



DEVELOPMENT



PREMIER BEGINS TOUR IN MBEYA PG 3

INVESTMENT



MOMBASA COUNTY GOVERNOR VISITS Z'BAR PG 4

BUSINESS



KENYA LIFTS MAIZE IMPORTS BAN PG 7



NIMR studying malaria parasite gene mutations

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

THE National Institute of Medical Research (NIMRI) has embarked on a study aimed at establishing whether malaria parasites change into new variants hence difficulties in treating the disease.

This research quest has come up as Tanzania and other malaria-endemic tropical countries battle drug resistances which lead to costly options of changing from one drug to another every now and then.

Speaking to The Guardian in an interview on Thursday, NIMR Executive Director Prof Yunus Mgaya said the research will be conducted for three-and-a-half years in 19 regions of the Mainland.

"The hypothesis is that the plasmodium that causes malaria may have the ability to mutate. This study will render crucial data to prove or disprove this supposition," he said.

"The outcome will be shared with stakeholders and whatever the outcome, it will lead to improvements in ways and approaches employed in the fight against the disease," he said.

Prof Mgaya said the study is conducted by a NIMR panel at the national level in collaboration with its centre dedicated to malaria research and control at Amani in Tanga region.

The study is part of an ongoing battle against the leading tropical killer disease, despite indications that the rates of death from malaria had declined somewhat.

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Z'bar initiating fund for Stone Town restoration

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government of Zanzibar has initiated the process of establishing the Stone Town Restoration Fund for the renovation of the World Heritage Site.

This follows the dilapidated state of the area, leading to crumbling buildings, the latest being partial collapse of Beit-al-Ajaib (House of Wonders) – the tallest building in Stone Town which came apart last December 25, killing at least two people and injuring several others.

Tourism and Heritage minister Lela Muhamed Mussa said here yesterday that the process of establishing the fund has formally started and it is designed to allow foreign tourists as well as Zanzibaris in particular and Tanzanians in general to make donations to support restoration activities.

The process coordinated by the ministry intends to oversee the development and protection of the Stone Town memorial sites.

"This idea was fronted by stakeholders who attended a meeting convened by President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi after the collapse of Beit-al-Ajaib," she said.

"The ministry saw it fit to embrace the suggestion of the major-

ity and we are now working on establishing the fund."

The fund will be transparent in its formation, management, collected donations and expenditure so that its financiers – the public through donations – know how their money is used.

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Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (C), Zanzibar Health, Social Welfare, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Nassor Ahmed Mazrui (R) and the Permanent Secretary in the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation ministry, Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge (L), participate in the opening session of the virtual meeting of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Council of Ministers in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Maelezo

SADC TO INSTALL NYERERE STATUE AT AU SECRETARIAT

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) has resolved to erect a statue of Tanzania's first president Julius Nyerere at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to appreciate his contribution as one of the founders of the bloc.

Briefing reporters at the opening of a virtual SADC Council of Ministers meeting, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said the bust will be placed outside the aptly named Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building in Addis.

The process has already started and soon we will engage a contractor for the task. This will go together with ceremonies to mark 40

years since SADC was established, and Tanzania will participate fully owing to its role in founding the bloc, he said.

The Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building was inaugurated on 12 October 2016 by the Com-

mission of the African Union and was named after Nyerere as "one of the foremost Pan Africanists and peacebuilders."

For her part, SADC Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax said the main objective of the minis-

“Considering the hardships brought about by COVID-19, and in line with your decision of August 2020...”

terial meeting is to assess progress made during the 2020/2021 financial year and deliberate on the outlook for 2021/2022.

She reported that fiscal 2020/21 has been unique and challenging for everyone, at corporate

and country levels but through unity the bloc managed to rein in the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Considering the hardships brought about by COVID-19, and in line with your decision of August 2020, the Secretariat

undertook an analysis of activities amenable to devising cost saving measures," she stated, noting that the proposed measures will be tabled during the meeting.

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President Nyusi fires six top army officers amid insecurity



MAPUTO

MOZAMBICAN President Filipe Nyusi (pictured) has sacked his army and air force chiefs as the country battles insurgency in the north and a rebellion by a militia linked to the main opposition party.

A statement from the presidency released on Thursday night did not give a reason for firing Maj-Gen Ezequiel Isac Muianga, head of the army, and Maj-Gen Messias André Niposso, head of the air force.

The president also sacked the commander and deputy commander of the Marechal Samora Machel Military Academy, Maj-Gen Cristóvão Artur Chume, and Brig Tiago Alberto Nampele respectively.

The deputy commander of the Higher

Institute of Defence Studies, Brig Francisco Zacarias Mataruca, was also relieved of his duties.

Mozambique has been battling the insurgency in the mineral-rich province of Cabo Delgado since October 2017. Half a million people are said to have been forced from their homes in the past year alone.

The al-Ansar al-Sunna group, locally known as al-Shabab, has been responsible for dozens of terror attacks which are estimated to have killed hundreds of civilians.

Amnesty International this month published a report that accused Mozambique's army, private military contractors and militants operating in Cabo Delgado of committing war crimes.

Insurgents are recruiting more members by exploiting the poverty of young people in the north of Mozambique, the Mozambican leader explained in a recent speech in Pemba, the capital of Cabo Delgado province.

And he admitted that despite the three northern provinces - Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula - having great natural wealth and enormous agricultural potential, they have the country's highest levels of poverty.

For 15 years, Mozambique's GDP rose by more than 6% a year, largely thanks to coal, titanium, hydro-electricity and other natural resources. Yet the majority of people did not benefit, poverty and inequality while

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Z'bar initiating fund for Stone Town restoration

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Meanwhile, the minister reported that Zanzibari engineers were onsite to ensure that the House of Wonders withstands the coming rainy season as an official report on the way forward is awaited from Oman.

The building was undergoing restoration at a cost of 10bn/- principally with funds from the government of Oman, with preliminary works starting in November 2019 and an earlier schedule expected the work to be completed by February 2021.

The partial collapse of the House of Wonders was a huge blow to Isles tourism. Constructed in 1883, Beit Al Ajaib is the

largest and tallest building in Zanzibar located at the UNESCO World Heritage Site area. It attracts tourists from all corners of the world and is a valuable asset in the generation of foreign exchange earnings for the Isles authorities.

Speaking after receiving a probe report on the collapse here last month, minister Mussa said that the contractor who was undertaking restoration works, Italian company Construzioni General Gilardi (CGG), was facing legal action as the government sought to compel it pay compensation for the loss and damages caused by the negligence leading to the crumbling buildings scenario.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a delegation of tourism sector investors based in the Isles, led by Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors Board chairman Seif Masoud Miskry (3rd-L, gesturing). Photo: State House

Urgent action is needed to meet SDG to end child marriage by 2030

By Dr. Julitta Onabanjo and Mohamed M. Malick

When Tseganesh from Ethiopia was 14 years old, she became friendly with a man who was known to the family. Life already held challenges but with school closures due to

the COVID-19 pandemic, circumstances changed significantly for her. The man offered her money to buy whatever she needed and shortly afterwards, he proposed to her. She soon realized that if she agreed, her hopes of continuing with her secondary education and studying at university one day were in jeopardy. Tseganesh

returned the man's money but he was insistent on marrying her. Thankfully, with the intervention of her father and the church elders, she did not have to agree to his wishes. She is now awaiting her eighth grade final exam results.

While her story ended happily, many girls in East and Southern Africa face a much harsher reality.

They are vulnerable on many fronts—from child marriage to early and unintended pregnancies, violence, and HIV exposure. Lockdown measures instituted to control the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the closure of schools, have exacerbated these existing vulnerabilities. The lives of children and families have been ad-

versely affected around the globe, with many programmes to end child marriage severely impacted. Even before the pandemic, the cost of child marriage imposed a heavy burden on Africa. A 2018 World Bank study on the economic impacts of child marriage showed that child marriage is costing 12 African countries US\$63

billion in income and human capital. Projections by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in April 2020 showed that COVID-19 will disrupt efforts to end child marriage, potentially resulting in an additional 13 million child marriages taking place globally between 2020 and 2030 that could otherwise

have been averted. This reality has been evident in countries such as Malawi, which recorded an 11 per cent increase in teenage pregnancies, and an additional 13,000 cases of child marriage from January to August 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. While many schools have been allowed to re-open this year, the risk of be-

ing exposed to gender-based violence (GBV), female genital mutilation and adolescent pregnancy remains for those who are unable to return. In addition, mega-trends of increasing conflict, climatic disasters and deepening poverty pose new challenges and underscore the importance of the Leave No One Behind principle.



Some schools in Tanzania are without enough classrooms and furniture - and conduct classes in conditions far from conducive, as evidenced from this scene captured yesterday at Samilo Primary School in Kigoma District's Mahembe ward. Photo: Correspondent Pendo Thomas

NIMR studying malaria parasite gene mutations

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The don said the study findings will complement other ways used such as bio pesticides and indoor residual spraying in the ongoing battle against the plasmodium parasites.

He said that in the last Malaria Summit, London 2018, Tanzania reaffirmed its commitment to reduce malaria prevalence from 10 percent in 2012 to less than five percent in 2020, working towards eliminating the disease. The summit featured significant political leadership and resourcing commitments from governments, scientists, private sector companies, philanthropists and international organizations.

Represented by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, among other things the country

promised to continue providing and distributing mosquito nets to achieve universal access by 2020, and scale up larviciding and indoor residual spraying to prevent malaria.

The leaders further committed to strengthening capacity building for health care providers at regional and local government levels. Currently, malaria risk is highest in Kagera region in the Lake Zone and lowest in touristic Arusha region. Fortunately, malaria cases have dropped significantly over the last decade while in the past few years, the number of children dying from malaria has halved.

However, change of climate and extensive movement of people has complicated the fight as mosquitoes are now found in places previously free of malaria.

About three years ago, the World Health Organisation (WHO) awarded Tanzania acco-

lades of recognition for successfully achieved in the reduction of morbidity due to malaria from 18 million cases per annum in 2005 to 5.5 million in 2017.

WHO Acting Country Representative Dr Rita Njau said that within the given time frame Tanzania had greatly reduced malaria induced mortality rates.

In addition to malaria being a major contributor to child mortality; the country had witnessed a substantial drop in under-five mortality from 112 per 1000 in 2005 to 67 per 1000 in 2016.

Other successes were government leadership and commitment at the highest level to mobilize domestic and external resources to support the fight against malaria, thereby improving the well-being of millions of Tanzanians, the representative added.

President Nyusi fires six top army officers amid insecurity

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increased.

Discoveries of a huge ruby deposit and a giant gas field in Cabo Delgado in 2009-10, raised hopes of jobs and a better life for many local people, but those hopes were soon dashed.

It was alleged that any benefits were being taken by a small elite in the Frelimo party, which has governed Mozambique since independence in 1975.

A new rebel campaign was noticed early October 2017 when a group of in-

surgents occupied the district town and port of Mocimboa da Praia for two days.

The town is around 60km (about 32 miles) south of the major gas development base at Palma and the port is important to deliver supplies to the gas project.

The insurgents were recognised as local men, and since then the war expanded rapidly, with at least 1,500 people having been killed and an estimated 250,000 fleeing their homes, the sources added.

SADC to install Nyerere statue at AU Secretariat

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During the 2020/21 financial year special attention was placed in enhancing national and regional disaster risk management, plus capacities in research and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, essential medicines and medical supplies, she stated.

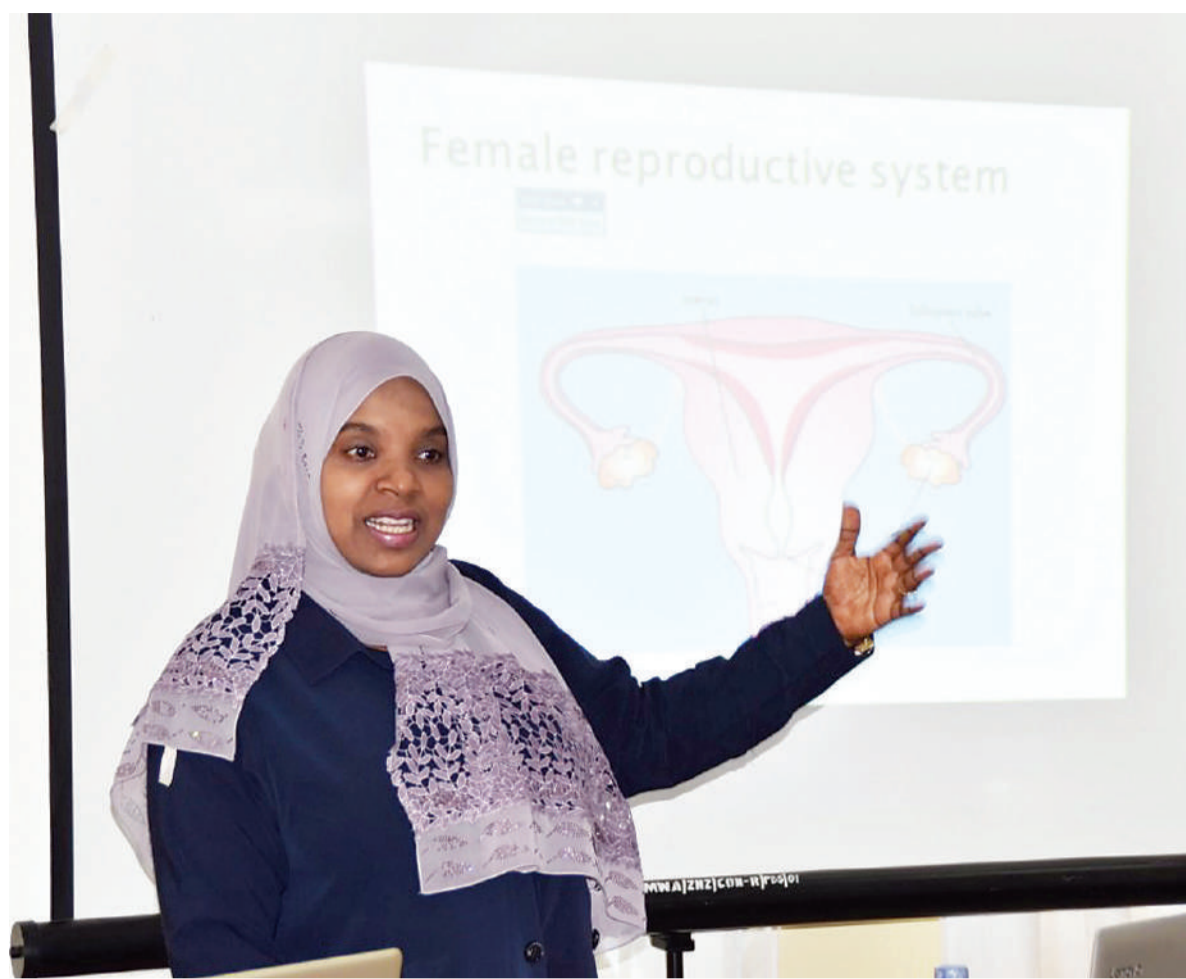
"To kick start this initiative, around 17 companies from SADC member states have been earmarked for support to manufacture COVID-19 medical and pharmaceu-

tical products within the region," she said.

The Julius Nyerere Peace and Security Building was inaugurated by the AU Commission in 2016 at its new AU head offices in Addis Ababa.

The building hosts the AU Peace and Security Department, and provides a base for operations of the continental early warning system and coordinating AU-led peace support operations, the commissioner added.





Maternal and child health specialist Dr Ummkulthum Omar Hamad makes a presentation on reproductive health at the general meeting of the Zanzibar chapter of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa) held at Tunguu in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Premier starts two-day tour in Mbeya Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is tomorrow expected to start his two-day official tour in Mbeya Region where he will launch several development projects and initiatives including the region's investment guide aimed to promote and attract more investors.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said the investment guide book aims to highlight and advertise several areas which are potential for investment.

He said Mbeya Region has been blessed with plenty fertile land suitable for establishing various investments ranging from agriculture, minerals, fish and milk processing.

"We will ensure that all key areas and issues highlighted in the guide book are intensively marketed so as to attract more investors from inside and outside the country to come and initiate projects in the Region," he said.

Chalamila said apart from the investment guide, the Prime Minister will also lay a foundation stone for the construction of the Vocational Educational and Training Authority (VETA) College in Mbarali District.

In January this year, when launching the Iringa Region's investment guide, Majaliwa said the government is committed to continue improving the business and investment environment to attract more foreign and local investors.

Majaliwa asserted that efforts are also done to maintain the prevailing peace and stability as the two are important for investors as well as development of the people.

Investment is the country's backbone since it facilitates economic growth and job creation, said the Premier add-

ing the government is keenly supervising public servants responsible for providing services to investors with the aim of ensuring they are properly served.

Majaliwa noted that the government is committed to increase investment in all the sectors to bolster development.

"It is important to prioritize serving investors; they should be assisted to timely complete all the required investment procedures to start operations," he added.

In another development, Chalamila said the Premier will launch the Mother and Child building at the Rungwe District Hospital which has been constructed at a tune of 481m/-. Its construction has been conducted to fulfill the promise of President John Magufuli when he toured the district," he added.

RC Chalamila further said the Prime Minister will also visit and inaugurate the construction of the "Customs One Stop Centre" between Tanzania and Malawi which is being constructed at the Kasumulu town in Kyela District.

"The one stop centre project is implemented in three phases and it is expected to cost 26bn/- to its completion. The first phase will spend 13bn/-," he said.

The Premier will also visit the Kafundo model secondary school which one of the schools which its infrastructures have been designed well to accommodate girl students and fight dropouts and early pregnancies.

The regional commissioner also named other strategic projects in the Region as the construction of a mother and child building worth 9bn/- at the Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital and construction of a modern RC's office which is expected to spend 3bn/- to its completion.

Govt plans to construct 26 special high schools

By Guardian Correspondent

THE government is planning to construct 26 special high schools in different regions to accommodate all the girls enrolled for Advanced Level secondary education and facilitate comfortable learning.

According to the Deputy Permanent Secretary, President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (Education) Gerald Mweli, the special schools will be constructed under the Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (SEQUIP).

"SEQUIP program is a

five year initiative from 2020/2021-2025/2026 funded by the World Bank. It was launched after successful implementation of the Education Programme for Results (EP4R) which also brought positive outcomes in the education sector," Mweli said in an interview.

He said that under the EP4R, the government campaigned and worked to bringing equality in the education sector something which also improved enrolment of girls in schools.

As a result of the EP4R program, a total of 430,000 girls joined form one studies in various secondary

schools in 2021.

"Apart from the special schools, we will also construct 1,000 day secondary schools with the capacity to accommodate 400 students yearly. The project will also be funded by the World Bank to a tune of \$500 million (1.2trillion/-) said the PS.

Mweli noted that the government will continue to build and renovate educational infrastructure, including schools, classrooms, dormitories, laboratories, libraries, offices and lecture halls. He added, efforts are also directed on construction as well as renovation of the old schools and construction of teachers settle-

ments.

"We will continue improving the teaching and learning environment which includes improving infrastructures, capacitating schools with required equipment to promote smooth learning," he added.

Rosemary Tarimo, Headmistress of the Weruweru Girls Secondary School said construction of more special school for girls will stimulate learning and facilitate girls to achieve their educational dreams.

"The move will also help cut down absenteeism and dropouts as more young girls

will be attracted to stay in schools due to conducive environment," she said.

In his speech to inaugurate the 12th Parliament in November, last year, President John Magufuli said the government is working to construct more special schools in the country so as to promote science learning among females and thus produce competitive scientists to serve in the country.

He said that girls' education is one of his priorities as he serves the second term of the fifth phase government.

"In a bid to ensure that girl children achieve their educational dreams, we have

decided to support them by having special science schools and thus produce more experts to serve in the country's sectors, we will capacitate the new school with all the required equipment and teachers so as to enable the children learn comfortably," he said.

He also said that the government will continue providing free education for both primary and secondary education as well as increase loans budget for Higher Learning students. "The government is well prepared to ensure that the country produces as many scientists in the coming years, we will en-

courage the teaching of science and mathematics subjects, especially for female students," he said

The Head of State also said that the government will also place greater emphasis on vocational education.

"And in that regard, we aim to establish state-of-the-art training centres within the educational institutions so as to produce young and competitive graduates to serve in the country," he said.

"This government has a huge trust in women and it will continue promoting gender equality by ensuring that women get representation in all positions," he said.



IREQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP



Consultancy to build capacity and draft integrated development plans for the Selous- Niassa Wildlife Corridor and Transfrontier Conservation Area in southern Tanzania and northern Mozambique

The Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC) in Southern Tanzania is a crucial connection between two Protected Areas and runs almost entirely across village land in Tanzania. With a total size of approximately 9000 km2 it serves as a significant biological link between the Nyerere NP /Selous GR and the Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique. The corridor is a crucial connection within the Selous - Niassa Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), which is one of the largest TFCAs in the region, consisting of the natural dry forest eco-region.

MNRT in collaboration with the Regional Commissioner Office Ruvuma and supported by WWF Tanzania Country Office through SECAD and CMS projects, wish to engage the services of a Consultant with the specific objective to build capacity in MNRT, review regional and national legislation and policy in order to develop alongside MNRT a draft integrated development plan for the SNWC and the wider TFCA.

Core responsibilities:

1. Build capacity in MNRT in order that they can:
2. Track, analyse and simplify the relevant policy and legislation both nationally and internationally that relates to establishing the SNWC and supports the Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA).
3. Create positive momentum about the TFCA, through connecting and leading various relevant national and international forums and stakeholder groups, in both Mozambique and Tanzania.
4. Proactively manage TFCA stakeholders in Mozambique and Tanzania and build strong relationships with relevant stakeholders for the SNWC and TFCA, including government officials, institutions, local and regional governments and international bodies, and the wider connectivity conservation community.
5. Organise and moderate a minimum of 2 x TFCA stakeholder forums.
6. Draft a proposed TFCA strategic integrated development plan
7. Draft a proposed SNWC strategic integrated development plan
8. Deliver draft Integrated development plans with MNRT, outlining the process and vision and projects for the SNWC and TFCA, with the following sections:

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The FULL TORs is accessible on WWF [website https://tanzania.panda.org/news/](https://tanzania.panda.org/news/) Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy.

Submit a concise 2 - 4-page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodologies, brief work schedule, team composition, and timings of the process.

A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the time, professional fees, and proposed implementation costs.

A 2 - 3 page CV of lead should also be attached.

Submission of Applications:

Interested applicants are requested to submit their electronic full proposals (both technical and financial) through procurement email i.e procurement@wwftz.org addressed to:

Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices
Kiko Street, Plot 252 Mikocheni – Off Mwai Kibaki Road
P. O. Box 63117
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Email: procurement@wwftz.org
website: <http://www.panda.org>

The FULL TORs is accessible on WWF [website https://tanzania.panda.org/news/](https://tanzania.panda.org/news/)
All applications should reach us by or before 1000hrs Tanzania local time Thursday, 25th March 2021



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - RFP



Consultant to undertake dataset review, biodiversity surveys and conservation spatial modelling to determine the ecological function and structure of the Selous - Niassa Wildlife Corridor, Ruvuma landscape, southern Tanzania

In 2018 the Government of Tanzania, through the Wildlife Division of MNRT and key stakeholders, established the Wildlife Corridor Regulations to protect and secure habitat connectivity in Tanzania. This regulation will support conservation efforts on the ground to ensure crucial connections between Protected Areas are maintained and structurally intact corridors allow free movement of wildlife through potential human-dominated landscapes.

MNRT in collaboration with the Regional Commissioners Office of Ruvuma and WWF Tanzania Country office now wish to engage the services of a consultant with the specific objective to develop spatial planning models for the Selous Niassa Wildlife Corridor. It will involve the review and analysis of existing data, undertaking biodiversity surveys as needed, to assess the ecological function of the corridor, based on historical and present wildlife and vegetation surveys to determine the size and shape of the wildlife corridor. The data will be used to develop corridor spatial planning models with the inclusion of additional datasets covering subjects of social, economic, governance, and land tenure.

