is now the re-

sponsibility of CCM to oversee operations of the building. We are hopeful that this partnership will result into many more projects."

CCM Deputy General Secretary, Dr Abdallah Juma Sadalla commended Dr Shein for making sure the building was constructed to the required standards.

Tanzania chart strategy to capture cashewnut market in Africa - official

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIA is mobilising to capture the African cashewnut market due to the high quality of the crop it produces in comparison to many African countries and the entire world.

Besides, Tanzania is also on record of teaching cashew nuts growing to other African countries including Ivory Coast and Nigeria which were now doing well and have become the continent's leading cashew nuts producers in their own right.

Following these developments Tanzania has now embarked on strategies to increase the country's crop's production by training farmers thereof in 17 regions aimed to capture the continent's market due to its production of better quality of the crop.

This was revealed by a researcher from the Naliendele Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Training Institute (TARI-Naliendele Agronomics Department) Kasiga Ngina at a training seminar for cashew nuts farmers from Kilosa and Gairo districts in Morogoro Region held in Gairo.

Ngina said statistics available from kilimo.com show that Tanzania is the fourth in Africa in cashew nuts production after Nigeria (900,000 tons

per year), Ivory Coast (600,00 tons) and Guinea Bissau (400,000 tons), while Tanzania's production stands at 300,000 tons.

"We feel uncomfortable that after teaching these countries cashew nuts growing, they have now become leading producers, that is why we have embarked in training our farmers so as we also increase production," he explained.

Researcher of cashew nuts diseases from pests Dr Wilson Nene said the main reason for the country's low cashew nuts production is failure by farmers to use modern quality seeds and continue using traditional seeds.

He said TARI-Naliendele has begun teaching farmers' quality seeds from among 54 kinds of seeds produced by the Centre which can produce 20 kgs of cashew nuts per tree while traditional seeds produce only 11 kgs.

TARI-Naliendele Coordinator of Cashew Nuts Dr Geraldina Mzena said as for now they have come with new strategies in implementing the government's directives to increase the crop's production from 315,000 tons per year to one million tons through better farming practices and quality seeds in the country's 17 regions that cultivate the crop.



Zanzibar President has an audience with the outgoing Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar, Xie Xiaowu (L), at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Activists urge revival of stalled constitution talks

By Getrude Mbago

HUMAN Rights activists have urged the government to resume the revival of the stalled new constitution-writing process so as to promote justice, democracy and development in the country.

Speaking during the commemoration of 25th anniversary of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the activists stressed the need for the country to have new constitution.

LHRC's board chair Chief Justice (rt) Barnabas Samatta hinted that there was no means the country could call itself as a true

democracy without having a constitution with good systems.

He urged authorities to mobilise resources required to restart and complete the process for the broader interests of Tanzanians.

Presenting a report on human rights situation in Tanzania, Prof of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam Prof Chris Maina said that some laws which have been enacted within the past five years stand as obstacle organisations and the public to access their rights.

"There are some articles in laws such as the Political Parties Act, Media Services Act, 2016; Access to Information Act, 2016

among others that are deemed to be threat to human rights," he said.

He added that this also affect justice access and delivery especially to the marginalized communities.

LHRC executive director Anna Henga said: "The commemoration of our silver jubilee is themed 'Rights for Development, Stand Up for Human Rights', this aims to remind all of us that sustainable development can only be attained where there is respect for human rights."

The story behind the establishment of LHRC dates back on September 26, 1995 when a

group of five lawyers who were lecturers of the then faculty of law at the University of Dar es Salaam decided to the organisation to provide legal aid and empower Tanzanians on laws and human rights.

Henga said that in the 25 years, LHRC has grown to become the voice of the voiceless, building the confidence of Tanzanians to stand for their rights; affecting necessary legal and policy reforms as well as helping the vulnerable to access justice.

"We provide legal aid to over 15000 people per year, LHRC focuses on the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy, good governance and

rule of law for the attainment of a just and equitable society," she said.

The director said several human rights defenders and activists encountered different incidents including invasions, beatings, humiliation, arrests, framed charges, abductions and killings.

In his keynote address, the guest of honour, chairman of the Commission for Human Rights And Good Governance (CHRAGG) Judge (Rtd) Mathew Pauwa Mhina commended LHRC team for the job well done in promoting human rights.

He urged human rights defenders in the country to con-

tinue work hard and efficiently to promote human rights and thus reach more people in the country.

"I commend the good work of LHRC as in the past 25 years, contributed by promoting the protection of human rights, democracy, good governance and rule of law, through various efforts taken by the centre fuelled the government to also take several reforms and measures to improve access to justice," he said.

He said that government has continued protect human rights by improving laws and policies and adopting international agreements on human rights.

Judge Mhina assured LHRC of close support in its duties and programmes so as to ensure that people's rights are protected.

Swedish ambassador to Tanzania Anders Sjoberg commended LHRC for promoting human rights and democracy in the country.

He noted that globally, human rights defenders face increased persecution, intimidation, imprisonment and some even risk their lives while defending other people's rights.

Sjoberg assured that Sweden will continue support human rights defenders and CSOs efforts towards promoting human rights and justice delivery.

EAC nations join rest of the world in celebrating World Tourism Day

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) joins the rest of the world in celebrating the World Tourism Day, celebrated on the 27th of September every year. Themed "Tourism and Rural Development", the official 2020 celebration will be held on Monday, 28 September in a two-hour virtual session.

Nowhere else in the world is this year's theme more fitting than the EAC Partner States, as most of the tourism products in the region are mainly nature based and thus found in the rural areas. The EAC region largely depends on national parks and reserves, as well as wildlife conservancies that traverse the entire region.

Home to some of the beautiful wildlife sites in the world, the EAC region hosts a quarter of all protected areas in Africa and some of the greatest global concentrations of large mammals in both protected and non-protected areas. The region is known for the unparalleled phenomenon of wil-

debeest migration that occurs annually between July and October in the Serengeti and Maasai Mara Ecosystem that traverses Kenya and Tanzania, as well as other world renowned tourist sites such as the Ngorongoro conservation area, Amboseli National Park and Gorilla viewing in Rwanda and Uganda among others.

Besides wildlife, the region boasts of rich cultural diversity that arises from different ethnic groups, each with a unique story to share with the world.

The communities in rural areas especially those living adjacent to the wildlife conservation areas have an opportunity to benefit from the tourism sector along the entire value chain. These include employment opportunities in the hotels and other tourism related establishments, entrepreneurship in the form of sell of artifacts, and most importantly in some community's benefit from revenue sharing schemes that have been established under the conservation areas.

The EAC has made major strides in

putting up infrastructure in the region such as increased road connectivity between and within the Partner States, which has opened up tourism areas and enhanced access to tourist sites.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the productive and social sectors Christophe Bazivamo notes that the tourism sector's contribution to GDP in the region is estimated at 9 per cent, and an average of 20 per cent of export earnings. "As regards employment, the tourism industry contributes an average of 8 per cent to job creation in the partner states, which is about 4.2 million direct and indirect jobs in absolute terms, with a huge proportion of the jobs being generated in the rural areas", said Bazivamo.

"Tourism has important backward linkages to the local economy and therefore contributes to growth and employment in other sectors including agriculture and manufacturing that benefit the local communities,"



Bachelor of Administration and Community Development graduands of the Training Centre for Development Cooperation based in Arusha head for the venue of their graduation ceremony, which was held yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

added the Deputy Secretary General.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about unprecedented economic disruptions that have dramatically affected the tourism sector in the region. This has had far reaching effects especially to the rural communities that depend on tourism through loss of jobs and livelihoods.

However, the EAC recognizes Tour-

ism as one of the most resilient sectors and is therefore prioritizing its recovery. The recovery of the sector is also expected to stimulate the recovery of allied sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, that will also benefit rural communities.

To this end, a number of measures and interventions to revitalize the tourism sector have been pro-

posed. Topping the list is the need to strengthen domestic and regional tourism, which is expected to recover faster than international tourism.

The EAC partner states are therefore encouraged to undertake aggressive domestic tourism campaigns in order to stimulate demand for tourism goods and services by the domestic market.

600 mothers and 15,000 adolescent girls to benefit from Children's project

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya
Iringa

At least 600 young mothers and 15,000 adolescent girls and boys in Iringa Region are going to benefit from the upcoming project dubbed 'children with children (CwC)' to be implemented by SOS Children's Villages Tanzania.

Speaking yesterday during a stakeholder's conference, SOS Children's Villages Tanzania Programme coordinator in Mufindi District, Victor Mwaipungu said the project will be implemented in three districts namely Mufindi, Kilolo and Iringa.

He said the project is meant to help adolescent girls and young mothers to have access to sexual reproductive health services.

Mwaipungu noted that the project will help young mothers who dropped out of school as well as school girls. He said the girls will be provided with education on self-reliance. He observed that one of the objectives of the meeting was to enable stakeholders to understand

SOS works, especially the objectives and proposed outcomes of the upcoming project.

"We want to gain experiences from other organizations doing similar works", he said adding that they also convened to develop the organization's plan for 2020.

The CwC project will last for three years from 2021 to 2023, he said noting that it will be funded by Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his opening remarks, Iringa Regional Medical Officer, Dr Robert Salim commended SOS for initiating the project saying it will improve the wellbeing of young mothers and adolescent girls.

Dr Salimu underscored the need to impart sexual reproductive health education to the girls to enable them to make informed decisions when confronted with reproductive challenges as they grow up.

He said the CwC project will also build the capacity of parents, relatives and guardians in communicating with their children on sexual health and reproductive matters.



Geita regional commissioner Robert Gabriel addresses a seminar for mining stakeholders earlier this week on the importance of National Social Security Fund membership. The seminar was held on the sidelines of the ongoing Geita Gold Exhibition, which is revolving into an international-class mining and technology trade fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Register employees with NSSF to boost morale and efficiency'

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA Regional Commissioner Eng Robert Gabriel has called upon employers to register their employees with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to boost their morale and increase efficiency.

According to Eng Gabriel, registering workers with NSSF would guarantee employees of a better life after retirement

as well as being sure of benefiting with the funds' short and long term benefits.

The Regional Commissioner made the statement on Thursday when addressing participants at a seminar on social security schemes organised by NSSF at the ongoing mining exhibition in Geita Region.

During the exhibition, NSSF showcased its offered services to employers and employees

in the private sector as well as people engage in economic activities in informal sector.

"There are advantages to register an employee with NSSF because it prepares them for a better life in future. It also makes employees to work comfortably while having peace of mind, the thing that increases efficiency", Eng Gabriel stated.

He told the participants that

another key benefit was for employees to enjoy various benefits like the maternity benefit which helps a worker to reduce expenditures in health services during delivery.

"Expectant mothers can get maternal services without digging deeper into their pockets, these are some of the good things offered by the fund", he emphasized.

He stated that the maternity benefit can be paid in two phases, pre and after delivery whereby a member gets 100 percent payment after delivery. The maternity benefit also covers medical treatment period costs for ailments directly related to pregnancy.

The Regional Commissioner called upon NSSF to provide more education to artisanal miners in the Region for them

to understand the importance of social security.

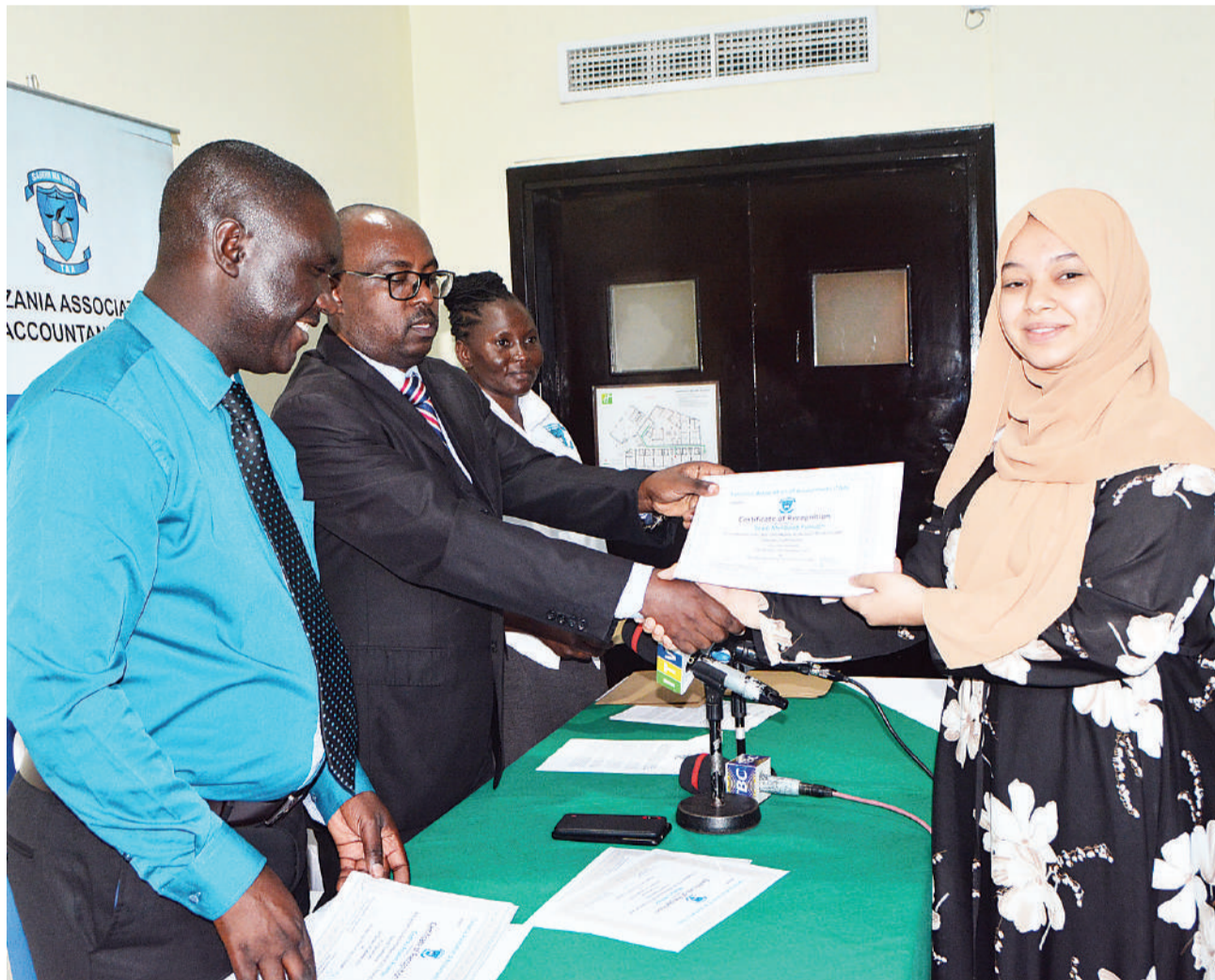
"You must provide education to artisanal miners so that they understand the benefits they can get when contributing to the fund. You should expect many questions from the small miners", he noted.

The RC appealed to the small scale miners to develop a culture of contributing to the fund to enjoy the benefits

after retirement.

"Wise people think about their future; you should now start contributing to NSSF for the betterment of your future", he said.

NSSF Geita Regional Manager, Feruzi Mtika said the issue of social security is part of employees' life. He said employees in Geita Region have been accorded cooperation to the NSSF to fulfill its obligations.



Tanzania Association of Accountants chairman Peter Mwambu (2nd-L) presents a certificate of recognition in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to Saadia Yussuph from Dar es Salaam's Shaaban Robert Secondary School, who emerged top in the Business Studies paper in this year's National Form Six examinations. Left is TAA secretary general Maingu Mwigamba. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Fishers Union appeals for review of Nile perch policy

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

THE Fishers Union Organisation (FUO) is appealing for the government to review the current policy on the business of Nile perch so as to recognise the value of fish maws to bring win-win situation between fishermen and processors.

According to the union, processors are the ones who are benefiting immensely from fishermen from the Nile perch business due to the maws available in the product.

Fish maw also known as swim bladder is a white hard membrane found inside the body of the Nile Perch.

FUO executive chairperson, Juvenary Matigili said that fishermen have been selling whole fish to processors who then produce other products from the catch for sale and earn more money.

Citing an example, Matigili said that with processors getting fillets from fish, they also get maws, chips, bones, skins, oil and shells that are used for decorations to mention just a few.

"In that regard business of Nile perch should principally be in two categories with the number one being maws as they are selling highly and then comes to fillets, Matigili

told The Guardian in an interview.

He said that it is high time now the government should recognize and formalize the trade in fish maw so as to ensure that it contributes fairly to the well-being of the fishermen and country at large.

Citing an example, he said that if a kilogramme of Nile perch is sold at 7,000/- for fish weighing three kilogrammes, processors should buy it at 21,000/- to cover the value of maws.

According to him, a kilogramme of fish maws may be sold at some lakhs in the local market, but processors buy the fish looking at the value of fillets without including maws that have huge profit.

"We have been telling processors to give relatively high price per kilogramme of fish supplied to them owing to the profit they get from maws but nothing has been done. We are now calling for the government's intervention into this," he said.

He said that they had been raising their cry at different fisheries stakeholders meeting on the challenge so that respective government officers attending there could take it forward for a solution but all in vain.

"Big business for Nile perch are maws and not fillets, is why the materials are selling at higher price than anything else from that aquatic organism," Matigili said.

He said that if the Nile perch will

not be sold separately from their maws it is quite obvious that fishermen who spend sleepless nights on the lake fishing will continue to be exploited by processors with the government also losing revenues in tax.

He also urged the government to increase awareness among fishing fish suppliers and agents of the value of maw and train them in trading and proper handling of the commodity.

The chairman further pointed out that it is time now commercial agents in the country's embassies abroad where the fish maws are being exported should also establish the real price of fish maws to protect the interest of fishermen and the nation at large, he said.

He noted that with the government not making business it should manage the challenge that has been facing fishermen and setting them back.

Reports show that dried swim bladder has high demand in China, where it ranks number four among sea treasures in the country's cuisine after clams and oysters, sea cucumber and shark fin. They are also used in the production of aphrodisiacs.

International prices of dry maw range between \$ 450 and \$ 1,000 per kilogram, depending on the size, quality and market demand.

Govt sets up agricultural marketing unit to improve research and markets

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts to improve the agriculture sector, the government has established the Agricultural Marketing Unit under the Ministry of Agriculture's Crop Development Department which will be supervising researches and ensuring coordinated markets for the crops.

The move is likely to increase crop productivity as well as availability of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Through the established unit, the government will facilitate availability of local and international markets for various crops.

Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga made the statement on Tuesday when launching the CRDB bank agricultural financing program which will see farmers having access to loans for agricultural inputs. The program is jointly implemented by the bank in collaboration with ETC Agro, LoanAgro and Agricom.

Hasunga said the government is collaborating

with the National Insurance Corporation (NIC), Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) and five privately owned insurance firms has introduced crop insurance aiming to protect farmers' crops during natural disasters or other impacts caused by climate change. Under the scheme, farmers also access loans.

Hasunga said that the government is really determined to ensure that farmers are well equipped with prerequisite skills and tools to improve productivity, income thus fight poverty.

"To achieve this, the government adopted a strategy to register all farmers in the county so as to identify their number and the amount of land they cultivate and provide them with special identification cards (IDs).

He said the move also aimed to enable the government to set appropriate development plans for farmers that would increase efficiency and production of crops in the country.

"So far, a total of 1,279,884 commercial crop

farmers have been registered and put in a special database for sustainable recognition, a move will enable smooth provision of agricultural services including crop insurance services," Hasunga said.

He said that the strategy will enable farmers to increase their income through better access to national, regional and international markets, by enhancing quality and standards compliance along the value chain thus reduce poverty.

He further commended the bank's efforts calling on the farmers and other beneficiaries of the loans to properly utilize the funds to bring development in their homes, communities and country at large.

"This bank has been doing a lot to support the agricultural sector in the county, statistics show that 40 percent of all agricultural loans in the country have been issued by CRDB Bank," he noted.

The minister pointed out that the agriculture

sector is key in development of the country due to its contribution to the economy. Statistics show that the agricultural sector contributes more than 28 percent to the GDP, while also providing employment to about 75 percent of Tanzanians.

"The country's Development Vision of 2025 and the Second National Development Plan focusing on the industrial revolution, collectively recognize the agricultural sector as a strong pillar that will enable access to industrial raw materials and boost the national economy," he added.

The minister said that statistics show that 8 percent of all loans issued by financial institutions 2018/2019 financial year were directed to the agricultural sector. The rate includes cash loans as well as agricultural inputs.

"This is a very small amount compared to the importance of the sector to the national economy. Therefore, it is high time for financial institu-

tions and other stakeholders to invest more by providing affordable services and products in order to enable farmers to practice modern and more productive agriculture."

For his part, CRDB Bank executive director Abdmajid Nsekela said that the institution is well prepared to compliment the government's efforts in supporting the agriculture sector through provision of soft loans to farmers for sustainable farming in the country.

He said that for the past three years, the bank has issued loans totaling 1.6trillion benefiting all stakeholders in the agriculture's value chain.

Nsekela said that the bank's agricultural loans were directed in the areas such as: Inputs and operations, agricultural tools, construction of warehouses, connections and markets, investment in industry, financial education so as to provide investment awareness and capacity building on livestock keeping, aquaculture and been keeping.

700bn/- spent on construction of national fibre backbone, says PS

By Florida Raymond and Beauty Mwakatobe, TUDARCO

THE government has spent 700bn/- to construct the National Information Communication Technology Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) which now connects 26 regions of mainland Tanzania and neighbouring Congo, Zambia, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Malawi.

Dr Zainab Chaula, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications said this yesterday that the presence of the communication infrastructures facilitates smooth communication services in the country.

She was speaking at the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar government which aims to link Unguja and Pemba Islands in the NICTBB.

The MoU was signed by the Director General of the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) Waziri Kindamba and Shukururu Awadh Suleiman, the executive director Executive Director of the Zanzibar Information Communication Technology Infrastructure Agency (ZICTIA).

"The government's aim is to ensure that we send communication services in every corner of the country supplying residents with reliable communication services and thus contribute to the country's economic development, the government has invested a lot of funds to bring changes in the telecommunication sector," she said.

She said that the fiber backbone infrastructure helps to stimulate economic growth by opening up opportunities for investors and users of local and foreign telecommunication services to be connected to Zanzibar.

"In the past five years we have witnessed development in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems thus enabling smooth delivery of communication services to the public," she noted.

In his remarks, Kindamba said connecting Zanzibar in the NICTBB will be of great benefit to the nation especially in enabling increased use of data and internet but at a fair price.

He said that the agreement involves the maintenance of ZICTIA infrastructures in TTCL buildings. Kindamba said that with Zanzibar

being connected to the NICTBB, it will remove the use of the radio broadcasting system to provide telecommunications services in the Isles.

Dr Mustafa About Jumbe, Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport Zanzibar hailed the move saying that it is going to transform communication services in the Indian Ocean Archipelago.

"This is the fruit of the revolution, the fruits of the revolution are not mangoes or papayas but development available in our country, our government has spent more than 30bn/- to link all regions and districts of Unguja and Pemba, so with this agreement is going to address various challenges by bringing smooth communication services," he said.

NICTBB helps to fulfill the increasing demands of information services, strengthen competitive abilities of domestic data and voice operators as well as bridging the digital divide. It is necessary in developing high speed broadband and helps to efficiently exploit the benefits from undersea submarine cables landing in Dar es Salaam.



Regina Lowassa (standing), wife of former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa, has a word with residents of Makuyuni ward in Monduli District on Thursday. She had set out to campaign for ruling CCM candidates in the upcoming General Election - including her son, Fred Lowassa, who is eyeing the Monduli constituency parliamentary seat. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

DP presidential candidate promises to enhance use of Fumba, Micheweni free economic zones

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

DEMOCRATIC Party (DP) presidential candidate, Shafi Hassan Suleiman has said if elected he will enhance the use of Fumba and Micheweni Free Economic Zones to create job opportunities for Isle residents.

He said the two identified free economic zones are among the strategic areas meant to attract more investment in Unguja and Pemba. The investment zones are under the Zanzibar Investment promotion Agency (Zipa).

Addressing a rally on Thursday when the party launched its campaigns towards the forthcoming general election on October 28th, 2020, Suleiman was concerned that the government in Zanzibar had allocated the free economic zones, but they are yet to be well utilized. The event took place at the Sebuni grounds in Unguja.