- Under MNRT lead, to establish the precise identification and demarcation of the SNWC based on a robust scientific approach using current and historic wildlife and vegetation surveys.
- Produce detailed and accurate maps and materials, including the ecological assessments to determine the geographical shape, size, and environmental function of SNWC.
- Lead the survey work and collaborate with relevant institutions to undertake the above surveys; for example, studies will be carried out by multi-stakeholder groups of Village Game Scouts, TFA / TANAPA / TAWA, DGOs, TAWIRI, CBOs, NGOs.
- Determine and identify the ecological objectives of the SNWC with stakeholders.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

The FULL TORs is accessible on WWF [website https://tanzania.panda.org/news/](https://tanzania.panda.org/news/) Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy.

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All applications should reach us by or before 1000hrs Tanzania local time Thursday, 25th March 2021

Youth from poor families benefit from Horticulture and soap making training

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

THIRTY youth from poor households in Mbeya Region have benefited from a one-month essential training course on food and vegetable processing as well as soap making so as to enable them produce quality goods to transform their income.

Provided by the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), the training was funded by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) in collaboration with the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

Closing the training this week, Ruvuma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Stephen Ndaki urged the youth to go and make good use of the skills by initiating innovative projects so as to improve their income at family level

as well contribute to the country's economic development.

Ndaki commended the institutions for organizing the training which will greatly help the youth achieve their dreams as well as transform lives of several poor families in the Region.

He said that the government is always ready to support youth with innovative ideas and projects and it has been supporting them through providing capital and loans including those issued by the district councils.

He further urged SIDO to also make closer follow-up to the youth so as to ensure that they apply the skills acquired by initiating income generating projects within their areas.

Earlier, SIDO acting regional manager Oswald Mfaeka said the

youth have received the training under the Skills Development Fund (SDF) project.

He said that a total of 33 beneficiaries from poor households have been trained on proper food processing, soap and batik making.

"All the 33 youth have graduated from the training course, having deep understanding and skills to initiate income generating projects to improve their income and fight poverty," he said.

He said, apart from food processing and batik making training, the youth were also capacitated with techniques which will help them get market for the goods which they are producing.

The beneficiaries came from Tunduru, Songea, Madaba and Namtumbo district councils," he added.



Evangelist Dr Egon Falk (R) of New Life Outreach Mission pictured yesterday presenting to Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro 115 bags of cement in support of the construction of classrooms in the district. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

'Guidelines of sampling of analyses crucial for increased productivity'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko yesterday stressed the need for miners to observe guidelines of sampling of analyses and metallurgical sample for increased productivity.

He said for increase productivity in their mining activities, the miners should observe the scientific ways of sampling and takes them to the Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) as it will give them a clear picture of the resources in their work areas.

The minister gave the sentiments here yesterday during the launching of the guidelines of sampling of analyses and metallurgical sample formulated by the GST as they engage the miners to get the desired goals. "You must believe that geology and mining is a science and not otherwise, you should opt for scientific measures if you are to prosper and sand samples for testing is among the items you should prioritize" he insisted

He said GST has been directed to expand its services and avail them closer to the community thus they have opened up laboratory in-

regions which are potential in minerals.

The move, he said, would give a relief to the miners who had to travel to Dodoma to bring their samples in their nearest zones and get the results online, thus less expense and faster process.

He said miners should ensure they utilize to the fullest the existence of GST for their increased productivity thus improved socio-economic welfare.

Minister Biteko used the platform to instruct GST to offer commercial services as that much as they offer the best but also generate revenue that will improve their operations for the better.

Earlier Deputy Minister, Prof Shukrani Manyi insisted on GST to train the miners on the need to collect locally on sight soil "insitu" rather than transported soil as they might have impact on their investment strategies.

He commended for GST for changing their outfit as they are now more interactive by engaging with the miners and thus researches should be geared at ensuring that they benefit from the resources

Dr Gwajima praises Mbeya Region govt for supervision of meta hospital maternity wing

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Region authorities have been praised for excellent supervision of and great strides reached in the project for the construction of the new maternity wing at Meta Hospital.

The structure was now 88 per cent complete within 20 months from the estimated 24 months costing 6.4bn/- out of 9bn/- allocated for the entire project. The praise was given yesterday by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima soon after inspecting the project implemented via force account.

Dr Gwajima said she was pleased by the construction work as its finishing was superb as well as the construction pace. She also praised the procurement committee for purchase of equipment in the management of the force account concept.

She said when completed the hospital will have 223 rooms for health services delivery, three operation theatres, 3VIP rooms, maternity wards and ICU room.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said the completion of the building will assist in eradicating child and mother deaths in the region as the building will have adequate modern medical equipment, and added that so far complaints from women over maternal mortality have substantially been reduced.

The RC said statistics show that more than 600 pregnant women come to the hospital for delivery per month, and the hospital has been able to lower maternal mortality and thanked the government for bringing to them the project. In the visit, Dr Gwajima also visited Mbeya region Referral Hospital and witnessed the ongoing construction of the building to house six operation theatres as well the emergency building and promised that her ministry would plan for the construction of the maternity wing at the hospital to relieve the burden at Meta Maternity Hospital.

Dr Mwinyi welcomes governor Joho and his trade delegation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared that the doors are open for Kenyan traders to invest and conduct business in Zanzibar, considering the historical relations between the two sides.

He was speaking in Zanzibar at the State House when he met and held discussions with Mombasa County Governor Ali Hassan Joho who was accompanied by a delegation of Mombasa traders who showed intention to conduct trade between Mombasa and Zanzibar.

Dr Mwinyi told governor Joho that the Zanzibar government has put in place a friendly environment for investors and traders who aim to invest in the Isles.

He stressed that the government has in place special strategy through Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

He explained that in both Unguja and Pemba deliberate steps were being taken to ensure attraction for investment activities.

Dr Mwinyi was impressed by the intention of Mombasa traders to conduct trade in sugar from Mahonda Sugar Factory, the step that will expand the market for sugar.

For his part Mombasa Governor Joho told Dr Mwinyi that the aim of his visit to Zanzibar was to explore trade opportunities between the two sides.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Background:

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body established in 1992 by the Christian Council of Tanzania and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of social services (health and education) by the member churches in Tanzania. For 28 years, CSSC has been serving and coordinate a network of more than 900 church-owned health facilities, including 105 large hospitals at Zonal, Regional and District/Council levels. In addition, CSSC coordinates a network of more than 1,000 church owned education facilities. Majority of these church health and education facilities are located in remote and rural areas where more than 70% of the Tanzanian population reside in those areas.

Amref Health Africa, a Principle Recipient of Global Fund grant has selected CSSC to be the Sub Recipient (SR) to be implemented the Global Fund – PMTCT component from 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2023. CSSC will implement PMTCT activities in 8 regions of Lindi, Pwani, Arusha, Shinyanga, Tabora, Morogoro, Geita and Mwanza.

The award intends to strengthen PMTCT services within the supported targeted regions. In line with the goal to achieve elimination of mother to child transmission, the community interventions will expand the scope of services for PMTCT and with more emphasis on reaching mothers and their babies through the mentor mothers' program. PMTCT will be provided in fifty-seven (57) councils

In view of the above, CSSC is hereby seeking applications from highly qualified, well experienced, competent and motivated persons to fill-in the following vacant positions.

Title: GF-PMTCT Regional Officers- 6 Posts

Report to: GF-PMTCT Coordinator

Location: Lindi, Pwani, Arusha, Shinyanga, Tabora, Morogoro, Geita and Mwanza

Job Summary:

GF-PMTCT Regional Program Officer will be responsible to oversee GF-PMTCT in the implementing region He/she will also facilitate HIV prevention, care, treatment and supported services for Pregnant/lactating women. S/he will be responsible to oversee HIV diagnosis in women and partners attending antenatal services (ANC), HIV exposed infants (EID) and children in the supported region. This entails HIV counselling and testing at all entry points including PITC and EID services, linkage and retention of Mother and Infant pairs in the regional care and treatment program. On daily basis s/he will work with Regional Health Management team (RHMT) and Council Health Management Team (CHMT) to ensure quality and sustainable health services are provided along the PMTCT/EID/Pediatric continuum of care

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provides support to the R/CHMT coordination and supervision of all GF-PMTCT activities in one of the 8 implementing regions.
2. Provides technical guidance and leadership to GF-PMTCT program related to quality improvement initiatives in the supported councils.
3. Coordinate and carryout supportive supervision and mentoring of health care workers on GF-PMTCT program in the respective councils to ensure quality assurance of the services and improve service delivery.
4. Maintains close liaison with other stakeholders engaged in provision of PMTCT services in the respective Regions and District Councils.
5. Remains informed on current programs in the field of PMTCT related development by reviewing current literature and stay alert to any implication of such experience
6. Collaborate with R/CHMTs to organize and attend meetings related to PMTCT services and engage other PMTCT stakeholders in the target regions to enhance PMTCT services and partnership.
7. Participate in the Regional, Councils all other relevant meetings/forums.
8. Provide technical guidance to health facilities in the implementing regions in preparation and review of work plans and ensure such plans are implemented accordingly.
9. Participate in the development of the Program Yearly Plan and budget.
10. Work closely with the other Councils technical staff supporting adolescent, adult and Pediatric care and treatment, HTS and laboratory service.
11. Prepare and submit regional project progress & implementation reports timely
12. Perform other related responsibilities as required and assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification

MD, BScN, Dipl.Nursing, MPH or Equivalent, with over 3 years experience working in PMTCT, MNCH or HIV care and treatment projects.

Experiences and Skills

1. Proven experience in performance-based planning, implementation and reporting skills
2. A minimum of 3 years of hands on experience as an officer position in HIV or RMCH program.
3. Relevant experience in donor-funded project/programme management;
4. Computer literacy, with comfortable working experience with the basic Microsoft packages (Word, Lotus Notes, Power point, Excel & Access).
5. Demonstrated abilities in assessment techniques and analytical skills; report writing skills.
6. Excellent written and verbal communication skills in the English language.
7. Ability to work independently whilst maintaining effective communication at all levels
8. Proven coaching / mentoring and team building skills

Title: Drivers- 4 Post

Report to: Administrative Assistant

Location: In one of these regions Lindi, Pwani, Arusha, Shinyanga, Tabora, Morogoro, Geita and Mwanza

Job Summary:

This position is responsible for carrying out duties as a driver, effectively and efficiently, observing all current CSSC vehicle policy and procedures. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the passengers, vehicle and the tools assigned to him/her and devising ways and maintaining high fuel efficiency and low maintenance costs.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Carry out preventive maintenance checks of assigned vehicle(s) as per CSSC's prescribed checklist.
2. Carry out all driving tasks as needed by the office and as assigned by the supervisor and as per vehicle request approved form.
3. Observe the specified speed limits at all times
4. Bring to the immediate attention of the supervisor any and all minor/major defects that have happened or been noticed during the day or accidents that have happened that day. Present to the supervisor in writing the details of any accident by checking and filling vehicle report form in every Monday of each week.
5. Record daily trips, fuel consumption, mileage, and timings in the "log book" provided for the assigned vehicle.
6. Record all servicing and repairs both KM for service, next service and total cost of that service received in the log book provided for the assigned vehicle.
7. Under any circumstance when the drivers are out of the office either after working hours or within the working hours the driver is supposed to place the car keys to the supervisor.
8. Ensure the safe parking; whenever possible when the vehicle is on duty, vehicle is on the way at night, during breakdowns and when it is not in use.
9. Drive staff on short and long trips as per daily GF-PMTCT Project requests.
10. Maintain and adhere to road traffic policies and procedures as per Tanzania Government laws.
11. Immediately notify his/her superior as well as the local authorities in case of any accident in which he/she is involved.
12. Carry out work responsibilities in such a way so as to promote the image and work of CSSC
13. Ensure all necessary vehicle documents (e.g. insurance, registration documents, etc.) are present in the vehicle and up to date.
14. Keep track of the scheduled service time of the vehicle, in order to make sure that servicing is performed in time.
15. Take care of vehicles tools and cleanliness.
16. Ensure that assigned vehicle is completely equipped with a First Aid Kit, spare tire, working flashlight and batteries, vehicle jack, wheel brace and a tool kit (spanner, wrench, tyre, removers, patch kit, etc. Collect and deliver mail, documents, and other items;
17. Optimize use of the vehicle; assist in the registration of new vehicles, renewal of insurance, road licenses etc.
18. Undertake any other duty as will be assigned by the supervisor

Qualification

1. Secondary School Education Certificate
2. Class C Driving License
3. Certificate from National Institute of Transport or any other recognized Institute of driving and Motor Vehicle Maintenance.

Experience and Skills

1. Minimum of 3 years' experience working as a driver in NGO/FBO, Government sectors etc.
2. Mechanic skills
3. Good command of Kiswahili and English language

Mode of Application

Interested candidates are to submit their application letter. The subject line of your job application email should indicate the position that you are applying for; your CV must include the contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three work-related traceable referees. All correspondence MUST reach CSSC before 1600hrs March 22nd 2021 and channeled through the following email address: hr@cssc.or.tz

Note that;

1. Any application sent later than the mentioned date and time will not be considered.
2. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; if you are not contacted within two weeks after the deadline of this advert, consider yourself unsuccessful.
3. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

VACANCY



People are the business... Our business is people!

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position:	Specialist 3 - Underground Infrastructure Engineering
Contract Type & Duration	Unspecified Time Contract
Job Number:	GGM-2021-XME -05
Number of Positions:	01.
Works For:	The incumbent will report into the Senior Engineering Manager, with a dotted line of reporting to UG Mining manager and Infrastructure Services manager.
Qualifications:	Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent.
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 - 15 plus years post-graduation on underground engineering infrastructure 5-10 plus years of mechanical design and the implementation and execution of engineering infrastructure projects relating to turbomachinery. Managed and directed project construction activities. Computer skills – spreadsheets (Microsoft Excel), word processing (MS Project) and database (MS Access) Professionally Registered Engineer - preferred <p>The following skills and experience will be highly considered for applicants for the position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction (plan, direct and manage) experience. Hazardous area design training and design experience. Functional safety training and certification AutoCAD drafting capability will be advantageous. Flow modelling software experience such as Pumpsim and Ventsim
Purpose of the Role:	The Underground Infrastructure Engineer is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all engineering infrastructure, activities and plans relating to engineering services required for underground mining operations at Geita Gold mine. The role provides direct output in the design and project management of all infrastructure to support Life of Mine production plans. This includes managing, overseeing and monitoring all dewatering, compressed air and ventilation systems and infrastructure. This role is accountable to new build activities, infrastructure construction works, managing EPCM contractor and subcontractors to ensure works are undertaken in-line with health, safety and environmental obligations, design specifications, quality, project budget and schedule. The position is a key senior leadership team role, and requires extensive multi-disciplined infrastructure and construction experience, outstanding coordination, communication, management and stakeholder engagement skills.
Main or Key Accountabilities:	<p>Health, Safety and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere and promote HSE regulations at GGM with zero tolerance to breaches Demonstrate behaviour consistent with AGA's vision and values. Lead by example at all times to create a safe working environment, where risks are assessed and managed to ensure tasks are performed without the risk of injury or harm to themselves, others and the environment. Continuously seek learning opportunities to improve safety performance. Ensure operational, project and construction workforce targets are achieved <p>Compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation and applicable codes Ensure compliance to AGA/GGM and industry standards Ensure compliance to Quality, HSE and Human Resources (HR) management systems, policies, procedures and processes. <p>Asset Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an asset management (engineering) plan for all major underground infrastructure including rollout and integration of the Asset Management Framework, in a collaborative approach with the Reliability Engineering Conduct internal audits and over-inspections to ensure adherence and compliance to asset management plans/strategy Setup and manage the infrastructure engineering document repository for drawings and manuals Review and/or Set the Service strategy for all underground infrastructure equipment leading to the implementing a maintenance philosophy and scheduled maintenance programs that are aligned with operations to achieve set targets/plans, and substantially increase availability and reliability Effective planning and use of engineering capital for maintain asset integrity and other improvements. Put in place the necessary plans and monitoring process to anticipate issues rather than being overtaken by them. Effective use of resources including money and equipment. Monitoring the stock levels of critical spares and supplies. Manage, oversee and monitor all service infrastructure to support day-to-day underground mining activities. Ensure compliance with all engineering standards in underground operations on the mine Monitor (assess, record, feedback) equipment performance to ensure continuous improvement. Prepare engineering designs, modifications, installations and projects in underground operations on the mine. <p>Strategic role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Mining team in Life of Mine planning by providing early input into the design and constructability process for all new build infrastructure Develop conceptual designs, cost estimates and project schedules for all new infrastructure and upgrades to support Life of Mine strategic plans Proactively manage and lead underground infrastructure projects and engineering construction functions, with a strong safety, cost, schedule, and quality focus ensuring safe constructability remains a priority. This includes but not limited to HAZID's and HAZOP's, cost and schedule development and ongoing review. Manage, oversee and monitor all service infrastructure to support day-to-day underground mining activities Co-ordinate all engineering maintenance activities to ensure reliability of equipment Advise and guide the management team on best practice and fit for purpose engineering infrastructure outcomes. Strong understanding of Quality, and HSE management systems. Drive and champion the safety-first value and apply the principle into both design and field activities. Key interface role, ensuring the effective management and performance of the engineering services and all other underground infrastructure project activities. Ensure project management activities meet the approved design specification. Actively manage priorities in a dynamic environment, with emphasis on safety, meeting defined budgets and timeframes.

Plans, Procedures, Standards and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain the Life of Mine underground infrastructure plans, specifically infrastructure new builds and other infrastructure project construction activities, as a key sub-plan to overall underground Mining Plan. Provide input and support into establishing and maintaining the project Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), budget, schedule, and construction work packs. Oversee the project Requests for Information (RFI) and Technical Query (TQ) process. Provide input into HSE plan. Provide input into crane lift studies. Review and input into project contractor procurement process.
Technical Training & Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct engineering development panel interviews Develop skills matrices for all engineering infrastructure work types Identify training and development shortcomings and training needs Develop artisan refresher programs
Meetings, Reviews and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend and chair Life of Mine Infrastructure Planning meetings as well as other key review meetings, as required. Co-ordinate and chair regular project management meetings and maintain meeting records and agreed actions. Follow through to ensure actions are completed for all underground engineering infrastructure projects. Provide regular operational and project updates to the management team in relation to progress and construction issues that may impact on compliance or cause delays. Provide operational readiness interface in line with AGA project requirements. Participate in formal HSE, risk management, change management, cost and schedule reviews.
Progress and Performance Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor progress of construction works, advise status in a timely manner to the management team of any potential cost, schedule or quality variances. Monitor (assess, record and feedback) operational performance of engineering services and contractor performance in the delivery of project outcomes
Project Risk, Change and Quality Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and address construction risks early by communicating to appropriate stakeholders. Coordinate the project change management process, including Site Instructions, Variations and or claims. Proactively manage change to avoid potential project cost and schedule overruns Inspect works to ensure construction activities are in accordance with engineering designs, contract specifications and authority requirements. Oversee/witness inspections and testing regimes to ensure quality and/or performance is in-line with the engineering specifications
Audit, Governance and Compliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in internal and external audits as required.
Key Interfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering Manager, Underground Mining Manager, Technical Services Manager, Infrastructure Services Manager GGM Project Services Team to record, analyze and report on progress and productivity, change management, cost and schedule. AGA Africa Technical Team to support potential operational/design issues that may occur on-site EPCM and Third -Party Contractors.
Additional Requirements:	<p>Technical Competencies Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in managing engineering infrastructure in underground mining operation. Experience in specifications and standards to ensure that operations and project meets requirements in terms of safety, design, quality and maintainability. Experienced in the practical application of construction principles, equipment and technology. This includes applying construction principles, techniques, procedures, equipment and resources to the execution and closing of projects. Using relevant information and individual judgment to determine whether construction events or processes comply with laws, regulations, and company standards. Knowledge of mechanical designs and its application in underground mining services <p>Leadership Competencies Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate behaviors consistent with AngloGold Ashanti Values. Ability to build relationships with key personnel and identifying and developing business opportunities. Team based focus with a proactive approach to meeting LoM infrastructure requirements. Proven ability to organise and prioritise tasks and working under pressure to achieve set deadlines. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the quality of deliverables align with the needs of the project, the company and the client.
Mode of Application:	Application cover letter (Subject should be Specialist 3 - Underground Infrastructure Engineering and/or quote the job number), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. You will be required to bring original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
Contact Address:	Senior Manager Human Resources, Geita Gold Mining Ltd, P.O. Box 532, Geita. Email: jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com
Application Deadline:	NB: All internal applications must be endorsed by the applicant's head of department. Application letters should reach the above on or before 23rd March 2021 – 17hr30. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com.

Govt to ensure efficient commercial fisheries, aquaculture industry

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE government will ensure that the fishing industry produces a large number of fish especially those found in natural water sources, a senior official said yesterday.

Livestock and Fisheries Minister Mashimba Ndaki made the remarks shortly after inspecting activities carried out at Morogoro-based Kingolwira Aquaculture Center (KAC).

According to Ndaki, the fisheries industry has been very responsive at the moment due to the growing demand for its market.

He said the ministry will ensure that it continues to improve the production facilities for fish fingerlings and further expand the scope of its production to keep pace with the needs of fingerlings for fish farmers.

Director of the aquaculture department from the ministry, Dr Nazael Madalla said: "We're in various stages to provide education on fish farming including using mobile phones. Through the improve-

ments being made at the Kingolwira Aquaculture Center, we're in the process of starting producing catfish fingerlings."

He also said that currently, aquaculture facilities under the ministry have already started selling Nile Perch fingerlings.

The acting senior officer of KAC, Hamad Makorwa said: "Our strategy is to increase the production of fingerlings and achieve the target of producing 600,000 fingerlings per month."

He said in order to achieve that goal, the facility needs 26 dams and Sato fish to produce 24,000 fingerlings which currently have 5,430.



The fisheries industry has been very responsive at the moment due to the growing demand for its market



Mary Kisaka (2nd-R, foreground), Arusha District's CCM women's wing chairperson, is briefed in Arusha city yesterday on products made by women entrepreneurs from Muivaro ward in Arusha Region. The event was part of the commemoration of International Women's Day. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Beacons installation operation starts in Dabala ward, Chamwino District

By Guardian Reporter

THE Property and Business Formalisation Programme (PBF) in collaboration with the Chamwino District Council will from Monday start to install beacons and processing Customary Rights of Occupancy (CRO) to residents of

Dabala ward.

In Dabala ward, the formalisation process will include three villages namely Nayu, Igamba and Dabalo.

A press statement released to the media on Thursday indicates that the exercise is conducted in accordance with the Land Act, 1999 (No.4) and the Land Use Planning

Act of 2007.

Since the commencement of the programme in Chamwino District in November 2020, a total of 3,191 land plots have been identified and surveyed.

Following the success, officials from PBF have resolved to start installing beacons as part of preparations to pro-

vide land owners with CROs.

According to the statement, the district authority will also start to formalize farm lands as per The Village Land Act, 1999 (NO.5). Formalization of farm lands will be conducted at Manyemba ward which has a total of seven villages including Muungano, Azimio, Mtakuja, Nyerere, Ikulu, Map-

induzi and Mbande.

So far, a total of 107 farm lands have been surveyed with authorities working on the CROs.

Apart from issuance of CROs, the programme also provides capacity building training to villagers on the importance of formalizing their businesses as well as how to

grow their business capital.

Until February 2021, PBF in collaboration with local government authorities have been able to formalize land plots in 57 districts whereas a total of 140,558 farms have been surveyed and 101,415 CROs issued to owners in 225 villages.

The Property and Business

Formalisation Programme is an initiative of the government aiming to empower the poor majority in the population in Tanzania by increasing their access to formal financial markets and other services by formalisation of their property rights and businesses.

Parliamentary committee hails govt on youth apprenticeship, internship training programme

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Standing Parliamentary Constitution and Legal Affairs Committee has commended the government's effort in empowering youth through the apprenticeship and internship training programme which is implemented by the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary, Employment, Youth and the Disabled).