"Both, Fumba in Unguja and Micheweni free economic zone in Pemba were established in 1992, they have not been properly utilized to produce jobs as well as attracting investors. My government will use the areas to establish industries," said the presidential aspirant.

He however called upon Zanzibar residents to maintain peace throughout the campaign period as well as during the voting process. He insisted that was peace was important for the country's

development.

Suleiman noted that Zanzibaris are tired of post-election chaos, and would like to see this year's general election ending peacefully.

Earlier, DP's presidential candidate running mate, Zaina Juma Khamis urged voters to elect the party's presidential aspirant since they have in place better policies which would see the Indian Ocean Archipelago recording a number of development successes.

She said the party's election manifesto has put in place strategies for implementation of major projects in the various economic sectors so as to boost economic growth.

There are 15 Zanzibar presidential aspirants who have picked up nomination forms from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC). They are Dr Hussein Mwinzi (CCM), Said Soud (AAFP), Juma Ali Khatib (ADA TADEA), Hamad Rashid (ADC), Mfaume Khamis (NLD), Ali Juma (CHAUMA), Issa Muhammed Zonga (SAU), Ameri Said Ameri from Demokrasi Makini and Hamad Muhammed Ibrahim of UPDP.

Others are Hussein Juma Salim from Tanzania Labour Party (TLP), Mohamed Omar Baharia from the Union for Multi-party Democracy (UMD), Shafii Hassan Suleiman (Democratic Party), Khamis Faki Mgau (NRA), Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad (ACT Wazalendo) and Othman

Rashid Khamis from CCK.

The election for Zanzibar President, House of Representatives' members and councilors are scheduled for October 28, 2020.

The commission has allocated four days-October 28 through October 31-for vote counting and result announcement. This is the sixth general elections since the reintroduction of multi-party politics in 1992.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 236
MNAZIMMOJA-ZANZIBAR

Tender No IFB NO: SMZ/HO1/W/NCB/2020/2021/67
For
CONSTRUCTION OF LABORATORY BENCH AND RENOVATION OF MOSQUE WALL AND TOILET AT RESEARCH INSTITUTE BINGUNI ZANZIBAR.

Invitation for Tenders

Date: 24/09/2020

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this Project, which appeared in Zanzibar Leo Issue no. 5966 dated 21/08/2020.
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the Ministry of Health during the financial year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payments under the contract for the **Construction of Laboratory Bench and Renovation of Mosque Wall and Toilet at Research Institute Binguni Zanzibar.**
- The Ministry of Health Zanzibar now invites sealed tenders from eligible national contractors registered or capable of being registered in **Class four-five (4-5) for carrying out the for Construction of Laboratory Bench and Renovation of Mosque Wall and Toilet at Research Institute Binguni Zanzibar.**
- Tendering will be conducted through the **National Competitive Tendering** procedures specified in the Procurement (Goods, Works, and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) Regulations, 2006 – Government Notice No. 62 of 2006, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board the **Procurement and Disposal Management Unit (PDMU), Ministry of Health P.O.BOX 236, Makumbusho Road Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar from 8:00am up to 3:30pm local time, on Mondays to Fridays** inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and Kiswahili additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address Principal Secretary Ministry of Health Zanzibar and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania shillings **100,000/=**. Payment should be by **Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) account number 0707968000.**
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security in an acceptable form in the amount of **2.5%** of bid price or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Tenderers.
- All tenders in **One Original plus two copies**, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address **Principal Secretary Ministry of Health, P.O. Box 236, Zanzibar, at or before Monday, 26th October, 2020.** Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Ministry of Health at conference room first floor.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of any circumstances.

Principal Secretary
Ministry of health
Zanzibar

21597701

Musoma municipality, Rorya to benefit from 5-year USAID Tulonge Afya project

By Guardian Correspondent, Mara

MUSOMA and Rorya Municipal Councils in Mara Region are expected to benefit from a five-year USAID Tulonge Afya project aiming to educate the community towards behavioural change and ultimately promote positive health practices.

The project which is being implemented by the government in partnership with a non-governmental organisation FHI360 under the One World Sustainable Livelihood (OWSL) is financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Tulonge Afya project will among other things provide education on infectious diseases as well as reproductive health to the targeted people in the two municipal councils.

OWSL Coordinator, Dr Theophil Kayombo revealed this yesterday when speaking to mothers during training dubbed 'Mother Meet Up' whereas they were educated on the importance of breastfeeding.

Dr Kayombo asserted that plans are to reach more than 3,000 beneficiaries in both, Musoma and Rorya municipal councils. He said the mostly targeted groups include youth and women.

He said that his organisation has decided to implement the project in

Mara Region as most of the residents seem to lack proper education on reproductive, maternal and child health. He said the reproductive health indicators in the two municipalities are low compared to other councils within the Region.

During the implementation period, Dr Kayombo said they will use different methods in providing education to beneficiaries. He said they also form groups to facilitate provision of trainings whereby educators will be meeting each of the groups to educate them on the health practices.

Coordinator of Social Services Mobilisation from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer in Musoma municipality, Dr Magreth Shaku commended the organisation for its decision to implement the project within Musoma municipal.

She said the Tulonge Afya project has come at a right time adding that it will help in raising public awareness on various health issues including breastfeeding especially in the first six months from when the baby is born.

Dr Shaku said that breastfeeding is still a challenge to some mothers as they fail to exclusively breastfeed their newborns as per experts' recommendations. She said the situation has been affecting children's growth development.

"There are some mothers who have



Participants of a USAID-facilitated 'Mother Meet Up' seminar held in Musoma municipality earlier this week follow a presentation on breastfeeding. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

been refusing to breastfeed their babies claiming that their breasts shape will be destroyed; there are also challenges in regard to poor fathers' involvement in child rearing," said Dr Shaku.

She urged mothers to ensure exclusive breastfeeding for their children so that they grow up prop-

erly. She added that mother's milk is also important in enhancing children's health as well as protecting mothers from diseases including breast cancer.

Tulonge Afya Project Coordinator, Cyprian Lungu, said that the project aims to bring about behaviour change by combating negative behaviours in com-

munities that prevents members of the community from having access to better health care.

He said that mothers will receive education on how they should prepare before and after childbirth as well as how best to raise their under five children to ensure a healthy society.

CAMFED officers hailed for their contribution to female education

By Guardian Reporter

THE global philanthropic educational foundation—Yidan Prize Foundation has awarded the Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) Chief Executive Officer, Lucy Lake and the Executive Director for Africa, Angeline Murimira, for their contribution to female education.

They are the first team to be granted a Yidan prize since its inception in 2017, according to a statement released yesterday by the foundation. The two will

be recognized at the Yidan Prize Awards Presentation Ceremony and the Yidan Prize Annual Summit to be held virtually on December 7th this year.

The Yidan Prize is the world's largest international prize in education. It recognizes individuals and teams, who have contributed significantly to education research and education development.

CAMFED was launched in Tanzania in 2005, working with the government to boost secondary school enrolment. It

started working in Iringa region before spreading to eight other regions across the country. It works with 819 partner schools in 32 districts.

It has also supported more than 3.3 million children to go to school in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Malawi.

Through its Learner Guide programme, CAMFED provides a scalable and replicable approach to inclusive and equitable quality education for girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa to resolve high levels

of girls' school exclusion and drop-out, lack of relatable role models, and youth unemployment. It also supports marginalized girls through education, while opening up opportunities for young women in the crucial transition from secondary school.

With the prize money, the team will scale up CAMFED's Learner Guides programme with an initial commitment to train 20,000 Learner Guides, who will support 1 million adolescent girls in school in five

sub-Saharan African countries—a major step towards CAMFED's goal to support 5 million girls. Lucy Lake and Angeline Murimira said the prize brings a spotlight to the power of the organization's growing movement led by young women who are the experts on what it takes for the most marginalized girls to succeed.

"Together, we will launch our ambition to support five million girls in school, and it will be game-changing. This is a dream come true especially at

such a time as this! we are going to make more girls and young women's dreams come true. We are going to make this world an even better place," said Murimira.

Founder of Yidan Prize Foundation, Dr Charles Chen Yidan said: "Education transformation is more important than ever.

The outstanding achievements and commitment of this year's laureates demonstrate that in a post-pandemic world, education continues to be of vital importance to solving future

problems and creating positive change in individuals, communities and the environment. Innovative ideas and practices are key to driving progress in education to create a better world."

He added: "This year has been challenging for many in the education system with Covid-19 causing unprecedented disruption to learning and to schools. It is therefore crucial that we champion people with the courage to bring educational change and reimagine the future of education."

Farmers urged to stop using cotton, tobacco pesticides for cereal crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

FOOD and cash crops farmers in Shinyanga Region are required to immediately stop using the pesticide used against cotton and tobacco pests for cereals crops to safeguard the health of the user especially pregnant women and children.

Many cotton and tobacco farmers in the region have been using the pesticide against these crops for maize crops the practice that produces aflatoxins which is dangerous to the health of the user.

The remarks were given by the researcher and training officer on nutrition Neema Joshua from Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC) at a training seminar on the importance of nutrition in building up protection against communicable and non-communicable diseases to journalists in Shinyanga Region.

Shinyanga Region's Coordinator of Food and Nutrition Denis Madeleke said the deficiency of blood in women aged 15 - 49 years in Shinyanga region was 30 percent in 2018 whilst in the past it used to be 59.4 percent.

Madeleke further said the problem is caused through low use of meat and meat products, and added that in 2015/16, 70 out of 100 children had blood deficiency or 70 percent, the situation that caused malnutrition and small weight.

Nutrition Officer from TFNC Walbert Mgeni called on the media to ensure they write articles on how to prepare nutritious foods so that people know how to safeguard themselves against communicable and non-communicable diseases.

He also said many people have been eating food just to fill their stomachs and not balanced diets, and this was largely happening in areas around the town thereby increasing the number of children with malnutrition.



Efforts well in progress to move to 'help out' this truck, which was stuck at a muddy spot on a road at Bombani village in Muheza District, as found on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Campaign to promote electronic media content kicks off

By Guardian Reporter

A CAMPAIGN that seeks to see more Tanzanians consume electronic media content as opposed to physical papers kicked off in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dubbed 'Choose to stay ahead' and run by online content distributor M-paper, the drive which will run throughout October aims at convincing readers to switch from physical

newspapers and magazines to electronic papers.

"The year 2020 has been accompanied by a significant uptake of different digital products in different economic sectors in the country, due to this reason, the 'Choose to stay ahead' campaign aims to position M-Paper as a go-to platform for individuals who want to stay ahead with full coverage of local and international news any-

where and anytime," said Edwin Bruno CEO and Founder of Smartcodes Tanzania which runs the platform, in a statement.

He said that the platform will enable users to read all newspapers immediately after being uploaded at 00:01 am from cover to cover and in high definition at only half the retail price of that respective newspaper and the application users will purchase the e-newspa-

pers and magazines via mobile money.

"During this campaign, we will encourage individuals to stay ahead with full news coverage from leading publishers of their choice with the M-paper app anywhere, anytime," he said.

During the campaign period, organizers will offer a reward to four regular users during where for the whole month of October; active readers will be rewarded with smartphone devices every week.

According to Bruno, the main criterion to be used when selecting winners is that one has to simply download the app, subscribe to a weekly or monthly bundle, and enjoy access to e-newspapers or magazines. The campaign team will be roving in the city from today to Sunday to assist users in registering and how to use their applications so as to gain access to a digital world of information.



Students of Waliul-ASR Girls Secondary School march at the school's grounds in Kibaha District, Coast Region, earlier this week to mark International Day of Peace. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bariadi entrepreneurs advise govt to improve traders' IDs

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

SMALL Scale Traders in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region have urged the government to conduct some improvements in the traders' Identification Cards (IDs) as they carry various challenges including lack of photographs and names.

They made the call here when the Bariadi District Commissioner, Festo Kiswaga visited Gasuma gold mine in the district.

"The IDs have brought positive impacts to the traders and the government as well as they have enabled us (small-scale traders) to be recognized and respected and being able to grab various business opportunities," said Ramadhan Kakwamba, one of the petty traders.

He said that the IDs have minimized inconveniences they were experiencing including being rampantly charged with multi-taxes and levies.

Kakwamba who is a small gold miner said before the advent of the IDs, many small traders had to undergo humiliation by the authorities with others spending a lot of funds to offer bribes for them to continue doing business.

For his part, Edward Ihoeyo said the IDs have addressed several challenges which the petty traders used to encounter calling on the government to ensure that it expands the services to reach more traders in marginalized communities.

Bariadi town council Trade Officer, Elias

Stephano said in 2020 they received a total of 9,000 IDs out of which 1,500 were received during the first phase and later they received 7,500, adding that the response of traders was huge.

DC Kiswaga also visited the Bariadi Main Market and spoke to traders calling them to ignore people who say that the IDs are not important but work hard to improve their businesses to earn more income.

Late 2018, President John Magufuli launched the programme to provide vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs with special taxpayer ID cards which he printed in efforts to expand the tax base in the country.

When handing over the cards to regional commissioners, he charged the leaders to ensure proper distribution of the cards so as to benefit the majority.

The ID cards will be renewable annually and are available at a price of 20,000/-. Anyone running a business with a maximum profit turnaround of 4 million/- is eligible to have one.



The IDs have brought positive impacts to the traders and the government as well as they have enabled us (small-scale traders) to be recognized

Business recovery strategy for East Africa in offing

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) in collaboration with GIZ Programme—'Support to East African people-centred and market-driven co-operation' have developed a business recovery strategy after surveying how businesses in the region have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strategy proposes

key measures to mitigate the effect of the pandemic.

The EABC and GIZ on Thursday launched the strategy report titled, 'Impact of Covid-19 to Business and Investment in the EAC and Proposed Recovery Measures to the EAC economies'.

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit hard businesses and investment in the East African bloc, with disruptions on global supply chains test-

ing the resilience of business ecosystems and reducing intra EAC trade.

Speaking during the launch of the strategy, EABC CEO, Dr. Peter Mathuki called upon EAC partner states to liberalize the regional airspace, such that regional and international cargo carriers can pick consolidated products for export from each EAC Partner State to destinations where they have substantial and

consistent demand.

He said: "There is also need for speedy authority operations especially at border-crossing areas to avoid overcrowding of traffic, taking into consideration road safety issues for freight and passenger movements."

The survey sought to find out how Covid-19 has affected businesses in the region by looking into the impact on 5 critical areas; cash flow, supply chains, employees, projected period of business sustainability and areas companies are seeking

support.

The survey finds that sectors such as tourism, logistics and retail have significantly experienced a higher percentage of cash flow reduction, which stood at 92 percent, 75 percent and 63 percent respectively.

Drawing its findings from responses from over 100 EABC members and private businesses from different sectors in the EAC region, the survey reveals that businesses have also been left battling with a reduction in the export market and customer spending.

It finds that about 56 percent of businesses reported a decline in sales, 56 percent of businesses were also affected by the increased cross border restrictions, while challenges to source raw materials saw 44.1 percent of businesses grappling to stay afloat.

The state of unemployment in the region has also escalated with 36.4 percent of the respondents revealing that they have been forced to lay off their staff. The uncertainty from the pandemic has seen 41.2 percent of the respondents say

their business maybe not sustainable for more than 6 months.

The recovery strategy for businesses in the EAC, proposes various recovery measures to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which include the need for stimulus funds to help the most adversely affected sectors to recover steadily, EAC Partner States to implement a coordinated and synchronized fiscal and monetary measures to mitigate the effect of Covid-19 on the region's macroeconomic and financial stability.

Zanzibar farmers told to cultivate high yielding orange fleshed sweet potatoes

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

FARMERS in Zanzibar have been encouraged to cultivate the orange fleshed sweet potatoes by using newly introduced high yield seeds which are resistant to the weevil disease and other related infections.

Experts recommend the use of improved seeds to transform the production of potatoes from consumption to commercial purposes.

A researcher from the Zanzibar Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI) Haji Saleh indicates that the Island is rich with the best varieties of seeds for sweet potatoes which can help to boost production of the crop and increase income of every farmer.

ZARI operates under the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries.

"Research shows that there are several varieties of potatoes which can produce up to 16-19 tonnes per acre, the highest amount to be harvested compared to previous years," said the researcher when speaking recently during a workshop held in Dar es Salaam organised by the Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

The officer urged farmers to make sure they become familiar with the varieties in order to improve production for commercial purposes.

The research involved farmers and school students, whereby 4,200 students were provided with

the seeds to be planted on their parent's farms.

According to him, it was high time that policy makers see the necessity of prioritizing the crop as well as allocating budget for its development.

The officer said that sweet potatoes are among the important crop in Zanzibar ranking fourth after rice, cassava and banana. It is mostly grown for food.

"Most of the sweet potato varieties available to farmers in the Island are white and yellow fleshed with high dry matter content and low levels of vitamin A". Most of the farmers and community members in Zanzibar are resource poor who cannot afford to buy vitamin A rich foods such as meat and eggs," said Saleh.

He added: "Orange fleshed sweet potato is one of the cheap sources of vitamin A, but previously little has been done on evaluation and promotion of the high yielding vitamin A rich orange fleshed sweet potatoes varieties in Zanzibar."

The research was implemented to evaluate and promote the already available high yielding healthy and nutritious deep orange sweet potato adoption of the varieties by farmer's varieties using technology at research stations and at farmers' fields for increasing.

The research involved six locations including Kizimbani, Matangatuani, Makangale, Bambi Tondooni and Kilombero in three consecutive years 2012, 2013 and 2014.



Construction of sewage system chamber under way yesterday as part of the ongoing rehabilitation of Dar es Salaam's Shekilango Road. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt refutes politicians' claims of unplanned, unbudgeted projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has stated that all strategic projects under implementation in the country were planned within sectoral budgets of relative ministries and were endorsed by the Parliament.

Speaking here at the opening of the country's Forum for government planners, Permanent Sec-

retary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning Doto James said there were misleading statements by politicians who say the government has implemented some unplanned and unbudgeted projects.

"Projects are implemented according to budgets endorsed by Parliament that permits the government to source funds within

and outside the country, collect taxes and receive foreign aid to implement its budget," said James.

He said after the budget is endorsed what follows is its implementation whereby the government spends funds from income collection, loans and aid in accordance with the laws, and that the government does not receive

funds without laid down procedures.

He said the law on loans, Security and aid empowers the Minister for Finance to source funds for budget's implementation as endorsed by the Parliament.

James directed all planners in the country to increase creativity in planning of various country's issues to enable it attain its devel-

opment targets in time.

He said due to Tanzania's newly attained middle income status, it was imperative for the planners to change the way they plan and plan implementation and reminded them that the issue was not merely planning but also ensure the plans are implementable for the required results. Commissioner for National Planning in

the Finance Ministry Dr Nicolaus Shombe said the theme of the forum is "Plans for Competitive Economy led by Foreign Export Sales" from the Third Five-year National Development Plan slated to start in 2020/21.

The forum's participants, including Dr Joel Mmasa promised to fully partake in giving their views and opinions that would

help the government to come up with the Third Five-year National Development Plan.

They also said they will use the opinions and advice to be given during the forum in their planning to enable the country make further development strides so as to make the country move from the middle income status to higher income status.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

A world without nuclear weapons is within reach

AFTER the worst of times, we are perhaps entering the best of times for proponents of nuclear disarmament. At long last, advocates of the elimination of nuclear weapons have reason for some guarded optimism. The road to a nuclear-weapons-free world will be long and bumpy, but those expected to take the initiative seem to have finally decided to lead. That is encouraging.

Sixty-four years ago the world was free of nuclear weapons, but after the production of some 140,000 of these artifacts of mass destruction, there seems to be a significant shift in the role some Governments have assigned to them. They are no longer generally considered to be the best means to ensure national security. Deterrence and mutually-assured destruction have become outdated concepts in a world now more concerned with other questions and challenges, including widespread poverty, climate change, a worldwide economic and financial meltdown, and other threats such as the recent alarm over the pandemic outbreak of a new kind of influenza virus.

Above all, the motivation for seeking the elimination of nuclear weapons now seems to be a fear of the further proliferation of these weapons to other States and possibly to the so-called non-State actors, including terrorist groups. There is the rub. Nuclear weapons are intrinsically dangerous and pose an unparalleled threat to the very existence of humankind. They do not enhance a country's security but, rather, imperil the survival of all nations, which should be the point of departure of nuclear disarmament efforts.

To dwell on the potential danger that they may fall into the wrong hands is to misconstrue the argument for their elimination. They should be banned be-

cause they are immoral – and probably illegal – tools of destruction. Since their use would likely be fatal for all, they cannot even be considered instruments of war.

The twin questions of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy have been on the agenda of the United Nations since its beginning; the dawn of the atomic age coincided with its birth. The UN Charter, however, makes no mention of nuclear weapons for the simple reason that it was adopted at the San Francisco conference three weeks before the first test and six weeks before their use in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The transcendental nature of the discovery of atomic energy prompted the delegates to the UN General Assembly's first session to address the issue immediately. In its very first resolution in January 1946.

Today, the cold war has disappeared but thousands of those weapons have not. In a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up. More nations have acquired these weapons. Testing has continued. Black markets trade in nuclear secrets and nuclear materials. The technology to build a bomb has spread. Terrorists are determined to buy, build or steal one. Our efforts to contain these dangers are centred on a global non-proliferation regime, but as more people and nations break the rules, we could reach the point where the centre cannot hold.

Nuclear weapons are explosive devices with a destructive power that comes from nuclear energy being released. More than half the world's population live in countries that have nuclear weapons or are members of nuclear alliances. There are at least 17,000 nuclear weapons in the world today. One single nuclear device can destroy a whole city and eliminate the natural environment and lives of future generations.

We should rebuild tourism in a safe, equitable and climate-friendly way

TOURISM has been among the hardest hit of all sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic. No country has been unaffected. Restrictions on travel and a sudden drop in consumer demand have led to an unprecedented fall in international tourism numbers, which in turn have led to economic loss and the loss of jobs. Women, youth, and workers in the informal economy are the most at risk from tourism sector job losses and business closures due to the pandemic. At the same time, the destinations most reliant on tourism for jobs and economic growth are likely to be the hardest hit.

The tourism crisis is also a threat to wildlife conservation initiatives and to the protection of the world's cultural heritage. The sudden fall in tourism revenues has cut off funding for biodiversity conservation. With livelihoods at risk in and around protected areas, cases of poaching and looting are expected to rise. With 90 per cent of World Heritage Sites closed as a result of the pandemic, humanity's cultural heritage is at risk in all parts of the world.

On this World Tourism Day, the COVID-19 pandemic represents an opportunity to rethink the future of the tourism sector, including how it contributes to the sustainable development goals, through its social, cultural, political, and economic value. Tourism can eventually help us move beyond the pandemic, by bringing people together and promoting solidarity and trust – crucial ingredients in advancing the global cooperation so urgently needed at this time.

Data from the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) shows that 100 to 120 million direct tourism jobs are at risk. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) forecasts a loss of 1.5 to 2.8 per cent of global GDP. The 2020 edition of World Tourism Day, with the theme of "Tourism and Rural Development", will celebrate the

unique role that tourism plays in providing opportunities outside of big cities and preserving cultural and natural heritage all around the world.

This year's international day of observation comes at a critical moment, as countries around the world look to tourism to drive recovery, including in rural communities where the sector is a leading employer and economic pillar providing jobs and opportunity, most notably for women and youth. Development through tourism can also keep rural communities alive. It is estimated that by 2050, 68 per cent of the world population will live in urban areas, while 80 per cent of those currently living in 'extreme poverty' live outside of towns and cities.

The situation is particularly hard for youth: young people in rural communities are three times more likely to be unemployed than older adults. Tourism is a lifeline, offering young people a chance to earn a living without having to migrate either within their home countries or abroad. World Tourism Day 2020 will once again be celebrated by UNWTO's member states in all global regions as well as by cities and other destinations and by private sector organizations and individual tourists.

Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organisation has celebrated World Tourism Day as international observances on September 27. This date was chosen as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted. The adoption of these Statutes is considered a milestone in global tourism. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide. The theme of the day was "sustainable tourism", in 2017. In 2018 the theme was "Tourism and the Digital Transformation" and in 2019 the theme is "Tourism and Jobs: a better future for all".

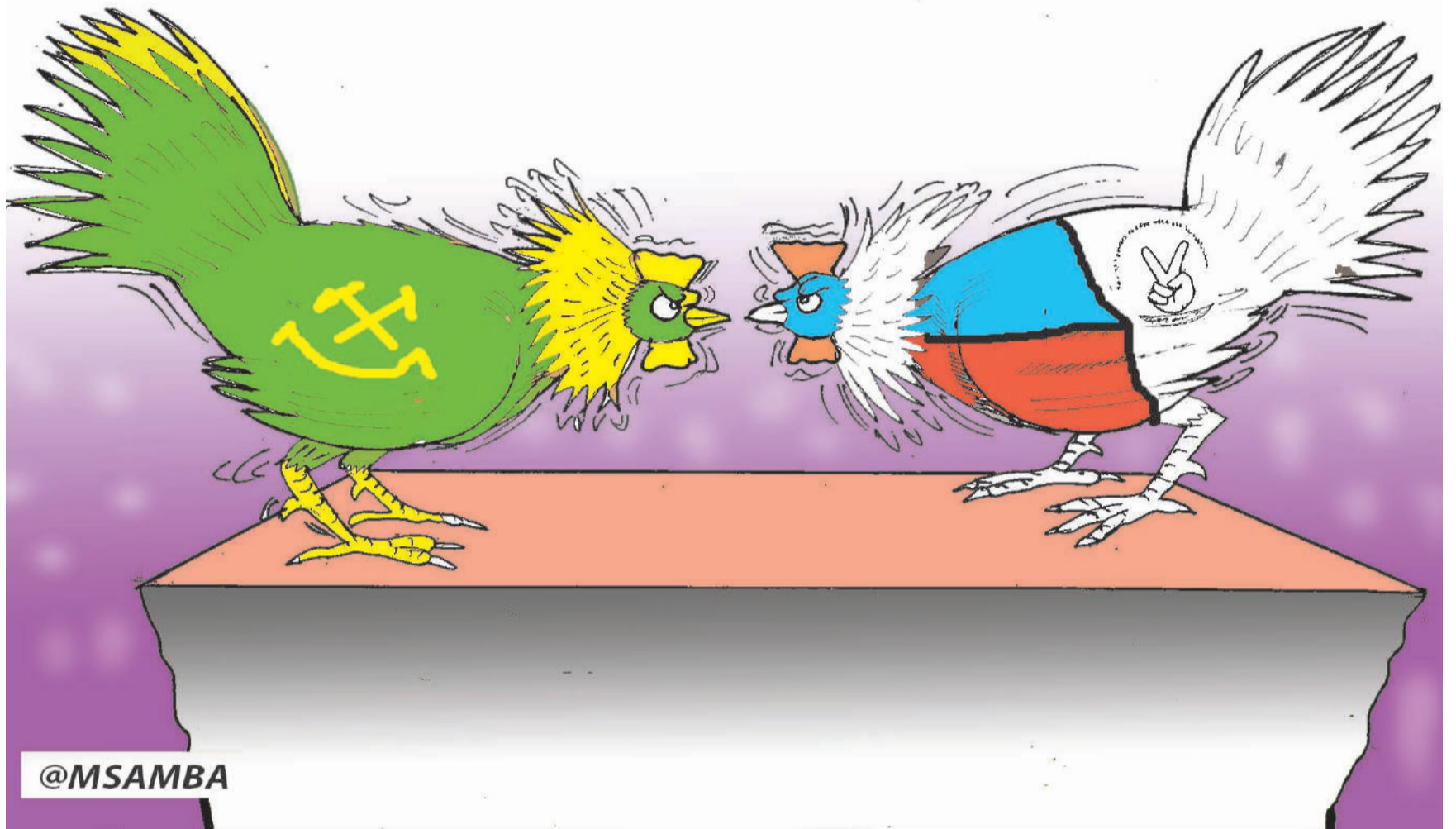
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Morality vs moralising in South Africa

By Steven Friedman and Anastasya Eliseeva

SOUTH Africa needs to come up with solutions to the country's biggest issues, not express 'horror' and 'outrage' at every opportunity and at the expense of problem-solving.

If you really care about a problem, you discuss it. If you don't, you moralise about it. Which tells us much about South Africa's national debate.

When it is not arguing about who gets what, the debate - in which at most one-third of the country takes part - likes to express "alarm", "horror" or "outrage" at "heinous" acts. This creates the illusion that it is seriously concerned about them. In reality, it shows precisely the opposite.

The national debate is fond of moralising, which is very different to morality. To be moral is to hold yourself or your group to standards of behaviour and to acknowledge when you or that to which you belong does not live up to them. To moralise is to piously condemn others, triggering a warm and fuzzy feeling and a sense of superiority. Morality improves behaviour, moralising leaves it unchanged or makes it worse.

At best, moralising is an admission that you have no solution to a problem. At worst, it ducks responsibility by blaming others for a problem you might help to fix.

Moralising has been the chosen mode of dealing with three key current issues: Covid-19, corruption and violence against women. On the surface, politicians, the media, public figures and everyone else in the debate are deeply concerned about these questions because they raise them repeatedly and loudly. A closer look shows that they are, mostly, engaged in a ritual in which solving the problem is not a priority.

Government politicians, limelight-loving scientists and just about anyone else who comments on Covid-19 sees the fight against the pandemic purely as a problem of behaviour, that of other people and usually, by implication, that of people in townships and shack settlements. It is about if people wash their hands, keep their distance and wear masks. It is not at all about the quality of scientific advice or the efficiency of testing and tracing or the failure to ensure that people have enough money to protect themselves without starving.

And so, it is about them, not us.

Corruption is even more fertile ground for moralising. Once again it is reduced to a question of other people's choices. The debate is, in the main, largely a competition to decide who can use the most words of condemnation to denounce the behav-



our of others. It is also, from time to time, an argument about whose corruption is the worst.

'Normal' behaviour

What is noticeably absent is a serious discussion of how to fix it, or an acknowledgement that those who condemn it may contribute to the problem. The only solution on offer, advocated repeatedly in tones of outrage, shock and horror, is that some politicians should go to jail - you know someone is not to be taken seriously if they use the phrase "orange overalls" or its equivalents - or lose their jobs. While both are appropriate, neither even tries to get to grips with why people abuse power in this way and what could be done to ensure that they don't.

A recent column by economist Neva Makgetla spelling out a detailed strategy for dealing with the problem has been ignored, presumably because it might cause the usual talking heads to think about the problem rather than signalling how much they care.

A search for solutions might also shine a light on how much "normal" behaviour in society makes corruption more likely. These include the

constant messages stressing that material success is the path to respect and the fact that forms of corruption are deeply embedded in economic life in the country, which may be why a company found to have grossly overcharged for face masks during a pandemic attracts little attention. The company is one of "us", not the "them" about whom we moralise.

The problem most likely to be greeted with moralising is violence against women. This does not apply to everyone in the debate. The women who express terror at the prospect of falling victim to violence are expressing a real and justifiable emotion. But it does apply to just about all the men in the debate.

There is an odd contradiction in the way the debate handles this issue. On the one hand, it is called gender-based violence, which reduces it to a technical problem, a bit like calling armed robbery property-based violence. On the other, the debate's response shows virtually no interest in solutions, technical or otherwise. Instead, the president, senior politicians and a range of middle-class men repeat endlessly the opinion that brutalising more than half the human race is not acceptable

behaviour. Some even organise demonstrations to denounce it.

What is absent from these expressions of horror are credible government plans to tackle the violence, clear demands from the moralisers for specific action or public debate on which measures would work best. This makes the expressions of concern almost absurd as, in the absence of concrete plans, they seem to assume that men who brutalise women will stop if they are told that they are behaving badly, which is as likely as people abandoning corruption because they are told it is not nice.

Finger pointing

It is not as if there are no concrete solutions. Specialists and researchers can offer well thought out ideas on how we can protect victims and, more importantly, reduce their number. But these are usually ignored in the rush to declare attacks on women a "scourge" or "pandemic". The uncomfortable impression is created that the purpose is not to solve the problem but to signal again that "we" behave better than "them", even if "we" hold attitudes towards women that imply subtly that they are lesser beings.

What Russians have ever meant to do with Lenin's mausoleum

By Alexandra Guzeva

Architects have discussed the possibility of turning this Communist temple into a museum, while the question of Lenin's body has always been a hot topic among Russians.

The first wooden mausoleum appeared on the Red Square in 1924, right after Vladimir Lenin's death. And by 1930, the current one was built from stone. The body of Lenin was embalmed and has been lying there since that time, while there are constantly procedures held to keep the body in a "good" condition.

According to different polls, 40 to 80 per cent of Russians are not happy with the fact that the corpse is still being exhibited on the Red Square. Many people suggest burying Lenin next to the Kremlin's walls, where many other honorary Soviet officials and generals rest in peace - this including Stalin, who was Lenin's mausoleum neighbour for a while.

In September 2020, The Union of Architects of Russia announced a competition for the best possible way to reuse the mausoleum. The Union's speakers were emphatic that the contest was only meant to create a "bank of ideas" and had no political motivation.

However, the announcement still caused an enormous storm of public reaction: from negative comments and even threats and jokes to the Union's president, including in the social media.

One of the most popular jokes was to open a nostalgic Soviet-style ryumoch-naya (vodka bars) in the mausoleum that used to operate across Moscow, but now most of them are closed. Oth-

ers recommended that the mausoleum be turned into a supermarket, food or alcohol store, which Moscow city centre lacks and needs.

However, popular movie critic and blogger Anton Dolin is of the view that the mausoleum should stay as it is with Lenin's body, but needs to be "museumified". No honorary guard, only one security and a museum guard babushka (woman's triangular scarf) and a souvenir store by the exit.

Russian stand-up comedian Denis Nikolin has meanwhile suggested building a "Leninland" in Moscow. He thinks it would attract millions of tourists, as the country is still pretty much associated with the erstwhile Soviet Union.

"We don't suggest carrying out Lenin's body, we don't suggest rebuilding the mausoleum, we only suggest finding the solution for the further use of this great piece of Soviet architecture," Nikolai Shumakov, president of the architectural union, states.

Contest coordinator Irina Korobyina thinks that, sooner or later, Lenin's body issue will be decided and there should be a ready plan for reuse of the mausoleum, so that this process wouldn't be protracted for years.

Despite all the architects' explanations regarding the reasons behind this innocent contest, three days after its announcement, the Union had to cancel it. However, it's not the first time such ideas were openly discussed.

Before perestroika, no one was brave enough to encroach the glorious Communist past and raise the question of Lenin's burial. Arguments about Lenin's mausoleum appeared on the eve of the collapse of the USSR.

In 1989, at the Congress of Soviet deputies, deputy Yuri Karyakin suggested committing Lenin's body to the



ground and reminded the audience that Lenin's personal will was to be buried next to his mother's grave.

After Karyakin's speech, for the first time, the country started to openly discuss that keeping the mummy on display contradicted Christianity and Orthodoxy.

Lenin's burial became one of the hottest topics in the 1990s, as the new non-communist authorities wanted to get rid of all Soviet relics as soon as possible. But those turbulent times made the authorities focus on more relevant and urgent questions. At the end of his presidency, Boris Yeltsin expressed the willingness in solving Lenin's question, but he left his post and the issue remained open.

Ksenia Sobchak, a candidate at the 2017 presidential election, said that Lenin's burial was one of the points in her agenda and suggested arranging a referendum so that Russians could decide what to do with

Lenin.

In 2020, eccentric politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy suggested selling Lenin's 'mummy', presuming that some communist country would gladly buy it.

A former patriarch of the Russian Orthodox church, Alexy II, suggested that a site be chosen outside Red Square where to build a necropolis for all the Soviet revolutionaries and Soviet leaders and move their remains there.

Another eccentric deputy, Vitaly Milonov recommended that the mausoleum be demolished, arguing that it disturbed people from skating on the annual winter Christmas market being held just in front of it.

Federation Council chairperson Valentina Matveyenko thinks that this question should be raised only when Russian people are ready for it - not now. She also recommends the putting up of a museum with

Lenin's grave, just like the 'Les Invalides' in Paris.

For his part, Vladimir Putin has many times expressed his opinion that Lenin "shouldn't be touched". He believes that for many people Lenin symbolises the country's past achievements.

Indeed, for communists, it is a certain relic and Putin compares the meaning that the mausoleum has for communists with the one saints' remains have for Christians. So, he has suggested moving forward to the future and developing the country in the present, rather than discussing Lenin's body.

The last, but not the least, point is that the mausoleum is a UNESCO heritage site, so no crucial changes in the building are possible, as the UN agency respects it as a great monument of Soviet architecture.

Russia Beyond

Peace in the Middle East

ROME

AFTER the fall of the Ottoman Empire at the end of WWI, The League of Nations mandated that Britain administer Palestine. The London administration was quite ineffective, in part, due to the contradictory promises which were made to the Arabs, to the Zionists and to France, the other colonial power which divided the territory with Britain.

But the conflict is much more ancient. It has now been thirty centuries since the first confrontations between the Philistines and the Hebrews, and the peace agreement promoted by US President Donald Trump between Israel and two ancient small Gulf monarchial dictatorships will certainly not resolve this millennial rivalry.

The Philistines settled in the region around 1200 BC. Toward the end of the 11th century BC, the Israelites succeeded in driving them out of much of their territory, but they remained independent along the coastal region. And although they never completely dominated the whole area, the demonym of this people comes precisely from the word peleset (Philistine) and hence the territory Filas in, Falas n or Filis in (Palestine).

Three thousand years later, the conflict seems to lack resolution. The Israelis have never accepted the existence of a Palestinian State.

For their part Palestinian leaders continue to employ inviable rhetoric, which has led to their losing many opportunities. The corruption of which they are accused, is based in reality, but Israel has a relatively dark history.

Arab Sultans and Sheikhs are people with a medieval mindset, those for whom religious fanaticism and money is uniquely important. Trump likes them, because in some ways they resemble him. The Israelis have worked out how to take advantage of all this so as to eliminate the possibility of a Palestinian state.

Result: Palestinians will have to live under Israeli control. They will be second-class citizens, and the internal arrangement of Israel will change as the ultra-orthodox Haredin have a higher population growth rate than Arabs or other Jewish factions.

Arabs are 20% of the population, while Haredin Jewish sect already constitutes twelve percent of the population. At the time of the creation of the State of Israel, the Haredin were only 0.2%. These are medieval clans living in a special world. For example, they have won the right to not attend school, as they only study holy scriptures. They do not do military service and by law they do not work; they're basically maintained by the State.

Benjamin Netanyahu survives thanks to the



ultra-orthodox parties. The future of Israel is not a peaceful future. It is a country that is going to turn more and more toward the right, which will have to continue to use force against the Palestinians, who will become an exclusively internal problem, as they will be abandoned by other Arabs. They are going to live under appalling social and economic conditions, and we are going to see how Israel increasingly takes the apartheid path.

Netanyahu's recent victories portend a dark future. One has visited the region too often now to offer a positive prognosis. Through all this, Trump motivates alliances with the Sunni religious fundamentalists led by Saudi Arabia, united against the Shiites, led by Iran.

Iran, the ancient Persian civilisation, is much more tolerant than the Sunnis. The problem is that it has been captured by a group of fanatics who took advantage of the unpopularity of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, leading to them seizing power from the Shah in 1979. They are unpopular, but they are holding their ground. It should be remembered that the theocratic

regime was installed with decisive help from the West.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned from exile in France to Iran on a plane provided by the conservative government of French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Iran is another mistake made by the United States, a country whose foreign policy is always short-term, again failing to understand the reality on the ground.

Triggering an escalation to remove the Shah, employing the clergy, created a regime that eventually turned against the US, something Reza Pahlavi would have never done. It is the same mistake committed in Afghanistan, when they financed a movement against the Russian occupation, creating phenomena such as Bin Laden, which ended up turning in another direction.

By the way, this is the same mistake made by Israel when it supported Al Fatah at first, so as to weaken Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Mullahs are not at all popular, but they

are maintained by the support of the peasants and by a powerful repressive apparatus. No doubt at some point they will be taken out in a bloody internal crisis, and Iran will return to normality.

In this respect I wish to stress three points: a) Iran has top-level universities, great films, excellent architecture and a high level of scientific prowess:

none of which can be found in the Sunni world.

b) In Teheran there are synagogues and christian churches,

something that is lacking in the Sunni world.

c) Of all the terrorist attacks that have taken place to date in Europe and in the United States,

there has not been a single Shiite terrorist.

And we should bear in mind that Iran has been under sanctions for 40 years.

Moral: the political disaster which is the Middle East is one of governance, in which the 'West' and Trump carry many responsibilities. So too the Europeans who installed Kings,

Princes, Emirs and Sheikhs when they divided up the Ottoman Empire.

And Trump, with his son-in-law, who, despite being Jewish, is capable of reasoning in Arab terms, by reinforcing this World of petrodollars and of medieval thought.

Throughout this panorama the Palestinians remain a people without a homeland who lack nationality, and the Israelis have their answer prepared: they don't accept the peace plan, and then do not have leaders who seek peace.

However, persisting in maintaining millions of people resentful and poor is not an intelligent play. It is also clear that in both intellectual and artistic circles there is little Israel support for such a formula.

Falling into this trap is best explained by Netanyahu's efforts to maintain power at any cost, and so selling his soul to the far-right, also accompanied by a left which has become a merely symbolic force...

AGENCIES



Salum Mwalimu, the opposition Chadema's presidential running mate in the upcoming General Election, addresses a campaign rally at Meatu bus stand in Simiyu Region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Dande

PCCB rings tanzanite dealers, advocates in smuggling query

FROM PAGE 1

dealer in the city; Naiman Emmanuel Mollel, a quarry operator in Mirerani; and Ezekiel Amon Laizer, a miner and gemstone dealer.

PCCB Director General Brigadier General John Mbungu said in a statement that properties owned by the seven suspects, including houses, land, cash, mineral consignments and cars, are valued at 7.2bn/- in total and have also been sequestered as part of investigations.

"PCCB is working with the Director of Criminal Investigations in its inquiries, and they (the suspects) will soon be taken to court. Should they be found guilty, then all their properties will be confiscated in addition to jail terms," he said in the statement.

He said that the suspects, in addition to dealing with illegal shipments of gemstones, operated a network through which they declared false values of tanzanite

being exported in international markets in order to dodge taxes.

Reports by international mineral trading circles show that tanzanite worth 635bn/- used to be smuggled out of Tanzania every year through cross-border "bush channels" before being auctioned in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and subsequently in a number of Indian cities.

A wall was erected in 2017 around Mirerani quarries on orders from President John Magufuli to curb mineral smuggling, which drove down the racket though it is still taking place intermittently.

Before the construction of the Mirerani wall, Nairobi gemstone centres used to sell tanzanite valued at US\$100 million every year as India documented US\$300 million worth of tanzanite imports and Tanzania (the only place in the world whether tanzanite is found) registered a paltry \$38 million worth of tanzanite exports annually, according to reports.

Tanzania, South Africa form new investment liaison team

FROM PAGE 1

The trading status of the two countries has been rising over the years, with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) annual report for the year 2017/18 detailing that South Africa is the leading intra-SADC trading partner, accounting for 70.9 per cent of the country's commerce within the economic zone.

"We want to increase the volume of trade between our countries. Apart from cooperation within SADC, Tanzania and South Africa signed a memorandum of understanding to foster industrialization and trade," he said.

Mayoli raised expectations that the committee will enhance trade between the two countries for their mutual benefit.

"The memorandum of understanding we signed provides for the formation of a committee to foster our cooperation in the areas of industrialization, trade and investment. That is what we have done," the envoy said.

The BoT report shows that Tanzania continued to be a net exporter to other SADC countries, with a trade surplus of \$445.5m in 2017, up from \$397.2m in 2016.

In 2017, Tanzania's exports to South Africa increased by 10.7 per cent to \$699.8m from \$631.3m in 2016, while imports declined by 12.1 per cent to \$415.2m in 2017 from \$472.2m recorded in 2016.

Tanzania recorded a trade surplus with South Africa, DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola and Botswana, which it said was a result of decreased imports especially from South Africa.

DRC is Tanzania's second major intra-SADC trade partner with export value amounting to \$153.6m in 2017, lower than \$291m in 2016. However, the share of Tanzania's exports to DRC declined to 15.2 per cent of its total intra-SADC exports in 2017 compared with 28.8 per cent in 2016, the report noted.

SADC region with a combined population of 370m people and a combined GDP of \$607bn provides huge potential for investment that propels socioeconomic development, experts affirm.

Govt offering wildlife breeds, touts ranching

FROM PAGE 1

hunters in designated blocks in our national parks are normally left to rot. Now the meat will be sold through game meat butcheries," he said.

He said all is set for opening such butcheries in 23 regions with others following later, namely Songwe, Mara and Rukwa.

Apart from stationary butcheries, there will be mobile

ones to ease distribution of game meat whereby dealers will be given specifications on the type of vehicles to be used, he stated.

So far the ministry has received applications from 25 entities interested in establishing game meat butcheries, where a ministerial committee will deliberate on October 12 and issue licences to approved applicants, he elaborated.

TAWA Deputy Commissioner

Imani Nkuwi cautioned those who expect to see free trade in game meat as an opportunity for poaching, saying that authorities will be on the alert.

"The sale of game meat was first introduced in 1988 and discontinued the following year due to a spike in poaching. We will not allow that to happen this time," he declared.

The government issued guidelines formalising the game

meat industry back in February as part of efforts to reduce poaching and ensure that the governments gets a slice of proceeds from the business.

Under the new regulations, it is illegal to sell game meat without a valid licence, the TAWA top official underlined.

Those found guilty of contravening this requirement will be fined up to 5m/- or face a five-year jail sentence, or both.

The provisions, contained in the Wildlife Conservation (Game Meat Selling) Regulations 2020, put the minimum penalty for offenders at 2m/-, while the minimum jail term is one year.

The regulations published in Government Notice Number 84, also provide at least 51 per cent of shares in companies dealing in game meat should be owned by Tanzanian citizens.



Information and Communication Technology Commission acting director general Samson Mwela (R) briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the 4th national Annual ICT Conference scheduled to be held in Dar es Salaam from October 7 to 9 under the theme: "Towards the 4th Industrial Revolution". He is with Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent secretary Dr Zainab Chaula (C) and her deputy, Dr Jim Yonazi. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

EAC tables USD 97.6m budget proposals

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE EAC has presented to the East African Legislative Assembly, the long-awaited Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2020/2021, totaling \$97,669,708, at a sitting held via virtual conference. The chairperson of the EAC council of ministers and state minister for EAC, Republic of Rwanda, Prof Nshuti Manasseh, presented the

EAC Budget Speech this afternoon as the budget session got underway.

The 2020/2021 Budget is themed: "Stimulating the economy to safeguard livelihoods, jobs, businesses and industrial recovery." According to the Chair of Council of Ministers, the Budget estimates are presented at a time when the EAC region as well as the globe is still reeling from the effects (and after-effects) of the COVID-19

pandemic, leading to lockdowns and a slowdown in economic activities.

"The impact of the Pandemic on EAC partner states, though not yet assessed fully, is no doubt surmounting", the minister said. He reiterated the EAC Budget would complement the efforts of Partner States and development partners to spur economic recovery arising from the Covid19 disruptions.

Priority Interventions for Fiscal

Year 2020/2021, Hon Nshuti nevertheless, said, would focus on several priority programmes. Key among them the consolidation of Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover imports and intra-EAC traded goods, including agricultural and other widely consumed products as well as enhanced infrastructure development in the region. Nshuti further said the EAC would enhance free movement

of all factors of production and other areas of co-operation across the Partner States, as envisaged under the Common Market and Monetary Union Protocols and strive for the promotion of peace, security and good governance.

Another priority, Nshuti informed the attentive House, is to enhance regional industrial development through investment in key priority

sectors, skills development, technological advancement and innovation to stimulate economic development. In Agriculture, the EAC is expected to work towards improvement of agricultural productivity, value addition and facilitation of movement of agricultural goods to enhance food security in the region.

The core lesson of the Covid-19 heart debate

By Ed Yong

LAST Monday (September 14), when I called cardiologist Amy Kontorovich in the late morning, she apologised for sounding tired. "I've been in my lab infecting heart cells with SARS-CoV-2 since 6 a.m.," she said.