Mohamed Mchengerwa, Chairman of the committee made the statement shortly after he received a report on implementation of the program from Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) Patrobas Katambi.

Mchengerwa said the programme has enabled a number of youth to participate in various economic activities, thus contributing to economic growth.

"The programme is crucial for our youth since it empowers them to be able to work as well as building skills and capacity. Some of the youth who participated in the programme have been able to employ their fellows, thus helping the government to reduce unemployment rate among young Tanzanians," said the parliamentary committee chairman.

Earlier, Deputy Minister Katambi said the programme was introduced following agreements between the government and stakeholders through a special programme which is aimed at improving business environment whereas most employers insisted the need to develop more skilled youth.

"Implementation of the programme aimed at improving the skills among youth because most of them had limited skills and knowledge. We needed to have a good number of youth with the highest level of skills to be able to compete in the labour market within and outside the country," said Katambi.

He said the labour force survey conducted in 2014 indicated that an estimated 79.9 percent of the country's labour force had limited skills and knowledge (16.6 percent).

Findings of the survey pushed the government to consider including youth in various economic activities as well as enhancing their skills.

"We target to have many youth with the highest level of skills by 2025/2026. The nation's workforce must be well knowledgeable to acquire jobs in different economic sectors," he noted.

The Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Ally Msaki said the government decided to implement the five years programme (2015/2016 - 2019/2020) to empower youth with the needed skills in the labour market. He said the aims was also to enable them establish their own income generating activities.

According to Msaki, a total of 65,008 youth have benefitted with the programme in between 2016/2017 and 2019/2020.



Help comes the way of a driver whose truck was 'stuck' at a spot of the Ubungu stretch of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road yesterday after being involved in a crash. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Coast Region police hold 23 people over 18 sim cards registered in one name

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region are holding 23 people for involvement in various crimes including for being found with 74 sim cards of which 18 were registered in one name. Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa

told reporters in his office that the suspects were nabbed during a special operation conducted in the region's five police districts.

RPC Wankyo said the suspects were arrested with various items including marijuana sticks, 35 bundles of 'khat', three TV sets, five mobile phones, two radios and a ma-

chine for registering sim cards.

He mentioned other items as including 12 coats for SGA Security firm, 74 sim cards of which 56 were new and 18 that had allegedly used in mobile crimes and were all registered in one name Moses Cosmas.

He said a big number of the suspects hail from Mlandizi

police district and their names could not be disclosed for security reasons, including the one owning the registered sim cards Moses Cosmas.

RPC Wankyo said investigations on the issue were still continuing after which the suspects will be taken to court.



Works and Transport ministry (Works) permanent secretary Elius Mwakalinga addresses a workers' meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

Malawi starts nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive

By Moses Micheal-Phiri

MALAWI on Thursday rolled out the first phase of a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

President Lazarus Chakwera was the first to receive the jab in the small town of Zomba, some 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the country's commercial city of Blantyre.

He described the Covid-19 vaccination program as a major milestone for Malawi as it joins the global community in fighting the pandemic.

"I have volunteered to be the first one to be vaccinated so that you can see that the vaccine is safe," said Chakwera.

The southeastern African nation of about 18.5 million received the first batch of 360,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine on March

5 from the UN's Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility.

Health Minister Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda said the first phase of vaccination will target frontline workers, including 60,000 health workers, teachers, and journalists.

Former President Joyce Banda, who was among the first people to get inoculated, welcomed the vaccination drive.

"This is an important moment for the battle to destroy the virus, prevent illness and save lives," said Banda, who lost her son to Covid-19 last month.

Malawi's Covid-19 vaccination program came at a time when the country has seen a drastic fall in the number of new cases.

As of Wednesday, Malawi had recorded a total of 32,614 cases, 24,381 recoveries, and 1,077 deaths.



I have volunteered to be the first one to be vaccinated so that you can see that the vaccine is safe

Dar port widens basket of cargo it will handle

By Special Correspondent

THE port of Dar es Salaam has announced it will increase the types of cargo cleared to include fertiliser, industrial and domestic sugar, edible or cooking oil, wheat oil products, gas, liquefied petroleum gas, chemicals or any liquid related products.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation told stakeholders that with effect from March 15, the agency will commence executing its mandate of clear-

ing the additional products.

"In view of the foregoing, shippers and consignees or their agents are obliged to submit all documents pertinent for clearing and forwarding of import and export cargo specified under Section 7(1)(a) of the Act, as amended, which are to be declared to the Commissioner for Customs and Excise with effect from March 15, 2021. The documents should be submitted electronically and in hard copies to the manager of clearing and forwarding,"

the notice reads in part.

Currently, section 7(1)(a) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act of 2017 gives exclusive mandate to TASAC to carry out clearing and forwarding functions relating to import and export of minerals, mineral concentrates, machinery, equipment, products and/or extracts related to minerals and petroleum, arms and ammunition, live animals and Government trophies.

These are the fruits of the Tanzania Ports Author-

ity's strategy to capture new markets and increase its throughput following heavy investment funded by the World Bank to expand port operations.

Meanwhile, Kenya Revenue Authority was forced to suspend the implementation of the Licence for Conveyance of Goods under Customs Control where each truck was to pay \$200 for the licence for access into the port to pick or drop cargo.

But KPA has continued to take advantage of already

established infrastructure to increase cargo handling and already the authority has started loading dangerous cargo at Container Terminal 2 as opposed to a previous arrangement where loading zone was only done at Container Terminal 1.

The authority's projections for February and March 2021, compared with similar period in 2020 and 2019 indicates that performance will surpass the 2020 and 2019 performance.

"We are projecting to handle over 115,000 TEUs

against 108,000 TEUs handled in 2020 at the same time," said KPA's acting managing director Rashid Salim.

As a vote on confidence in the port operations, German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd has opened new offices in Kenya in its Africa expansion.

While the main business will be managed from the port city of Mombasa, the company will also have an office in Nairobi, and in Uganda, one of Mombasa's important port users.

Hapag-Lloyd handles agri-

cultural goods out of Kenya, especially tea, coffee, fruits and textiles, and brings in chemicals, foodstuffs and a wide range of goods made of plastic or rubber.

"Kenya is the economic hub of East Africa and the most important growth region on the continent. By opening our new office in Kenya, we expect to continue our robust growth on the African continent," said Hapag-Lloyd's Dheeraj Bhatia, senior managing director for Middle East region.

Flipflop embarks on second phase of fight on plastic pollution in East Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE Flipflop, a dhow made from recycled plastic, has set sail on its second voyage, taking to riverine communities in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya to highlight the importance of reversing the damage of plastic pollution to communities that depend on Lake Victoria.

Embarking from Kisumu, Kenya on 7 March, the Flipflop crew will spend three weeks on the water, engaging with communities, activists and local entrepreneurs, and highlighting the challenge of microplastics and their impact on fish stocks and water quality.

Covering more than 68,800 square kilometres, Lake Victoria is the largest tropical lake in the world and the world's second-largest freshwater lake. Population growth around the lake has skyrocketed, but few additional sources of revenue have been discovered on shore for the estimated 53 million people in the basin area.

Lake Victoria has long struggled with declining fish stocks, attributable to overfishing as well as the emergence of invasive plant species, such as the water hyacinth, as well as the impacts of climate change.

But increasingly, it's pollution and the preponderance of microplastics that is choking the lake and shutting off this economic engine for the three countries. A recent study estimated that one in five of the fish in Lake Victoria had ingested plastic.

"Plastic pollution in Lake Victoria

adds another burden to the lake ecosystem, which is already stressed," said Robert Egessa, a scientist attached to the Flipflop team. "The interactions between plastics and organic and inorganic pollutants will be felt along the fish value chain, if a timely solution is not provided."

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is supporting the voyage of the Flipflop through its Clean Seas Campaign, which works with governments, businesses and citizens to curtail what experts call an epidemic of plastic pollution. The world produces 300 million tonnes of plastic waste each year, of which 8 million tonnes ends up in the ocean, poisoning fish, littering beaches and, sometimes, entering the human food chain.

The effects of COVID-19 on Lake Victoria communities have been profound. The emergent tourism industry was all but suspended due to lockdowns in Uganda and Kenya, and cross-border trade was interrupted due to concerns about the spread of the virus.

Reinvigorating these communities, and bringing hope to the shores of the lake, is one of the main drivers of the Flipflop voyage, which comes shortly after UNEP concluded its fifth UN Environment Assembly, the world's highest decision-making body for the environment.

The Flipflop has encouraged local communities across East Africa to participate in cleaning up plastic pollution.



Charcoal business is still rampant in many parts of rural and urban Tanzania despite its devastating impact on forest cover. This scene was captured at Visiga Madafu in Coast Region earlier this week. People need to be more vigorously sensitised on the use of more affordable renewable energy technologies - and empowered accordingly. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Tanzania maize cargo may soon head for Kenya

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

CARGO trucks carrying consignment of maize grain from Tanzania that were stuck at Namanga border since last week after Kenyan authorities refused them entry, were likely to resume their journey yesterday.

Tanzanian ambassador to Kenya, Dr John Stephen Simbachawene, has confirmed here that negotiations to

that effect were on good course and that the maize will now be permitted to be shipped to Nairobi as usual after officials in the neighboring country satisfied themselves that the grain produce consignment were safe for human consumption after all.

The negotiations may come with some ultimatums that are yet to be disclosed by both parties. Maize traders whose consignment were still stuck on Tanzanian side

of Namanga Border, in Longido District lamented the ordeal, appealing for speedy solutions to the quagmire.

"We are sure everything can be amicably solved through mutual discussions between Kenya and Tanzania officials," stated Christina Emmanuel one of the affected business persons on behalf of other traders.

On his part the Longido District Commissioner, Frank Mwausumbe who had spoken earlier affirmed here the

talks regarding maize consignment showed positive outcome and that soon the trucks will be allowed to enter Kenya with the cargo of maize.

Late last week, Kenya had banned the importation of grains from Uganda and Tanzania saying the maize from her two East African neighbors were unfit for human consumption due to high levels of aflatoxin, to which Tanzania denied.

The Guardian

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Need for green economies places heavy burden on African nations

IN many ways, the global panic over COVID-19 in 2020 is a dress rehearsal for the moment when the majority of the world's people collide with the destructive force of the climate crisis. Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent, being behind Asia in both categories. With 1.2 billion people as of 2016, it accounts for about 16 per cent of the world's human population.

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) the storms and the arid croplands will spread like a malevolent ink stain across the world's top food-producing countries, all set against a backdrop of the breakdown of water and supplies.

None of this is news to farmers across Africa. Last year WMO reinforced the urgency of the crisis after it found that African countries were spending on climate adaption and mitigation. We are told that extreme heat, drought and changes in rainfall will continue over the next few decades as the planet warms. Africa therefore needs to take drastic measures to arrest and contain situation. For many reasons, 2021 will start the final battle for the climate. As governments at the dawning of the pandemic came under irresistible pressure to lock down their economies, leaders of the biggest economies have to face the threat of environmental destruction in the same spirit.

The biggest players are laying down the stakes. This makes the Conference of the Parties (COP26), due to be held in Glasgow in November 2021, the climate equivalent of the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, which was also held in the shadow of a global pandemic. It is time to remake the international system. Almost all 193 UN member states will send a high-level delegation to Glasgow to negotiate two main issues: a binding accord to stall global

heating, and to boost funds for developing economies adjusting to the despoliation.

China has set out its stall. President Xi Jinping's unilateral commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060 is more than tactics or a negotiating ploy. Beijing calculates that it has to act if its economy and its strategic power are to continue expanding. Africa should therefore play a leading role by building new green economies with low-carbon technologies.

With its abundance of solar, wind and geothermal energy, Africa has a comparative advantage in renewable energy.

Sustainable agriculture and forestry in Africa can reinforce the global battle against climate. If the West and China can agree on their respective decarbonisation plans, they should also help accelerate the green revolution in Africa, through innovative technology and targeted finance. US President Joe Biden's ascent to power, elected on a platform of a \$2trn green-energy plan, is a positive start. His choice of John Kerry as the US's climate czar will inject seriousness into the run-up to the COP26 negotiations.

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

The continent's apex institutions - the African Union and the AfDB - should lead a global campaign on behalf of the world's youngest continent, which is suffering most from climate catastrophe having contributed least to it. It will be the struggle of a lifetime.

Covid-19 pandemic has shed crucial light on the challenges facing Africa

AFRICA is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent, after Asia in both cases. Africa's population is the youngest amongst all the continents. Africa is the least wealthy continent per capita, in part due to geographic impediments, legacies of European colonisation in Africa and the Cold War, undemocratic rule and deleterious policies. Despite this low concentration of wealth, recent economic expansion and the large and young population make Africa an important economic market in the broader global context.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light inequalities that have been around for a while in the African continent. Women, youth and vulnerable populations including refugees, migrants, indigenous people, older persons, the disabled and children still remain at risk of various inequalities.

One of the major challenges in the world is poverty and inequalities. During a parallel meeting, SDG 10 on "Reduced Inequalities" was seen to have linkages to SDG 1 on "No Poverty", SDG 2 on "Zero Hunger", SDG 3 on "Good Health and Well-being", SDG 4 on "Quality Education", SDG 5 on "Gender Equality", SDG 8 on "Decent Work and Economic Growth" and also Aspiration 1 of African Union's Agenda 2063 which calls for "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development".

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) offers an opportunity to increase returns from remittances but also that governments need to encour-

age the free movement of persons within the continent.

In Africa, women participation and representation is still a key issue with a lot of women within the continent still lacking access to equal opportunities as their male counterparts. However, a contrary example to this is the Rwandan government where over half of the parliamentary seats are held by women. This offers an encouragement to women as there is little participation of women in decision-making within the continent.

Education, health, security and climate change are key areas that need to be addressed to ensure reduced inequalities.

The UNHCR promotes inclusivity and forges partnerships in this regard with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) seeking to address inequalities. The UNHCR also supports economies which host refugees.

Yes, indeed the UNHCR has invested in initiatives to collect data like the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement. Africa needs for partnership for poverty reduction in the COVID-19 response. The need for Africa to produce her own vaccines was agreed to be a pressing matter. The collapse of some health and economic systems in Africa with human capital continuing to be depleted showcase the need to invest in interdisciplinary research for inclusive development. Africa also needs to close the technological capabilities gap with the pandemic showing the rural-urban digital capabilities gap.

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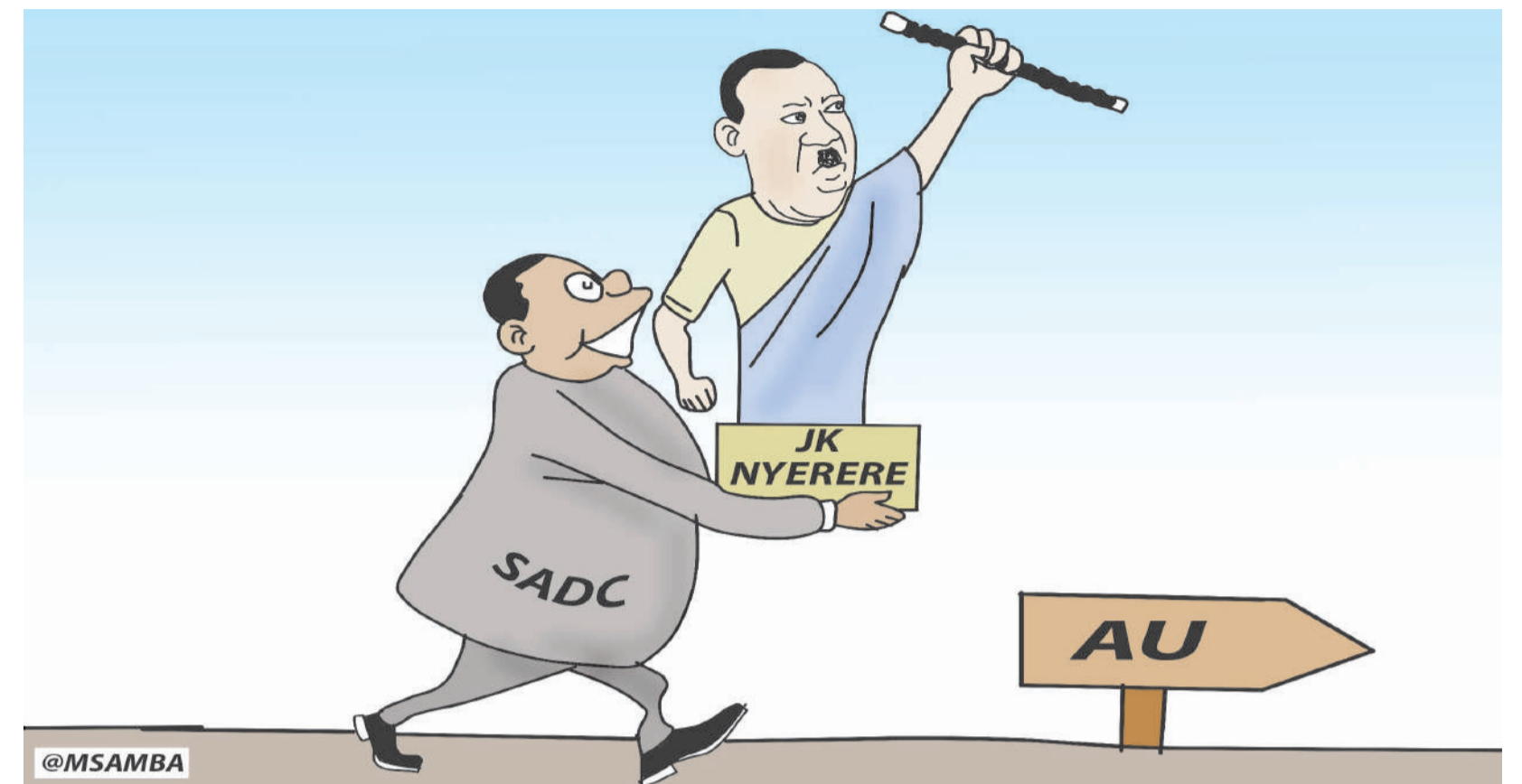
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International Women's Day, 2021: The world not only needs women leaders - it needs feminist leaders

By Audrey Azoulay and Katrin Jakobsdóttir

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day pays tribute to the achievements of women worldwide and reminds us what still needs to be done for full gender equality. In 2021, we are taking stock of the many ways in which COVID-19 has disproportionately affected women and girls around the world.

The pandemic has created a new landscape. Although women have played a key role in responding to the crisis, gender inequalities have widened across the board. In education, 767 million women and girls were impacted by school closures. Eleven million may never return to class, joining the 132 million already out of school before the crisis struck. From the economic perspective, the recession is pushing 47 million more women and girls into poverty, destroying their economic independence and making them more vulnerable to gender-based discrimination and violence.

As we look at this landscape, we have to ask ourselves: if gender equality is our goal, what kind of leadership will the world need moving forward?

It is not enough to just count the number of women in the highest positions of power. No single person at the top of the pyramid can repair the damage being done to the progress that has been made in gender equality since the world adopted the Beijing Declaration on women's rights 25 years ago.

What we need are leaders for gender equality - and we need them everywhere in our societal structures. Leaders of all ages, all gender identities and from all backgrounds. These leaders are not just agents of change, but designers of change. They lead through their example and engagement. They expose injustices and unequal opportunities. They know that gender inequalities stem from discrimination and exclusion and that it is only by lifting these barriers that real change can happen. This is feminist leadership.

Feminist leaders tackle power structures. They name and deconstruct all forms of exclusion and marginalization. They empathize with the vulnerable and voiceless, and champion their cause. They open new doors and take risks, courageously blowing the whistle on hidden injustice, and unmasking struc-

tural barriers perpetuating inequalities. They are all around us. Be it the activist defending an indigenous community, the schoolgirl mobilizing her generation to save the climate, or the poet raising her voice to promote social justice.

Feminist leaders have the courage to create, report, educate, experiment. Think about Azata Soro, actress, film director and producer who broke her silence on sexual harassment and violence in the African film industry. Think about Maria Ressa, risking jail for her brave investigative journalism. Think about Yande Banda, a tireless advocate for girls' education in Zambia and beyond. Think about Katalin Karikó, who overcame the many challenges faced by women in science and was instrumental in developing the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. As stories like these become known, they challenge people's intimate convictions of what is achievable and by whom. These women are, in all their diversity, feminist leaders.

However, feminist leadership is not the prerogative of women alone. Gender equality isn't just a women's fight, it's a fight for social justice. Men also need to be involved in the construction of a fairer society. Many of them are showing the way. The Congolese gynecologist, Dr Denis Mukwege, won a Nobel Peace Prize for his advocacy to stop

rape from being used as a 'strategy of war'. And there are many others like him, all over the world.

On this International Women's Day, we stand committed to building future generations of feminist leaders through education. We support women who dare to create and do what is necessary to prevent them from censorship and attacks. We call on the international community to ensure the safety of women journalists who address gender inequalities through their reporting. We also stand side by side with men who dare to care and reject toxic masculinities and behaviours and open up spaces for women to influence decision-making or participate in scientific discovery and innovation.

Let us support these feminist leaders, from all walks of life. Let us take action so that women can affirm their leadership and be powerful role models for generations to come. Because gender equality not only serves to advance the cause of women - a fairer society benefits us all.

Audrey Azoulay is Director-General of UNESCO and Katrin Jakobsdóttir is Prime Minister of Iceland.

Ensuring food security, development demands ethics in AI

By Mario Lubetkin

ONE year after the call for a group of international and religious organizations and important multinational companies to incorporate ethics into the design of artificial intelligence (AI), Pope Francis said in a tweet: "I hope that more and more people of good will cooperate in the promotion of the common good, the protection of those lagging behind and the development of a shared algorithmic ethics".

The message of the Catholic pontiff, on 28 February, was related to the Call of Rome, which seeks to actively incorporate ethics in artificial intelligence based on a transparent, inclusive, socially advantageous and responsible process.

The document, "Rome Call for Artificial Intelligence Ethics", was launched on 28 February 2020 by the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Microsoft and IBM, with the endorsement of the Italian government.

By 2050 the world will have to feed 10 billion people and this will be possible only with transformed agri-food systems that are inclusive, resilient and sustainable; therefore, artificial intelligence in food and agriculture plays a key role in this

transformation and in achieving the food objectives for all - QU Dongyu, Director General, FAO

For Monsignor Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, progress can create a better world "if it is linked to the common good." "The depth and acceleration of the transformations of the digital age create new and constantly evolving problems" and "the complexity of the technological world demands an ethical and articulated collaboration to achieve better influence."

According to Paglia, it is necessary to build a new alliance between research, science and ethics "to build a world in which technology is in favor of the people" because "without equitable and just development" there can be no justice or peace.

The Rome Call invites governments, institutions and the private sector to adopt a common responsibility in order to ensure that digital innovation and technological progress are at the service of human creativity.

The strong increase in digitization and the renewed efforts for greater innovation improved substantially in 2020. This acceleration was a result of COVID-19 and the consequent new digital and online forms of interaction on a global level.

The Director General of FAO, QU

Dongyu, recalled that by 2050 the world will have to feed 10 billion people and that this will be possible "only with transformed agri-food systems that are inclusive, resilient and sustainable"; therefore, artificial intelligence in food and agriculture "plays a key role in this transformation and in achieving the food objectives for all."

QU recalled that FAO seeks the promotion of ethics in artificial intelligence "for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life."

The expanding support for the Rome Call is being sought through various means. These means include: opening channels of dialogue with the different monotheistic religions to identify a convergence in which technology can be used at the service of humanity; active action from parliamentarians and local administrators in different parts of the world; as well as by the growing support from private companies, especially technological ones.

For Microsoft's President Brad Smith, this common effort aims to ensure that technology continues to serve humanity. He stated that "[a]s we recover from COVID-19, the Rome Call is an important instrument to reflect broadly and ethically on the future of technology" within the

framework "of a balanced, respectful and inclusive dialogue on the interaction between the artificial intelligence technology and society".

Similarly, the Vice President of IBM, Dario Gil, called for strengthening the capacity of artificial intelligence to "transform our lives and societies in many ways," but for this, artificial intelligence must be developed, expanded and used "in a more responsible way to prevent negative results."

Gil recalled that in his company this is applied through specific protocols, risk assessment, reliable methodologies for the development of artificial intelligence, training initiatives, innovation analysis, as well as through mechanisms designed to help other companies to strengthen their artificial intelligence.

To summarize the spirit that allowed the creation and promotion of this original global alliance on the issue of the development of digitization and innovation, Monsignor Paglia recalled that "we are not an island, we are not pulverized or divided, we are a single body, a unique family, in good and evil" and for that, common action is essential.

Mario Lubetkin is Assistant Director General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

WOMEN'S DAY INTERVIEW

Strides being made by the African Women Leadership Network (2)

Second part of a Women's Day special interview between Correspondent DANIEL ELIEWAHA and the CEO of Women Fund of Tanzania -Trust (WFT-T), MARY RUSIMBI.

QUESTION: Can you describe briefly some of the issues the Coalition saw as pertinent to be included in the draft constitution?

ANSWER: I will be very brief on this because we can spend the whole day highlighting the recommendations. The recommendations included, for instance elimination of discriminatory laws and practice on some identified issues including inheritance, ending Gender Based Violence (GBV), gender equality in political leadership known as the 50:50 principle, more recognition of women and girls living with disability and the Government was urged to put in place a new system which would consider women and men to be equal when implementing various development activities, here the emphasis was on what women called "care economy."

There were many issues related to better education and health system, for instance, the Coalition proposed that the primary education should not end with standard seven (as many girls of 14 and 15 years old who finished school ended up being married or impregnated due to lack of self-dependency).

The promotion of women and girls' leadership rights in the Coalition also led to a wide range of interventions, including removing differences between women politicians and non-politicians, women in urban vs rural settings, young and elderly women, women with disability and those not in this situation and so on. This enabled them to work collectively towards developing a Women's Manifesto which visibly support the interests of disadvantaged women and girls.

The Coalition also worked towards supporting women candidates during local elections through stimulating progressive and gender responsive debates, community dialogue on importance of women participation in leadership and the reasons why voters should trust women in their own right and vote them to become councillors and members of Parliament.

To summarize what I have said, is that Coalition members were fully aware that historically, all general struggle for more freedom, rights and voice have not automatically benefited women. So, women have been forced to launch a separate struggle to win women specific rights, entitlements and freedoms. Guided by this understanding, that is why the coalition members decided to organize in order to influence the constitutional processes, and thus identified the 12 key issues to be put in the new-constitution, which has not get been



put in place.

QUESTION: Are there any countries in the SADC region which have achieved 50-50 gender representation in their Cabinets and elected National Assemblies? Do you think in our case such representation will occur in the near future without the progressive use of electing women in "special seats"?

ANSWER: My response here will be YES and NO. Yes, because in a few countries including Namibia, South Africa and Mauritius they have demonstrated some good progress in reaching this agenda of 50:50, by putting in place gender equality laws, institutional systems and practices with the objective of moving forward gender equality in political leadership.

But this is not to say women and girls in these countries are not facing challenges relating to make effective their leadership in the designated political spaces and others.

If I was to be frank, however, despite all efforts under implementation by our patriotic governments, women rights organizations and NGOs, the achievement of 50:50 for women and girls in political leadership spaces will take a while for this to be a reality within SADC countries and beyond. This is mainly because these is still in existence some systematic hindrances, starting with issues of the constitutions not enshrining well gender equality principles that guide the different machineries such as the Parliament, the Judiciary, indi-

QUESTION: I am aware that UN Women has already initiated the establishment of the local chapter of the African Women Leadership Network (AWLN). How far has the process of setting up this network reached, and what are the expected outputs?

ANSWER: Under the UN Women support, we have a growing national chapter on the continental base titled African Women Leadership Network (AWLN). This is a Network of women and young women leaders who have come together for enhancing leadership promotion in different levels of country and to connect our issues for the broader based learning and solidarity building with other national level chapters.

The Network, which I also happen to be its current co-chair -with my colleague Ms. Rebecca Gyumi, the Director of the Wasichana Initiative, is set up by membership of women and young women working in Tanzania, who are bent in promotion of leadership in different ways. The Network, works under several pillars for enabling members working in similar areas of women and girls' leadership to be organized as team to move this huge agenda forward. To mention but a few, the Network has pillars on: Leadership, Young Women Leaders, Peace and Security, Financial Inclusion, Social Mobilization and Rural women leadership.

Though the National AWLN Chapter is young as it was

officially launched only in early 2020, but it is slowly growing, and has already started achieving some substantial results including engaging women and girls under their pillar to raise issues of women in leadership generally, intergenerational leadership, women peace and security, and others.

QUESTION: WFT-T has done a commendable job in fighting sextortion, what is your current assessment of various campaigns that have been implemented?

ANSWER: On our fight against sextortion, we have done a lot and we can cite few cases. We funded the growth and functioning of a National Anti-Sextortion Coalition with numerous members from women's organizations and groups, who have been running a national campaign termed as 'Refuse Sextortion, It Humiliates You.' This campaign has succeeded in breaking silence on sexual corruption, especially after connecting them to PCCB and the other relevant institutions for accountability. Evidence shows that PCCB has really increased its portfolio in sending such cases to courts of law. We have also supported Coalition members to work with PCCB and Police on ensuring that the agenda of sexual corruption is centered in the broader agenda of corruption within the country. This has been done through various approaches, including facilitating this key government institution (PCCB) to conduct research on extent of sexual corruption in selected higher learning institutions and provide recommendations on what has to be done.

QUESTION: Lastly, with regard to the deadly disease COVID -19, which has been brought by corona virus, has WFT-T educated its stakeholders on this epidemic?

ANSWER: Last year we gave grants to various women rights organization in our country to conduct several activities including educating women in the local communities on avoiding COVID-19 through abiding to conditions such as mask wearing, social distancing, sanitization, avoiding touching the eyes and mouths with unwashed hands, washing hands regularly with running water and restrictions on attending events that have large crowds such as burial and funeral services as well as social ceremonies like weddings and graduations. We tried our level best on this using media initiative and the feedback we received was impressive.

In our offices, we use zoom meetings to address women issues in areas such as education, economic empowerment, gender-based violence, leadership and political participation, gender equality and other relevant subjects.

Reflecting on 20 years of change and impact through technology

By Guardian Correspondent

I WAS sitting on the beach this past Valentines day, when I received a text message from the local water utility. The message was reminding me to pay for my water bill.

As I took the relevant steps to check whether I had enough cash in my mobile M-Pesa account to cover the water bill, I couldn't help but think about how in just a few decades, things have advanced and changed.

Indeed I recall how every Valentine's comes with memories of my first date - or rather what was supposed to be my first ever official date on planet earth.

It was the 90's and I - then a teenage high school student, had this massive, sky-scraper sized crush on Angela - a cute girl from one of the neighboring schools.

Being a keen student, I took charge of the saying "faint heart never won fair lady". Soon Angela and I were exchanging corny, hand written love letters filled with quotes from whatever literature or poetry book we were studying in school at the time. I'll now admit that writing those perfumed love letters was a good thing for us - at least it helped us study English literature.

Anyway, the puppy love turned me (and Angela too I guess) into ardent members of almost every student's club there was to join in our different boarding high schools. You name it - we were in it. School choir, drama, art, debate, chemistry, physics, mathematics, environment, the Christian union, even the wood workers club - I was in it! I also took up active sports - anything to guarantee that I was always part of the contingent representing our school at the next inter-school function, just so I could meet Angela.

Presently the school holidays drew closer, posing a whale-sized challenge to our youthful infatuation with each other. How was I going to communicate with Angela during the month-long holidays? After all she lived in a different town!

Now if you were like me and most regular everyday people in those days, then you know that for regular people then, communicating with someone in a different town wasn't easy.

I mean you just couldn't pick up a phone and talk to them directly because most regular everyday people did not own telephones. In those days, "normal people" took a few coins, walked to the nearest telephone booth on the street, dialed the number of a telephone operator and requested to be connected to the person they needed to talk to in the next town. And for this to work, the 'normal person' you wanted to talk to first had to have access to a landline telephone. Next you both had to agree on a fixed time-frame within which the 'normal person' on the other end had to be somewhere within vicinity of the fixed telephone or telephone booth, waiting to receive your call.

In those days, the next fastest way to communicate



for regular everyday persons was via telegram. This was a ten-word early precursor to the SMS text message. A telegram was sent from the post office and arrived printed on a slip of paper. I however knew that I couldn't just head down to the post office and send a telegram with the words "Hi Angela I miss you. Can we meet soon?" This was because a telegraph could only be sent to and received by the rightful owner of the post office box it was sent to - in this case her father or mother.

Luckily, Angela was "not a normal person" because her parents had a working telephone at their home! Apparently her dad was some kind of big shot public servant or something. She gave me the home telephone number and I saved it memorized close to my heart. We then agreed on a specific time of the day during the holidays when she'd sit in wait for my calls.

That school term, I scrimped and saved my pocket money, planning to ask her out for a date during the holidays. Of course she accepted and we agreed to meet under a street clock at the main bus station at a set time on a weekend.

Come the day of the date, I called again and she confirmed that she was getting ready to depart for our

secret rendezvous in town.

So there I was, standing in the glistening sun, under the street clock at the bus station. I amorously braved the heat and dust, scanning the bustling passengers for a glimpse of Angela as one hour limped by...then two...then three ... no sign Angela.

Growing worried and a tad bit frustrated, I scrambled to the nearest telephone booth and dialed the operator, requesting to be connected to her home number. Presently, someone I later gathered to be her elder sister informed me, rather curtly, that Angela had left for choir practice earlier that day. This was the excuse we'd both agreed on as cover for our escapade. Therefore I took courage and took up my post under the city clock... five hours... six hours... as the love-struck boy in me refused to accept that Angela was a no-show.

The people arrived and left. The buses came and went. No Angela. Seven hours... eight hours... and presently the day drew its curtains. With a steely cold lump stuck somewhere in my rib cage, I picked myself up, head hanging low, tail stuck between my legs and slowly trudged back home. Oh the hot and salty tears that were shed for Angela that day! Oh how I cursed her!

The next morning at our appointed hour, I swallowed my pride and dialed her home landline. To my surprise Angela picked up and instantly started breathing fire and brimstone. Why was I not at the bus station to pick her up? Why had I kept her waiting under the sweltering sun for the whole day? Why had I stood her up? Who did I think I was? Was I even normal? Never call me or speak to me again!

Presently she calmed down as struggled to explain to her that indeed, I was at the appointed place at the appointed time. We then retraced our movements, and it came to light that indeed we were both at the bus station at the same time - only thing is we were standing at different locations! Although at the time none of us knew it, there were two street clocks at the bus station! While she was standing at the street clock close to the entrance, I was waiting for her at the one next to the exit! So much for our first date - if only we both had mobile phones?

Fast forward and the world has gone full circle from those dreamy days when Angela and I stood just a few metres away from each other but with no way of contacting each other.

In the twenty something odd years since my first botched date, Tanzania's leading technology company Vodacom had launched its network in the country and done multi-trillion shilling investments in its supra-network of 15.1million people. \

Vodacom' Managing Director, Hisham Hendi says that Vodacom is marking over 20 years of connecting people, businesses, and bridging the digital divide in the country by bringing mobile communication services closer to the people particularly in peripheral areas.

In today's technologically advanced, seamless and innovative world, many don't take time to realize,

acknowledge or appreciate how much better our lives are. As a result of the huge risks, investments and innovations that telecommunications companies like Vodacom have made, we benefit from easier, more efficient and more "normal" lives that it was 20 years ago.

Today almost everyone owns a mobile phone. With innovative mobile handsets such as Vodacom's Smart Kitochi, almost everyone now has the ability to make instant phone calls including video calls, send text messages, chat with friends and loved ones, exchange real time content on social media, browse the internet, send and receive money, share their location details, request for a meal or a taxi, book for a bus or plane ticket, conduct business or even study and gather all sorts of pertinent knowledge - all on demand, anytime, anywhere and at just the touch of a button? Amazing don't you think?

Indeed, Vodacom and other players in telecommunications have opened the door for Tanzanians who were otherwise not connected, to now become part of the socio-economic fabric through participation in a global internet and cashless society, connecting to businesses, accessing information and engaging in social development programs through digital tools.

I reflected on all this as I sat on the beach on Valentines day this year, watching Angela and two of our youngest children splashing about in the sea. Imagine I was now paying for our water bills instantly, as I enjoyed all this extra time with my family! Absolutely no need for me to travel to town and spend half the day standing in a long queue to pay bills as was the norm just a few years back!

Taking all this in, I thought to myself how exciting our present lives are. I also can't help but wonder what other exciting horizons lie ahead of us in the future.

The future is exciting. Don't you think?

Three quarters of CEOs predict a return to growth this year

NEW YORK

ONE year after Covid-19 was declared a pandemic, CEOs are voicing record levels of optimism in the global economic recovery, with 76 per cent of global business leaders predicting that economic growth will improve in 2021.

The figures come from PwC's 24th Annual Global CEO Survey, which this year polled 5,050 CEOs in 100 countries and territories over January and February 2021.

The percentage of CEOs expressing confidence in growth is up from 22 per cent in 2020 and 42 per cent in 2019, representing the highest level of optimism since the survey started asking this question in 2012.

Optimism among CEOs over global economic growth is particularly strong in North America and Western Europe, with 86 per cent and 76 per cent of CEOs, respectively, from these regions predicting improved global growth in the year ahead.

"After a year of human tragedy and extensive economic hardship, it is encouraging to see that the people responsible for making investment decisions and hiring staff are feeling cautiously optimistic about the year ahead," said PwC Network chairman Bob Moritz, adding: "CEOs have faith that growth will return, boosted by the rapid development of vaccines and their rollout in many parts of the world."

He elaborated: "During the tumultuous past year, CEOs have had to rethink and reconfigure what they do and how they do it, while dealing with stretched balance sheets and supporting employees who have been forced to navigate these extraordinary circumstances."

"CEOs now face two fundamental challenges: first, how to build trust with a broad range of stakeholders, whose expectations of business are higher than ever before; and second, how to adapt their businesses and deliver sustained outcomes in a rapidly changing external environment."

"Organisations that get this right will be best placed to come out of the (Covid-19) pandemic as strong, resilient and productive businesses, able to withstand future shocks."

CEOs are more optimistic about the outlook for their businesses. Some 36 per cent of those polled said they were "very confident" about their organisations' prospects for revenue growth over the next 12 months, up from 27 per cent of CEOs in 2020.

While global confidence is up, there is wide variation across industries, reflecting the varying degrees to which consumer behaviour has been impacted by the pandemic. CEOs in the technology and telecommunications sectors show the highest levels of confidence at 45 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, CEOs in the transportation and logis-



tics (29 per cent) and hospitality and leisure (27 per cent) sectors are among the least confident about their ability to grow revenues over the next 12 months.

The survey findings show that the US has extended its lead as the number one market that CEOs are looking to for growth over the next 12 months at 35 per cent, seven percentage points ahead of China at 28 per cent. In 2020, the US was only one percentage point ahead of China.

New political developments and existing tensions have had an impact on the views of CEOs in the US. They are reducing their emphasis on China as a growth driver and increasing their focus on Canada and Mexico.

Compared to 2020, US CEOs' interest in the latter two countries rose by 78 per cent. Meanwhile, China CEOs report growing interest in large economies such as the US, Germany and Japan - prime destinations for exports.

At 17 per cent, Germany holds on to its number three spot on the list of growth destinations, while the UK, post-Brexit, moves up to number four (11 per cent), surpassing India (8 per cent).

Japan also moves up the ranking to become the sixth most attractive growth destination, overtaking Australia - which held that position last year.

The percentage of CEOs expressing concerns about climate change rose from 24 per cent in 2020 to 30 per cent this year. This represents only a marginal increase in the context of COP26, which is being held

this year in Glasgow, the UK. The finding also comes in the context of rising anxiety about nearly all types of threats.

Climate change still only ranks ninth among CEOs' perceived threats to growth. Furthermore, another 27 per cent of CEOs report being "not concerned at all" or "not very concerned" about climate change.

This may be because climate change is not seen as an immediate threat to growth compared to other issues such as the pandemic, over-regulation and cyber threats.

Meanwhile, 39 per cent of the CEOs polled believe their organisation needs to do more to 'measure' their environmental impact. And 43 per cent believe that their organisation needs to do more to 'report' on it, a greater share than any other disclosure area.

This is encouraging in that more and better corporate information on environmental impact is key to driving the change needed to get to a net zero economy.

However, 60 per cent of CEOs have not yet factored climate risks into their strategic risk management activities, which is concerning - as climate change poses increasing physical and transitional risk for business.

At a country level, CEOs in countries with high exposure to natural hazards such as India and China are some of the least prepared for climate change risk.

While 23 per cent of CEOs plan to significantly increase investments in sustainability initiatives as a result of Covid-19, almost

one-third of CEOs are planning no change at all.

Bob Moritz says: "To address the biggest challenges facing our world today, we need to change the incentives that drive decision-making. This requires the financial markets taking a broader view of value, beyond solely financial return and short-term value, so capital will flow to the right places."

"Better and comparable non-financial corporate reporting is crucial too, so stakeholders can see how companies are creating value for society and our planet, as well as meeting their financial objectives. Companies that get this right will enhance their brand and build trust with their stakeholders."

Not surprisingly, pandemics and health crises top the list of threats to growth prospects - overtaking the fear of over-regulation, which has been the perennial number one concern for CEOs globally since 2014.

Rising digitisation is increasing the risks posed by cyber threats. This, coupled with the significant increase in cybersecurity incidents in 2020 including ransomware attacks, has resulted in cyber threats leaping up the list to become the number two concern. They are cited by 47 per cent of

CEOs compared to 33 per cent in 2020.

Cyber threats are a concern particularly for CEOs in North America and Western Europe, where they are considered a greater threat than the Covid-19 pandemic.

Also rising rapidly up the list of CEO concerns is the spread of misinformation (28 per cent, up from 16 per cent in 2020), which has had an impact on elections, reputation, and public health - further contributing to a decline in trust across society.

In 2020, tax policy uncertainty ranked outside the top ten concerns for CEOs, with only 19 per cent of CEOs concerned. This year, it has increased rapidly in importance, leaping up to seventh place (31 per cent), with CEOs undoubtedly watching government debts accumulate and realising that business taxes will likely need to rise.

Asked about their spending on digital transformation, nearly half of CEOs (49 per cent) projected increases of 10 per cent or more. Despite the rising level of concern CEOs are voicing about cyberattacks, this has not translated into definitive actions.

Less than half of the CEOs planning for heightened digital investment are also planning to boost their spending on cybersecurity and data privacy by 10 per cent or more.

At the same time, a growing number of CEOs - 36 per cent - plan to use automation and technology to make their workforce more competitive, more than double the share of CEOs who said the same in 2016.

Bob Moritz adds: "At the pandemic's one-year mark, we're at an inflection point as vaccination begins to ramp up around the world. Although the shape of the recovery remains unknown, it is clear that we cannot simply go back to the way things were before."

PwC

China embarks on new journey toward socialist modernisation as key blueprint approved

BEIJING

CHINA'S top legislative body approved a development blueprint for the next five to 15 years to guide the country's march toward modernization, a dream pursued by many generations of Chinese.

After a week of deliberations, the lawmakers adopted the Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 at the closing meeting of the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC).

"The outline serves as a roadmap toward the country's second centenary goal of fully building a modern socialist country, ushering China into a new stage of development," said Wang Honghai, an NPC deputy and Party chief of Ninghe District of Tianjin Municipality.

With 55.75 million rural residents lifted out of poverty over the past five years, China will meet its first centenary goal within the set time frame -- complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

To develop in only 70 years, a single lifetime, is a stupendous achievement -- in fact one not matched previously by any large country in the whole of human history, said John Ross, a British academic and senior fellow at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China.

GOVERNANCE TRADITION

China has long been hailed for thinking strategically and playing the long game.

China's five-year plan is one of the country's most important policy blueprints. Drawn up since 1953, it sets long-term goals for China's social and economic development and is the barometer against which progress is measured.

The formulation of such plans is regarded as a crucial tool for macroeconomic governance and social management, and also a key to the country's stellar development over the past few decades.

The outline of the 14th five-year plan and the longer-term program to 2035 depicts the future landscape of how China will develop "as a high-income economy," Ross said.

"The continuity of China's policies will inject the much-needed stability and certainty to the world roiled by the deadly COVID-19 pandemic," said Bai Yongxiu, a professor at Northwest University.

FLEXIBLE ECONOMIC TARGETS

Avoiding announcing an explicit economic growth target for the next five years, China aims to keep its economy running within an appropriate range and will set annual economic targets in light of actual cir-



The closing meeting of the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

cumstances, the outline said.

"This shows that China will focus on high-quality growth and not just chase after quantitative expansion. It will give local authorities more room to allocate resources to other initiatives to tap into China's long-term growth potential," said Bai.

Li Daokui, a national political advisor and an economist with Tsinghua University, said by setting flexible growth targets, China can concentrate on deep structural issues such as unleashing domestic demand and raising innovation capacity.

The key document also includes an array of other benchmark economic indicators such as an urbanization rate of 65 percent, a surveyed urban unemployment rate of lower than 5.5 percent and drastically-slashed carbon emissions per unit of GDP in the next five years.

"The major benchmark indicators set in the outline (for China to achieve) are just like peaches on a tree that can only be picked if one jumps hard," said He Lifeng, head of the National Development and Reform Commission.

"And we have to jump hard."

Reiterating innovation's "core position" in the country's march toward modernization, the outline stressed that China will make technological self-sufficiency strategic support for national development.

China's R&D spending will increase by more than 7 percent per year over the next five years, accounting for a higher percentage of GDP than that in the past five years, according to the document.

MODERNIZATION DRIVE

In October 2017, the Communist Party of China unveiled a two-stage plan to build the world's most populous nation into a "great modern socialist country" that is "prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful" by the middle of the 21st century. According to the plan, China will basically realize socialist modernization in the first stage

from 2020 to 2035.

One significant feature of China's modernization is to improve people's wellbeing, as evidenced by the country's herculean efforts to eradicate poverty over the past years and its COVID-19 containment measures that always put people's health and safety first.

"Modernity has always been pluralistic, and there is no unified plan for modernization," said Chen Shuguang, a professor at the Party School of the Communist Party of China Central Committee. "It is increasingly clear that the modernization China seeks will not be a mere replica of the Western one."

FRESH OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORLD

In its gradual and concrete approaches to modernization, China is expected to continuously share with the world its development opportunities to drive global growth hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rising sentiment of protectionism and unilateralism.

Rising incomes and more complex needs of the Chinese people will transform and expand numerous global markets associated with high living standards -- culture, education, entertainment, travel, health care and environmental protection, Ross said.

China has a population of 1.4 billion and a middle-income group that exceeds 400 million. "The world stands to benefit from the vastly huge market as China will step up opening-up efforts and continue to support economic globalization," said Zhang Shuibo, a national political advisor and professor at Tianjin University.

A more prosperous and strong China will not only further unleash market potential, but also be more capable of helping other countries and shoulder international responsibility, Zhang said. Xinhua

Zimbabwe farmers find ways to save crops from elephants

HARARE

A nonlethal concoction invented by farmers in northern Uganda is helping the people of Zimbabwe keep away rampaging elephants, after years of their attacks on farms during harvest season.

While chili has been used by farmers in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Uganda as an elephant repellent since 1997, its unsustainability forced villagers and agriculture experts to explore alternatives.

Maz Robertson, representative of the WildAid in East Africa, said the new concoction, a mixture of chili, garlic, ginger, and cow or elephant dung along with a few other ingredients invented by locals in northern Uganda in 2018, has succeeded in keeping elephants away from the fields.

Robertson said while various chili deterrents had been developed, they proved too costly or the elephants quickly outsmarted them.