That might seem like an odd experiment for a virus that spreads through the air and primarily infects the lungs and airways. But SARS-CoV-2, the new coronavirus behind the Covid-19 pandemic, can also damage the heart.

That much was clear in the early months of the pandemic, when some Covid-19 patients would be hospitalised with respiratory problems and die from heart failure.

"Cardiologists have been thinking about this since March," said Kontorovich, who is based at Mount Sinai, adding: "Data have been trickling in."

Autopsies have found traces of the coronavirus's genetic material in the heart, and actual viral particles within the heart's muscle cells. Experiments have found that SARS-CoV-2 can destroy lab-grown versions of those cells.

Several studies have now shown that roughly 10 to 30 per cent of hospitalised Covid-19 patients had high levels of troponin - a protein released into the blood when the heart's muscle cells are damaged. Such patients are more likely to die than others with no signs of heart injury.

This is worrying for people with severe symptoms but, more recently, a few studies suggested that Covid-19 can cause heart inflammation - or myocarditis - even in people who showed mild symptoms or had recovered.

These results were controversial but concerning. Myocarditis is frequently caused by viruses and resolves on its own in many cases. But it can progress to more severe heart problems, and is one of the leading causes of sudden death in young adults.

These studies contributed to decisions by two US college football conferences - the Big Ten and the Pac-12 - to cancel their autumn season. The Big Ten has since reversed its call, and the Pac-12 is considering doing the same.

These developments have only added to Covid-19's mystique. News stories and scientific articles have spun a narrative about a bizarre virus that behaves like no other as well as a supposedly respiratory illness that should perhaps be reconsidered as a vascular disease.

But several cardiologists and virologists I've talked with say that such claims are overblown. Covid-19 is a severe disease that should be taken seriously, but it's not all that strange. It seems that way in part because it is new and extremely widespread, and so commands our full attention in the way that most viral illnesses don't.

Hundreds of researchers are studying it. Millions of people have been infected by it. And every study, every news story, and every unusual detail quickens the pulse.

From a virus's point of view, the heart is both an easy target and a terrible one. It is easy to reach and invade because it collects blood from all over the body and, unlike the brain, has no protective barrier.

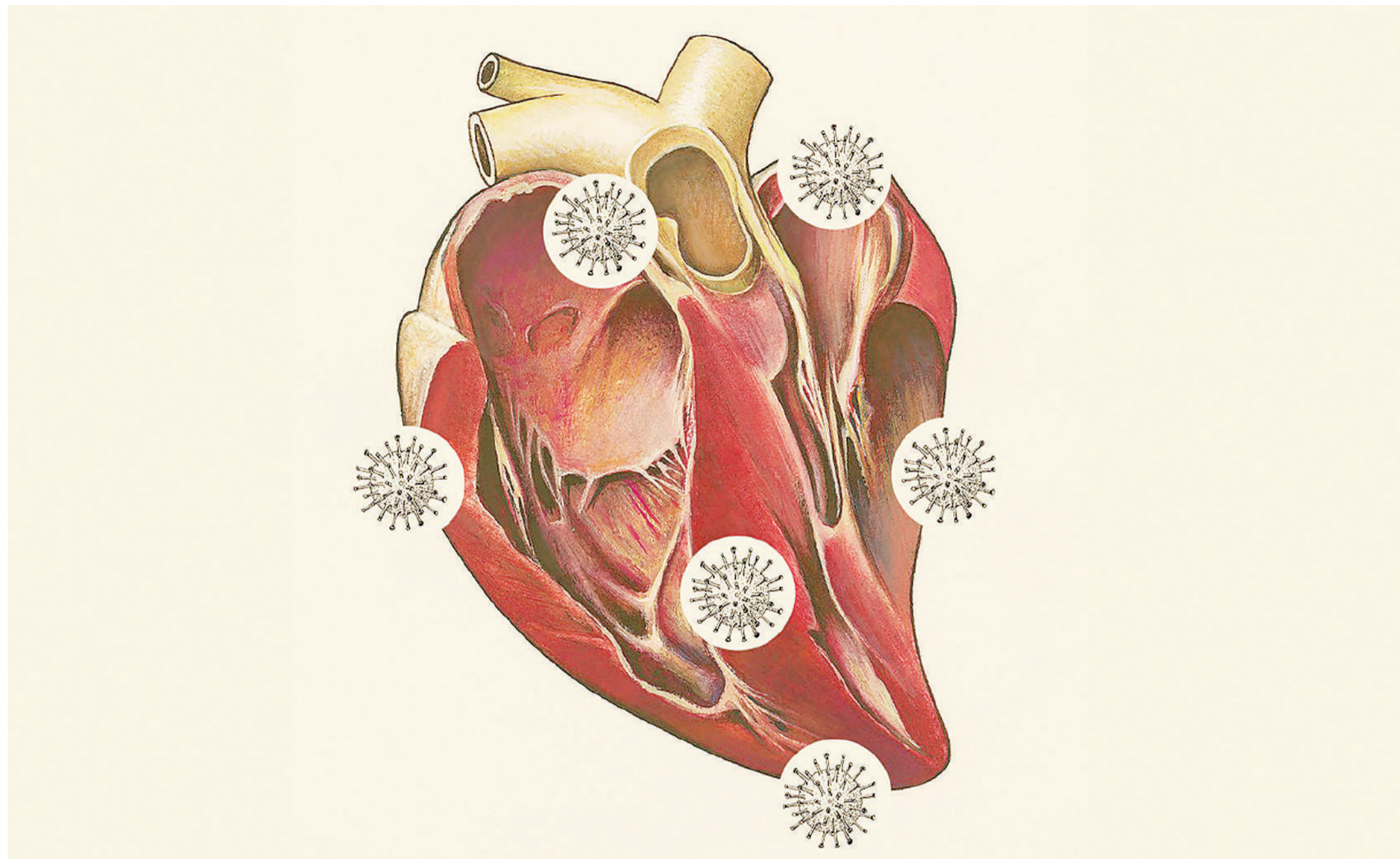
But infecting the heart also risks killing the host without triggering symptoms that would allow a virus to spread easily - coughing, sneezing, diarrhoea or vomiting. For that reason, viruses that affect only the heart "do not exist", says Efraín Rivera-Serrano, a virologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

However, viruses can incidentally affect the heart. They do so often enough that they are the most common cause of myocarditis in the Western world. At least 20 known viruses can trigger this condition, including those that cause influenza, Zika, dengue and measles.

The list also includes the original SARS virus: One Toronto-based study found its genetic material in seven of 20 autopsied hearts. These hearts also had myocarditis.

By contrast, autopsied hearts with traces of the new coronavirus typically don't - with some exceptions. The virus was there, but whether it was actually doing anything is unclear.

But a virus doesn't need to be in the heart to wreak havoc. It can cause in-



direct damage by attacking the lungs and starving the heart of oxygen, or by triggering an inflammatory immune response that affects the entire body.

Even viruses that primarily affect the gut (like enteroviruses) or the respiratory system (like adenoviruses) can cause myocarditis in this way, when molecules produced at the site of infection travel through the bloodstream and inflame the heart.

Coxsackie B, for example, is the most widely studied cause of viral myocarditis, but it is primarily a gut virus that spreads through faecal contamination; it can infect the heart, but it does much of its damage via the immune system.

"To say that a virus is cardiac or vascular or respiratory simplifies things too much. Any time a pathogen invades the body, the whole body reacts," says Paul Checchia, a cardiologist at Texas Children's Hospital.

SARS-CoV-2 is no exception. The immune system's response to this coronavirus can be slow to kick off, but then prolonged and severe. These immune overreactions are similar in kind to those triggered by other respiratory viruses, like influenza, but greater in degree. The heart could potentially be caught in this stronger crossfire.

But how often does that happen? In the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, it seemed clear that the risk of heart injuries was "directly proportional to the severity of the illness", says Neel Chokshi, a sports cardiologist at the University of Pennsylvania.

But in July, a team led by Valentina Puntmann at University Hospital Frankfurt, in Germany, complicated that picture. The researchers showed that 78 per cent of people who had recovered from Covid-19 - including many who had never been hospitalised - still had some kind of heart abnormality that was detectable on MRI scans two months later. About 60 per cent still had signs of myocarditis.

The study was explosive. It spawned a wave of articles and papers about the possibility that Covid-19 could inflict stealthy and prolonged harm upon the hearts of people who aren't outwardly sick, and reportedly influenced decisions about whether college athletes should be allowed to play.

These intense discussions touched off intense criticism. Other scientists slammed the study for several errors, including data that were missing, reported incorrectly or analysed with the wrong statistical tests. The Frankfurt team corrected its paper, but says the main conclusions still stand.

"I think the data are good," says Tif-

fany Chen of Penn Medicine, who specialises in cardiac imaging and was not involved in the study, adding: "These were relatively healthy, mild cases of Covid-19, and they had a lot of abnormalities. It's unsettling."

But the clinical implications of these findings - what they mean for Covid-19 patients whose symptoms have abated, but whose MRI scans are abnormal - aren't yet understood, she says.

Viral myocarditis isn't always a problem. It's entirely possible that one has had the condition at some point in one's life without ever realising it. Some people recover but have persistent scarring that weakens their hearts and increases the risk of problems years down the line. And in a third group, the inflammation rapidly worsens, leading to faulty heartbeats, heart failure or even death.

The latter two outcomes are rare, but "it's really hard to give accurate percentages", says Chokshi. Doctors typically see cases of viral myocarditis only when they fall into the third group, and severe symptoms warrant MRIs and other diagnostic tests.

"We don't do MRIs on everyone who has the flu, so we don't know how many have inflammation or what their long-term outcomes are," says Martha Gulati, the cardiologist chief at the University of Arizona.

For example, in two small pilot studies, Checchia found signs of heart damage in between 40 and 55 per cent of children who were hospitalised with RSV - a common respiratory virus.

"On discharge, they seemed perfectly fine. But we couldn't get funding to look at them months or years down the line," he says.

Without that information, it's hard to know what to make of the Frankfurt Covid-19 study or others like it. Yes, some patients have myocarditis - but what does that mean? How do the numbers compare relative to other respiratory viruses?

Will Covid-19 patients with myocarditis recover fully, or will some have long-term problems? Is this virus doing something strange, or are researchers just studying it more intensely than other viral infections? For now, it's difficult to say.

The worry is that Covid-19 is doing whatever it's doing at scale. The original SARS epidemic of 2003 infected only 8,000 people, killed slightly fewer than 800, was over in three months, and its impact on the heart was "lost in the historical bin of the scientific literature", says Checchia.

SARS-CoV-2, by contrast, has infected at least 31 million people and killed at least 960,000. Its effects are thousands of times more obvious than

those of its predecessor. Even if it's no worse than any other viral illness, its sheer scope means that a tiny risk of severe long-term problems would still translate into a lot of failing hearts.

Reassuringly, "there hasn't been an obvious influx of patients being admitted to the hospital with unexplained myocarditis, despite the huge numbers who have had Covid-19", says Venkatesh Murthy, a cardiologist at the University of Michigan.

"I don't find it convincing that there is a major amount of serious clinically relevant myocarditis in people who are feeling well," notes Murthy.

Still, he and others say that long-term studies are important. "We're still early," says Tiffany Chen, adding: "I don't think there's a defined time point when we would expect to see heart failure, so we have to follow these patients for months or years down the road."

That can be unnerving for people who are currently sick. Long-haulers, who are struggling with months of debilitating Covid-19 symptoms, are "responding to the media's interpretation of these studies and, to put it bluntly, are rightfully freaking out", said Kontorovich, who is part of a team that provides care for long-haulers. But for now, she sees the myocarditis issue and the long-hauler phenomenon as separate matters.

Some long-haulers have been diagnosed with dysautonomia - a group of disorders that disrupt involuntary bodily functions, including heartbeats (which can become inexplicably fast) and blood pressure (which can suddenly crash).

However, people with lingering heart problems after viral myocarditis don't usually experience the chronic symptoms that long-haulers do, and they typically have measurable changes to their hearts that long-haulers don't.

"There may be a connection, but it hasn't been proved," noted Kontorovich.

College athletes are also facing immediate decisions. In just the past two months, the 27-year-old basketball player Michael Ojo died from a heart attack during a practice session, while 20-year-old football player Jamain Stephens Jr. died from a blood clot in his heart. Both had previously contracted Covid-19.

In a recent study, a research team at the Ohio State University scanned the hearts of 26 college athletes who tested positive for Covid-19 and had mild or absent symptoms. Four of them - or 15 per cent - had signs of myocarditis.

But the Ohio study didn't examine a control group of similar athletes who

didn't have Covid-19, and even healthy athletes experience changes in their heart as they train, including features that are "similar to what you might see with infections or scarring", says Gulati, the cardiologist at the University of Arizona.

If athletes come down with clinical myocarditis - that is, with obvious signs of heart problems - they're taken out of play for at least three months to let the infection run its course and to give the heart a chance to bounce back.

The question now is: What does one do about the people who have subclinical myocarditis after Covid-19, which presents with no symptoms and can be seen only on a medical scanner?

Chokshi, the sports cardiologist, says the risk that these abnormalities will lead to heart failure "is very, very low", but "the outcome is catastrophic".

The American College of Cardiology has published guidance advising that all athletes testing positive for Covid-19 rest for at least two weeks, even if they show no symptoms.

Setting myocarditis aside, it still makes sense to stop players from spreading the virus to one another, especially when so many colleges are facing large outbreaks.

"There are plenty of reasons to not play football independent of this issue. We already have plenty of evidence to take Covid-19 seriously," Murthy says.

As pandemics get wider, they feel weirder. Ebola was identified in 1976, but its ability to affect eyes, linger in semen and afflict survivors with long-term complications wasn't fully appreciated until it infected 28,000 people in West Africa, from 2014 to 2016.

Zika was meanwhile identified in 1947, but its ability to cause microcephaly - a condition where babies are born with small heads - wasn't noted until the explosive epidemic of 2015.

When millions of people become infected, rare events become commonplace and phenomena that might typically have gone unnoticed suddenly become prominent. This creates a deceptive sense that the disease in question is stranger than most and has uprooted the world because there's something inherently odd about it.

Covid-19 is different only in that everyone is encountering it for the first time during a pandemic. The world has gone from complete ignorance to an onslaught of detail in a matter of months, and those details can seem jarring.

The coronavirus affects the heart. Also, the brain. Odd symptoms. A multisystem inflammatory syndrome in

children. Cases of reinfection. Some of these phenomena will be particular to SARS-CoV-2. Others would also show up if any new virus infected millions within months.

This is not to downplay the severity of the pandemic. Some claims about Covid-19's effect on the heart may be overwrought, but that doesn't mean that the virus is harmless.

Conversely, the claims that Covid-19 is equivalent to the flu are clearly wrong, but that doesn't mean that anything goes.

The reality lies between this false dichotomy and is still grim, as evidenced by the sheer number of infections, deaths and lingering disabilities.

"It's hard to find a balance," says Efraín Rivera-Serrano, adding: "It's not an apocalyptic zombie virus that's so different from everything else and can suddenly do all these things to the body. But you also don't want to trivialise what is happening."

Indeed, by bringing underappreciated aspects of viral infections to light, Covid-19 might help to change our understanding of diseases in general.

The long-term consequences of viral myocarditis, for example, are still unclear, because "it can be really hard to identify hundreds of people who have all been exposed to the same virus in a relatively short amount of time", Murthy says.

That's no longer true. And beyond making studies possible, the Covid-19 pandemic also clarifies that such studies are worthwhile. "We have a mindset that this is a problem we need to work on," Murthy adds.

The heightened focus on Covid-19 allows hype and sensationalism to flourish but also shines a spotlight on phenomena that have long been consigned to the shadows.

For example, many of the lingering symptoms that long-haulers are facing are similar to known chronic conditions such as dysautonomia and myalgic encephalomyelitis, which can be triggered by other viral infections.

These illnesses have been dismissed and trivialised for decades. Few doctors know how to deal with them. Few scientists study them. That might change as thousands of people with similar problems are emerging all at once and are pushing for recognition and research.

In a pandemic, experiences that might once have been dismissed grab attention. Perhaps that tells us that they should never have been dismissed at all.

Ed Yong is a science writer with *The Atlantic*.

Fear of COVID-19 drives Zanzibar women out of electoral process

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the past six months, life in Zanzibar and the world at large was hectic for everyone due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

As it's to other countries, Zanzibar adopted measures to contain the spread of the virus that range from social distancing to bans on mass gatherings.

This affected many women who were planning to participate in this year's general election as most of them were busy with household chores. When the pandemic was on top gear in Tanzania and Zanzibar in particular, there was no room for women to think of the forthcoming election.

The time when the electoral bodies—National Electoral Commission (NEC) and Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) released schedules for this year's election was too short.

"We're restricted in different ways and weren't doing anything, but, suddenly, governments started easing restrictions and announcing the start of the October 28 general election. To us, this was a shock. Everyone had fear of the virus," says Saumu Masoud, who was aspiring for Pandani Constituency in Zanzibar through Civic United Front (CUF).

The situation according to Saumu, denied women from enjoying their democratic rights—the right to vote and being elected as

the transition from the pandemic to the general election was too short.

"This year's general election is different from those held in the past, as women were empowered and ready to get into political decision making bodies, but, the outbreak of the virus thwarted dreams of many of us," Saumu recounts.

Despite the fact that Saumu didn't succeed in the party primaries, she says: "I had a big dream and I was determined to win, but I failed because of COVID-19 pandemic." She also cites a lack of financial muscles as one of the hiccups preventing women from getting into political platforms.

"I know that all political parties ban corruption in the election, but there are some party members, who vote for someone who has money. To me as a women aspirant, this is a challenge," she says, revealing that in the party primaries, she ended up getting five votes.

Saumou lauds the role played by the Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa, Zanzibar) in empowering women in political leadership.

"I'm confident to take in the election process because of Tamwa. They trained us on how we can get into the electoral process and their initiative bore fruit as many women were ready to get into an election," says Zainab Mohamed.

Money is everything in the election, she



says, noting that poverty is a challenge that denies many women to get into political decision making.

But, a ruling CCM cadre, Asha Rashid says: "Despite of financial muscles, many women fail to get into political posts because the society doesn't trust them."

She reveals despite all challenges facing women in the country, but the number of women who are aspiring for different political posts has kept on increasing. This is due to different interventions carried out by different players including non-governmental organizations.

"To me, I see changing people's mindsets on women in leadership is a gradual process and I'm sure that in future there would be more women in lead-

ership," she says.

In this year's election, more women who contested for various posts were newcomers (in election) "that's why in some areas, women aspirants were asked where they were coming from as they were new in their parties, as a result, they ended up failing to win".

Tamwa Zanzibar director Dr Mzuri Issa says the organization has invested a lot in empowering women who eye for top political posts in this year's election.

She says in collaboration with UN-Women, Tamwa Zanzibar carried out a programme which was aimed at changing people's mindset towards women full participation in political decision making bodies in

Isles.

In this programme, more than 1,000 women were empowered on the best ways to take part in political posts

"The response has been good as more women were eager to get into the electoral process, but the challenge was the outbreak of Covid-19, which changed everything," she says.

Tamwa-Zanzibar also carried out a campaign dubbed: 'Male Change Agent Team (MCAT)', which was designed towards changing the mindset of the community towards women full participation in political decision making bodies in the country.

The one-year campaign involved 20 members who are formed by personalities from different groups—religious, council, and community leaders, as well as members from political parties, civil society organisations and some males who champion for women and children involvement issues.

Tamwa veteran activist, Ummie Mahfoudha Alley viewed that member of the society 'just contradict' themselves on positions of women, "While it is well known that women have been performing better as mothers, wives and leaders at the same time."

History shows that women have proved to perform better as leaders, where they cited Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, who was the Prime Minister for three terms; 1960-1965, 1970-1977 and 1994-2000 in her country.

Mechanism registrar meets with EACJ president and Arusha RC

By Guardian Reporter

THE registrar of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Mechanism), Abubacar Tambadou this week paid courtesy visits on the President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja and Arusha Regional Commis-

sioner Iddi Hassan Kimanta.

The visits which aimed to promote greater collaboration and partnerships between the Arusha branch of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, judicial institutions and local authorities hosted in Arusha were held between September 22nd and 24th 2020 respectively.

RC Kimanta congratulated registrar Tambadou on his recent appointment by the UN Secretary General as registrar of the Mechanism and re-assured him of the continued support to and collaboration of Arusha local authorities with the Mechanism.

Meanwhile, registrar Tambadou reiterated his gratitude for the excellent support and cooper-

ation that the Mechanism and its staff continue to receive from the Arusha local authorities particularly on law enforcement.

Registrar Tambadou informed the Regional Commissioner that the Mechanism will, in the coming weeks, be handing over a newly constructed Police Post for the Arumeru District to be located in Kisongo area in order to facilitate

the police support to the Mechanism and the area at large.

Arusha Regional Police Commander, Salum Hamduni, and the Regional Administrative Secretary, Richard Kwitega both graced the meeting.

Registrar Tambadou also paid a courtesy visit on the President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Dr Emmanuel Ugirashe-

buja.

President Ugirashebuja congratulated registrar Tambadou for his recent appointment as Registrar of the Mechanism and reiterated the good cooperation between the EACJ and the Mechanism.

The EACJ President expressed his gratitude to the Mechanism for the leadership role it has

played in fostering partnerships between the international and regional judicial institutions in Arusha.

Registrar Tambadou thanked Dr Ugirashebuja for the warm welcome accorded him and reiterated his commitment to strengthen the strong bonds of partnership that already exists between the two institutions.

Malawi on right track to eliminate child and forced labour in tobacco industry

LOLONGWE

MALAWI, which was the only country globally that was flagged for worst form of child and forced labour, has currently made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate this practice.

On November 1, 2019, the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a withhold release order (WRO) on tobacco and products containing tobacco from Malawi and upon receiving the WRO, importers were supposed to engage themselves and demonstrate that no child or forced labour was used in the production of tobacco goods.

This was disclosed by Fran Malila, corporate affairs manager for Alliance One International (AOI) Malawi during the third day of the virtual Global Tobacco & Nicotine Forum (GTNF) 2020 that addressed the strides being made globally in, among other issues, phasing out cigarettes and other high-risk tobacco products and transitioning smokers to reduced-risk alternatives.

Malila reported that: "Alliance One actively engaged, both internally and externally, to respond to the withhold release order over a 7-month period providing information relative to various aspects of our operations, including traceability and our Agricultural Labor Practices (ALP) program.

"We were notified that the withhold release order was modified to exclude Alliance One International on June 3, 2020.

"As of today, CBP has modified the withhold release order against tobacco from Malawi to exclude two companies – Alliance One International and Universal Leaf).

"The withhold release order modification means that tobacco imported into the USA from Malawi by the two companies are admissible at all US ports of entry."

Malila added that withhold release order is still valid for other importers of Malawi tobacco

and that it is more important than ever that farmers strictly comply with the ALP program through a multi-stakeholder approach.

"Malawi has various pieces of legislation that prohibit the use of child labour, forced labour, forced child labour and has an enabling legislative framework to combat child labour and child forced labour and promote a decent work environment.

"The Tobacco Industry Act (2019) became effective on February 22, 2019, which has provisions to ensure child labour elimination efforts and other labour-related rights.

"Ongoing training and extension services help farmers continuously improve their crop and labour practices and as of the 2018-2019 crop year, some tobacco companies directed that no person under the age of 18 years should be involved in any tobacco-related activities."

This, she said, affords greater protection than the Malawi Prohibition of Hazardous Work Act, which allows 16-18 year-olds working in tobacco, provided they are trained and supervised by an adult.

She also disclosed Alliance One International's global sustainability program is rooted in three pillars – producers, people and planet.

"As tobacco companies, we are invested in responsible crop production in order to ensure the economic viability for the grower, provide a safe working atmosphere for those involved in crop production and minimize negative environmental impact.

"Traceability is a vital part of our operations and ensures we are able to trace our products from seed to customer and vice versa.

"Systems and processes give us the ability to track and trace our product from building farmer profiles to flagging non-compliant tobacco i.e. non-compliant seed, NTRM, CPA and ALP incidences."