"Some of the ingredients need money, hence we have also begun training local villagers to start planting ginger, garlic, and other herbs in their gardens," she said.

"Hopefully, this will allow us to have year-long supplies," she added, saying that her group is trying to develop a business model to enable villagers across Africa to have easy access to the pungent elephant repellent.

Tinashe Farawo, spokesperson for the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks), said this method should help drastically reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Ndlelende Ncube, the founder and head of awareness group Tikobane Trust, said the concoction was tested in Zimbabwe in villages close to a national park and enjoyed great success.

"The smelly concoction is a combination of lots of herbs, chili, ginger, and eggs as the main ingredients. The strong smell is produced after three weeks of fermentation," he said.

Ncube said he hoped villages where they use the concoction will see better harvest crops.

Farmers like Flora Mangwana in the village of Dingani in the Dete region, 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the capital Harare, said the concoction is working successfully.

"I'm happy this concoction is working. I've seen some changes com-



pared to other years that I've lived here," she said.

According to Mangwana, the idea to use the concoction was approved last year, when a villager guarding his fields died.

He was fleeing from elephants at night when ran out onto the street and was hit by a car.

Over many years, elephant attacks in the region have affected the production of maize, which is a diet staple in Zimbabwe.

Farmers in Dete say they are hoping for a bet-

ter harvest as the concoction saved their crops from trampling elephants.

In 2020 alone, ZimParks received more than 1500 stress calls about elephant rampages which killed 60 people.

"We recognize that human-elephant conflict mitigation methods are often too expensive and inaccessible to scale, and are aiming to address this with a business model that allows farmers or villagers to take ownership of the entire supply chain," said Robertson.

While there is abundant food in the national parks for wildlife, the elephants continue to rampage for a variety of reasons.

"Among these reasons are pull factors such as the need for water, minerals, food, and to mix their gene pools. Also push factors like increased competition for resources between animals and humans, and infrastructure development in elephant habitats," she explained.

Quarter of women and girls have been abused by a partner - WHO

By Liz Ford

ONE in four women and girls around the world have been physically or sexually assaulted by a husband or male partner, according to the largest study yet of the prevalence of violence against women.

The report, conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN partners, found that domestic violence started young, with a quarter of 15- to 19-year-old girls and young women estimated to have been abused at least once in their lives. The highest rates were found to be among 30- to 39-year-olds.

When figures for non-partner violence are included, the WHO estimates that about a third of women aged 15 or older - between 736 million and 852 million - will experience some form of sexual or physical violence in their lifetime.

The study analysed data on non-intimate

- defined as perpetrated by a stranger or someone the victim knows - and intimate partner violence covering 161 countries, published between 2000 and 2018. It does not reflect the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Last year, the UN predicted at least 15m extra cases of domestic violence around the world as a result of coronavirus restrictions.

The WHO report focused on physical and sexual violence, but noted that actual rates would be far higher if other types of abuse were included, such as online violence and sexual harassment.

Levels of violence were higher in low- and middle-income countries. South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa had some of the highest rates of intimate partner violence among women and girls aged 15 to 49. In five countries - Kiribati, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh and Solomon Islands - more than half of women have been

abused by a partner at least once.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo had the highest rate among this age cohort in sub-Saharan Africa, at 47%, followed by Equatorial Guinea (46%), Uganda (45%) and Liberia (43%).

The lowest rates of violence were found in southern and eastern Europe and central and eastern Asia. In the UK, 24% of 15-49 year olds have been abused by a partner.

"Violence against women is endemic in every country and culture, causing harm to millions of women and their families, and has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director general.

"But unlike Covid-19, violence against women cannot be stopped with a vaccine. We can only fight it with deep-rooted and sustained efforts - by governments, communities and individuals - to change harm-

ful attitudes, improve access to opportunities and services for women and girls, and foster healthy and mutually respectful relationships."

Dr Claudia García-Moreno, who leads the WHO's work on violence against women, said the figures should be a "wake-up call" to governments about the urgency of the situation.

"There's an urgent need to reduce stigma around this issue, train health professionals to interview survivors with compassion, and dismantle the foundations of gender inequality," she said.

"Starting by making schools safe places, because in many countries and settings, unfortunately they are not," she said. Comprehensive sex education and lessons on how to build healthy relationships, based on equality and mutual respect, were needed, she added.

Fundamentally, though, violence against

women had to be treated as a societal problem, with men and boys involved in tackling it, said García-Moreno. "One of the challenges is that it is often shunted off to the side as a women's issue."

Anthony Davis, policy advisor for gender at the UK branch of the children's charity Plan International, agreed. He said it was important that girls had full access to resources and services to help prevent and respond to cases of violence.

But he added that gender-based violence was a cause and consequence of gender inequalities that needed to be unpicked. "An important part of that is working with men and boys directly to understand their perspectives, why they have certain views and really work with them over the long-term to dismantle some of these hardcore beliefs, as well as support and empower girls and women to achieve their potential."

Food insecurity worsening in many countries, CRS warns

KINSHASA

GLOBAL hunger has reached an alarming level and could grow worse as the COVID-19 pandemic stretches on, said Catholic Relief Services this week.

The organization issued a new analysis identifying food crises in 14 countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

"In addition to the tremendous health and economic impacts of this disease, COVID-19 has plunged millions of families further into poverty, threatening their ability to put food on the table," said Sean Callahan, CRS president.

"As we near the one-year mark of this pandemic, it's important to acknowledge and tackle the broader toll COVID-19 has taken on especially vulnerable countries, many of which are combating simultaneous crises," he said in a March 10 statement.

The pandemic has created a loss of

income for many people, constrained government funding, deepened social inequalities, disrupted trade and supply chains, and restricted non-profit groups' access to vulnerable areas, CRS said. Combined, these factors have impacted millions of people's access to food.

The World Bank has reported that for the first time in 20 years, global extreme poverty levels have been on the rise. The report said an estimated 110 to 150 million people worldwide are in extreme poverty.

A report by the World Food Program (WFP) last June predicted that an additional 121 million people will have experienced intense food insecurity by 2021. This is an 82% increase from numbers prior to the pandemic.

Some regions in Africa face significant risk, CRS said, pointing to Nigeria and DRC, which have among the world's highest levels of food insecurity.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) predicted that given the DRC's conflicts, floods, locusts attacks,

and COVID-19 restrictions, nearly a third of the country will face acute food insecurity through June this year.

To counter these challenges, Catholic Relief Services has suggested that aid organizations scale up voucher systems for food, support food storage, reach out to isolated groups, consider the impact of the virus on women in particular, and promote cooperative data collection.

The organization has also called for policymakers to increase foreign aid and support locally-led responses, such as the actions of faith-based organizations. Particularly addressing the United States, CRS asked Congress to allocate at least \$20 billion to foreign aid.

"As the pandemic drags on, and vaccines are still out of reach for many developing nations, they will likely experience additional waves of the virus that will further exacerbate food insecurity," Callahan said.

"We must act now to avoid a catastrophe, and before decades of development gains are lost."



FSDT, SADC sign agreement for a green bond market

By Guardian Reporter

THE Financial Sector Deepening Trust Africa (FSDTA) yesterday signed a co-operation agreement with the Committee of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Stock Exchanges (CoSSE) to support development of a green bond market in the bloc.

A statement released yesterday by FSD Africa said the agreement will support the SADC's 16 member countries to leverage domestic and international capital markets for investment in green projects.

"The FSD Africa-CoSSE partnership programme will support member countries and both private and

public sectors to issue green bonds, creating a favourable ecosystem and improving knowledge and capacity for sustainable investments," reads the statement.

"The programme will also help SADC countries to develop listing guidelines and regulations for green bonds, build a pipeline of potential green bonds issuers, tap the countries' institutional investment community for investment into green bonds, train stakeholders on climate finance and support the adoption of climate-related financial reporting and disclosure."

Recently, South Africa, Namibia, Seychelles and Mauritius have successfully issued green bonds. The

partnership builds on the increasing appetite and momentum for the uptake of green bonds in the SADC region. It will be implemented through CoSSE's central coordination mechanism, which links together the SADC countries' stock exchanges, capital markets institutions and stakeholders. FSD Africa will provide technical assistance in engaging consultants and service providers to facilitate the programme.

Over the last three years, FSD Africa has supported two green bond programmes in Kenya and Nigeria in collaboration with implementing partners and helped channel approximately \$185 million into sustainable investments in the two

countries. Going forward, the FSD Africa-CoSSE partnership programme aims to expand its scope to include support for issuing sustainability and social bonds.

Mark Napier, CEO, FSD Africa said: "FSD Africa is excited to be extending its technical support for green bonds to the SADC region and we are grateful to CoSSE for the partnership. We are confident that green bonds will soon play a critical role in financing the region's growth, accelerating the bounce-back from Covid-19 and ensuring the recovery is both resilient and respectful of the environment. In recent years, SADC countries have experienced extreme climate-related challenges including

drought and cyclones. Green bonds can be an excellent way to channel SADC significant capital resources into job-creating projects that can help pivot the region towards a low-carbon economy and protect it from environmental shocks."

Evans Osano, Director, Capital Markets, FSD Africa added: "Managing climate change in Africa is essential for the continent to meet its sustainable development goals. However, we know that climate projects need a source of reliable, sustainable funding to get off the ground and positively impact the climate ecosystem. I'm pleased that the significant scope of the FSD Africa-CoSSE partnership

programme across the SADC region will therefore significantly increase the awareness, capacity and take up of sustainable investments in Africa."

James Duddridge, UK Minister for Africa, said: "Climate change is the most important challenge facing future generations and ahead of COP26, our partnerships with African nations are building resilience and driving clean growth. This landmark agreement will increase access to green finance, create jobs and help support a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 to deliver for those on the forefront of the climate crisis and our planet."

As vaccine nationalism deepens, govts bring production home

DESSAU, Germany

In the German town of Dessau, one of the sites of the Bauhaus art school, an institute was set up in 1921 to mass-produce vaccines that later helped strengthen the German Democratic Republic. Exactly 100 years later, the site is gearing up to be a one-stop shop to produce COVID-19 vaccines for Germany's pandemic response.

It's just one example of a rash of efforts by governments across the globe to access fragmented vaccine production, after manufacturing setbacks deprived European Union members of drugs made on their own soil this year. From Australia to Thailand, states planning home-based vaccine plants are starting to reshape the industry.

The German venture has the backing of the regional government, as part of a national effort to secure supplies and add vaccines to Germany's exports. Saxony-Anhalt premier Reiner Haseloff said he believes Germany could become a swing producer of vaccines, in the same way that power companies maintain capacity for times of strong demand.

"Ultimately, this is comparable to the energy industry, where the state also pays to keep power plants in reserve," Haseloff told Reuters.

Unlike the United States, where the government's Operation Warp Speed began funding the expansion and retrofit of pharmaceutical manufacturing sites early in the pandemic, few countries globally have the option to commandeer factories. The German plan is one of more than half a dozen by governments around the world to avert shortages by supporting drug companies' local production.

Some - including Australia, Brazil, Japan and Thailand - are setting up manufacturing partnerships with Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC. Elsewhere, Italy has pledged state backing for a public-private vaccine production centre, while Austria, Denmark and Israel plan a joint research and development fund and will explore whether to produce their own next-generation vaccines.

India plays a significant role in vaccine production globally, and the United States, Japan and Australia also plan to help finance vaccine production capacity there, a senior US administration official told Reuters.

The moves aim to address a global shortage of doses. With vaccines key to restart economies, some countries have pre-purchase agreements to secure their supply.

2 BILLION DOSES

The vaccine crunch in Europe has shown that states that depend on deliveries from multinationals



can be vulnerable. In January, AstraZeneca cut supplies to the bloc by more than half for the first and second quarters, and told Brussels it was not able to divert Belgian-made drugs that were earmarked for the United Kingdom. The cut heightened tensions between London and Brussels and prompted European leaders to set curbs on exports of vaccines made in the EU - starting this month, when Italy blocked exports of AstraZeneca's shot.

Germany is a net importer of all vaccines, with a US\$720 million trade deficit in this area. Berlin plans to change that, and Germany's former "Bacterial Institute of the Anhalt Counties" in Dessau will help. Now a family-owned firm called IDT Biologika, it and AstraZeneca plan to invest more than 100 million euros (US\$120 million) to expand the plant into a factory for complete vaccines.

The company says it aims to make between 30 million and 40 million doses a month from the end of 2022, producing the bulk vaccine and also dispensing it into vials, which Chief Executive Juergen Betzing told Reuters would make it one of Europe's biggest manufacturers and add capacity for at least 360 million doses a year from within the EU.

Germany has not yet reserved the right to purchase any of these vaccines, but the government wants to come up with a plan on measures to support and incentivise long-term vaccine production capacity by May 1, according to a document seen by Reuters. A government source said drug company representatives have told Berlin long-term purchase guarantees would be more important to their investment decisions than aid.

The IDT plant will also be able to produce vaccines for other companies and, together with a cluster of firms in Saxony-Anhalt, form the heart of a government strategy to make Germany a new centre for vaccine production in Europe.

Berlin is targeting an annual capacity of 2 billion COVID vaccine doses from IDT and other facilities, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters. For comparison, AstraZeneca has stated its ambitions to produce up to 3 billion doses of its vaccine by the end of this year, which would make it the largest COVID-19 vaccine producer globally.

Berlin's target could prove to be far in excess of the EU's needs for its 450 million people, but it isn't yet clear how often vaccinations will be needed to bolster immunity.

The COVID pandemic is an unprecedented challenge to inoculate billions. While the drugs are badly needed in the near term, such piecemeal plans reflect the lack of any coherent global strategy to cover vaccination in a pandemic, which the world needs, according to Robert Van Exan, a consultant and former Sanofi executive.

"It takes time to build that infrastructure properly,

and some thought has to go into it," Van Exan said.

LESSONS LEARNED

Previous vaccine disputes between allies have served as a prelude to the COVID-era fight for supplies. In a flu scare in 1976, the United States blocked vaccine exports, derailing a vaccination plan in Canada. Ottawa learned a lesson: During the H1N1 flu pandemic of 2009, it bought drugs from a local producer, and waited until its outbreak was largely over before then donating extra doses to the World Health Organization.

And then, in the years after the 2009 pandemic, Washington paid hundreds of millions to several companies to build or expand private facilities that could be used to make and package a pandemic vaccine on short notice within the country's borders.

When COVID-19 hit, at least two of those sites became part of Operation Warp Speed, producing vaccines for Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and Moderna Inc. Federal officials used the Defense Production Act to put participating companies first in line for supplies made by other U.S. companies, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directly oversaw some construction projects. When companies struggled to hire enough qualified staff, 16 Department of Defense employees were sent to work in quality control at two manufacturing sites, according to a recent federal report.

RUBIK'S CUBE

Globally, vaccines are manufactured across drug firms' existing networks and often need to pass through several countries - and even between continents - before they are ready to inject into arms. Within the EU alone, more than 30 plants from Sweden to Spain are involved in the production of COVID-19 vaccines. AstraZeneca says it has manufacturing capacity in 25 sites across 15 countries, in a chain of partnerships that one company executive likens to a Rubik's Cube puzzle.

It's a similar picture for others, including vaccines made by Russia and China, and hitches are common when trying to accelerate production across multiple sites and borders. Switzerland-based Lonza Group AG makes the ingredients for Moderna's vaccine which then go to Spain to be put into vials. J&J's shot is made in the Netherlands and sent to the United States for bottling. Pfizer-BioNTech has contracted factories across a network of 13 sites to meet production needs this year - their supplies to Europe also briefly fell short when a plant had to be re-engineered.

But friction between AstraZeneca and the EU in Brussels has continued to chafe since a supplier to the drugmaker in Seneffe, Belgium ran into difficulty in January.

AstraZeneca's vaccine production starts with living

cells being infected with a modified form of the virus. The cells are grown in tanks, or bioreactors, harvested and purified over about two months. Once the active ingredient is created, water and proteins are added and the liquid is bottled - a stage known as 'fill and finish.' Sometimes, different stages happen at different sites.

Problems at the Belgian plant, combined with AstraZeneca's contractual commitments to supply the United Kingdom, meant that even though the product involved was made a short drive from Brussels, EU citizens were left wanting.

The German company IDT Biologika now plans to cover all stages of the cycle. Other German vaccine developers BioNTech SE and CureVac NV, which are at the forefront of new vaccine technology and have both received government funding, will also be part of Germany's cluster. BioNTech recently brought a new German plant online to produce up to 750 million doses per year and pharma giant Bayer AG will help make CureVac's shot.

The developers of the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, have also made inquiries about producing it in the region, Saxony-Anhalt premier Haseloff said. Russia's sovereign wealth fund Russia's Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is promoting Sputnik V internationally, declined to comment.

AstraZeneca's arrangement with IDT is similar to other deals the company has reached, for instance in Japan and Australia. Arrangements like this also help reduce the risk for companies.

AstraZeneca declined to comment on the deals it has reached, but one of its executives has said in the past the company tried hard to create independent supply chains to enable full access to the vaccine around the world.

Building up vaccine production capacity makes sense given the need to vaccinate the world, potentially repeatedly, against COVID-19, as well as the threat of future pandemics.

But large manufacturing sites are the most efficient and at some point, extra capacity spread across many countries may not be economical.

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



SATURDAY PROGRAMME

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	COMMERCIALS
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
07.15 AM	NEWSPAPERS REVIEW
07.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI
09.00 AM	WATOTO SHOW
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.15 AM	MIWANI YA MAISHA
11.00 AM	MTAA WA MAGOMA
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	CHAGUO LAKO
15.00 HRS	MUZIKI NA MICHEZO
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.15 HRS	MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
18.00 HRS	BONGO TEN
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.15 HRS	CHEMSHA BONGO
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW I
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	WEEK END SHOW II
23.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
23.03 HRS	WEEK END SHOW III
01:00-05:00HRS	MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



SATURDAY	
07:30-10:00HRS	DK 90 DUNIANI
10:00-11:00HRS	KADOGOO
11:00-13:00HRS	BONGO HITS
13:00-14:00HRS	DW RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO
16:00-18:00HRS	ALIYEVUMA
18:00-21:00HRS	BUZUKI TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPOTI
22:00-00:00HRS	ALIYEVUMA(marudio)
00:00-01:00HRS	HALI HALISI(marudio)
01:00-05:00HRS	DAKIKI 90(marudio)
05:00-07:00HRS	ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO(marudio)

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 170 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

CROSSWORD

3 LETTERS: FEW, ADD, ANA
 4 LETTERS: MEAN, TAME, NOSE, NEWS, REAP, DINE, MINT, (7 WORDS)
 5 LETTERS: LEAST, AWASH, POEMS, TAPES, EGRET (5 WORDS)
 6 LETTERS: CAREER, STRIVE, ANSWER, AMORAL, ASSETS (5 WORDS)
 7 LETTERS: MALINDI
 8 LETTERS: ADAPTORS
 10 LETTERS: TYRRHENIAN

CROSSWORD

CLUES: Across
 1 Printed publications
 5 a female servant
 7 plural form of ass
 8 sliced bread broiled to make it crisp
 10 Creator of heaven and Earth
 11 edema
 13 submit to the authority of
 15 an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group an indirect reference
 19 make a bleating sound
 20 apparition of dead people

Down:
 1 to specify
 2 a time for anticipation
 3 sending mail through the post office
 4 a small South African antelope
 6 a roof that resembles a half circle
 7 to make ashamed
 9 a hollow ball of perforated metal to hold tea leaves
 12 the mark or line left by a fold
 14 an adolescent
 16 a sudden cry in a loud voice
 17 syrian cloth
 18 to move at a slower pace to stay behind the others

SOLUTIONS

W O R D - F I T

S A L V A T I O N S
 T A S U
 P R O A F L O A T
 E S C O R E N
 S M A C C M
 C A R E E N
 L C A
 A V O W E M E N D
 A I I D
 U G A N D A N S I
 S E N D E C
 E T S E I T S E T

C R O S S W O R D

S H O P S O I L E D
 T B D R
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 L U S E N E T E

Plunge in payroll taxes as firms reduce pay and staff

NAIROBI

PAYROLL taxes plunged by Sh52.65 billion in the six months to December 2020 as firms stepped up pay cuts in a tough labour market that defied re-opening of the economy.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) collected Sh152.62 billion in Pay As You Earn (PAYE) in July-December 2020 period compared with Sh205.27 billion a year earlier, data published by the National Treasury show.

The 25.65 percent drop in PAYE receipts the first contraction in more than a decade pushed the collections from monthly workers' pay to the lowest levels since Sh144.07 billion in a similar period ended December 2016.

The drop in taxes also came in a period when the Treasury offered reduction in maximum income tax rate to 25 from 30 percent between May and December 2020 and cushioned workers earning a monthly pay of up to Sh24,000 from taxation.

The taxman, as a result, missed the half-year target in PAYE receipts by Sh28.91 billion, with collections accounting for 40.48 percent of the Sh376.99 billion full-year goal.

"The decline is largely attributed to the difficult operating environment due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has adversely affected revenue performance as from March 2020," the Treasury officials wrote in the review report.

The Covid-19 containment measures such as a night curfew, enforced on March 25 last year, saw companies scale down operating hours, which in turn exacerbated drop in sales.

That prompted firms to cut workforce, slash salaries and adopt unpaid leave policies in a bid to contain costs amid depressed earnings.

While private firms brought to an end an eight-month job shedding streak last October, they have since stepped up pay cuts and lower salary offers for new recruits, according to a monthly survey which polls corporate managers in key sectors such as manufacturing, services and agriculture.

"Kenyan firms continued to lower employee wages in February, as survey data indicated a fourth successive monthly decline in salary costs," composers of Stanbic Bank Kenya's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) wrote in the February report on March 3. "Moreover, the rate of reduction accelerated to the fastest since July last year."

The collections from workers' pay was further hurt by reduction in maximum tax rate to 25 from 30 percent between May and December 2020 and removal of the tax for workers earning a monthly pay of up to Sh24,000.

The Treasury has since reinstated payroll tax rates to pre-Covid period levels except for those earning a maximum of Sh24,000.



United Bank for Africa targets Fintech inclusion with new mobile application



LAGOS

THE United Bank for Africa (UBA), with operations in 20 countries across Africa, has released an upgraded version of its mobile banking app.

Onyebuchi Akosa, UBA's Group Chief Information Officer, said the app promises to deliver increased personalised banking through "a watertight and highly-effective security system." "It is also important to mention that the bank took into consideration the virtually impaired, and thus has used

voice recognition as a channel for transaction which suits both convenience and the visually impaired customers."

With new features incorporated in the upgraded app, Kayode Ishola, UBA's Group Head for Digital Banking, said customers can be able to: decide where they want their cards to operate and block, view, or request new cards straight from the app to suit their specific needs.

Ishola explained that they use the

omni-channel, open digital platform to draw insight into customer behavior and meet requirements.

"With this app, we are reimagining banking as our engagement has moved from being channel-based to being platform-based. The speed of the platform has been made to match the speed of light as we have cut down significantly on the number of processes expected to carry out your transactions," said Ishola.

The new app is designed to be

country specific in terms of culture, language and regulation as per the countries where UBA has operations.

Besides being able to work based on frequent transactions, the app with a new user interface can be used across different mobile devices. It also incorporates budgeting and loan application tools, amongst others.

This is the latest digital drive by UBA and follows its engagement with Clickatell in 2018 to roll out the Leo chat banking solution.

Successful B2B in e-commerce demands customer centricity

ACCRA

IN April 2020, headlines rang out after Microsoft's CEO, Satya Nadella proclaimed that business the world over were delivering "two years' worth of digital transformation in two months". And two years ago, this headline might have raised an eyebrow or two - but not today.

For all of its negative impacts, the pandemic has compelled businesses who want to stay relevant to speed up their digital transformation journeys and, for many, this means building an online e-commerce presence.

The fact is, buying habits have changed. Consumers are not as quick to enter brick-and-mortar stores anymore, with 75 percent of them now opting to make both B2C and B2B purchases online, and we anticipate this figure will increase by around 15 percent to 20 percent every year going forward.

In fact, a Sappio Research report titled: The Manufacturing and Ecommerce Benchmark shows that business operating in B2B sales industries are, in no uncertain terms, going digital.

The report, commissioned by Sana Commerce, an Altron Karabina partner that specialises in the delivery of B2B and B2C e-commerce solutions that are natively embedded in ERP solutions, says the recent COVID-19 disruption has introduced additional incentives to digitise manufacturing, warehousing and retailing businesses with an e-commerce engine.

What used to be viewed as a perk has suddenly become a necessity, but making B2B e-commerce work comes with its own set of challenges that can often make or break a business relationship with its customers.

Buyers expect more from their online purchasing experience but ease and speed are key, with 25 percent of respondents saying they want easier and faster checkout, simpler repeat reordering, quicker delivery and improved tracking as priorities.

At the same time, businesses surveyed for the report cited top e-commerce challenges that were centred on issues customers faced when using their existing web stores - namely, limited product data 32 percent, inaccurate inventory information 30 percent and long or complicated checkout processes 30 percent.

Big business opting to use mainstream e-commerce platforms are

not delivering on these requirements because most mainstream platforms are not integrated with their ERP systems and this equates to a conflicting customer experience (CX).

Now, CX ranks high on the list of most business e-commerce priorities, with concerns that a poor experience online will result in increased customer service enquiries 56 percent a higher cost of sale 44 percent and missed or lost orders 35 percent.

So, the trick here is to do what is necessary to deliver the same experience to your customers as you once achieved offline, which means delivering convenience, reliability and constant evolution - and making it personal at the same time.

When mainstream e-commerce platforms are used to sell B2B products, you can expect a lack of harmony. The multiple silo approach - where platforms don't talk to ERP systems in real-time and vice versa can impact client interactions negatively, putting the transaction at risk. In these scenarios, customers aren't able to trust the information on site, which tends to be inconsistent and unreliable.

Systems that are integrated with ERP are updated in real time, which means product information is up to date, stock levels are reliable, pricing is aligned to each individual customer's agreement with the business, and customers are easily able to track and trace their orders.

Naturally, this is possible in a siloed environment, but it does demand duplication of efforts, trust in the finance and operations team's focus on keeping all platforms updated at the same time, and can lead to an increase in business costs.

An integrated platform also encourages continued evolution. Businesses can adapt to customer needs and market changes, which today are frequent, but an ERP system that talks to the e-commerce platform does so without delay or duplication.

In a Sana Commerce environment, for example, all updates, from stock levels to new product web pages, are made from a single application, and the platform is without limit in as far as how each web site is customised. Businesses looking for vivid, colourful stores incorporating videos and imagery will be as pleased as those seeking more sedate, low-to-no-fuss online catalogues.

Zimbabwe media group urges govt to respect data protection

HARARE

THE Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zimbabwe says there is an urgent need for updated regulation to manage the acquisition, storage and transfer of data in the country.

Commenting on the recent launch of the national datacentre in Harare, the organisation urged the government to promote transparency and accountability regarding data in its custody.

It added that existing provisions in the Cyber Security and Data Protec-

tion Bill, gazetted in May 2020, have not yet been enacted and therefore cannot adequately protect data and the right to privacy.

MISA said it is imperative that citizens understand issues related to the acquisition, processing, use, distribution and storage of data, as well as the safety mechanisms to be introduced to protect the right to privacy.

The organisation asserted that this right is currently being impacted by several issues including the lack of control over personal data, as well as

a lack of clarity as to who has access to personal data and how this data is processed.

A statement from MISA reads: "For instance, the Bill does not explicitly provide for the right of data subjects which rights include the right to rectification, the right to erasure or right to be forgotten, right to data portability among others. The Bill also does not have provisions on data retention periods and neither does it explicitly provides for data protection principles applicable to data controllers."

Going forward, MISA said the government should also intensify implementation of the National Development Strategy, specifically as it pertains to human rights and freedom.

"In the strategy, the government expressed its intention to domesticate and comply with international and regional human rights obligations," it said. Zimbabwe's Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting has not responded to questions at the time of publishing.

Ant Group publishes financial self-discipline rules amidst tougher Chinese scrutiny move

BEIJING

CHINA'S Ant Group flagged a set of financial self-discipline rules on Friday amid intense scrutiny on its activities by authorities and the country's overall tightening of financial technology regulations.

The rules, the first of their kind released publicly by the financial technology giant, comes some four months after China suspended the group's \$37 billion plan for a share listing in both Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Chinese regulators have tightened their grip on fintech companies, amid concerns over systemic financial risks brought by the financial empire affiliated to China's e-commerce giant Alibaba Group.

In response to the intense regulatory pressure, the group has been reining in some of its operations, taking steps to bring its capital requirements in line with those of banks, and revamping itself into a financial holding firm.

In a statement, Ant said its consumer loan platforms should not issue loans to minors, and must prevent small business loans from flowing into stock and property markets.

The group's credit-rating service Zhima Credit will also not be available to financial institutions including micro loan lenders, it said, without elaborating the specific risk of such collaborations.

As a reflection of regulators' tough stance on financial risks, Guo Shuqing, head of the China



A sign of Ant Group is seen during the World Internet Conference (WIC) in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province, China.

Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, warned last week that bubble risk was a core issue facing China's property sector.

About Ant's business restructuring, Guo said there were no restrictions on the financial business it

develops but that all of its financial activities should be regulated by laws. Earlier, Ant lowered its

borrowing limits for some young users of its Huabei virtual card product. The credit limit reduction

is intended to promote more "rational" spending habits among users, it has said.

Swiss bank settles in US over clients defrauding Internal Revenue Service

NEW YORK

ZURICH private bank Rahn+Bodmer will pay \$22 million to settle U.S. criminal charges it helped American taxpayers who were exiting accounts at UBS and other Swiss banks and hiding hundreds of millions of dollars in offshore accounts.

The agreement is the latest in the U.S. Department of Justice's long-running pursuit of Swiss banks for helping people evade U.S. taxes, resulting in billions of dollars in settlements, fines and restitution from financial institutions in Switzerland including UBS and Credit Suisse.

U.S. prosecutors said on Thursday that the Swiss bank admitted wrongdoing including helping clients defraud the Internal Revenue Service and entered a three-year deferred prosecution agreement after being accused of conspiring to help clients evade U.S. taxes and file false tax returns.

Zurich's oldest private bank, Rahn+Bodmer was founded in 1750 and last year had 13.6 billion Swiss francs (\$14.71 billion) of client assets under management. It will cooperate with the Justice Department's crackdown on offshore tax evasion.

Neither Rahn+Bodmer nor its New York-based lawyer responded to requests for comment.

Rahn+Bodmer admitted to having from 2004 to 2012 held undeclared accounts on behalf of approximately 340 U.S. taxpayers who together evaded about \$16.4 million of U.S. taxes in that period, the Justice Department said.

Its alleged misconduct included opening accounts under pseudonyms or "sham" foundations in Liechtenstein and Panama, and for clients who were exiting UBS Group AG and other Swiss banks.

Rahn+Bodmer agreed to pay a \$7.4 million fine, forfeit \$9.7 million of fees, and make \$4.9 million of restitution.

UBS agreed in 2009 to pay a \$780 million penalty to settle U.S. charges it helped wealthy U.S. clients evade taxes, and handed over names and data on thousands of client accounts, helping kick off numerous settlements involving other Swiss financial institutions.



The logo of Swiss bank Rahn & Bodmer Co is seen at a building in Zurich.

As vaccine nationalism goes deeper, governments bring production home

DESSAU

IN THE German town of Dessau, one of the sites of the Bauhaus art school, an institute was set up in 1921 to mass-produce vaccines that later helped strengthen the German Democratic Republic.

Exactly 100 years later, the site is gearing up to be a one-stop shop to produce COVID-19 vaccines for Germany's pandemic response.

It's just one example of a rash of efforts by governments across the globe to access fragmented vaccine production, after manufacturing setbacks deprived European Union members of drugs made on their own soil this year. From Australia to Thailand, states planning home-based vaccine plants are starting to reshape the industry.

The German venture has the backing of the regional government, as part of a national effort to secure supplies and add vaccines to Germany's exports. Saxony-Anhalt premier Reiner Haseloff said he believes Germany could become a swing producer of vaccines, in the same way that power companies maintain capacity for times of strong demand.

"Ultimately, this is comparable to the energy industry, where the state also pays to keep power plants in reserve," Haseloff told Reuters.

Unlike the United States, where the government's Operation Warp Speed began funding the expansion and

retrofit of pharmaceutical manufacturing sites early in the pandemic, few countries globally have the option to commandeer factories. The German plan is one of more than half a dozen by governments around the world to avert shortages by supporting drug companies' local production.

Some - including Australia, Brazil, Japan and Thailand - are setting up manufacturing partnerships with Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca PLC. Elsewhere, Italy has pledged state backing for a public-private vaccine production centre, while Austria, Denmark and Israel plan a joint research and development fund and will explore whether to produce their own next-generation vaccines.

India plays a significant role in vaccine production globally, and the United States, Japan and Australia also plan to help finance vaccine production capacity there, a senior U.S. administration official told Reuters.

The moves aim to address a global shortage of doses. With vaccines key to restart economies, some countries have pre-purchase agreements to secure their supply.

The vaccine crunch in Eu-



A worker with German vaccine maker IDT Biologika shows a sample ampoule during the visit of German Health Minister Jens Spahn in Dessau.

rope has shown that states that depend on deliveries from multinationals can be vulnerable. In January, AstraZeneca cut supplies to the bloc by more than half for the first and second quarters, and told Brussels it was not able to divert Belgian-made drugs that were earmarked for the United Kingdom. The cut heightened tensions between London and Brussels and prompted European leaders to set curbs on exports of vaccines made in the EU - starting this month, when Italy blocked exports of AstraZeneca's shot.

Germany is a net importer

of all vaccines, with a \$720 million trade deficit in this area. Berlin plans to change that, and Germany's former "Bacterial Institute of the Anhalt Counties" in Dessau will help. Now a family-owned firm called IDT Biologika, it and AstraZeneca plan to invest more than 100 million euros (\$120 million) to expand the plant into a factory for complete vaccines.

The company says it aims to make between 30 million and 40 million doses a month from the end of 2022, producing the bulk vaccine and also dispensing it into vials, which Chief Executive Juergen Betz-

ing told Reuters would make it one of Europe's biggest manufacturers and add capacity for at least 360 million doses a year from within the EU.

Germany has not yet reserved the right to purchase any of these vaccines, but the government wants to come up with a plan on measures to support and incentivise long-term vaccine production capacity by May 1, according to a document seen by Reuters. A government source said drug company representatives have told Berlin long-term purchase guarantees would be more important to their investment decisions than aid.

The IDT plant will also be able to produce vaccines for other companies and, together with a cluster of firms in Saxony-Anhalt, form the heart of a government strategy to make Germany a new centre for vaccine production in Europe.

Berlin is targeting an annual capacity of 2 billion COVID vaccine doses from IDT and other facilities, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters. For comparison, AstraZeneca has stated its ambitions to produce up to 3 billion doses of its vaccine by the end of this year, which would make it the largest COVID-19 vaccine producer globally.

Berlin's target could prove to be far in excess of the EU's needs for its 450 million people, but it isn't yet clear how often vaccinations will be needed to bolster immunity.

The COVID pandemic is an unprecedented challenge to inoculate billions. While the drugs are badly needed in the near term, such piecemeal plans reflect the lack of any coherent global strategy to cover vaccination in a pandemic, which the world needs, according to Robert Van Exan, a consultant and former Sanofi executive.

SoftBank's Coupang value surges to over \$100 billion valuation in debut

SOUL

SOFTBANK Group Corp-backed Coupang was valued at around \$109 billion in its market debut yesterday after South Korea's largest e-commerce company raised around \$4.6 billion in the biggest U.S. initial public offering this year.

Coupang's stock soared 81% to open at \$63.50. The company had priced 130 million shares sold in the IPO at \$35 per share,

higher than the marketing range \$32-\$34 per share, giving the Seoul-headquartered e-commerce giant a market value of \$60 billion.

Founded in 2010 by Korean-American billionaire Bom Suk Kim, Coupang rose to prominence after launching its guaranteed same-day or next-day delivery service in the East Asian country. SoftBank's \$100 billion Vision Fund owns 35.1 percent of Coupang.

Coupang's spectacular debut further bolsters the recent fortunes of the Vision Fund, which is bouncing back from an annual loss last March. Last month, it announced record quarterly profit.

Coupang operates an online marketplace that sells everything from fresh groceries to toys, as well as food delivery app Coupang Eats.

"We're laser focused on our home market," Kim said in an interview. "We're going to invest

in 50,000 more jobs and billions of dollars more in not only the infrastructure, but the unique end to end technology that powers all of those services."

In 2020, Coupang's net sales jumped 91 percent year-on-year to \$11 billion. Net losses narrowed to \$567.6 million from \$770.2 million posted in the prior year.

Coupang's successful share offering comes as the U.S. IPO market is at its strongest in more than two decades and investors

are flocking to buy shares in technology companies that have benefited during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IPO is the biggest in the United States this year, surpassing the \$2.15 billion raised by dating app Bumble Inc. It also marks a jump in Coupang's valuation, which was pegged at \$9 billion in a fundraising round in 2018, according to Pitchbook.

Analysts in South Korea said the strong response to Coupang's

offering was a result of its market-leader position in the country at a time when, like many other e-commerce firms, its sales have grown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Considering the high level of valuation inherent in the pricing, the market is giving a generous assessment of the company's achieving the top spot in market share," said Park Sang-joon, analyst at Kiwoom Securities.

Coupang was the top-ranked

South Korean e-commerce firm in 2020 with 19.2% market share, according to Euromonitor, compared to Naver Corp's 13.6 percent and eBay Korea's 12.8 percent. It was the 10th largest e-commerce firm in the world, based on retail value excluding sales tax.

Goldman Sachs, Allen & Co, JPMorgan and Citigroup are the lead underwriters for the offering.

Chinese company to purchase a big stake in brokerage worth \$1.5 billion

HONG KONG

JD.com Inc is in talks to buy part or all of a stake in brokerage Sinolink Securities worth at least \$1.5 billion, three people said, as the e-commerce major aims to bolster its financial services operations.

A deal to buy the stake from Sinolink's largest shareholder, Yongjin Group, would be the biggest bet in acquisition value terms by Beijing-based JD.com in China's \$45 trillion financial market.

"The valuable brokerage licence is key for tech giants to monetise their huge online traffic and grow into bigger firms, as otherwise they have to direct such traffic to other financial institutions," one of the sources said.

China's 2nd-biggest e-commerce company by revenue started discussions with Yongjin late last year, seeking to buy part or all of its 27% stake, said two of the people with direct knowledge of the matter.

Based on Sinolink's market value of 39 billion yuan (\$6 billion) on Thursday, a 27 per-

cent stake would be worth about 10 billion yuan, Reuters calculations show.

Sinolink shares jumped by their maximum 10 percent daily limit on Friday afternoon after Reuters reported the discussions, reversing earlier losses.

The potential deal comes as Chinese tech majors are keen to expand into financial services despite a regulatory crackdown on some parts of the sector, sources said.

JD.com gets the bulk of its revenue from its core e-commerce business and owns only a few small financial licences, mainly offering online services including consumer credit and wealth management products. It has long eyed a foray into the fast-growing brokerage industry which was worth \$1.4 trillion as of end-2020, said the same two people.

Chengdu-based Sinolink was just outside the top 20 biggest brokerages in China by operating revenue in 2019, official data showed. Its business includes stock broking, sponsoring and underwriting equity and debt deals, finan-

cial advisory and wealth management.

China's top two tech giants, Alibaba Group and Tencent, hold stakes in the country's leading investment bank, China International Capital Corp. Alibaba has also invested in large broker Huatai Securities, while Tencent has backed Hong Kong-based online brokerage Futu Holdings.

According to Refinitiv, JD.com has only made two deals in the financial sector so far: its investment in online platform for automotive financing Yixin Capital's \$550 million fundraising in 2016, and another investment worth an undisclosed amount in China Taiping Insurance Holdings' financial services unit in 2018.

The JD.com-Yongjin talks were at an early stage and subject to change, cautioned the sources, who declined to be identified due to confidentiality constraints.

JD.com, Yongjin and Sinolink did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

For privately run Yongjin,



A sign of China's e-commerce company JD.com is seen at its shop at a mall in Shanghai.

the potential deal would satisfy its plan to divest its financial services business to bypass new regulations on financial holdings firms, said the third person.

The new rules require a capital threshold for companies that operate more than two types of financial businesses.

Should a company fail to meet the requirement after a one-year grace period, Beijing can force a share sale.

In September, Guolian Securities said it would acquire Sinolink through a share swap and stake purchase from Yongjin, exchange filings showed. The tie-up was later

scrapped amid questions over potential insider trading activities.

Founded in 1995 by late entrepreneur Wei Dong and now run by his wife, Chen Jinxia, Yongjin manages more than 400 billion yuan of assets, with 30 billion yuan self-owned, according to its website.

Ransom-seeking hackers discuss advantage behind Microsoft flaw



A Microsoft logo is pictured on a store in the Manhattan borough of New York.

WASHINGTON

SEEKING hackers have begun taking advantage of a recently disclosed flaw in Microsoft's widely used mail server software, a researcher said late Wednesday - a serious escalation that could portend widespread digital disruption.

The disclosure, made on Twitter by Microsoft Corp security program manager Phillip Misner, is the realization of worries that have been cours-

ing through the security community for days.

Since March 2, when Microsoft announced the discovery of serious vulnerabilities in its Exchange software, experts have warned that it was only a matter of time before ransomware gangs began using them to shake down organizations across the internet.

Misner didn't immediately respond to follow-up messages and Microsoft did not return emails seeking comment. The

U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation also didn't immediately respond.

Even though the security holes announced by Microsoft have since been fixed, organizations worldwide have failed to patch their software, leaving them open to exploitation. In Germany alone, officials have said that up to 60,000 networks remained vulnerable.

The fixes are free, but experts

attribute the sluggish pace of many customers' updates in part to the complexity of Exchange's architecture.

All manner of hackers have begun taking advantage of the holes - one security firm recently counted 10 separate hacking groups using the flaws - but ransomware operators are among the most feared.

Those groups work by locking users out of their devices and data unless the victims cough up big chunks of digital curren-

cy. They now potentially have access "into a huge number of vulnerable systems," said Brett Callow of Canadian cybersecurity company Emsisoft.

He said more modest companies - many of whom lack the ability or awareness to update their software - could be particularly affected by the latest variant of ransomware.

"This is a potentially serious risk to small businesses," he said.

US white wheat growers cash in as China snaps up supplies

CHICAGO

CHINA is scooping up supplies of U.S. white wheat to feed livestock, pushing export forecasts for the grain usually used to make sponge cakes and noodles to a 27-year-high.

The purchases are the latest disruption in commodities markets caused by Chinese buying of grains and oilseeds during the coronavirus pandemic, pushing prices of major commodity crops to multi-year highs.

China has booked more U.S. white wheat this year than any country besides the Philippines, the top buyer of the grain. While U.S. producers have long tried to woo the growing Chinese market for confectionary foods made from white wheat flour, the recent purchases reflect a need for animal feed, Chinese traders and analysts said.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) raised its forecast for exports of U.S. white wheat to 245 million bushels, the most since 1994, due to strong demand from China and South Korea.

In a sign of the varied pace of global economic recoveries, USDA lowered its export forecast for the most common U.S. wheat class, hard red winter wheat, citing lower demand to "several Western Hemisphere markets."

While white wheat is not typically fed to animals, high corn prices - benchmark U.S. futures hit 7-1/2-year highs last month - made it a viable alternative in China.

China is scouring the globe for feed grains as it rebuilds the world's largest hog herd, which was ravaged by African swine fever.

"Most of the imported wheat is going to the feed sector as corn prices are high and there is profit (to import)," said Li Hongchao, a senior grains analyst with trade website Myagric.com.

China signed a trade deal with the United States in January 2020. More recent trade tensions between China and Australia, which grows a slightly different hard white wheat, have also sent China seeking alternative wheat supplies.

Nine months into the 2020/21 wheat marketing year begun June 1, 2020, China's purchases of all U.S. wheat classes are at a seven-year high of 2.9 million tonnes, according to USDA's weekly export sales data. White wheat bookings represent about a third of the total, at 947,863 tonnes as of March 4.

Chinese purchases of U.S. white wheat began ramping up in November, after grinding to a near halt in 2018 and 2019 when Beijing and Washington were in the thick of a trade war. Prior to 2018, China had been building its U.S. white wheat purchases, booking 228,000 tonnes in 2016/17 and 307,000 tonnes in 2017/18. The U.S. wheat industry, anticipating the growth of China's economy, has spent years cultivating a relationship with China's flour millers and bakers.

"It's a growing middle class, and their interest (is) in diversifying their diet," said Randy Fortenberry, an agricultural economist at Washington State University.

Most U.S. white wheat is soft white wheat, grown in the Pacific Northwest and beloved by bakers for its pale color and low gluten strength, ideal for cakes and steamed breads.

WORLD

'We're not racist', says Prince William after Meghan and Harry interview

LONDON

PRINCE William denied on Thursday that Britain's royals were racist after Meghan, wife of his younger brother Harry, said one unnamed member of the family had asked how dark their son Archie's skin might be.

Neither she nor Harry said who had made the remark, although Winfrey later clarified that Harry had said it was not the queen or her 99-year-old husband Philip, who has been in hospital for three weeks while the crisis unfolds.

"That conversation, I'm never going to share," Harry said during the interview. "But at the time, it was awkward. I was a bit shocked."

In the statement from the queen, the palace said issues of race were concerning and would be treated very seriously, but pointedly stated "some recollections may vary". The Palace has said that it was a family matter that should be dealt with privately.

The interview, watched by 12.4 million viewers in Britain and 171 million in the United States, has proved divisive among the British public.

For some, Meghan's accusations confirmed their belief that the monarchy is an outdated and intolerant institution, while others decried it as a self-serving assault that neither Elizabeth nor her family deserved.

The crisis over Meghan, 39, made the allegation during an explosive tell-all

interview that she and Harry, 36, gave to Oprah Winfrey and which was aired on Sunday, plunging the British monarchy into its biggest crisis since the 1997 death of Princess Diana, William and Harry's mother.

On a visit to a school in east London, William said he had not talked to Harry since the interview was broadcast just over three days ago.

"I haven't spoken to him yet but I will do," William, 38, said.

Asked by a reporter if the royal family was racist, William said: "We're very much not a racist family."

In the two-hour show, nearly three years after their star-studded wedding in Windsor Castle, Meghan said the royals had ignored her pleas for help while she felt suicidal. Harry said his father, heir-to-the throne Prince Charles, had let him down and that he had felt trapped.

On Tuesday, Buckingham Palace issued a statement on behalf of 94-year-old Queen Elizabeth, the princes' grandmother, in which she said the family were saddened by how challenging the couple had found the last few years.

But it was the couple's accusation that one of the royals had made a racist comment which has dominated coverage and has the potential to cause lasting damage to the 1,000-year-old monarchy.

WHO SAID IT?

Meghan, whose mother is Black and father is white, said while she was pregnant



Britain's Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge arrive for a visit to School 21 following its re-opening after the easing of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) lockdown restrictions in east London, Britain on Thursday. REUTERS

with Archie there were "concerns and conversations about how dark his skin might be when he's born."

an and Harry comes a year after his uncle Prince Andrew was forced to quit royal duties following a disastrous TV interview to explain his friendship with late U.S. financier Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself in a U.S. prison while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

Polls show the division has fallen mainly down generational lines, with those aged over 65 backing the queen and the senior royals, while younger people supported Harry and Meghan.

The divided response - part of what commentators say is a wider "culture war" waging on social and traditional media - was exemplified by reactions to pugnacious presenter Piers Morgan losing his high-profile breakfast TV slot after saying he did not believe Meghan.