Through a multi-pronged approach, Malila said tobacco companies are committed to the elimination of labour abuses and the improvement of working conditions in tobacco crop production through farmer training, farm monitoring, stakeholder engagement and sustainability programs.

Malawi tobacco industry, which is among the top 10 producers of the leaf in the world and is also a top producer of burley tobacco – alongside Brazil and the United States – employs almost 12% of the country's population.

"Tobacco related transactions contribute 25% to Malawi's tax revenue base and contributes 15% of Malawi's gross domestic product (GDP) and 60% of foreign exchange earnings," Malila said.

"Four out of five people in Malawi rely on agriculture for their income with the majority of those individuals being small-holder growers farming an average of 0.5ha of land.

"Malawi tobacco must be grown in compliance with Sustainable Tobacco Program (STP) and Agricultural Labor Practices (ALP) to must meet the requirements and regulations put forth by governments and non-governmental organizations around the world."

She went on to say the Malawi Government approved the integrated production system (IPS) in tobacco in 2011/2012 under which the IPS buyers contract directly with growers – enabling supervision of various aspects of tobacco production including labour.

She described IPS benefits as being increased food security for contracted growers and their communities and improved profits, as evident through the higher maize yield of IPS tobacco growers.

She told the GTNF 2020 delegates that the new Malawi government leadership that was ushered into power in June 2020 is committed to improving



the lives of Malawians and achieving the SDG targets are high on the agenda.

One of panelists on the topic 'People, Planet and Progress Towards Sustainable Leaf Supply Chains' – that was moderated by Michiel Reerink (international corporate affairs director and managing director of Alliance One International) – was Mauro Gonzalez (Phillip Morris International director of sustainable agriculture), who disclosed that PMI's motto is caring for people they work with.

He reiterated that PMI, which is one of Malawi's biggest buyers of tobacco, is transforming

towards a sustainable smoke-free future and a strategic forward looking innovation for better products.

PMI has been ranked second in the world in the newly-introduced Tobacco Transformation Index as a company that is reducing tobacco harm, lowering health risks and mitigating the world's smoking burden.

Tobacco Transformation Index is set to be providing comprehensive metrics and insights into how some of world's 15 largest tobacco companies are deploying (or not deploying) their capital and other resources in pursuit

of reducing tobacco harm, lowering health risks and mitigating the world's smoking burden.

Gonzalez said PMI is set to completely eradicate child and forced labor by the year 2025 and to promote responsible marketing and sales practices, sustainable supply chain management and respect of human rights.

It also targets to promote social-economic, healthy and safety well-being of tobacco farming communities.

China calls for upholding of right to development through multilateral cooperation

GENEVA

As protectionism and unilateral coercive measures pursued by some major global players sabotage the world's efforts to overcome the COVID-19 crisis, China has stepped up its support for the United Nations (UN), placing the right to development at the center of international cooperation.

During the ongoing 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which takes place between Sept. 14 and Oct. 6, participants called for strengthening international cooperation and solidarity in the fight against COVID-19 at a biennial panel on the right to development.

Nevertheless, as the development goals of the most vulnerable developing countries stagger under the economic burden caused by the new coronavirus, there is a lack of consensus among countries on how to put an end to the disturbing trend.



Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaks at the 45th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, Sept. 17, 2020. Xinhua

UN Office at Geneva, voiced concerns that many developing and least developed countries affected by COVID-19 and unilateral coercive measures are facing severe challenges in fulfilling international human rights obligations.

"We call upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide technical assistance upon the request of the states concerned and oppose unilateral coercive measures," Chen said at the 45th session of the UNHRC, urging the international community to uphold multilateralism, strengthen unity and jointly address global challenges.

China has been working with members of the Group of 20 to implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorest countries and called on international financial institutions and private creditors to take concrete actions in that regard, according to a position paper issued by China on the 75th anniversary of the UN.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Participants of the biennial panel on the right to development were unanimous in their appeal for "heightened solidarity and renewed multilateral-

ism" to help developing countries overcome the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, the pandemic, coupled with the climate emergency, is the gravest global threat in generations, which has shaken "to its very core" the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Bachelet said the situation demands bold policies and financial and technical support for countries and communities in need, including through urgent debt relief.

At the moment, between 70 and 100 million people are being plunged into extreme poverty, warned Isabelle Durant, deputy secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Developing countries will suffer from a funding gap of between 2 and 3 trillion U.S. dollars in the following two years, Durant said, adding the situation is further aggravated by the expected decline in official development assistance, foreign direct investments and remittances from migrant workers and diasporas.

Members of the Non-Aligned Move-

ment also warned of the negative impact of the pandemic on developing countries, which created difficulties for the realization of the right to development.

"Equitable access, distribution, and affordability of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines for COVID-19 are important priorities for developing countries and least developed countries," noted Vaqif Sadiqov, permanent representative of Azerbaijan to the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG).

The world needs new economic models that are sustainable, people-centered and inclusive, said Maria Mercedes Rossi, main representative of the Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII to the UNOG.

"Urgent action was needed now, including debt cancellation, ending unilateral coercive measures, countering tax havens and corruptions," she said.

APPEAL FOR MULTILATERALISM

Participants of the panel noted that developing countries are faced with obstacles to the right to development that predated the pandemic, most of which stemmed from the international order imposed by hegemonic powers.

Unilateralism and protectionism of certain countries that have been eroding mutual trust and coordination among countries for long exploded amid the pandemic.

The crisis significantly hampered the realization of the right to development, said Carlos Correa, executive director of the South Centre, an inter-governmental organization of developing countries.

Correa cautioned against dangerous actions aimed at weakening the World Health Organization, a return to isolationist policies such as "vaccine nationalism," as well as unilateral coercive actions.

"Persistence of unilateral coercive actions is manifestly contrary to international law and ethically unacceptable, particularly at a time of greater desolation and suffering of the populations of the affected countries," he

said.

Developed countries should honor their development assistance commitments, not attach political requirements, and safeguard multilateralism and the multilateral trading system, a Chinese representative said at the biennial panel on human rights on Sept. 17.

Amid a once-in-a-century transformation brought on by the pandemic, "certain countries and political forces keep playing the blame game, clamoring for 'decoupling' and pulling out of international organizations and agreements," reads China's position paper on the 75th anniversary of the UN.

"What they are doing is sabotaging international cooperation, stoking confrontation between ideologies and social systems and putting the world in serious jeopardy," it reads.

PRECONDITION FOR ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

Apart from its consistent support to the full realization of the human right to development and its vigorous defense of multilateralism and international cooperation, China has been assisting other countries in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and contributing to the fulfillment of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

While advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at home, China is working with other countries to put development front and center in the global macro policy framework and seek greater synergy between the Belt and Road Initiative and the 2030 Agenda, according to its position paper.

The paper highlights the right to a happy life as the most important of all, and reiterates China's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights through greater development.

At the UNHRC panel, China called on all countries to follow the UN Declaration on the Right to Development as a guide, insist on putting people at the center, uphold the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development, and strive to implement the 2030 Agenda to promote the realization of the right to development.

People around the world have been witnessing for a long time how harmful protectionism and unilateral coercion measures are for the future of developing and least developed countries, while the pandemic has accentuated the importance of another vital human right -- the right to health.

However, the vital factor behind the realization of all human rights is development. Just as Chen has said, without it, "there are no human rights to talk about."

All countries should adhere to multilateralism and international cooperation, take clearly-targeted and coordinated actions to effectively combat the pandemic, promote sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and growth, and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a Chinese representative said during this year's UNHRC session.

Xinhua

PUSH FOR DEVELOPMENT

Although the world will mark the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the Human Right to Development next year, work for its implementation remains insufficient, partly due to the protective and unilateral coercive measures adopted by some major countries.

To propel the realization of the right to development, China has submitted two resolutions that were adopted by the UNHRC.

The latest resolution entitled "The Contribution of Development to the Enjoyment of All Human Rights" encouraged all countries to promote a sustainable and people-centered development.

The other resolution, jointly proposed by China and the Non-Aligned Movement and adopted at the 42nd session of the UNHRC, emphasizes an "urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone."

As the COVID-19 crisis has made the fulfillment of the right to development fall behind its schedule, Chen Xu, China's permanent representative to the

A pact of 'pariahs' rattles their neighbourhoods

BY PETER FABRICIUS

THE recent accord struck between Taiwan and Somaliland - two countries that few others recognise - seems to have rattled China and Somalia more than the relations of those two 'pariah' states with many other, recognised, states. Why?

On 17 August this year, Taiwan opened a representative office in Hargeysa, and on 9 September, Somaliland reciprocated by opening one in Taipei. Taiwan Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said his country had agreed to forge ties with Somaliland due to 'friendship and a shared commitment to common values of freedom, democracy, justice and the rule of law.'

Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi likewise underscored that the accord between the two countries 'is based on our common values of freedom and democracy' in a speech delivered at the opening of the Somaliland office in Taipei. Both governments clearly wished to emphasise their differences with their larger, hostile, neighbours - undemocratic China and Somalia, also barely democratic.

Both governments clearly wished to emphasise their differences with their larger, hostile, neighbours

However Abdi also stressed that the accord was being forged in 'a spirit of mutual assistance that will never ex-

pose any harm whatsoever to the interests of other countries.'

Neither China nor Somalia were amused nor reassured however. China's embassy in Mogadishu issued a statement saying the arrangement violated the One China principle and so was 'illegal and will never be recognised by the People's Republic of China.'

Mogadishu also released a statement condemning 'Taiwan's reckless attempts to infringe on the Sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Somalia and violate its Territorial Integrity.' Somalia threatened to take necessary measures within international law to protect the country's unity, sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

Why the fuss? It's not unprecedented for Taiwan to establish representative offices in foreign countries. It has 75, two of which are in South Africa, one in Nigeria and some in other African countries. They're called 'Taipei Representative Offices' to indicate that they are not embassies or consulates, and that their purpose - at least officially - is not to embody political or diplomatic relations, but purely to boost commercial ties.

Will mutual recognition of two states that are recognised by few others help their independence cause?

That is designed to placate Beijing's obsessive hostility to anything that resembles official government recognition of



The recent accord between Taiwan and Somaliland, two states acknowledged by few others, is making waves. File photo

Taiwan as an independent state by any country with which China has official diplomatic relations.

Somaliland also has similar representative offices in 22 countries. It unilaterally broke away from Somalia in 1991 and has since pursued a diverging path of peaceful and relatively prosperous development, contrasting sharply with its turbulent neighbour.

However, it is reported that although the Taiwan office in Hargeysa will deal only with economic and not political relations, it is not called a 'Taipei Representative Office' but instead a 'Taiwan Representative Office' - a subtle but significant difference. Likewise Hargeysa's office in Taipei was labelled 'Republic of Somaliland' instead of just 'Somaliland' as many countries do to avoid offending Somalia.

Maybe it's partly for that reason that Beijing was rattled by the accord, as it seems to point to something more than just economic relations. Though neither Taiwan nor Somaliland have said they intend to establish diplomatic relations, they also apparently haven't ruled that out either. And quite a few commentators have reacted to the present accord as though it does already represent full mutual diplomatic recognition.

For now, Taiwan and Somaliland seem to have opted for strategic ambiguity about their relationship. So for example David Monyae, Director for the Centre for Africa-China Studies at the University of Johannesburg, recently warned Taipei and Hargeysa in an article in The Star to be 'careful in their premature diplomatic relations' which would be '... dire for Africa. Somaliland will become a hot spot for the emerging New Cold War between the United States and China,' he said, noting that the United States had welcomed the new deal.

Jama Musse Jama, Director of the Redsea Cultural Foundation and Managing Director of the Hargeysa Cultural Centre, believes the accord has annoyed China because So-

maliland is essentially different from the 75 other countries where Taiwan already has representative offices.

"It looks for recognition in a more aggressive way than those countries who may not need recognition at all; and the rumours that circulated of bilateral mutual recognition was something which worried (more than annoyed) China. And they were sure if Taiwan offered Somaliland formal recognition, Somaliland would immediately repay the favour. When China verified that was not an immediate risk, in fact they cooled down," he added.

But he also believes China remains wary of the deal because the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden region has recently become more strategic and politically sensitive - for example with the large foreign military presence, including that of China - in Djibouti.

"And so China understood that the Taiwan-Somaliland relationship, if not stopped in time, might go beyond the declared economic bilateral relationship," Jama said.

He does not believe going to the next level of diplomatic relations is a priority for Taiwan or Somaliland now, though. Yet Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party are growing more assertive about independence so that might eventually change.

Whether mutual recognition of two states that are barely recognised by any others will help or hinder each other's independence cause seems like an objective imponderable because it's such an unusual circumstance. But China and Somalia, at least, fear it will help.

Under the guidance of its main protector, the United States, Taiwan has long maintained strategic ambiguity about its intentions, never quite declaring independence for fear that that would provoke a military response from Beijing. Such a reaction would force the United States to retaliate.

Agencies

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 139 00--

WORD-FIT

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

3 letters
4 letters
5 letters
6 letters
7 letters
8 letters

SUE, SAY, STY, YER, PAW, MOP, SIN, TREK, PARE, NECK, LEIC, OMAN, OPEN, MODE, SEXY, BRIBE, RAISE, SHREW, MONEY, PAROKO, SLAYER, REDIAL, ELEVEN, BOREDOM, BENCHER, CENACLE, EXTERIOR, BOBBINET

CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4
5
6 7
8 9
10 11
12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19
20
21
22
23

SOLUTIONS

1 SOMALIA
2 MOP
3 SAY
4 YER
5 PAW
6 ELEVEN
7 BENCHER
8 EXTERIOR
9 BOBBINET
10 PAROKO
11 SHREW
12 BRIBE
13 RAISE
14 MODE
15 OPEN
16 CENACLE
17 NECK
18 OMAN
19 TREK
20 SUE
21 STY

CLUES: Across

1 Somalia's Capital
2 lover in Kiswahili
3 a newt
4 use or take advantage of
5 feeling sorrow
6 give or bequeath an income or property to
7 'so be it'
8 a silvery freshwater fish
9 the main meal of the day
10 dialling code
11 a group of sports clubs which play each other over a period for a championship
12 an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group
13 short for an ampere

CLUES: Down

1 largest port in Kenya
2 a small bomb thrown by hand
3 blind temporarily
4 either of two equal periods into which a sports game or performance is divided
5 endow with a quality
6 a tall, narrow building
7 corpses supposed to leave their grave at night to drink the blood of the living
8 the period of a person's immaturity or youth
9 occur again
10 a cleaving tool with a handle at right angles to the blade
11 a valley
12 tidy
13 a group of players

BUSINESS

EQUALITY

Film academy for sweeping changes to awards in bid to increase diversity

LONDON

Britain's film academy is set to shake up its membership and voting rules in a review prompted by the glaring lack of diversity in the nominations.

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts promised to change after contenders for the 2020 awards were announced last January. No women were nominated in the Best Director category for the seventh year running, and all 20 nominees in the lead and supporting performer categories were white.

"We said on the day, 'We're going to review everything,'" Bafta film committee chairman Marc Samuelson said Thursday as the academy announced a slate of changes. The measures include recruiting 1,000 new members from under-represented groups to join the current 6,700-strong voting academy of film industry professionals.

The academy has also changed the rules for the British Academy Film Awards, introducing a new "longlist" round in the voting before the selection of the final nominees. For the best film prize, academy members will choose a 15-film longlist that all members must watch before voting for the winner.



"The overwhelming feeling was that quotas were not what people wanted," Lee said, adding "a wholesale change of culture" in the industry is what is needed. Samuelson said the review, which involved discussions with more than 400 people in the industry from under-represented groups, had been a "chastening" experience. "People told us about their experiences, and their experiences were *** awful,"**

Kate Lee, a member of the steering group that led the review, said the goal was "getting more members to see more films that are more diverse in nature." In the directing category, there will be a longlist of 20 filmmakers - 10 men and 10 women - though no mandatory gender balance in the final six nominees. Acting nominees will also be selected from 15-strong lists and there will be six finalists, rather than the previous five.

"The overwhelming feeling was that quotas were not what people wanted," Lee said, adding "a wholesale change of culture" in the industry is what is needed. Samuelson said the review, which involved discussions with more than 400 people in the industry from under-represented groups, had been a "chastening" experience. "People told us about their experiences, and their experiences were ***** awful," he said.

In the US, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been striving to diversify for several years, and this month announced inclusion standards for the Oscars that will come into effect for the 96th Academy Awards in 2024. Best picture nominees will have to meet specific requirements addressing gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and disability in front of and behind the camera in order to qualify.

The American Academy's diversity and inclusion standards were inspired by similar efforts by the British Film Institute, which supports and helps fund UK cinema. Meeting the standards has been a requirement for most public film funding in the UK since 2014. But a recent report said that even that has not yet improved racial inequality.

The lack of diversity at the 2020 Baftas, held a month before Britain went into lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic, was criticised by several of the nominees. Joaquin Phoenix, accepting the best actor award for *Joker*, said it sent "a very clear message to people of color that 'You're not welcome here.'"

Next year's Baftas have been postponed from their usual slot in February to April. Whether there will be a red carpet and a star-studded audience in the Royal Albert Hall for the ceremony depends on the pandemic.



A Bafta trophy on display.

HOBBY

Kenya's Sh180,000 cat breeders

NAIROBI

For years, Kenyans have been splurging cash on expensive cars, houses, fine wine and whisky, art pieces, and jewellery, but there is a new breed of young wealthy people buying expensive cats.

These cats are rare and their bloodline is documented. "Human beings like class and social status. Because the rich do not want to remain in the same class with everybody in regards to pet ownership, they are going for Persian, Siamese, and Scottish fold cats," says Dr Charles Muriuki of Jingi Vet clinic in Nyal, Mombasa.

Considered the 'Ferrari of cats,' the Persian cats are highly sought-after and admired for their long and thick coats. And they do not come cheap. "Right now you can get a Persian for about Sh50,000 but a few years ago it cost around Sh100,000, then you add the freight charge, you pay Sh150,000," says Dr Muriuki.

Pablo and Nura are Persian cats and some of the few in Kenya whose every whim are indulged by their owner Mohamed Shurut. At his house, during the interview, Mr Shurut says things like 'let the furry bosses come to you instead of picking them up,' 'never wake a sleeping kitty.' To him, the Persian cats are feline royals.

"They are classy, loving and loyal companions. They do not like to be held so much. Give your Persian cat time as it expects you to treat it like a royal," he says. Every day, he spends more than an hour brushing their fur. "The fur knots very easily and it's what makes the cat stand out. I have to groom them every day," he says, adding that they are best kept indoors but they can be let out on a cat leash.

Many pet lovers scoff at talk about expenses to avoid being judged. "Sometimes I fend off unwanted



Mohamed Shurut holds one of his Persian cats.

questions. Some people do not like pets so they ask me why I waste money on cats. I do what I feel is best for me. I love my cats," he says.

So how much did he spend on the cats?

Between Sh50,000 to Sh100,000 for each of his cats, minus the daily expenses of keeping them happy. "In a month, you're probably looking at spending between Sh8,000 to Sh10,000 depending on what kind of cat food you're buying. I give them fish oil. You also have to factor in the veterinary bills, grooming, litter and multivitamins," he says.

Another seller

As the exotic cat market is thriving, and supply rarely meeting demand, Mr Shurut found a niche in supplying pet owners with prized breeds. The

26-year-old now runs an online shop, Persian Cats Kenya, a breeding business. "I used to see social media posts of the Persian cats owned by foreigners. I had a dream of owning one but it is not easy to find them in Kenya," he says.

After a long search, he bought a kitten from a friend whose Persian cat had given birth. "He had imported the cats from Egypt. He opted to sell me the male kitten and remain with the parent stock. I started shopping for a female one. I imported a female cat from Egypt," he says.

He never imagined the cat hobby he casually picked up would end up becoming a business. "This year I noted that many people were looking for Persian cats. I had many inquiries, especially on social media. I decided

to start importing and breeding the cats," he says.

Mr Shurut sells two-month-old kittens imported from Russia and Egypt for Sh150,000. "The common ones are the Doll Face Persian Kittens and Punch face Persian kittens. My female cat is also pregnant and I am hoping to get kittens. The price is fair. Someone who truly values them will get them at any cost," he says. Another cat owner Juliet Muchira from Kiambu imported a Persian cat after seeing it online.

"I have always loved cats. I owned my first cat when I was six years old. Four years ago, as I was researching more about cats, I came across the Persian breed and I was interested. I tried finding one locally but didn't find it. That's when I thought of importing," she says. The Persian cat gave birth and she decided to breed them. She has been doing the business for almost three years now. Her cattery, Juliepaws is registered under The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA), the World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats.

The cost of owning a Persian cat differs, she says, with the needs of a client. The most expensive cat she ever sold cost Sh180,000. "I sold it to a family in Mombasa a year ago. I have never sold a cat outside Kenya, but I hope to. But I have sold so many kittens locally, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Kiambu. My cattery is the only registered cattery in Kenya," she says.

The cats come with a registration certificate. "My cats are all imported and I get them from certified and registered breeders who know their bloodline," she says, adding that what makes them expensive is their distinctive face, tiny ears, gentle temperaments, and being a pure breed.

Pet love

Traditionally, dogs and cats were working animals than pets. A cat kept the mouse down, a dog guarded homes, and so on. But now, lots of people are latching onto the craze for buying and sharing their homes with pets and choosing to take care of them in ways that our parents did not. Over the past 10 years or so, human-pet relationships have grown closer, says Dr Muriuki.



Workplace bullying includes such tactics as verbal, nonverbal, psychological, physical abuse and humiliation.

COUNSEL

Dealing with workplace bullies

KIGALI

Everyone is entitled to a safe working environment—one that enables them to relate with other employees freely without feeling intimidated or oppressed.

Workplace bullying can be defined as repeated inappropriate behaviour, direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others in the workplace, or in the course of employment. This could be regarded as undermining the individual's rights to dignity and could mentally hurt them or make them feel isolated in their places of work.

Such behaviour may include being shouted at or the target of spontaneous rage, humiliated in front of colleagues, their views and opinions being ignored, blamed for problems caused by others,

given unreasonable or impossible deadlines or unmanageable workloads, regularly threatened with losing the job, unfairly passed over for promotion or denied training opportunities, and so forth.

The problem
"From a leadership point of view, bullying is a defence mechanism for low self-esteem and incompetent leadership whose insecurities make them see others as threats to their positions because they lead out of position, exercise entitlement at the expense of other people's emotional and sometimes physical wellbeing," says Justine Racheal, a Kigali-based business leadership coach and the CEO of Mentor Africa.

She notes that one of the ways to control bullying is; trying not to get emotional as bullies take pleasure in emotionally manipulating their victims.

Think about how you currently react to difficult people and those challenging situations.

The business leadership coach adds that once one is being bullied, they should tell the bully that their behaviour is inappropriate and it should stop. She points out that this can be very difficult if the perpetrator is one's boss. It can be hard to stand up to workplace bullying because the person bullying you can make you feel and believe that "you're overreacting," "you're over sensitive" and then you're actually afraid to stand up for yourself. It's all a dominance game.

Racheal recommends evaluating the situation objectively to see if it is bullying, and employees should know their rights as it is important to realise every employer has a responsibility to provide a safe work environment. Be aware of workplace bullying policy -

from this policy they should refer to the reporting process and follow their workplace procedure to report bullying.

It's also imperative to document the situation thoroughly, note everything down about who said what including the dates and times, list any witnesses - what actions were taken and how the bullied person responded. It can be time consuming writing it all down but it is a necessity, Racheal says.

Alternatively, the bullied person can talk with someone they trust, but not ignore what has happened or is happening, and maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle outside of work to cope with the madness at work. For instance; exercise, a good night's sleep and a healthy diet. Racheal also notes that when push comes to shove, and the situation doesn't change, one could consider leaving the job as a way to remain emotionally stable.

ADVICE

Making pregnancy safer for obese women, unborn

NAIROBI

During pregnancy, mothers are cautioned against conditions that may be detrimental to their health and the wellbeing of their unborn children. An example is obesity, which has been linked to an increased risk of future health problems for the unborn. They include birth defects, impaired growth, childhood asthma and heart disease.

Based on a new study published in the Paediatric Obesity Journal, affected mothers have a window of opportunity during pregnancy to mitigate or forestall some of these negative health effects. According to the research, improving the lifestyle of women with obesity during pregnancy can help protect their children from cardiovascular problems.