His remarks had attracted 41,000 complaints to Britain's media regulator.

MEDIA BACKLASH

The couple, who quit their royal roles to move to California last year, have also spoken out about what they say is press reporting tainted by racism, and Harry said his family had failed to call out "colonial undertones" in articles.

"That hurts, but I also am acutely

aware of where my family stand and how scared they are of the tabloids turning on them," Harry, who said the tabloids' behaviour was a major reason why he had left Britain, told Winfrey.

The couple's criticism of the media prompted a rebuttal from the Society of Editors, which represents many of the tabloids, saying it was "not acceptable" for the couple to make claims of racism in the press "without supporting evidence".

However, its head, Ian Murray, stepped down over those comments after being accused of trying to defend racism, which he denied.

Also worryingly for the monarchy in the long term, surveys have indicated that the popularity of the Elizabeth's heir Charles, 72, has also fallen amid the crisis.

During the interview, Harry also laid bare how distant he had become from the other members of his family, saying his father had stopped taking his calls at one point, and that there was "space" in his relationship with William.

"Much will continue to be said about that ... as I said before, you know, I love William to bits, he's my brother, we've been through hell together and we have a shared experience," he said. "But we're on different paths."

Agencies

China's five-year plan: A democratic perspective

BEIJING

CHINA'S latest medium and long-term economic and social development plan, approved at the country's top legislature on Thursday, unfurls a roadmap of China's development for the next five years and beyond.

China initiated its first five-year plan in 1953. Over the half-century, the country achieved rapid development with many five-year plans performing as an important mechanism to guide the economic and social activities, one after another.

The latest Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the

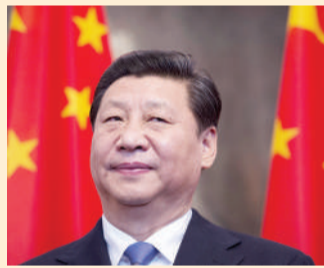
Year 2035 is of even greater significance. It is a blueprint for the world's second-largest economy as it kicks off a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country.

How this outline takes shape offers the outside world a glimpse into China's democracy and how it functions.

FROM BLUEPRINT TO ROADMAP

The drafting of an outline usually takes three years. The current one was guided by proposals, drawn up by the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, for formulating the five-year plan and the long-range objectives through 2035.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee,



Chinese president Xi Jinping

led the proposals' formulation himself. He undertook field research and hosted seven symposiums from July to September in 2020, taking account of people's suggestions from all walks of life.

The 60-item proposals of some 20,000 words were adopted in October 2020 at the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee.

To turn the CPC leadership's proposals into a detailed plan,

the State Council, or the cabinet, took the lead in formulating the draft outline before it was submitted to the top legislature's annual session for review and approval.

The formulating process is a vivid embodiment of the practice of China's socialist democracy. The Party's major decisions, based on the will of the people, become the will of the country through statutory procedures, analysts said.

It also demonstrates the unity of the leadership of the Party, the position of the people as masters of the country, and law-based governance, according to analysts.

POOLING PEOPLE'S WISDOM

Democracy is in full swing

during the whole formulating process of the outline. It is a constructive mix of top-level design and people's wisdom.

To better draw up the proposals, the Party leadership solicited suggestions online in August 2020, receiving over 1 million comments.

The formulation of the draft outline also solicited public opinions both online and offline.

Various symposiums with national lawmakers and political advisors were held to collect constructive suggestions.

Laurence J. Brahm, a senior international fellow at the Center for China and Globalization, said Chinese democracy is a system of consensus-building, and it is different from that in the West. *Xinhua*

Yemen heading toward biggest famine in modern history - UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley on Thursday warned the Security Council that Yemen is heading toward the biggest famine in modern history.

Just two days ago, I was in Yemen, where over 16 million people now face crisis levels

of hunger or worse. These aren't just numbers. These are real people.

And we are headed straight toward the biggest famine in modern history. It is hell on earth in many places in Yemen right now," the WFP chief told the Security Council open debate via videoconference on conflict and food security.

"Around 400,000 children

may die in Yemen this year without urgent intervention. That is roughly one child every 75 seconds.

So, while we're sitting here, every minute and a quarter, a child is dying. Are we really going to turn our backs on them and look the other way?" Beasley said.

"To add to all their misery, the innocent people of Yemen

have to deal with a fuel blockade... The people of Yemen deserve our help. That blockade must be lifted, as a humanitarian act. Otherwise, millions more will spiral into crisis," said the WFP chief, who, in December 2020, accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the WFP for its efforts to combat world hunger.

Speaking of conflict and

hunger, Beasley said that man-made conflict is driving instability and powering a destructive new wave of famine that threatens to sweep across the world.

"The toll being paid in human misery is unimaginable. So, I want to thank the secretary-general for his leadership in trying to avert these famines," he said. *Xinhua*

Dozens of students abducted from forestry college in northwest Nigeria

KADUNA

GUNMEN in northwest Nigeria kidnapped around 30 students overnight from a forestry college near a military academy, three students said yesterday, in the fourth mass school abduction since December.

The Federal College of Forestry Mechanization sits on the outskirts of Kaduna city, capital of Kaduna state, in a region roamed by armed gangs, who often travel on motorcycles.

Kaduna state's security commissioner, Samuel Aruwan, confirmed the attack but did not say how many students had been taken.

Sani Danjuma, a student at the college, said those abducted were all female students, but authorities were unable to confirm this. Other students said some of the young women had managed to escape during the attack.

Local resident Haruna Salisu, speaking by phone, said he had heard sporadic gunshots at around 11:30 p.m.

"We were not panicking, thinking that it was a normal military exercise being conducted at the Nigerian Defence Academy," he said.

"We came out for dawn prayers, at 5:20 a.m., and saw some of the students, teachers and security personnel all over the school premises. They told us that gunmen raided the school and abducted some of the students."

Salisu said he had seen military personnel taking the remaining students into the academy.

On Friday morning, relatives of students gathered at the gates of the college, which was surrounded by around 20 army trucks.

LAWLESS REGION

Banditry has festered for years in northwest Nigeria, rendering large swathes of the region lawless.

The trend of abduction from boarding schools was started by the jihadist group Boko Haram, which seized 270 schoolgirls from a school at Chibok in the northeast in 2014, around 100 of whom have never been found.

It has since been taken up by armed criminal gangs seeking ransom.

Within the last few weeks, 279 schoolgirls were freed after being abducted from their boarding school at Jangebe in northwest Nigeria's Zamfara state, and 27 teenage boys were released after being kidnapped from their school in the north-central state of Niger, along with three staff and 12 family members. One student was shot dead in that attack.

Military and police attempts to tackle the gangs have had little success, while many worry that state authorities are making the situation worse by letting kidnappers go unpunished, paying them off or, as in Zamfara, giving them amenities.

In late February, the presidency said President Muhammadu Buhari had urged state governments to "review their policy of rewarding bandits with money and vehicles, warning that the policy might boomerang disastrously".

The unrest has become a political problem for Buhari, a retired general and former military ruler who has faced mounting criticism over the rise in violent crime, and replaced his long-standing military chiefs in February.

There were no contacts between Putin, Saudi Arabia ahead of OPEC+ decision, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

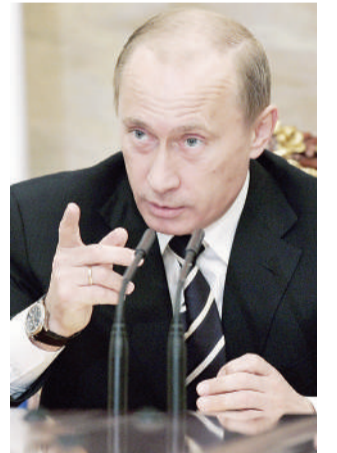
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin did not have any talks with the Saudi Arabian leadership ahead of the OPEC+ decisions on oil production cap, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told TASS.

"No, there weren't," he said when asked if Putin had any contacts with the Saudi leadership on the eve of the last OPEC+ ministerial meeting.

Peskov recalled that Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who curates these negotiations with OPEC+ countries, was praised by Putin for his work.

On March 4, OPEC+ ministers had a meeting to devise recommendations on oil production levels for April 2021. The meeting ended with a decision to maintain the current cap. The only exceptions were made for Russia and Kazakhstan who can ramp up production by 150,000 barrels per day.

On March 10, Novak presented a report on the agreements with OPEC+ at a government meeting. "Thank you very much, it was difficult but productive work. And I thank you for that," Putin told him. *Agencies*



COMMITTEES of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an important means of promoting socialist democracy in China, have constantly expanded the participation in political consultation and formed a new pattern of political consultation that features multiple channels, extensive coverage, and greater flexibility and convenience.

Upholding consultative democracy in the whole process of the performance of their functions, CPPCC committees have set their agendas according to the key tasks of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the country, and put forward constructive opinions and suggestions after in-depth investigations and analyses over the past year.

China's consultative democracy full of dynamism

On Sept. 24, 2020, a political consultative conference was held simultaneously both online and offline at four different venues including a venue in an organ of the CPPCC National Committee and the other three in east China's Zhejiang province, south China's Guangdong province, and southwest China's Sichuan province respectively.

A total of 11 members of the national, provincial, municipal, and county committees of the CPPCC and a grassroots resident expressed their opinions and made suggestions at the conference, which focused on the establishment of a housing system that encourages both housing purchases and rent-

als to speed up the sound development of the rental market.

Among these CPPCC members, there were experts, scholars, as well as representatives of real estate enterprises and agencies and tenants. Relevant government departments responded to their opinions and suggestions immediately at the conference.

The internet-based remote consultative conference epitomized the continuous efforts of the CPPCC National Committee to diversify the forms of political consultation.

Remote consultative conferences give better play to the unique advantages and functions of various consultation platforms, said CPPCC members attending the political

consultative conference held on Sept. 24, 2020, noting that these conferences feature extensive participation, real-time response, and good interactions, and can enable participants to have in-depth and detailed discussions.

In recent years, the National Committee of the CPPCC has tapped into the advantages of the internet to effectively improve the efficiency of political consultation, thus injecting fresh vigor and vitality into the work of the CPPCC committees at various levels.

Last December, a draft of consultative work rules of the CPPCC National Committee was deliberated and adopted at the 47th Chairperson's Council meeting held by the

13th National Committee of the CPPCC.

The draft, which includes provisions covering such aspects of political consultation as main contents, forms, carriers, scope of participation, principles of discussion, and basic procedures, is of great significance for improving the implementation mechanism for the consultations before decision-making and during the implementation of decisions.

Biweekly consultation session is one of the important forms of democratic consultation of the CPPCC. It is a consultation platform where CPPCC members have discussions and exchange ideas regularly with officials of the central government

and state organs in China on major and key issues concerning the country. The session taking place every two weeks has become a highlight of the CPPCC's efforts to promote consultative democracy.

In an effort to better build consensus among the country's political advisors, China launched a mobile platform that allows members of the CPPCC National Committee to conduct consultations and deliberations online.

Consultations of various forms are conducted in the country in flexible ways, such as consultations on special issues with those who work on these issues, with representatives from all sectors of society, and with relevant government authorities on the handling of proposals. *People's Daily*

Presidents of Egypt, DRC discuss dispute over Ethiopia's Nile dam

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and his counterpart of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Felix Tshisekedi on Thursday discussed over the phone the disputed Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

During the conversation, Sisi reiterated Egypt's position that calls for reaching a legally binding agreement on the rules of filling and operating the GERD before the next rainy season, in order to preserve the water rights of the downstream countries, Egyptian presidential spokesman Bassam Rady in a statement.

Sisi also affirmed Egypt's support for the Sudanese proposal to form an international quartet under the chairmanship of the African Union to mediate the GERD talks. Sisi stressed his country's keenness to develop relations with the DRC at all levels, as well as strengthening close coordination between the two countries on regional issues of mutual interest. Tshisekedi, whose country currently chairs the African Union, appreciated the sincere and relentless Egyptian efforts to reach a balanced solution to the GERD issue that takes into account the interests of all parties. *Xinhua*

Greece to receive tourists with Russian, Chinese vaccines, says minister of tourism

ATHENS

GREECE will also receive tourists vaccinated with Russian and Chinese coronavirus vaccines not approved by the European Union, Minister of Tourism Harry Theoharis told a news conference within the framework of an international tourism exhibition in Berlin on Tuesday.

Focusing on tourists from non-EU member countries, the minister stressed that "the aim is to receive everyone who wants to come, of course in compliance with the established conditions".

Greece will guarantee "that those inoculated with vaccines not approved in the European Union, for example, vaccines from China or Russia, will be able to come, too," the Athens Macedonian News Agency quoted the minister as saying.

When asked about the prices of tourism products this year, Theoharis noted that it "will be very difficult to achieve their increase, since the supply [on the market] will surpass the demand". However, the minister is optimistic about the future of Greek tourism, since measures of state support have helped companies to survive, while those who wanted to withdraw from the tourism business saw a big interest from investors.

Theoharis told the news conference about plans of the Greek government for a safe opening of the 2021 tourist season.

"Taking full account of the need for an honest implementation of epidemiological protocols, we are seeking to open the Greek tourist season on May 14. Until then, we will be gradually lifting restrictions if the assessments of infectious diseases specialists regarding the development of the pandemic permit," he was quoted as saying.

For April, the country plans a pilot test involving tourists from EU nations, as well as other countries where the process of vaccination is active, for example from Israel, the minister said. "I emphasize, however, that all opening dates are tentative and may change depending on the situation," he stressed.

Theoharis told the news conference about the main healthcare protocols to be used at the point of tourists' entry. Travelers will be allowed to enter the country if they have been vaccinated or have immunity after coronavirus, or have tested negative in a recent coronavirus test.

Agencies

Biden: All U.S. adults to be eligible for vaccines by May, some normalcy coming by summer

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden told U.S. states on Thursday to make all adults eligible for a coronavirus vaccine by May 1 and urged Americans to stay vigilant or face more restrictions, hours after he signed a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill into law.

In a forceful but somber speech from the White House on the first anniversary of the pandemic lockdown, Biden said if Americans pulled together there could be a greater sense of normalcy - and some backyard barbecue parties with small groups - on the U.S. Independence Day holiday on July 4.

That date is a new goal for the president and a projection of hope amid a pandemic that has killed more than 530,000 people in the United States, the most of any country. To achieve his summer target, Biden said he needed Americans' help.

"If we don't stay vigilant and the conditions change, then we may have to reinstate restrictions to get back on track," he said in an evening address from the White House, his first in television prime time since becoming president.

"We've made so much progress. This is not the time to let up. Just as we are emerging from a dark winter into a hopeful spring and summer is not the time to not stick with the rules," he said.

Republicans swiftly criticized Biden for his cautious approach. "What America needs now is to fully reopen our economy and our classrooms," House of Representatives Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said on Twitter.

Biden said he was ordering U.S. states, territories and tribes to make all adults eligible to receive a coronavirus vaccine by May 1. The White House has said it would have enough vaccine supply to vaccinate the adult population by the end of May. About 10% of Americans so far have been fully vaccinated.

Administration officials said he would deploy 4,000 more troops to help with the vaccine effort, bringing the total number to 6,000. The White House is also seeking to expand the pool of people able to administer shots to include dentists, optometrists, paramedics, veterinarians and medical students. *Agencies*

What kind of modernisation is China seeking?

BEIJING

WHEN the Japanese invasion plunged China into peril in the 1930s, a renowned Chinese historian pondered and asked the famous question that had vexed him for long: Can the Chinese modernize?

The answer to the question has long been available. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has initiated a top-level design to promote China's socialist modernization, unveiling a two-stage plan to make the world's most populous country a "great modern socialist country" by the mid-21st century.

The modernization goal that the Chinese have been striving for since the modern era is no longer out of reach.

According to the plan, the CPC will basically realize socialist modernization in the first stage from 2020 to 2035, before developing China into a great modern socialist country that is "prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful" by the middle of the 21st century.

Although modernization theory has its origins in the West, modernization by no means is equal to Westernization.

The world's second-largest economy is becoming increasingly aware that there has never been a uniform path to modernization. China's peaceful rise has in fact shown that the Western style is not the only viable route to modernization.

SUPER-SCALE

The modernization China seeks involves a massive population base and a rapid pace of realization. It could be seen as a super-scale human development practice.

In China's modernization drive, new models of industrialization, informatization, urbanization and agricultural modernization will develop simultaneously. China will endeavor to achieve within decades what took the West centuries to achieve. The scale and speed of modernization in the world's most populous country are unprecedented and will inevitably have a profound impact on the world.

China bases its development on its own situation and taps into the potential of its massive population and accordingly, massive demands and markets.

According to a blueprint for its development in the next five to 15 years, which is under review at the "two sessions," China will accelerate forging a new development paradigm of "dual circulation" in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other with the domestic market as the mainstay.

The world's largest developing country will give full play to the advantage of its super-large market and continue to expand it by boosting domestic consumption in its modernization drive.

GREEN DRIVE

China is seeking a modernization in which the construction of economic, political, cultural, social and ecological civilization are jointly promoted. The unbalanced advancement of modernization can cause estrangement and conflict.

Economic growth does not necessarily do away with social difficulties. On the contrary, certain types of growth actually cause these problems. China rejects such types of modernization path.

With its GDP exceeding the 100-trillion-yuan (about 15.42 trillion U.S. dollars) mark in 2020, China has explicitly stated that it will strive to keep its economy running within an appropriate range dur-



Photo taken on May 27, 2020 shows a view of the Tian'anmen Square in Beijing, capital of China. (Xinhua)

ing the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period rather than setting a numerical goal.

The move echoed the country's strategy of focusing on promoting high-quality development which is key to its modernization drive.

Although the modernization of the West has created unprecedented material wealth, it has also led to the waste of resources and environmental damage. Having taken notes from the West, China will not choose a development path that consumes a large quantity of non-renewable natural resources in the process of its modernization. In the modernization China is striving for, people and nature exist in harmony.

In its latest development blueprint, China has vowed to stay true to the principle that "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets," and to significantly lower the energy consumption per unit of GDP and its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP.

A modernization path featuring green development has become a consensus of the Chinese, with sound progress made in recent years.

PEOPLE-CENTERED

China's modernization involves not only a drastic increase in economic production capacity, but also comprehensive social progress. China seeks a people-centered modernization that is different from the Western model in which capital is the primary driver and dominant logic.

That is best illustrated by China's

massive poverty alleviation campaign and its handling of the pandemic.

China has always insisted that the vast majority of society should be the starting point for system design and policy formulation.

The nation's unique concepts and practices such as "No one should be left behind" and "People first, life first" express the essence and characteristics of Chinese-style modernization, which is centered on people. It is worth mentioning that people-centered modernization is in line with the highest ideals and value pursuits of Marxism, whose goal is to benefit the people and ultimately achieve the full development of each individual.

PEACEFUL, WIN-WIN

China's modernization will be a road of peaceful development and will adhere to win-win cooperation. It will not follow the Western path of aggression, colonization and expansion, neither plundering and colonizing foreign countries nor transferring domestic conflicts and crises abroad.

The modernizing China, which does not subscribe to the notion that a strong country will inevitably seek hegemony, has blazed a trail of revitalization. China has pledged to open up new prospects for win-win cooperation and provide digital assistance to less developed countries in terms of technology, equipment and services, according to its development blueprint.

The modernization China seeks is one based on the country's national

conditions and independent development. There is no one-size-fits-all development model, and modernization theory needs to be enriched as modernization practices unfold.

Alan MacFarlane, a Cambridge professor who proposes "modernity with Chinese characteristics," believes that the civilization of Britain, the first so-called modern country in the world, was based on individualism, while China's civilization has been based on collectiveness since ancient times. Different traditions and histories make the modernization path of each civilization different.

Every country has the right to choose its own modernization path. The Chinese model of modernization offers a new option to other countries and nations who want to speed up their development while preserving their independence.

It also offers Chinese wisdom and a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing humanity. *Xinhua*

China strengthens cultural and tourism industry to better help poverty reduction

By Wang Ke, Chang Qin, People's Daily

China has made great efforts to promote poverty alleviation through culture and tourism since 2012, giving the cultural and tourism industry a huge role in benefiting and enriching people.

During the past five years, the country invested a total of more than 6.36 billion yuan (\$980 million) of tourism development fund, and dispatched over 132,000 personnel from cultural industries to former revolutionary base areas, ethnic minorities areas, border areas and impoverished areas, turning cultural and natural resources into wealth and creating jobs for impoverished residents. It has greatly promoted the economic and social development of impoverished regions.

Simola is a village inhabited by Va people surrounded by green mountains and clear creeks in southwest China's Yunnan Province. In recent years, the village has developed into a key tourism village on national level, receiving 210,000 visits in 2020.

Li Shunfa, a villager who was once trapped in poverty, has embraced a well-off life thanks to local tourism development. According to the man, he can sell more than 300 rice cakes per day.

Bashan Grand Canyon, lying on the northwest of Xuanhan County, Dazhou, southwest China's Sichuan Province, has paved a new path for local residents to get rid of poverty through cultural tourism. It has lifted 102 villages and 91,000 residents out of poverty, and increased income for 25 townships and 500,000 residents in Sichuan's adjacent province Shaanxi and municipality Chongqing.

Many impoverished regions in China boast rich ecological resources. The development of rural tourism is turning green mountains and lucid water into invaluable assets. As China gradually improves



Performers and villagers dance for tourists in Nanhua village, Sankeshu Township, Kaili, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Guizhou Province, Nov. 20, 2020. File photo

its system of tourism-driven poverty alleviation, it has constantly expanded the ways to eradicate poverty. Farmlands and scenic spots have been well integrated across China, and production, ecology and daily life are also closely connected, which has effectively turned resources into assets, capital into equities, and villagers into shareholders. More and more residents are beginning enjoying the dividends of tourism development after shaking off poverty.

According to an official with China's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the ministry and other relevant departments will invest 6.5 billion yuan to support 656 tourism infrastructure projects in "three regions" (Tibet, the four prefectures of Hotan, Aksu, Kashgar, and Kizilsu in south-

ern Xinjiang, and the ethnic Tibetan areas in Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, and Qinghai) and "three prefectures" (Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan, Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan, and Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu).

Besides, the ministry will also facilitate the issuance of loans worth 70 billion yuan to continue improving rural environment and advance rural tourism in impoverished regions, the official said.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism also attaches high importance on talent cultivation, helping people increase confidence in their own ability to lift themselves out of poverty and see that they can access the education they need.

The ministry implemented a talent sup-

port plan in former revolutionary base areas, ethnic minorities areas, border areas and impoverished areas, introduced professionals to these areas based on their actual demands, and implemented a program to nurture rural cultural and tourism entrepreneurial leaders. It offered over 700 training sessions in impoverished regions, which significantly stimulated the endogenous power for development of these regions.

In remote villages of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's Hunan Province, traditional ethnic crafts are revitalized. Thanks to the efforts made by local government, the inheritors of intangible cultural heritage items, including bamboo weaving and brocade, joined training courses held by Jiangnan University and other institutions of higher education. Luo Weiyang, after learning from two training sessions, established a cooperative that employs 132 residents of her village, creating an annual income of 580,000 yuan.

The value and connotation of cultural tourism is also further explored by relevant departments and enterprises to extend the value chain for poverty alleviation industries.

"Many craftsmen in remote rural areas have unique expertise, but lack access to the market, so we must help them cooperate with more parties," said Xia Hua, chairman of board of garment producer Eve Group.

The group has launched standardized training programs in impoverished villages in Yunnan Province, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Guizhou Province and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, making traditional handiworks more artistic, trendy and international. It has helped over 13,000 local residents increase income.

People's Daily

Simba SC, Namungo FC can perform well in CAF club tournaments - Msuva

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

TANZANIAN forward, Simon Msuva, who plays for Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, believes Namungo FC and Simba SC have a great chance to do well in continental club tournaments, should they put in dedication.

Namungo FC on Wednesday lost 1-0 to Morocco's Raja Casablanca in the former's first fixture in this season's CAF Confederation Cup's Group D, held in Morocco last weekend.