HEART, BLOOD

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a general term used to describe a range of ailments that affect the heart and blood vessels. They include heart failure, abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia), heart valve problems, heart infections, congenital heart defects and narrowing of blood vessels.

These conditions can lead to adverse health effects like heart attacks and strokes. The researchers note that diet modifications and physical activity targeting obese pregnant women helps to shield the mother and the baby from these adverse effects.

During the study, scientists from King's College London – supported by the British Heart Foundation and Tommy's Charity – examined how an antenatal diet and physical activity intervention in pregnant mothers with obesity could positively influence the health of the women and their children three years after giving birth. Mothers who were given a diet and exercise plan were compared to obese women in a control group, who made no changes to



A physically active pregnant woman.

their lifestyle during pregnancy.

Follow-up examinations, three years after birth, showed that the children born to mothers that benefited from the intervention had a lower resting heart rate compared to the other children. This was a reflection of their improved health status since a higher resting heart rate is associated with hypertension and cardiovascular dysfunction problems. The study also showed that mothers in the diet and physical exercise intervention group maintained a healthier diet three years after birth.

"This research shows that a lifestyle intervention in pregnant

women, focusing on improving diets and increasing physical activity, is associated with improved cardiovascular function in the child at three-years of age and a sustained improvement in the mothers diet, within the same period," says Kathryn Dalrymple, the lead author of the study from King's College London.

She states that the study's findings are exciting as they add to the evidence that pregnancy is a window of opportunity to promote positive health and lifestyle changes, which can benefit both the mother and child.

HEALTHY START

"Obesity in pregnancy is a major problem because it can increase the risk of complications in pregnancy as well as affecting the longer-term health of the child. This study strengthens my resolve to highlight just how important it is that we give children a healthy start in life," noted Lucilla Poston, a senior author of the study and Tommy's Charity Chair for Maternal and Foetal Health.

Lizzie D'Angelo, the organisation's Research and Policy Director stated: "Pregnancy can be high risk for women who are obese, but trying to lose lots of weight while

pregnant is not advised. So, our research focuses on finding new ways to make pregnancy safer for these families. It's very reassuring to see that our researchers have been able to improve mothers' diets and children's heart health in the long term, helping to give these babies the best start in life."

PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

According to Tracy Parker, a senior dietician at the British Heart Foundation, keeping physically active and maintaining a balanced diet are both important ways of keeping our hearts healthy. "This research shows that for pregnant women, the benefits don't end there. A healthy diet before, during and after pregnancy can have positive long-term health benefits for both mother and child."

Dietary guidelines for expectant women emphasise on nutrient rich food and beverages during pregnancy. This includes a variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grains – such as oatmeal, whole-grain bread or brown rice – that are rich in fibre, iron and vitamins.

Protein from healthy sources such as beans, peas, eggs, lean meat and low-mercury seafood (like fish), as well as unsalted nuts and seeds are also recommended. Health experts also encourage the consumption of fat-free or low-fat milk as well as milk products or non-dairy soy, almond, rice and other drinks with added calcium and vitamin D.

As part of a healthy eating plan, they note that pregnant women should limit salt, solid fats (such as butter, lard or shortening) and sugar-sweetened drinks and foods. Some of the recommended physical exercises include swimming, brisk walking, indoors cycling and low impact aerobics that can be done for 30 minutes each day.

MOBILISATION

Rwanda govt initiative out to encourage young people to read much

KIGALI

Developing a love for reading during childhood can have a huge impact on education and future wellbeing. Besides, according to various reports, reading books is incredibly beneficial to children.

And so, the Ministry of Education in Rwanda-partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Culture, this week rolled out a new initiative that among other things aims to help children and young people read widely, explore a range of books as well as develop a lasting love for reading. Dubbed 'Read Aloud Challenge', the initiative launched on Monday, September 21, came at a time the government kicked off a month-long campaign of reading and writing.

"Reading is important because it helps children increase their knowledge, improve the quality of education, expand minds and much more," Edouard Bamporiki, State Minister of Youth and Culture, said at the launch of the campaign. According to the Ministry of Education, the challenge is a literacy engagement programme designed to encourage students to read more books and enjoy reading while they improve literacy levels.

On the same day, Gaspard Twagirayezu, State Minister in charge of Primary and Secondary Education at the Ministry of Education, posted a video on Twitter to mark the first reading aloud challenge exercise. Twagirayezu called upon the public to take part in the campaign as the country looks to create and embed a reading culture amongst students.

The challenge will be done in steps including 'read aloud a book for or with a child', 'challenging a colleague to record or take a photo while reading a book for or with a child' and then post it on social media.

According to Twagirayezu, the other initiatives to take place this month include writing competitions, as well as increasing the number of books for the students to be able to access them wherever they are. "Students with special needs are not forgotten either. Because they are also expected to be among the candidates of the writing competition," Twagirayezu pointed out.

"Reading aloud to children is not a panacea for our current pandemic, but it offers at least one way in which parents and childcare providers can help children develop their literacy skills no matter what the coronavirus has in store for us," said renowned author, Mark I. West, chair of the English Department at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

West, who is also a former president of the Children's Literature Association, said, "When children listen to books read aloud, they learn about people, places, and how things work. They learn about emotions and feelings and how to use words to share their ideas. While enjoying the special connection of shared book reading, children naturally increase their vocabularies and gain the knowledge and skills necessary for later reading."

For Daisy Diannah Uwonkunda, a nursery school teacher at Excella School, when a parent and child are constantly reading together, it develops a relationship through the books that can lead to a discussion about the seriousness of the world in a way they can understand, leading to a stronger relationship.

CREATIVITY

This Eastern Cape woman transforms rustbuckets into vintage dream cars

CAPE TOWN

In a tiny town in the heart of the Eastern Cape rusty, run-down cars are lovingly restored by Nosipho Kholusoane. Nosipho (39) has always loved vintage cars, and after watching a TV show about car restoration, she was inspired to give it a try.

With a little help from her mechanic husband, Moeketsi (52), who lent her R2 000 to get her business started, Nosipho rolled up her sleeves, took a deep breath and spent most of that money on a 1974 Pontiac.

The Pontiac, most people would have thought, would be quite at home rusting away in a junkyard, but Nosipho knew she could breathe life into it, and launch her career as a successful entrepreneur. Now, six years later, Nosipho's business, Lereku Trading Classic Cars, owns nearly 30 classic cars, and employs a team of four people, a panel beater, a painter, an electrician and a cleaner.

The business makes money by restoring old cars, which they strip down, remove the rust, repaint the bodywork, replace or repair missing or damaged parts and engines. Her husband taught her about restora-



Nosipho (39) has always loved vintage cars, and after watching a TV show about car restoration, she was inspired to give it a try.

tion and works with her team. The cars are hired out for weddings and matric dances. In the early years the business earned just R50 000, but it has since increased, she says.

Her business may be deep in a rural area, Mount Fletcher, but her middle-of-nowhere location has an advantage, as it is on the R56, the shortest route between KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape. This has connected her to customers from big cities in the county as well as international travellers passing through, who often stop to look at her vintage

cars, which are visible from the road.

She also displayed her cars at a private showcase she arranged with friends, and she hopes to host more of these now that the lockdown has eased. "It's a unique business and I want to keep the legacy of these old cars and the history of the heroes who built these cars," Nosipho tells us.

She travels around her part of the province looking out for vintage cars she can buy and restore. She also locates cars via her Facebook page, where people contact her to sell their old rides.

She says she asks owners about the history of the cars and she also does her own research. Her fleet also includes a 1970 Valiant, a 1972 Ford Cortina and a 1972 Chevrolet El Camino, as well as many others that are in the process of being restored.

The Pontiac cost her around R25 000 to restore. Nosipho bought the Valiant for R4 000 and restored it at a cost of about R12 000. The Cortina cost R800 and she spent about R15 000 restoring it, and the El Camino was bought for R1 000 and restored at a cost of R25 000 because it was in very bad shape.

Her first restoration job, on the Pontiac, took four years because at the time their village did not have electricity. Subsequent restorations take about six months, she says. Before she had electricity, she used a petrol-powered generator to operate her power tools, such as her grinder and welding machine, in her yard, which doubles as her workshop.

It's been a long road to success, says Nosipho, explaining that the business only went into the black last year, after being launched in 2014. But she's

proud that she was able to hire a team and seeing the cars restored to their original forms makes her happy.

Her passion for the business and job creation kept her going. "We live in a country where there is a great deal of youth unemployment, and I want to share skills with the business," Nosipho is teaching her children – Karabelo (20), Reabetswe (18), Mehla (11) and Gauta (10) – who often help out, about the running of the business and restoring cars.

The lockdown has brought challenges and opportunities. Her business could not operate under the high levels of the lockdown. However, she used the time to attend business lessons from the Small Business Academy programme, presented by the University of Stellenbosch Business School.

She was one of 19 small-business owners sponsored by the Joe Gqabi Economic Development Agency to take part in the programme, to empower entrepreneurs to grow their businesses in the province.

SUCCESS

East Africa waste management startups promised Bestseller Foundation support

KAMPALA

Bestseller Foundation is a private foundation that supports initiatives or businesses that work towards environmental protection among low-income populations.

The foundation announced its first Waste to

Value Accelerator for East Africa and will target startups working to address the conversion of waste to value program. Six lucky East African startups have been selected for US\$100,000 convertible debt funding.

The accelerator will be managed by Intellectap while ensuring all the enterprises

have the necessary technical expertise over the 8-month period starting August 2020 to March 2021. The select 6 were picked from a group of 400 startups spanning Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda.

Waste has become a thorny issue across East Africa and other emerging

economies globally. In low-income neighborhoods, the problem is endemic and poses a major challenge to societal well-being. Statistics from the World Bank reveal that only 48% of the city waste in low-income countries is collected. In rural areas, the figure is much lower at 26%. Only 4% of waste gets

recycled which is very low and unsustainable in the long run.

It is worth noting that the countries on focus by the Bestseller Foundation were Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, and the startups chosen presented solid financial models at a post-revenue phase.



Rwandan children read books with illustrations.

WARNING

Dubai influencer encourages caution after LVL eyelash lift goes wrong

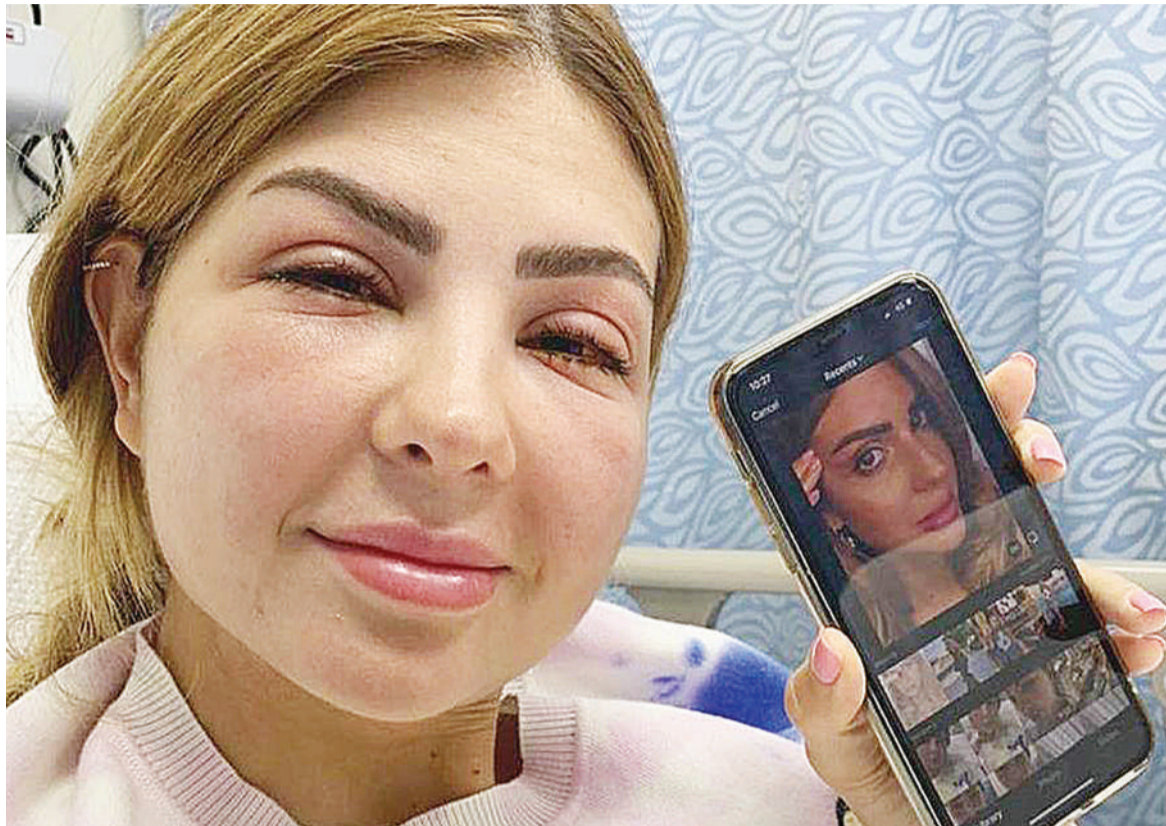
DUBAI

On September 14, Dubai influencer Leena Kaziz booked herself an LVL eyelash treatment. The procedure includes a lash lift and tint, a treatment common in the region, and offered by most leading beauty salons. However, by the end of the day, she knew that something was wrong. "Symptoms started the same day - it really didn't take long for them to start showing up," she told The National. "In a couple of hours, I felt uncomfortable. My eyes got red then swollen, and it only got worse from there."

The Syrian influencer said she was unable to sleep that night as she felt a sharp pain in her eyes every time she closed them. "I went to the doctor the next day but they

weren't sure it was anything serious and I was given eye drops. I went to the doctor again the next day. By the third day, I had to go to the hospital in a wheelchair. I wasn't able to walk since my eyes had swollen shut. I wasn't able to control my eyelids or open my eyes." She was then informed the lash treatment had triggered an allergy and a severe eye infection that had also spread to the skin around the eye and eyelid.

Kaziz was administered medication through IV, needed antihistamine shots and was given antibiotics. Some of her medication needs to be taken for a month. She says her sight has improved greatly with the treatment, but that her eyes are not fully back to normal yet. Kaziz has shared pictures of herself from the hospital on social media, which has been met



Dubai influencer Leena Kaziz says her allergic reaction has been a wake-up call and a learning moment.

with well-wishes from other UAE bloggers and influencers.

She says the entire incident has been a wake-up call. "Honestly, the minute we are born, we are so brainwashed on how to look prettier. We are educated in school about the human body - but I forgot the purpose. I saw my hair, my eyes, my skin as a tool to be more attractive."

"I am a lady and I want to look after myself. But there is a line that shouldn't be crossed. I think I almost forgot the true purpose of my eyes which is my sight. But we all need to appreciate our bodies and be more careful that we are treating it right."

The influencer is encouraging anyone thinking of undergoing treatments to demand a patch test, wherein products or treatments are applied to a small patch of skin to check for allergies before using them. She says that she had requested a patch test at the establishment she had visited, but was told it wasn't really required. She also reminds others to do

their due diligence about beauty treatments. "Apparently lash treatments do have a probability of an allergic reaction, but we are simply not all that aware of this in this region," she says. "Educate yourself. Read and learn before you use any product or treatment about the chance of an allergic reaction. Ask yourself if it is [worth] the risk. If it is, do it in a good place, and make sure that the technician knows what they are doing and is not exhausted after a long day."

Apart from beauty treatments, she also asks people to take more care of their bodies, and not simply for aesthetics. "Simple things like taking off eye make-up at night can lower risk of eye infection. It's not just about making yourself prettier but taking care of yourself. Realising how precious your body is. "I'm still going to put on make-up, exercise, take care of my body. But I won't ever put beauty before health again - that was the learning point for me," she says.

ECO-FRIENDLY

First hydrogen-fuelled 'commercial' flight in the world wins praise

LONDON

The world's first flight by a "commercially available aircraft" powered by hydrogen fuel cells has been heralded as a milestone in the development of sustainable aviation.

Developer ZeroAvia operated the flight from its research and development facility at Cranfield Airport in Bedfordshire in the UK on Thursday. The six-seater Piper Malibu plane completed the 20-minute flight using zero-emission hydrogen as part of the HyFlyer project supported by a government grant.

The company is now working towards a 400km zero-emission flight out of an airfield in Orkney before the end of the year. This is roughly the equivalent of popular short-haul routes such as London-Edinburgh and Los Angeles-San Francisco.

ZeroAvia CEO Val Miftakhov said: "It's hard to put into words what this means to our team, but also for everybody interested in zero-emission flight. While some experimental aircraft have flown using hydrogen fuel cells as a power source, the size of this commercially available aircraft shows that paying passengers could be boarding a truly zero-emission flight very soon."

UK aviation minister Robert Courts said: "Aviation is a hotbed of innovation and ZeroAvia's fantastic technology takes us all one step closer to a sustainable future for air travel. Through our ground-breaking Jet

Zero partnership we're working hard with industry to drive innovation in zero-carbon flight, and we look forward to seeing the sector go from strength to strength."

Business & industry minister Nadhim Zahawi said: "Developing aircraft that create less pollution will help the UK make significant headway in achieving net zero-carbon emissions by 2050. Backed by government funding, this flight is another exciting milestone in ZeroAvia's project. It shows that technologies to clean up air travel are now at our fingertips, with enormous potential to build back better and drive clean economic growth in the UK." Meanwhile a partnership between the British government and the aviation sector to develop zero-emission flying has announced its membership and ambitions.

The Jet Zero Council will feature leaders from Rolls-Royce, Airbus and Shell, technology and investor groups, Heathrow Airport boss John Holland-Kaye and British Airways CEO Alex Cruz. Government representatives are transport secretary Grant Shapps, business secretary Alok Sharma and Courts.

The partnership will focus on reducing carbon dioxide emissions and "delivering clean growth", the department for transport said. This will include development of sustainable fuels and both hybrid and electric planes. On Monday, Airbus unveiled concepts for hydrogen-fuelled aircraft it said could enter service by 2035.



The six-seater Piper Malibu plane before taking off at Cranfield Airport in Bedfordshire in the UK on Thursday.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV		MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM		ITV													
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Jazeera	Sun 27 Sept	08:00 Aljazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slingshot 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Itohan 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: The Slingshot 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 00:00 Al Jazeera	Mon 28 Sept	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Itohan 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 EcoAfrica rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Itohan 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny 21:30 Capital Prime 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 EcoAfrica 23:00 Al Jazeera	Tues 29 Sept	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 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CAPITAL

Sat 26 Sept
08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt

WORLD

Multilateralism vital in post-COVID global governance - UN chief

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called for global governance after COVID-19 that features solidarity and multilateralism.

"This pandemic is a wake-up call for even more catastrophic challenges that may arise, starting with the climate crisis. If we meet these with the same disunity and disarray we have seen this year, I fear the worst," he told a summit-level Security Council debate on "global governance after COVID-19."

"We need global governance that is resolute, coordinated, flexible, and ready to react to the full range of challenges we face," he said.

Guterres added that the world is no longer bipolar or unipolar, and is

instead moving toward multipolarity.

"We experienced fragmentation and polarization without effective mechanisms of multilateral governance 100 years ago. The result was the First World War, followed by the second (World War)," he said.

COVID-19 is a warning that must spur the world to action, he said. "We have no choice. Either we come together in global institutions that are fit for purpose, or we will be crushed by divisiveness and chaos."

He also asked for multilateralism for post-COVID global governance to work. "Reformed global governance is about approaches, and institutions, which must be reformed and strengthened," he said. "We need more and better multilateralism that works effectively and delivers for the



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

people we serve."

"We need more and better global governance based on national sovereignty and expressed through our shared ideals, eloquently expressed in the United Nations Charter," he added. COVID-19 has illustrated beyond dispute the gaps in the multilateral system. As countries go in different directions, the virus goes in every direction, he said.

A rational and equitable approach to vaccination would reduce preventable deaths by prioritizing front-line workers and the most vulnerable, but the world has struggled to mobilize the resources needed to ensure a vaccine as a global public good, available and affordable to all, he noted.

READ MORE: UN chief to push global ceasefire at world leaders' meeting

"We urgently need multilateral institutions that can act decisively, based on global consent, for the global good. And we need multilateral institutions that are fair, with better representation of the developing world, so that all have a proportional voice at the global table," said Guterres.

Xinhua

Xi urges better use of internet to heed people's views

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has urged the better use of the internet to heed people's views and pool their wisdom.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, recently gave an instruction on the work of soliciting public views and

suggestions online to formulate the country's 14th Five-Year Plan for economic and social development.

This marks the first time in the history of China's Five-Year-Plan formulation that public opinion has been sought online, Xi noted.

The move saw significant involvement from the people and garnered a great number of constructive opinions and suggestions on a wide range of topics, which clearly showed the



people's new aspiration for a better life, he said.

Xi urged relevant departments to sort through and absorb these comments in a timely and earnest manner.

"Achieving the people's aspiration for a better life is our goal, and the confidence and support of the people are the forces that move our country forward," he said.

Xi said the experience gained from

seeking public comments online should be reviewed to ensure the internet is used better in future work to hear people's voices and pool their wisdom.

The campaign to seek public input online for drafting the 14th Five-Year Plan for the 2021-2025 period was conducted from Aug. 16 to 29. It received over 1 million opinions and suggestions from internet users.

Xinhua

Trump, Melania pay respects to late Justice Ginsburg at US Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump paid their respects to late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Supreme Court here on Thursday.

The first couple, both wearing masks, observed a moment of silence at the top of the steps of the court building, looking down at Ginsburg's casket draped in the American flag and surrounded by bouquets of white flowers.

The brief stay met with boos from mourners waiting in line to pay their respects to the liberal icon and loud chants of "vote him out" and "honor her wish."

After Trump and the first lady left, members from the public streamed in, some of who were dressed in clothes imprinted with images of Ginsburg or her quotes.

The public viewing on Thursday will last until the night. Ginsburg will lie in state at the U.S. Capitol on Friday, to become the first woman in history to be honored this way.

A renowned champion of women's rights, Ginsburg died last week at the age of 87 due to complications related to metastatic pancreatic cancer. She was appointed to the Supreme Court by then President Bill Clinton



U.S. President Donald Trump (L) pays his respect to late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., the United States, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

in 1993, the second woman appointed to the highest court in the United States.

She will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, which is

across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., according to the Supreme Court.

Flags outside some federal buildings have been lowered

to half staff to mark Ginsburg's death.

"My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," Ginsburg

reportedly dictated this statement to her granddaughter Clara Spera a few days before her death.

Trump, who fired back at Ginsburg after the justice sharply criticized him during the 2016 election, has recently suggested that it was Democratic politicians who wrote her dying wish, a claim that critics have called baseless.

The president has said he will name Ginsburg's replacement on Saturday afternoon, with five women on his shortlist. He successfully appointed two conservatives on the Supreme Court in 2017 and 2018.

Republicans, who have a 53-47 advantage in the Senate, appear to have enough vote to confirm the pick that would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the nine-justice bench and could tilt the institution to the right for decades to come. Only two Republican senators have said they would not support taking up a Supreme Court nominee prior to the November election.

Democrats oppose moving forward with a vote on Trump's pick, arguing that the election is only several weeks away, all but ensuring a fierce confirmation battle on Capitol Hill.

US sanctions not to influence Russia's policy on Iran

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will not take into account the US illegitimate demands concerning Iran when building its own policy, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday.

"We have heard Washington say that all those who do not follow its interpretation of the situation, which brings us back to the need to restore sanctions on Iran, will be punished by additional measures that the US will take, including economic ones," Lavrov said at a press conference after talks with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"I can only speak for Russia. Russia will in no way build its policy on the basis of taking into account these aggressive demands that have no legal force," he added.

Lavrov expressed the hope that other countries cooperating with Iran will take a principled position and will be guided by their national interests, not by the need to obey a dictate from overseas.

The minister said that during the talks with Zarif, both sides reaffirmed their desire to further strengthen trade and investment ties.

Xinhua



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif hold a joint press conference following their talks in Moscow on Thursday. (AFP)

Turkey 'pushes' Macron to allow purchase of air missile systems

By Bloomberg

TURKEY approached France to procure European-made air defense systems, Turkish officials familiar with the matter said.

In a phone call earlier this week, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan asked his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron to drop his opposition to co-production of Eurosam SAMP/T air missile systems, the officials said, asking not to be named because the discussion was private.

Macron responded by saying that Turkey must clarify its objectives in Syria before deployment of European made systems could be considered, according to an Elysee official, who also asked not to be named.

The outreach, along with repeated requests to the US for Patriot systems, shows Ankara giving Western allies another opportunity to provide its air defense systems.

Turkey's previous purchase of Russian S-400 missile system has sorely tested relations with the US, which says its deployment could help Moscow gather critical intelligence on NATO military projects, including America's most sophisticated warplane.

Ankara has not yet activated the Russian missile battery, which was delivered last year. Yet despite the threat of US sanctions, Erdogan has refused to abandon them or trade them for an American system.

Moscow has proposed joint production as part of a possible second contract, which Turkey has deliberated for nearly a year.

Turkey says it needs the advanced air defense system and was forced to purchase from Russia because its NATO allies, including the US, wouldn't meet its defense needs on Turkish terms.

The US has rejected Turkey's demand for technology transfer as a part of any Patriot purchase. **Agencies**



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left and French President Emmanuel Macron

Joint efforts should be made to promote high-quality construction of Belt and Road for global stability, prosperity

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has recently suggested various countries work together to foster an open and inclusive environment for cooperation, to unleash the power of innovation in driving cooperation forward and to promote mutually beneficial cooperation.

These ideas Xi shared in his speech delivered at the Global Trade in Services Summit of the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) held in Beijing on September 4 have attracted great attention from the international community.

Today, with COVID-19 yet to be brought under full control at the global level, all countries face the formidable task to defeat the virus, stabilize

the economy, and protect livelihoods, Xi pointed out.

It is against such a backdrop that China decided to hold this important international trade event despite many difficulties in preparation. It shows China's willingness to join hands with the international community in this trying time and work together to enable global trade in services to thrive and the world economy to recover at an early date.

Pursuing development against the background of rising instability and uncertainties in the world, China needs to make development plans in pursuit of openness, cooperation, and win-win results, promote more solid progress in the joint construction of

the Belt and Road, and advance the building of an open world economy.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a solid guarantee of stable overall performance of China's foreign trade.

Domestic enterprises made non-financial direct investments of 57.1 billion yuan (about \$8.44 billion) in 54 countries along the Belt and Road in the first six months of this year, up 23.8 percent year on year, suggested data from the Ministry of Commerce (MOC).

Meanwhile, Chinese enterprises secured 2,289 new contracts for foreign projects in 59 countries along the Belt and Road during the first half of the year, with the total transaction value of these contracts reaching 424.02 bil-

lion yuan, according to the MOC.

During the same period, China-Europe freight trains have played a positive role in facilitating international logistics services and given full play to its advantages in land transportation.

A total of 5,122 trips were made by the China-Europe freight trains during the first half of this year, up 36 percent year on year. These train trips have made valuable contributions to stabilizing international industrial chain and supply chain and promoting the resumption of work and production for enterprises.

The BRI serves as an important path to building an open world economy. World economy thrives in openness and withers in seclusion.

In the face of adverse economic and trade situation where world economy is in deep recession, international trade and investment have shrunk dramatically, and protectionism and unilateralism prevail in some countries, China remains steadfast in opening its door wider to the world.

In the global response to the COVID-19 epidemic, international cooperation among countries along the Belt and Road has increasingly shown its value and advantages.

In this age of economic globalization, countries share economic interdependency and intertwined interests like never before. To treat each other with sincerity and pursue shared benefits holds the key to state-to-state re-

lations in today's world.

The BRI has helped bring trade and investment resources to countries that need them, open up new space and explore new areas for international cooperation, and provide a new platform and way of building an open world economy.

Cooperation along the Belt and Road has injected strong impetus into world economic growth and recovery.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, international investment has been in turmoil and some countries with weak health infrastructure have been overwhelmed and had difficulty pursuing economic growth due to lack of capital.

People's Daily



The second echelon of China's 19th batch of peacekeeping forces to Lebanon left Kunming Changshui International Airport, southwest China's Yunnan province for their destination, Aug. 18. File photo

China's peacekeepers to bring greater confidence and hope to world

CHINA recently released a white paper on the participation of the country's armed forces in the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations, for the first time introducing the concrete steps of its government and armed forces to implement the decisions and directions made by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping at UN Headquarters 5 years ago.

The white paper, titled China's Armed Forces: 30 Years of UN Peacekeeping Operations, showcases the sense of responsibility of China as a major country, and demonstrates the new contributions made by the country to UN peacekeeping operations (UNPKOs).

Taking concrete actions to honor its solemn promise of safeguarding world peace, China has made important contribution to UNPKOs. China has registered an 8,000-strong standby force and a 300-member permanent police squad for UN peacekeeping missions. Six of its standby contingents have been elevated to Level Three in the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System.

Twenty-five rotations of engineer and medical units totaling 7,001 troops have been committed to missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sudan's Darfur, Mali and Lebanon. In the past five years, China has provided training programs to over 1,500 peacekeepers from more than 60 countries, and offered assistance in demining and trained more than 300 professionals from multiple countries including. The Chinese Ministry of Public Security also trained more than 1,000 foreign peacekeeping police officers.

The People's Liberation Army has honored China's commitment of gratis military aid to the value of USD100 million to support the African Standby Force and the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crisis; China's armed forces deployed their first peacekeeping helicopter unit; 23 peace and security projects totaling over \$10 million were implemented to support UNPKOs.

To contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind, China's armed forces have stepped up their support for and participation in the UNPKOs, bringing greater confidence and hope for peace and development to areas beset by conflict.

As a critical element and key force in the UNPKOs, China's armed forces in the new era have instilled more positive energy into world peace and development.

China has abided by the highest standards in selecting and training police peacekeepers, said UN Secretary-General António Guterres, adding that Chinese police peacekeepers have

strictly followed UN work rules and discipline, demonstrating professional competence and ethics.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, president of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly noted that China is playing a more and more important role in UNPKOs. Lieutenant General Carlos Humberto Loitey, Military Adviser for UN Secretary-General (UNSG), also spoke highly of the important contributions made by China and the Chinese military to the UN peacekeeping operations. The UNPKOs couldn't have achieved today's success without the vital support from China, he said.

World peace is the responsibility of all countries and peacekeeping calls for expanding multilateral cooperation. China's armed forces have cooperated on peacekeeping with over 90 countries and 10 international and regional organizations based on the principles of mutual trust and win-win cooperation. They have enhanced mutual understanding, shared experience, extended practical cooperation, strengthened bilateral and multilateral relations, and promoted peacekeeping capability.

China has continuously strengthened strategic communication to build consensus on peacekeeping, contributed Chinese wisdom and shared experience, and extended cooperation on joint exercises and training to build capability.

China is widely recognized as an important force supporting peacekeeping operations and multilateralism, which fully indicates the country's firm determination to support the UN, support the cause of world peace and development, uphold the vision of global governance based on extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and safeguard multilateralism.

Peace, like air and sunshine, is hardly noticeable. But none of us can live without it. Though the world is going through huge changes unseen in a century; unilateralism, hegemonism and power politics are impacting international order and undermining global cooperation; and human beings are facing increasingly severe risks and challenges, peace and development still remain the theme of the time. Standing at this critical moment of history, we must cherish the hard-won peace more than ever.

China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development, and hopes that other countries will also pursue peaceful development.

As always, China's armed forces will continue to provide unflinching support for the UNPKOs, fulfill their commitments to safeguarding peace, and bring greater confidence and hope to conflict-ridden areas and local people.

People's Daily

South African president calls for international cooperation, solidarity

UNITED NATIONS

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Thursday called on countries to choose cooperation and solidarity over unilateralism and isolation to improve post-COVID global governance.

"As the international community, let us choose cooperation above unilateralism. And we would also say it is best to choose solidarity above isolation," Ramaphosa told a summit-level debate of the Security Council on "global governance after COVID-19." "We should also have the

courage to choose unity of purpose above narrow self-interest," he said.

South Africa and the African Union support the call by the UN secretary-general for a global cease-fire and the scaling-up of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable societies. South Africa calls on all parties to armed conflict to use this opportunity to work toward the peaceful resolution of conflicts and addressing the humanitarian needs of their own populations, said Ramaphosa. South Africa supports the call for the waiving of unilateral punitive measures such as sanctions during the pandemic in order to en-

able affected countries to secure much-needed supplies and support, he said.

As countries look to the post-COVID era, they have to address their economic, social, humanitarian, and environmental needs. All countries have to act with urgency to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, said Ramaphosa. He wanted the UN Security Council to better reflect and represent the UN membership. It is imperative that the Security Council continues to work closely with regional organizations, including the African Union, he said.

Xinhua

Trump-Biden debate could spark stock volatility

WASHINGTON

SOME U.S. stocks could face more volatility next week as President Donald Trump and rival Joe Biden face off in their first debate ahead of a November election that betting services currently view as almost a coin flip.

A strong performance in Tuesday's debate by Biden, who currently has a modest lead in betting odds and polls, might boost stocks related to global trade and renewable energy, while a perceived debate victory by Trump could benefit fossil fuel and defense companies.

The first of three scheduled debates comes at a fraught moment on Wall Street.

The S&P 500 has tumbled 10% from record highs in recent weeks as investors worry about a prolonged recovery from the coronavirus and uncertainty related to the Nov. 3 vote, including the possibility of a delay in announcing a winner.

If one candidate emerges stronger on Tuesday, "the debate could be an individual stock and sector play," said Jack Ablin, Chief Investment Officer at Cresset Wealth Advisors.

"For example, I think life under Biden would be a lot simpler for Apple than life under Trump," Ablin said, referring to Trump's trade conflict with China.

Individual stocks and other assets have been susceptible to market moves as a result of debates, even as broader markets have generally shrugged them off.

The Sept. 26, 2016 debate between Trump and Hillary Clinton, for example, sparked a 2% surge in the Mexican peso MXN, as well as moves in oil, gold and Treasuries, according to a University of Michigan and Dartmouth College study.

Many investors view Biden as more likely to raise taxes, and see a second



President Donald Trump (L) and rival Joe Biden

term for Trump, who favors deregulation, as better for the overall stock market. At the same time, a Trump win could spark concerns over ramped up tensions between Washington and Beijing.

With expectations of a delayed vote count, the options market shows investors are bracing for volatility in November and December. Trump declined on Wednesday to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses, and said he expected the election battle to end up before the Supreme Court.

Adding to political uncertainty, betting websites are offering odds giving Biden a 53% chance of beating Trump, down from as much as 61% in early August, according to RealClearPolitics.

A Biden win could boost the S&P 500 .SPX by about 1% the following day, while a Trump re-election would push the index down about 4%, according to an analysis by Cornerstone Macro based on a statistical comparison of recent asset prices and election betting odds.

"A possible interpretation of this result is that markets have increasingly priced in a Biden win and view the

alternative as posing some risks, possibly stemming from potential escalating trade tensions or similar factors," Cornerstone Marco wrote.

Gullane Capital Partners LLC, a hedge fund in Memphis, Tennessee, is focusing on each presidential candidate's likely effect on specific stocks it owns, rather than what each candidate might mean for Wall Street as a whole, said Managing Partner Trip Miller.

"Biden is good for some of our businesses, like solar, and Trump is better for some of our other businesses that benefit from lighter regulation," Miller said.

UBS in a report this week predicted that a second term for Trump would have little effect on healthcare. On the other hand, a Biden victory would lead to only modest changes, rather than a major overhaul of health insurance, even if Democrats took control of the Senate.

"We believe that the rhetoric on changes to healthcare policy exceeds the reality of what can be accomplished," UBS analysts wrote.

Agencies

Russia, US must reach agreement on incident prevention in cyberspace

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin thinks that Russia and the US need to reach an agreement on incident prevention in the cybersphere.

"To jointly develop and conclude a bilateral intergovernmental agreement on preventing incidents in the information space similarly to the Soviet-American Agreement on the Prevention of Incidents On and Over the High Seas in force since May 25, 1972,"

Putin's statement on a comprehensive program of measures for restoring the Russia - US cooperation in the field of international information security reads. The text of Putin's statement was read out by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose speech was uploaded to the Kremlin website yesterday.

Vladimir Putin proposed launching a bilateral expert dialogue on the in-



ternational cybersecurity instead of making this sphere 'a hostage to political disagreements.' "We call on the US to greenlight the Russian-American professional expert dialogue on IIS without making it a hostage to our political disagreements."

The president described the possibility of a large-scale confrontation emerging in the digital sphere as one of the major challenges the modern world is facing. "One of today's ma-

ior strategic challenges is the risk of a large-scale confrontation in the digital field."

The president has called on the countries of the world to reach a global agreement on no-first-strike in relation to cyberattacks. "Addressing all countries, including the US, we suggest reaching global agreement on a political commitment of States on no-first-strike with the use of ICTs against each other," he noted.

Non-interference

Russia and the United States both need guarantees of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, Vladimir Putin stated. "To exchange, in a mutually acceptable format, guarantees of non-intervention into internal affairs of each other, including into electoral processes, inter alia, by means of the ICTs and high-tech methods."

Agencies

Guizhou village school's live-streamed rock concert goes viral

ON July 25, a school in southwest China's Guizhou province became an online sensation. Children from Chahe Primary School, deep in the mountains of Bijie County, gave a live-streamed rock concert, gaining 850,000 views.

Ever since then, the entire country has been captivated by how these children in the mountain village are pursuing their musical dreams.

The resulting 850,000 views was the direct result of the promotional efforts of Wu Jianlin, director of a public service center in Guizhou province.

On previous visits, Wu Jianlin had been deeply moved by the eager look in the children's eyes when they saw musical instruments. Buying the instruments for the children was the easy part, but finding a teacher was a different story.

"We tried to recruit college students for volunteer work, but it just didn't work," said Wu, adding that a candidate teacher would have been willing to stay in the mountainous area for at least one to two years.

"We had asked a lot of people, but they were unwilling to teach for a long period of time," Wu pointed out. Luckily, Wu was finally able to find a full-time music teacher for the students.

Wu has been focusing on promoting music education projects in village primary schools for the last three years. Over the years, he has visited village primary schools in other provinces. The lack of arts education in these regions has made him be determined to provide "music classes in the mountains".

After the success of the live-streamed rock concert, more students in mountainous areas are now aspiring to become musicians.

"This is the situation in most mountain villages. If there is no help, maybe these children really don't have a chance to get access to music. But if someone is willing to promote this effort, it impacts a group of children," Wu pointed out.

Wu's ultimate goal is to give every child access to arts education from an early age.

"Dreams should not be clouded by mountains," said Wu Jianlin.

People's Daily

US Senate passes resolution reaffirming commitment to peaceful transition of power

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Senate passed a resolution on Thursday reaffirming its commitment to a peaceful transition of power.

The resolution, introduced by Senator from West Virginia and Democrat Joe Manchin, was passed unanimously, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump refused to commit to such a transition should he lose the election in November.

The non-binding resolution reaffirms the Senate's commitment to "the orderly and peaceful transfer of power called for in the Constitution of the United States," adding that "there should be no disruptions by the President or any person in power to overturn the will of the people of the United States."

Speaking to reporters at the White House before leaving for an event in Charlotte, North Carolina on Thursday afternoon, Trump again tried to cast doubt on the result of the upcoming election.

Xinhua

NAIROBI

Businesses upbeat on Africa recovery

CORPORATE leaders in Africa have expressed confidence in a rapid recovery for business on the continent in the first quarter of next year, a survey finds.

The business leaders are also upbeat on Africa's long-term economic growth as it emerges from the impact of the coronavirus, according to findings from the poll, which was conducted by Deloitte, a professional services company, and Africa CEO Forum, a platform for business meetings targeting private-sector investors and financiers from across Africa.

However, the respondents acknowledged that the slowdown in global economic growth will hurt their companies' domestic operations.

They point to the trend of digi-

talization as helping companies to ensure business continuity during the crisis, and see it as a central priority in their recovery plans.

The report said the youthfulness of Africa's population and the relative absence of technological legacy systems, which could create resistance to change, favor the faster adoption of innovation than in other regions.

The take-up of mobile-payment technology, with the widespread use of nano-savings and nano-credit solutions, is a good example, the report found.

Innovation is increasingly developed internally by companies that identify mobile and digital technologies as develop-



Customers lineup to enter a hyper store in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Aug 18, 2020. AP

ment priorities for the coming year, it said.

The report said the under-utilization of data represents real potential for accelerated growth for private-sector stakeholders, as innovation should enable data qualification, thus promoting their use, storage and sharing. In this way, companies can better serve customers and communities, it said.

Call for collaboration

While African business leaders are evidently convinced of the essential nature of the collection and use of such data, they express regret that too few initiatives are being developed in this area, the report said.

It said private-sector execu-

tives agree that there is a need to develop stronger collaboration between private and public stakeholders in innovation at the continental level in order to enhance Africa's attractiveness for innovation investment.

The business climate, regulations, infrastructure development like the electrification of rural areas and establishment of data hubs must be considered. The report said this would promote standardization and the creation of more favorable conditions for the development of new technologies on the continent.

Business leaders are also better prepared to manage risk. Some 41 percent of executives report that they have set up a

formalized risk-appetite framework internally, aligned with strategy, and operationally implemented throughout the company.

"The coronavirus crisis is a reminder that there are many exogenous risks which can affect companies and come on suddenly. Hence they need to be adequately prepared for," the report said.

Sixty percent of leaders think that the coronavirus will have a long-term, more structural impact on corporate governance that will transform them and equip them better for future crises.

For 37 percent of business leaders surveyed, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal are the most attractive countries for investment in 2020.



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) passes the ball past Denver Nuggets' Torrey Craig (3) during the second half of an NBA conference final playoff basketball game Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP Photo)

Davis, Lakers beat Nuggets to take 3-1 lead in West finals

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

THE Los Angeles Lakers are a victory away from returning to the NBA Finals – and only another comeback from 3-1 down by the Denver Nuggets can stop them.

Anthony Davis scored 34 points, LeBron James had 26 and the Lakers beat the Nuggets 114-108 on Thursday night in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals.

"We played great down the stretch, we played great overall," Davis said. "Still some things that we can fix if we want to put this thing away."

Davis got the Lakers off to a fast start with his scoring and James helped them finish it with his defense, forcing Jamal Murray into some late misses after the guard had kept the Nuggets in it with an array of high-difficulty baskets.

"I knew it was winning time and Jamal had it going," James said.

James added nine rebounds and eight assists, and the Lakers had 12 offensive rebounds for a whopping 25-6 advantage in second-chance points.

"This is the Western Conference finals, Game 4. If you can't help us on the defensive end, maybe you shouldn't be on the floor," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "We have to be able to lock in, finish with a rebound. We had too many empty possessions tonight."

Game 5 is Saturday night, when the Lakers can reach the NBA Finals for the first time in a decade. Davis said he expects to be fine for it after rolling his ankle in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets will be facing elimination for the seventh time in the bubble. They were down 3-1 against Utah in the first round and climbed out of the same hole against the Los Angeles Clippers in the West semifinals. But they couldn't come back in this game,

getting within one point in the opening minute of the fourth quarter but constantly turned back from there by a key stop or rebound by the Lakers.

"We just had so many breakdowns throughout the game," Murray said. "We've just got to be better."

The Lakers have 16 championships, one behind Boston for the most in NBA history, but they haven't played for one since winning their most recent title in 2010.

The Lakers started Dwight Howard at center and he had 12 points and 11 rebounds, helping put Nikola Jokic into foul trouble.

Murray had 32 points and eight assists, but Jokic finished with just 16 points and seven rebounds.

Davis scored 27 points in Game 3 but the 6-foot-10 forward acknowledged that his two-rebound performance was "unacceptable." He came out much more aggressively Thursday after the Lakers played from behind much of the last game.

With an array of short jumpers, Davis made his first six shots before anyone else on the Lakers made a basket. Then Howard scored on consecutive follow shots before James followed with his first two field goals.

Murray kept the Lakers from getting too far away with a 7-for-8 start. He followed his acrobatic layup around James with 2 1/2 minutes remaining in the half with a pair of free throws that cut it to four, before the Lakers took a 60-55 edge to the locker room.

The Nuggets shot 59% in the first half but the Lakers had an 18-2 advantage in second-chance points.

The Lakers seemed to be taking control when Rajon Rondo and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope combined for a flurry that pushed the lead to 11 with under 4 minutes remaining in the third, but Michael Porter Jr. hit two 3-pointers late in the period that cut it to 87-84 going to the fourth. **AP**

Vijana Basketball Club clobbers ABC in RBA League quarterfinals

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

DAR ES SALAAM'S Vijana Basketball Club 'City Bulls' has expressed intention to secure a place in the Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League's semi-finals, cruising to 81-71 victory over Army Basketball Club (ABC) in game 1 of the last eight stage which took place in the city on Thursday.

Jonas Mushi and team mate Haji Mbegu helped the seventh seeded 'City Bulls' to claim the win over ABC that had, among others, Enrico Augustino, in the first of the three-game last night that took place at Bandari basketball courts.

Mushi slotted in 23 points, took three rebounds and he also made four three-point shots in a performance that proved to be instrumental in his club's victory.

There was a worrying moment for 'City Bulls' in the clash, given they had at half time trailed second-seeded ABC 36-32 but the former went on to tame the latter.

In the other last eight stage's duels, JKT Basketball Club won 85-65 against Ukonga Kings in an entertaining game, which had the two sides putting impressive displays both offensively and defensively.

Baraka Sadiki scored 25 points to lead JKT to victory in the first of the three-game series.

Kurasini Heats defied the odds to record 58-51 victory over Savio.

Isaya Aswile scored 16 points, took 13 rebounds and had one assist and two blocks for the clash's eventual winners.

Oilers Basketball Club defeated Pazi Basketball Club 80-70 in another entertaining tie, which was extremely physical and tough.

Maxwell Ngonga scored 23 points and posted seven assists to help Oilers build confidence going to the second game.

The second duels of the three-game series are expected to be played today, with each of the teams battling for victory to boost their pursuit of progression to the last four.

Caravans A squad, Strikers A side in pursuit of 2020 Kazim Nasser tourney last four

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

CARAVANS A squad has a chance to continue staying in contention for the top honour in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, given the squad will face Strikers A team in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

A lot is expected from the two teams in the mouthwatering duel, which will produce a side which will complete the KNML top tier's semi-finalists' list.

Aga Khan A squad, Aces A team and Gymkhana A squad have already booked a place in the semi-finals, considering they took the top three spots in the KNML top tier.

Aga Khan A team secured the top spot with eight points in five outings, posting victory in four and suffering loss in one.

They posted a total of 742 runs and leaked 707 runs, settling for net run rate of 0.4649.

Gymkhana A team, who had been leading the KNML Division A for a long spell, finished second after collecting six points from five matches, recording a net run rate of 1.2110.

Aces A team took the third spot, much as they finished level with Gymkhana A squad on points, number of wins and losses.

Aces A squad had an inferior net run rate of 0.2363, having amassed 773 runs and leaked 657 runs.

The fact that both Strikers A team and Caravans A squad have equal chance of making it to the knockout stage makes tomorrow's clash even more exciting, as both sides are expected to put spirited showing in pursuit of victory.

Both Strikers A squad and Caravans A side have posted four points from two wins and two losses, but they are separated by net run rate.

Caravans A team hold the fourth spot with net run rate of 0.4482, posting a total of 704 runs and leaking 654 runs.

Fifth-placed Strikers A squad has a net run rate of -0.4700, recording 613 runs and leaking 522 runs.

Caravans A team, skippered



Saint Gobain Strikers Club's all-rounder, Kishen Kamania (L), in action against Caravans Club when the clubs locked horns in a Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's duel, which took place in the city last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

by Sreejit Kumar, will need all of the squad's dependable players to be in good form in the coming clash, if they are to tame Strikers A squad.

They should, though, brace for stiff opposition from Strikers A side which is expected to put solid performance, seeking to prove it still has what it takes to successful challenge for silverware.

This weekend will also witness the 2020 TCA Dar es Salaam Development League come to a climax, with Kinondoni Development squad locking horns with Lions Academy youngsters in the final at Leaders Club in the city today.

The tie, which promises to be quite entertaining, brings together squads which finished first and second respectively in the tournament's table.

Lions Academy team topped the competition after the completion of the round robin matches with a net run rate of 1.3970, posting victory in three matches and conceding loss in one.

Second-placed Kinondoni Development squad posted a net run rate of 1.1329.

They had also won three games and lost one duel but had to settle for the spot because of their inferior net run rate.

Kinondoni Development team are expected to line up their dependable players that include Jumanne Mohamed, Arshaan Jasani, Aahil Jasani and Kelvin Anjelo in today's clash to get the better of Lions Academy side and lay their hands on silverware.

With several gifted players including Goodluck Andrew,

Athuman Siwa, Ramadhan Mbunde, Salum Jumbe, Gokul Das and skipper Rijali Fentu in their side, Lions Academy team are, though, not expected to let Kinondoni Development team easily walk all over them, given they too would be targeting to lift the top honour.

Upanga Warriors and Ilala Boys teams finished third and fourth respectively in the competition, losing out on progression to the final in the process.

Upanga Warriors posted victory in two matches and lost two duels to collect four points.

Ilala Boys ended with two points, posting one victory and conceding defeat in two outings.

Bottom-placed TCA Women team ended with no point, given they lost all three matches they took part in.



Junior soccer players that are attending a development program, overseen by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), participate in training at the Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

TFF seals agreement for construction of soccer centers

BY SETH DENIS AND FLORIDA RAYMOND, TUDARCO

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has entered into an agreement with a Chinese construction firm, Group Six International Ltd, to build two football centers.

The two parties sealed the agreement for the construction of the facilities at the TFF offices in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

According to TFF, the facilities will cost more than 4 million US Dollars in the first phase.

The facilities will be constructed in Dar es Salaam and Tanga. The Dar es Salaam center will be located at Kigamboni.

The centers, according to the national soccer governing body, will be built with FIFA funding and are expected to be completed within 12 months.

Speaking to journalists, TFF Secretary General, Wilfred Kidau, said the project will bring positive results to the sport in the country.

The project, according to Kidau, will particularly strength-

en national junior soccer sides and senior teams.

He pointed out the centers will also have special place for national teams to camp and prepare for their assignments.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, said that the federation has set out to come up with strategies for seeing to it Tanzania has what it takes to excel in soccer.

Karia said that the projects will be implemented in phases and his target is to ensure that every region has such football centers.

"The project is implemented in phases and, in our plans, we will make sure every region has such facility," he noted.

"We will spend the money we get from soccer stakeholders, as well as support from others."

He also said all procedures are done to have construction start next month.

Group Six International Ltd's contractor, Yi Xiaobo, said his firm will closely cooperate with TFF to complete the construction of the centers.

Man Utd aim to bounce back as Arsenal face acid test at Liverpool

LONDON

MANCHESTER United and Chelsea need a swift response to their title credentials being damaged by home defeats last weekend, while one or both of Liverpool and Arsenal's perfect records will come to an end when they face off at Anfield on Monday night.

Crystal Palace and Everton also have the chance to claim top spot when they meet at Selhurst Park on Saturday, while the other side with maximum points from the opening two weekends, Leicester, face a daunting trip to Manchester City.

Gareth Bale will not be fit to feature to Tottenham when they host Newcastle on Sunday, but Harry Kane and Son Heung-min are enough for the Magpies to fear after the England captain set up the South Korean to score four at Southampton.

Chelsea travel to bottom-of-the-table West Brom, who are still seeking their first point back in the top-flight.

AFP Sport looks at some of the main talking points ahead of this weekend's action.

Mayday for Man Utd?

Optimism that United could return to challenging for the title after a 14-game unbeaten run to end last season was washed away with that unbeaten record as Palace were good value for their 3-1 win at Old Trafford.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men looked desperately short of match sharpness having had barely two weeks of pre-season training.

A month-long off season was also disruptive off the field with captain Harry Maguire being handed a suspended prison term in Greece, which he is appealing, and teenage striker Mason Greenwood being sent home by England for breaching coronavirus protocols when on international duty.

There is also outcry among the United fanbase at a lack of signings in the transfer market, while their rivals still spend freely despite the economic affects of the pandemic.

The Red Devils desperately need three points at Brighton on Saturday to bring some calm, but the Seagulls have shown enough in their opening two games to suggest United face a far tougher test than when they won 3-0 on the south coast in June.

Brighton were the better side for long spells despite losing 3-1 to Chelsea on the opening weekend and bounced back with a comprehensive 3-0 win at Newcastle.

United did manage to get past Championship side Luton in the League Cup on Tuesday despite Solskjaer making 10 changes, but the Norwegian needed to bring on Bruno Fernandes, Marcus Rashford and Greenwood in the latter

stages to kill the tie off with Rashford and Greenwood getting on the scoresheet.

"We need to get competitive games and minutes into the legs of our players because normally we're in a pre-season after such a short training (period)," said Solskjaer.

"It's great for them to get minutes as well but also goals."

More motivated Everton shine Everton's investment in the transfer market is reaping immediate rewards as they have won their opening two league games of the season for the first time in seven years.

Carlo Ancelotti has been able to recruit Champions League-winning quality in James Rodriguez, alongside Brazilian international Allan and Abdoulaye Doucoure in midfield.

"The players have come back with more ambition and motivation," said Ancelotti after finishing 12th last season. "The new signings have helped us be more motivated."

Palace will provide an early test of how far Ancelotti's men can go this season as they have picked off Southampton and United at ease on the counter-attack with Wilfried Zaha rediscovering his best form to score three times in two games.

Third time lucky for Liverpool?

Arsenal have got the better of Liverpool twice in recent months, but the acid test for Mikel Arteta's side comes at what he described as the "toughest place to go in the world", Anfield, on Monday.

The Gunners rode their luck to beat the Reds after Jurgen Klopp's men had sealed the title last season, but the Community Shield clash between the two a month ago was a far more balanced game, which Arsenal won on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Arsenal have built on their momentum from winning the FA Cup by beating Fulham and West Ham to strengthen the conviction that Arteta can lead them back into the top four this season.

But Liverpool showed in sweeping aside Chelsea 2-0 at Stamford Bridge last weekend that they remain the team to beat and have only strengthened with the signing of Thiago Alcantara.

Today (all times GMT)

Brighton v Manchester United (1130), Crystal Palace v Everton (1400), West Brom v Chelsea (1630), Burnley v Southampton (1900)

Tomorrow

Sheffield United v Leeds (1100), Tottenham v Newcastle (1300), Manchester City v Leicester (1530), West Ham v Wolves (1800)

Monday

Fulham v Aston Villa (1745), Liverpool v Arsenal (1900)

AFP

Messi, Inter, Camavinga -- what to look out for in Europe this weekend

PARIS

LIONEL Messi will be back in a Barcelona shirt in La Liga, while Inter Milan begin their bid to end Juventus' grip on the Serie A title and potential challengers face off in Germany and France.

AFP Sport picks out some of the standout action in Europe this weekend:

- Eyes on Messi on Koeman debut -

Barcelona v Villarreal, Sunday 1900 GMT

Lionel Messi is staying at Barcelona for at least one more year and on Sunday he will be the centre of attention as the Catalans belatedly kick off their campaign in La Liga.

The game, behind closed doors, against Unai Emery's Villarreal is also new coach Ronald Koeman's first competitive outing in charge after one of the most turbulent summers in Barcelona's history.

While Messi stayed against his will, Luis Suarez has departed for Atletico Madrid, following Ivan Rakitic, Arturo Vidal and Nelson Semedo out of the door. Miralem Pjanic and the Portuguese international Trincão have come in.

Barcelona are a team in transi-

tion but there is no doubt that, as long as Messi is still there, anything is possible.

"Barcelona are a great side. I'm pleased that Messi has stayed and that we will continue to enjoy having him in La Liga," said Emery, whose own team has already played twice, winning one and drawing one.

- Inter with point to prove -
Inter Milan v Fiorentina, Saturday 1845 GMT

Antonio Conte's Inter get their Serie A campaign underway against Fiorentina at San Siro having been given the opening weekend off due to their run to the Europa League final last month.

The Nerazzurri lost that game to Sevilla and also finished a point behind Juventus in the Serie A title race, so now their aim is to end the Turin side's long domination of Italian football.

With Juve having beaten Sampdoria 3-0 in Andrea Pirlo's first game as a coach, Inter need to get off to a good start and there will be plenty of focus on the new arrivals: Vidal but also Achraf Hakimi, the Moroccan full-back signed from Real Madrid for 40 million euros (\$44.9m) after impressing on loan at Borussia Dortmund. AFP

Messi and Barcelona: The inside story on how everything fell apart, and what's next -Part 1

BY MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS, ESPN

A YEAR ago, Lionel Messi set out his terms for staying at Barcelona. "I want to be at Barcelona for as long as possible. This is my home," he told the Catalan newspaper Sport. "But I don't want to have a long-term contract and to only be here because of it. I need to see that there's a winning team because I want to keep winning things at this club."

"For me, money or a clause don't mean anything. I don't have any intention of going anywhere but I want to keep competing and winning."

Twelve months later, Messi was refusing to train, insisting that his 20-year relationship with Barca was over, and trying to force a move to Manchester City.

That Messi, one-club man, captain and icon, would seek to leave Barcelona like this -- notifying them in a now-infamous burofax that, as far as he was concerned, he had already gone -- should have been unthinkable. And yet this was no spur-of-the-moment decision. We should have seen it coming.

Messi had not been happy at Barcelona -- with the president, the board or management -- for a long time. He admitted as much in the interview that brought a temporary end to the crisis this summer: "I've been telling [president Josep Maria Bartomeu] that I wanted to leave all year." Known for being a reluctant public figure, Messi speaks only when he has something to say -- and at 33, he has been more vocal than ever. He was desperate to be heard. Those in charge at Barcelona didn't listen.

This is the story -- told with the help of numerous first-hand accounts from sources close to both player and club -- of how Messi's nagging doubts about Barcelona eventually became impossible to ignore, and what happened next.

Editors' note: This story contains reporting from Moises Llorens, Sam Marsden, Alex Kirkland, Rodrigo Faez and Eduardo Fernandez-Abascal.

ABOVE ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS both personal and professional, Messi's discontent stems from his desire to win. And for Messi, winning means the Champions League. Barcelona haven't done that since 2015. They haven't even come close. Embarrassed by Liverpool and Roma in recent years, the 8-2 humiliation at the hands of Bayern Munich at the quarterfinal stage of the competition last season, in August, was the tipping point. Messi is intensely aware of the impact Barca's European failings will have on his legacy. Four Champions League titles are more than enough for mortals. But not for Messi.

Several sources pinpoint one moment that best reveals Messi's disenchantment. It came at Camp Nou in May 2019. Barca were 3-0 up in the first leg of their semifinal against Liverpool. In the 96th minute, Messi -- who had scored twice -- drew three defenders before squaring the ball for an unmarked Ousmane Dembele. Dembele miskicked, Alisson made the easy save and Messi fell theatrically to the floor, face down in the turf.

He knew that Barcelona needed another goal -- the season before, Roma erased a first-leg, 4-1 deficit to advance on away goals to the semifinals -- because his teammates couldn't be trusted to defend a 3-0 lead away from home. Six days later, he was proved right.

"The last chance for Dembele was clear-cut," Messi told reporters after the first leg. "Four goals would have been better than three."

How do you prevent those mistakes from happening again and again? One approach might involve a clear-eyed vision of the kind of team you want to construct. But Barcelona's planning has been incoherent at best. Losing Neymar, with whom Messi loved to play, to Paris Saint-Germain was perhaps forgivable. Wasting almost €300 million on Dembele and Philippe Coutinho -- both yet to come good, three years on -- less so. The club failed to bring Neymar back last summer, signing



Messi's frustrations were amplified by the manner in which Barcelona lost to Liverpool the Champions League semifinal from 3-0 up in the first leg. (Agencies)

Antoine Griezmann instead for a similar sum. Griezmann is a player who has failed to adapt for various reasons, including the fact his preferred position is taken by Messi.

A series of sporting directors -- Andoni Zubizarreta, Robert Fernandez, Pep Segura, Eric Abidal and Ramon Planes -- have come and gone over the past five years, all of them unable to implement an effective long-term strategy because they were never afforded the time to do so. They have all been made scapegoats by Bartomeu, sacrificed as symbols of the club's shortcomings. Among them, they brought in a mishmash of players recruited with different ideas in mind. New signings arrived, flopped and left. Legendary midfielder Andres Iniesta departed. Gerard Pique and Sergio Busquets got older.

Messi waited, despairingly, for things to get better.

EVEN AS BARCELONA FAILED IN EUROPE, they at least continued to win La Liga.

Manager Ernesto Valverde, despite his unpopularity among some Barca fans, won the league ahead of Real Madrid in 2018 and 2019. Messi liked Valverde. Sources told ESPN that the easygoing, diplomatic Valverde maintained relative harmony in a dressing room divided between two cliques: one, led by Messi, Luis Suarez and Arturo Vidal, who were essentially happy under the coach's laid-back regime; and another, including Marc-Andre ter Stegen and Frenkie de Jong, who would have preferred a more disciplined approach.

That balance endured until January this year when Valverde was sacked -- with Barca top of the league -- after defeat to Atletico Madrid in the Spanish Supercopa in Saudi Arabia. He was replaced by Quique Setien, a man with no experience managing a group of players at this level.

The fallout from Valverde's firing was damaging, too. Sporting director Abidal said in an interview with Sport in February that "a lot of players weren't happy [with Valverde] and weren't working a lot."

Messi, in a rare moment of rage, snapped. "I honestly don't like to do these things, but I think everyone should take responsibility for their decisions," he wrote on Instagram. "The sporting department should take responsibility. When you talk about players, you should give names. If not, you're tarnishing all of

us and feeding things which people say and aren't true."

Abidal touched a nerve. Messi is incredibly sensitive to the idea that he runs things at Barcelona, responsible for hiring and firing coaches and identifying transfer targets. It's understandable, even if it's hard to dispute the grain of truth at its heart: that Barca should do everything possible to keep their best-ever player happy.

Barca had been failing to do that on the pitch; they were failing off it, too. In February, it was alleged that a company the club had hired to protect its image was behind social media accounts posting disparaging comments about current and former players. Messi and his family were mentioned. It was another blow to his already fragile relationship with Bartomeu, even if Barca continue to deny any wrongdoing in the scandal that's come to be known as "Barcagate."

SETIEN HAD A BRIEF AND TROUBLED SPELL IN CHARGE. From the beginning, Messi was not impressed with him despite hyped-up claims of a return to the more attacking, possession-based style of play made famous at the club by Johan Cruyff and, later, Pep Guardiola.

An uneasy, six-month truce lasted until June, when La Liga returned after its pandemic-enforced break. When Barca dropped their first points in a frustrating goalless draw with Sevilla, sources told ESPN that there was a tense dressing room showdown between captain and coach as stunned teammates looked on.

The top-of-the-table lead that Setien had inherited from Valverde quickly disappeared. Real Madrid won 10 games in a row, while Barca dropped points in four of theirs. Their title challenge ended with a 2-1 home defeat to Osasuna on July 16. Speaking immediately afterward, Messi didn't hold back.

Things had "all gone wrong" since January, he said, in a blatant criticism of his new coach. "We've been a very erratic, weak, low-intensity team. Today's game is a summary of the season. We have to be self-critical, starting with the players but across the whole club."

BARCELONA HAD WON NOTHING IN 2019-20, their first trophyless campaign in 12 years. Setien was

dismissed. His replacement was club legend Ronald Koeman, but it was too late. Messi's mind was made up. A first meeting between Messi and Koeman -- one that saw Messi interrupt his holiday with Suarez and Jordi Alba in the Pyrenees to return to Barcelona on Aug. 20 -- did not go well. Messi expressed his doubts and remained determined to leave the club.

Around the same time, he called Guardiola.

"Messi and Pep spoke for hours," a source told ESPN. The pair are close and have much in common. Messi, Guardiola and Manchester City all share an obsession with the Champions League. City have never won it; Guardiola and Messi are thought not to have won it often enough.

Messi knew that his options for leaving Barcelona were limited. Unlike Barca, he viewed City as having a clear strategy and an upward trajectory. The player told his former coach that he wanted to move. Guardiola said he would talk to decision-makers at City. It wouldn't be straightforward, he warned.

Messi's flirtation with City was nothing new. In fact, City's rebuild under their new owners over the past decade has been carried out with the aim of attracting first Guardiola and, later, Messi. There were discussions in 2014, and again in 2016. Yet City's hopes of signing Messi this summer were dependent on them playing in the Champions League. Once their two-year ban from European competitions was lifted on July 13, they knew they would be the front-runners to sign him if he left Barca.

There was never any direct contact between the clubs, nor did Messi's camp transmit directly to Barca a desire to move to City, but sources at the Catalan club say were informed of City's interest in signing Messi by a third party. It gave City a lot to think about. Could they afford Messi's salary? How much would they have to pay Barca? What about financial fair play? His €700m buyout clause was impossible, even for City. There was a more tantalising prospect, though: Messi might be available for nothing.

The mechanism by which they thought they could pull off a deal had existed for years. Messi's long-term doubts led his advisers to insert a release clause in his Barca contract when it was renewed in 2017. At the end of the 2019-20 season, within a defined period, he could unilaterally rescind his contract and walk away.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man Utd aim to bounce back as Arsenal face acid test at Liverpool

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



A section of riders from Team Matambuu feature in a recent race, held in Tanga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TEAM MATAMBUU

Cycling outfit targets to nurture junior cyclists

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM's semi-professional cycling club, Matambuu, has promised to revive and promote the sport in Tanzania by recruiting many young cyclists.

Matambuu was formed two months ago and it is the first local semi-professional cycling club, having been made up of nine riders.

The club's directors are Godfrey Mhagama, who is also National Cycling Association (Chabata) Chairman, and Salim Albusaidy, who is also a Chabata sponsor.

Mhagama disclosed yesterday that the outfit targets to promote the sport among young people in the country and make cycling a source of income to many people.

"Team Matambuu is sponsored by SAS Logistics and one of its future plans is to see to it our riders are competing at such top cycling events like Eritrea, Ethiopia and South Africa tours, as well as export our cyclists to top cycling clubs around the world," he noted.

"Elsewhere, cycling is a source of income to many people, we thought it wise to establish the club so as we can take the sport to another level in the country and also give our young athletes the opportunity to compete at international events," he said.

He explained that he and his fellow official will not experience a conflict of interest as the core aim is to develop and promote cycling in the country.

He said the riders were recruited into the club after showing their great interest in the sport.

He disclosed that he and Albusaidy handed out more than 15 bicycles to riders from around the country and the nine riders were picked due to their interest in the sport.

Mhagama said the club is a combination of elite and upcoming cyclist as the other aim is to give the juniors the opportunity to learn.

He mentioned the cyclists making the team as Hassan Sharif, Gerald Kondo, Boniface Ngwata, Masunga Duba, Abubakar Nkewe, Kisbo Ndakama, Kurwa Gerald, Amani Munishi and Adam Msangi.

Mhagama said in the two months of its existence, Team Matambuu has managed to compete and perform well at various cycling events which include last month events in Tanga, Ruvuma (Majimaji Selebuka Festival) and Dar es Salaam (CRDB Half Marathon), where the team's riders took the top three positions.

Yanga's transformation report to be released next month



Yanga winger, Tuisila Kisinda (R), negotiates his way past Mbeya City FC fullback, Kenneth Kunambi, when the sides met in a Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A detailed transformation report from Spain's premier soccer league organizers, La Liga, and the country's soccer big guns, Sevilla, to Tanzania's soccer giants, Yanga, will be ready next month.

Hersi Said, GSM Group's Investment Director, whose firm sponsors Yanga, disclosed the detailed report from Sevilla and La Liga will be ready by the second week of next month.

Said, who is also an influential member of the outfit's committee responsible for overseeing the transformation, said the drive is aimed

at helping the club operate professionally and embrace the investment mode of operation.

"As you all know, we are working with La Liga on our transformation drive, the good news is that the detailed report from them will be ready in the second week of October," he said.

"It will be a report with recommendations on how to go about the transformation for

the betterment of our club and Tanzania football in general," he said.

He asked Yanga's members and supporters to maintain their loyalty to the club and be ready to offer their inputs on the transformation.

He insisted that they want to make the transformation more inclusive.

"We will have inputs of our supporters across the country,

they will be informed on their responsibilities, the benefits they are to get under the transformation and overall what will be the club's benefits," he said.

Yanga had, in June this year, signed a three-year consultancy deal with La Liga and Sevilla.

Under the agreement, Yanga will be advised on areas of digital transformation, marketing and sales, among other things.

The agreement will see Sevilla provide advice on sporting management, economic management and fans with an aim of helping the record Tanzanian champions in their transformation journey.

Sevilla, an Andalusia-based outfit, contributes its strategic vision to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of Yanga's resource management and complete its evolution into the leading club.

Yanga hired La Liga consultancy to help the former in the whole process of changing the way the outfit operates.

They also have former Simba SC Chief Executive Officer, Senzo Mazingisa, as the club's consultant on the same.

One of Mbatha's tasks is to coordinate between Yanga, La Liga and other stakeholders on the transformation drive.

The transformation drive is expected to help Yanga be economically independent as currently, the club, like many local outfits, depends on gate collections, sponsors and sometimes TV rights.

Not many teams manage to woo bigger crowds at match venues. Failure by the outfits to attract plenty of fans in matches leads to less revenue for the clubs.

The trend has though changed as few clubs are now having sponsors, a development which means many football clubs are still struggling financially.

Football and marketing analysts are encouraging clubs that in view of the above challenges, the teams need to cast their financial net wider so that they can broaden their financial base.

Samatta signs for Fenerbahçe S.K

By Seth Denis, TUDARCO

TURKISH Super Lig big guns, Fenerbahçe S.K, confirmed yesterday the signing of Tanzanian forward, Mbwana Samatta, from English Premier League (EPL) outfit, Aston Villa.

Fenerbahçe and Samatta reached an agreement on a four-year deal, but the Tanzanian forward will play on loan this season, the Istanbul club said in a statement.

The club will pay his transfer fee at the end of the campaign.

The club will pay Aston Villa €6 million (\$7 million) during the contract and a maximum of €750,000 depending on the sportive results.

The 27-year-old, who is also senior national soccer squad 'Taifa Stars' skipper, had joined Aston Villa at the start of the last season.

He had previously played for Belgium's Genk, helping them take part in the UEFA Champions League in the previous season.

Samatta's future at Villa Park for this season was however not certain, given he was not featured in any

game.

He was an unused substitute in Villa's 3-1 win at Burton Albion in the second round of the English Football League (EFL) Cup clash last week.

Villa, who secured Premier League safety on the final day of last season, have signed Ollie Watkins from Brentford for an initial club-record £28m fee, potentially rising to £33m in add-ons, and forward Bertrand Troare from France's Olympic Lyon this summer.

In January 2016, Samatta signed for Belgian side K.R.C. Genk, helping them qualify for the UEFA.

He also helped Genk win one Belgian First Division A title and one Belgian Super Cup trophy. Samatta scored 76 goals and had 20 assists in 191 games for Genk.

He also played in the Europa League and won the Belgian Jupiler Pro League in 2019.

Having finished the season as the top goal scorer of the Jupiler Pro League, he also won the Ebony Shoe award in Belgium for his outstanding season with Genk.

Samatta began his career

as a youth player for Tanzanian Club, African Lyon, in 2008.

He turned professional in 2010 with Simba Sports Club, where he played for only half of the season before moving to DR Congo's TP Mazembe.

He spent a total of five years with them, initially becoming a first-team regular.

He was named the 2015 African-based Player of the Year and finished the season as the top goal scorer of the CAF Champions League, as he helped TP Mazembe win the tournament's silverware.

The striker is expected to make his debut in one of Europe's fiercest derbies on September 27 when Fenerbahçe S.K host rivals Galatasaray.

"I know how big a club Fenerbahçe is. It is also influential all over the world," Samatta said.

"I am happy to be here in such a family because it will be a new and big challenge for me."

"Fenerbahçe have a lot of supporters and they always want to win. I also want to win. I came with this request, I am very happy and I hope we will win many trophies."



Mbwana Samatta

Flexibles by David Chikoko