Egypt's Pyramid FC and Zambia's Nkana are also well featuring in the group.

Simba SC leads the rest of the pack in CAF Champions League's Group A, having notched victory in two fixtures and settling for barren draw in one.

Egypt's Al Ahly, Sudan's Al Merreikh and DR Congo's AS Vita Club constitute the remainder of the group's clubs.

Simba opened their quest for an impressive run in the tournament with 1-0 victory over AS Vita

Club, the Tanzanian outfit went on to edge Al Ahly by similar score in the second fixture.

Al Merreikh later notched 0-0 draw with Simba.

Commenting on Namungo FC's participation in the showpiece, Msuva said: "I have been closely following Tanzania's representatives in continental tournaments, Simba and Namungo FC, I believe these teams will do well only if they fight from start to finish."

He stated: "Namungo should not see themselves as strangers in the competition and fail to do well, determination is the most important thing in this tournament, they have good players who can help their squad garner success, I also congratulate them for the progress they have made."

Simba are enjoying a perfect stint in both domestic top flight and CAF Champions League with Didier Gomes being the perfect man for the job as the club's head coach.

Namungo are enjoying yet another breakout season, participating in CAF Confederation Cup on their second season in Premier League.

Soccer scouting course now set for next week

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

THE maiden course for scouts is set to take place in Dar es Salaam next week, whereby more than 50 people will attend.

The course's organizer, Afrisoccer's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Simon, said the head of players' scouts for South African football giants, Walter Steenbok, will serve as the course's chief instructor.

He said the course is part of the coming Tanzania Football Summit (TFS) projects slated for next week at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Simon said the course is aimed at training perspective scouts on how to identify players and how they can carry on daily duties.

He said identifying new football talents in a player scout's duty, but like other African countries, many people in Tanzania do not know the role of football scouts and how they operate, so the course will be of great help to them.

The Afrisoccer CEO said scouting is more important than ever as many local clubs are now valuing the importance of having both player scouts and tactical scouts.

He said the player scout is tasked with spotting potential players for their clubs to sign and the scouts will attend youth tournaments, internationals, reserve matches, and league games domestically (often in the lower leagues) and abroad as clubs cast their nets far and wide.

Tactical scouts, according to him, are tasked with attending other clubs' matches and build up a knowledge base that a head coach would not be able to get them on either his or her own.

He noted the tactical scouts assess tactics of other teams, patterns of play and players who could become a threat to his or her team when the two clubs meet.

He stated: "The market for scouts in our country is growing, currently we have a local team which is doing well in the Mainland Premier League and CAF Champions League, they have a tactical scout (he did not name the club)."

According to our findings, the club is Simba SC,

this season's CAF Champions League Group A leaders.

Simba SC roped in Zimbabwean performance analyst Culvin Mavhunga.

"It's now time for our local clubs to embrace this sector," he noted.

"We expect 50-70 people to attend, it will involve player scouts and tactical scouts, the two are vital for clubs and our football, we have many people interested in the sector but they don't have the idea of how the scouts work, the benefits they get, so the next week course will be an eye opener to them," he said.

The course's chief instructor, Steenbok, is one of the respected player scouts in South Africa as he is also a head of scouts for South Africa senior national football teams.

He recently authored a book titled 'The Football Scouting Bible'. In the book he states scouting is an area in soccer that has not really been exploited.

He mentioned some of the roles of scouts as assessing the skills of potential signings and evaluating their general attitude.

"The scouting operation is formed by lost of factors, scouts are always influenced by the strength of the league, the culture of the club, the playing model, the owner and the supporters," he said in one of the paragraphs in the book.

He further said scouts essentially look for two things, technique and personality. Personality involves such things as intelligence and attitude.

Steenbok advised scouts that they must have an open understanding policy that sometimes the latter might not get it right.

According to online writing by Goal.com, there is no specific route into football scouting, but it certainly helps to have had a background in football, either as a player or coach.

Such a background not only means that he or she has already possesses a basic knowledge of the game, but it means that he or she are also likely to have cultivated a useful network of contacts.

However, an individual does not need to have been either a player or coach in order to become a scout- and networks can be made in time.



Patrick Aussems

Yanga and Patrick Aussems: What precisely attracts Yanga, or its actual strategies?

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

A certain amount of dust has been kicked up by the pursuit of the services of former Simba SC head coach Patrick Aussems by the management of Yanga.

The Jangwani Street outfit are without a dependable professional coach after parting ways with Burundian expert Cedric Kaze over a trail of even games and finally a defeat that signaled their exit from contending for the League title, and that is a red line that the club coach has to be judged upon, if he is still the right fellow.

There was a time that a head coach left Jangwani Street after saying the side had no chance against age-old rivals Simba SC.

That was obviously another red line, that is, at no time should be formalized at the technical bench level, that the club is temporarily or otherwise attuned to the dominance of the Msimbazi Street outfit. The coach has at least to believe in the team, as it is anathema at the Jangwani Street side- and presumably elsewhere - to take up a team and announce surrender before the match is engaged, and the coach should have known that.

Anyway, the question is how and in what manner Aussems is the best pick that Yanga can

make right now, and if there is any intention to actually make a controversial choice, and technically sound too.

Many among soccer pundits will be thinking in that direction, as indeed it is unavoidable that Jangwani Street get to that track, of how far there is a public relations aspect to this initial pursuit of a Kaze replacement, though the club ought to have known that he has a contract to see out at present.

There were other names that were mentioned here and there, for instance former Taifa Stars head coach Marcio Maximo, some even saying he would come as an assistant to Aussems or someone of the sort.

But why have two professionals from outside to do the same job, competing with one another as head coach and, say, an assistant head coach?

First with regard to Aussems, it is evident that the coach that Jangwani Street club would be roping in strictly speaking the one who is handling AFC Leopards of Nairobi at the moment.

It implies someone who sat down and conducted an evaluation of his last months' failure with the Msimbazi Street outfit and decided on what measures he would take to restore his original profile which enabled him to take Simba to the group stage of the CAF Champions League.

It is after making such analysis

and figuring out how he would restore that image that Leopards would expect to gain plenty by seeking his services.

The question is whether exactly that same calculation is applicable in the manner the Jangwani Street outfit management showed interest in his services, or there is an underside which makes the choice of whom to approach for the job somewhat suspect, to say the least.

When Leopards sought out Aussems, it was easy for the coach to grasp or build the mental impression that the part of him that has currency with the Nairobi outfit is the continental club championship achievement, irrespective of the club he took there.

And indeed the club becomes important for a different reason; that it isn't among Africa's habitual great sides like Al Ahly, TP Mazembe, Raja Casablanca or such other; those are great clubs whoever is coach.

But when Simba reach the group stage and shown enviable performance in a number of encounters, the coach matters, as it is a rising side in continental soccer rather than an established one the way it is in the local club championship.

Still that isn't necessarily how the Jangwani Street giants would be understood either by pundits generally or by their fan base in

seeking out Patrick Aussems as their first choice in the market for a new coach after they parted ways with the entire technical bench on Sunday.

There is an entirety of issues waiting to be resolved in the manner in which Aussems would relate to his assignment if he picked it up, especially how it would relate to his former workstation, that is, the club across the street.

While it is unnecessary to rush to suggest that the club approached the AFC Leopards coach for his services for a psychological reason rather than for technical considerations, in what manner can the club management or leadership rule it out?

And if this impression becomes equally pervasive among the club rank and file, could it thus be said that the management did not expect it, or rather looked for precisely such effect?

Now that the situation looks like Aussems won't be available for the next half year at the least, why shouldn't the club leadership look elsewhere?

Yanga are not ready to part ways with their addiction to an off pitch contention with Simba, in other words, the first option of the next head coach was a prolongation of the uproar about Bernard Morrison, more than half a year already. Yanga needs to get out of this mood.

Mwakinyo to face Zimbabwean pugilist in ABU Super Welterweight title fight

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA's prominent professional boxer, Hassan Mwakinyo, will on March 26 fight Zimbabwe's Brendon Denes for the vacant Africa Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title in Dar es Salaam.

The bout has been scheduled to take place at the Next Door Arena at Masaki and has been sponsored by KCB Bank which has dished out 94.4m/-.

Speaking yesterday, the Jackson Group Sports Chief Executive Officer Kelvin Twissa said the bout has been scheduled for 12 rounds and the two boxers are in intensive training.

Twissa said they expect the thrilling bout due to the fact that the two boxers have the best records in their respective careers.

Mwakinyo has won 18 bouts while losing two and Denes is yet to lose any bout out of eight he has taken part in.

Twissa explained that they have decided to organise the ABU bout for Mwakinyo while targeting the World Boxing Council (WBC) ranking and titles for the boxer.

Apart of Mwakinyo versus Denes bout, the day will see another fierce fight whereby famous domestic boxer Jongo Jongo, who



Tanzanian professional Super Welterweight pugilist, Hassan Mwakinyo.

will also fight for ABU Cruiserweight title against Nigerian Olanrewaju Durodora.

Also another prominent Tanzanian professional pugilist Ibrahim Mgendera 'Class' will also step up to accompany Mwakinyo, with the former set to take on a boxer who will be announced later.

"This is the second episode of a series of major fights, dubbed 'Rumble In Dar', and we expect it to be intense and exciting as most of the boxers are top and target victories," he stated.

The KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye, said that they have

decided to sponsor the bout aiming to continue supporting sports development in the country.

Christine said that their bank also sponsors the Vodacom Premier League, a street football tournament, known as Nondo Cup, and athletics which has the institution sponsoring Rock City Marathon.

She noted: "It is a great comfort to us to be involved in the sports development as well as the community, so we expect most of the professional boxers will turn up to watch the fight."

Multichoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing, Ronald Baraka Shelukindo, said the bout would be televised live by DStv in more than 30 countries on the African continent.

Shelukindo said the fight would be aired on Clouds Plus's channel which is in DStv and he asked professional boxing fans to join them.

Apart from KCB Bank and DStv, the fight is also sponsored by Onomo Hotel and M-Bet.

Mwakinyo noted said he is well prepared for the fight and he hopes to do well.

He noted: "I am preparing for the fight and I hope to continue the winning streak. There is very little time left for me to adjust and improve the technique."



Afrisoccer's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Peter Simon.

Milan grab Europa League last 16 edge at United as Tottenham, Arsenal shine

LONDON

SIMON Kjaer's last-gasp equaliser gave AC Milan a dramatic 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Thursday, handing the Italians a great chance of reaching the Europa League quarter-finals while Roma, Tottenham and Arsenal cruised closer to the last-eight.

Kjaer netted with a bullet header in the final seconds of stoppage time of the last 16, first leg encounter at Old Trafford, levelling the scores after Amad Diallo had opened in the 50th minute with his first United goal.

"This is a great result, we played really well, showed personality and I think we dominated," the defender told Sky Sport Italia.

Milan called the shots early on and had two goals disallowed, Rafael Leao's effort ruled offside and Franck Kessie's powerful 11th-minute finish chalked off after a VAR review showed the ball had glanced off the midfielder's arm before his shot.

Diallo's introduction at half-time proved an inspired move from United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as the 18-year-old Ivorian, recently bought by United from Milan's Serie A rivals Atalanta, soon broke the deadlock.

Bruno Fernandes unfurled a delightful long pass towards Diallo, who made an incisive run behind the Milan defence and looped a clever backwards header over Gianluigi Donnarumma.

But United failed to build on that lead and Milan's intelligent play was rewarded with just seconds remaining when Kjaer powered his header past Dean Henderson from a corner.

- Roma, Spurs, and Arsenal cruise -

Milan's domestic rivals Roma made sure it was a good night for Italian football with a 3-0 win over Shakhtar Donetsk at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

Lorenzo Pellegrini prodded home the opener in the 23rd minute after latching on to Pedro's through ball.

Shakhtar pressed for a leveler after the break but quick-fire goals from Stephan El Shaarawy -- his first for Roma since returning from China -- and Gianluca Mancini gave Paulo Fonseca's side a strong lead to defend in the second leg.

The win will have been particu-

larly sweet for Fonseca, who came to Roma from Shakhtar in the summer of 2019.

A Harry Kane double helped Tottenham Hotspur ease to a 2-0 home win over Dinamo Zagreb that continues a good run of form for Jose Mourinho's team.

Spurs have now won their last five matches in all competitions thanks to Thursday's victory in London.

"We had some ups and downs in the season but we come into an important period now and it is good to feel the players are ready to help the team," said Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris.

Arsenal also came away with a win, 3-1 at Olympiakos which all but secures their passage into the quarters.

Martin Odegaard's first Arsenal goal was cancelled out by Youssef El-Arabi.

But two goals in six minutes from Gabriel Magalhaes and substitute Mohamed Elneny earned victory.

Molde's heartening European run looks to have come to an end after a 2-0 defeat at La Liga side Granada.

- Rangers, Ajax well placed -

Rangers are well placed to make the quarter-finals after a 1-1 draw away to Slavia Prague.

Filip Helander's close-range finish in the first half levelled Nicolae Stanciu's superb opener and left Steve Gerrard's Rangers still in the hunt for a European trophy with the draw in Prague, days after winning their first Scottish League title in 10 years.

The highlight of the match however was Allan McGregor's stunning save near the end, the Scot somehow stopping and holding on to Lukas Masopust's thumping header, which looked destined for the bottom corner.

"I saw it a wee bit late. It's just one of these things," McGregor told BT Sport.

"You react to it, you stick your hand out and hope it doesn't go in, and it never, so happy days!"

Four-time European champions Ajax are almost guaranteed a place in the last eight after thumping Young Boys 3-0 in Amsterdam through goals from Davy Klaassen, Dusan Tadic and Brian Brobbey. Villarreal also look good to make the quarters thanks to a 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev.

AFP

Lewandowski on brink of next goal-scoring milestone

BERLIN

ROBERT Lewandowski can reach another milestone Saturday in his quest to better Gerd Mueller's all-time record of 40 goals in a Bundesliga season.

The Bayern Munich striker bagged a hat-trick in last weekend's 4-2 win over Dortmund in Germany's 'Klassiker' to leave him on 31 league goals this season.

The result keeps the champions two points clear at the top of the Bundesliga.

With 10 league games left, Lewandowski is nine goals short of Mueller's stunning record set in 1971/72, which many assumed would never be bettered.

At Werder Bremen on Saturday, Lewandowski needs just one more to equal Klaus Fischer's tally of 268 Bundesliga goals.

Only Bayern legend Mueller scored more in Germany's top-flight with 365 in 427 league games.

Fischer, who played for 1860 Munich, Schalke, Cologne, and Bochum between 1968 and 1988, backs Lewandowski to better Mueller's record.

"He (Lewandowski) has a huge chance," Fischer told magazine Kicker. "He needs nine goals in the last 10 games."

"The way the season has gone until now, you'd have to assume it's realistic."

Bayern have banged in 13 goals in their last three games since last month's shock defeat at Eintracht

Frankfurt.

During his career, Lewandowski has scored 20 goals in as many games against Bremen - his highest tally against a Bundesliga club.

Bayern centre-back Jerome Boateng could return from a knee injury, but David Alaba is suffering from a leg knock.

Mid-table Bremen are unbeaten in three games, but their last win over Bayern was nearly 13 years ago.

Former Bayern defender Marco Friedl misses facing his ex-club after picking up a fifth yellow card this season in Bremen's 2-0 win at Bielefeld on Wednesday.

Striker Niclas Fullkrug has an Achilles tendon injury, but US forward Joshua Sargent has scored in each of his last three games.

On Sunday, second-placed RB Leipzig face a tough test at home to Eintracht Frankfurt, who earned a shock 2-1 win over Bayern last month.

After being knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 by Liverpool on Wednesday, Leipzig coach Julian Nagelsmann wants his side to work out their "anger or disappointment" before tackling Eintracht.

Under their Japanese captain Makoto Hasebe, Frankfurt are up to fourth after winning six of their last nine league games.

Frankfurt striker Andre Silva has banged in 19 league goals, while Leipzig are without their goal-scoring left-back Angelino who is sidelined by injury.

AFP

Top-four, relegation battles now take centre stage as Man City close on title



Manchester City are 14 points clear at the top of the Premier League. (Agencies)

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are closing in on a third Premier League title in four years, but behind the runaway leaders there are tense battles to qualify for next season's Champions League and to avoid relegation.

Manchester United, Leicester and Chelsea are in pole position to finish in the top four, but West Ham, Everton, Tottenham and Aston Villa all have games in hand to bolster their challenge, while troubled champions Liverpool are not yet out of the running.

At the bottom Burnley, Newcastle, Brighton and Fulham are separated by four points in the fight to avoid joining the seemingly doomed Sheffield United and West Brom in the Championship next season.

AFP Sports looks at three talking points ahead of the Premier League weekend.

Bale back to his best

The Europa League looked like the best route into the Champions League for both Tottenham and Arsenal less

than two weeks ago and while that remains the case for the Gunners, Gareth Bale's resurgent form has hauled Spurs back into top-four contention.

The Welshman had scored just one Premier League goal all season prior to February 28, but bagged four in two games against Burnley and Crystal Palace either side of a hard-fought win at Fulham for Jose Mourinho's men.

Still five points adrift of Chelsea, albeit with a game in hand, Tottenham can ill afford many more slip ups if they are not to rely on cup glory to salvage Mourinho's first full season in charge.

With Bale now up to speed, he has formed a fearsome front three with Harry Kane and Son Heung-min that make Tottenham favourites to extend a five-game unbeaten run in north London derbies at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

Reborn Moyes back at Old Trafford Manchester United snapped Manchester City's winning streak at 21 games last weekend but with a 14-point gap still separating the top

two, the immediate target for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men is just to secure second place.

United have a six-point lead over fifth-placed West Ham, but the Hammers have a game in hand and can halve that deficit at Old Trafford on Sunday.

David Moyes lasted just 10 months as United manager as Alex Ferguson's successor.

But after further unhappy spells at Real Sociedad and Sunderland, the Scot has led West Ham to mount an unexpected top-four challenge.

Only City have won more points in 2021 than Moyes' men.

"I can't promise anything but we will do our best to go there and get a result, that's for sure," said Moyes of visiting his old club.

Moyes will be without one of his key performers in recent weeks, though, as Jesse Lingard is ineligible as he is on loan from United.

City test for flying Fulham

Fulham's fine form has Brighton, Newcastle and Burnley nervously

looking over their shoulders.

Scott Parker's men secured a famous 1-0 win away to Liverpool last weekend and have lost just once in their last seven games.

Fulham's revival will be put to the test when Manchester City travel to Craven Cottage on Saturday, which could give the other strugglers a chance to gain some breathing space.

Brighton host a Southampton side that have won just once in their last 11 games, while Newcastle face Aston Villa, who will again be without talismanic captain Jack Grealish.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today

Leeds v Chelsea (1230), Crystal Palace v West Brom (1500), Everton v Burnley (1730), Fulham v Manchester City (2000)

Tomorrow

Southampton v Brighton (1200), Leicester v Sheffield United (1400), Arsenal v Tottenham (1630), Manchester United v West Ham (1915)

Monday

Wolves v Liverpool (2000)

Diallo a bright spot but Man United must improve to advance in Europa League

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

IN a week that has seen a sharp focus on how Manchester United buy their players, it looks like they have pulled off a coup in signing Amad Diallo.

A day after the club appointed John Murtough as football director and Darren Fletcher as technical director in part to help with recruitment at Old Trafford, the 18-year-old stepped off the bench to score an outrageous goal as United drew 1-1 with AC Milan in the Europa League.

It was just Diallo's third appearance after arriving from Atalanta in January but the confidence with which he flicked the ball over Milan goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma with his head suggested he is quite at home at this level.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has been easing him in gently but it may not be possible for much longer. A Premier League debut cannot be too far away, particularly if the ankle injury which ruled out Marcus Rashford does not improve soon. Anthony Martial has also been added to the injury list after limping off here with a hip problem.

It was a shame for Diallo that his big night was spoiled by Simon Kjaer's equaliser in stoppage time but Solskjaer had to accept afterwards it was deserved. "We were a long way off," he said.

"Possession wise it was 50-50 but we were a bit too slow with the possession. It's sometimes hard on the back of a game like we had [against Manchester City] but that's the learning that we have to get into ourselves

and we have to perform every single week because we are playing against good teams and these are definitely a good team.

"Very disappointed to concede with one of the last kicks of the game but probably a draw is a fair result."

Solskjaer wasn't banking on needing Diallo at half-time but United were so poor in the first 45 minutes, it was no surprise to see the teenager warming up at the break.

United's first half was summed up by Harry Maguire. First, he was hit in the head by Alex Telles' goal-bound free kick and then a minute later somehow managed to hit the post from six inches when it was easier to turn Telles' corner into the net at the back post. The look of disbelief on Maguire's face was proof of exactly how bad a miss it was but it could also have been the look on Solskjaer's face as he stood in the dressing room at half-time trying to explain a first half which Milan dominated.

Franck Kessie had the ball in the net twice in the opening 10 minutes only for the first to be disallowed by the linesman's flag, and VAR to rule he had handled in the build-up to the second. United were fortunate to go in at the break level.

Diallo's moment of magic looked to have won it before Kjaer's header in the second minute of injury time. If United want to win this competition, they have work to do in the San Siro next week. Diallo, who could end up costing £37 million if a series of bonus clauses are met, has already made a case to start that game.

Even with Bruno Fernandes, Mason Greenwood, and Martial all starting, United struggled to create many clear chances and it was Milan who ended the game having had more shots and shots on target, even without strikers Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Mario Mandzukic. For Solskjaer, there were few other highlights apart from Diallo's encouraging cameo.

"He is creative and he plays with freedom," said Solskjaer.

"It was a great pass from Bruno, that is what makes the goal. Amad has still got loads to learn but he will be better off after the goal."

After conceding so late, United are left banking on their fine away form to bail them out of trouble in Italy. Another moment of inspiration from an unexpected source would help.

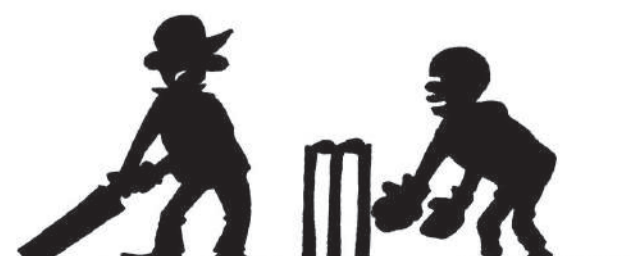
"It makes it harder but we have to go and score goals and win the game and that probably will suit us," said Solskjaer.

"We are a team that's better when we go forward. Of course, we fancy our chances. We've been exciting and efficient away from home, particularly against [Real] Sociedad [in the last round]."

"That's a template on how we want to play. We have to score one or two but we fancy our chances."

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Top-four, relegation battles now take centre stage as Man City close on title

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga now close in on Serbian coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA have singled out Kenya soccer outfit AFC Leopards' former tactician, Nikola Kavazovic, as the best choice to replace Burundian tactician, Cedric Kaze.

Tanzania soccer giants, Yanga, are closing in on roping in Kavazovic.

The 45-year-old tactician is among the favourites mentioned by the club's technical committee to replace Kaze, who was fired alongside the entire technical bench last Sunday.

The Burundian coach was shown the exit door after the team had settled for 1-1 draw with Polisi Tanzania in a Vodacom Premier League clash.

The draw came after the team had suffered their first defeat of the season, a 2-1 loss to Coastal Union in Tanga three days earlier.

According to a source in Yanga, Kavazovic, who has coached a number of clubs in Africa including AFC Leopards and Botswana's Township Rollers, has been picked as the coach to take over the vacant role in the side and he will arrive in Dar es Salaam soon to start work.

"At least 45 coaches handed in CVs to replace Kaze and I can confirm the technical committee met on Wednesday night to check out the CVs and they have already zeroed in on Kavazovic to come on board," the source, who did not want to be mentioned, told The Guardian on Friday.

He stated: "The committee was impressed by the CV of the Serbian coach and what also impressed them more is because he has already handled teams in Africa and they feel he will have no problem settling in when he arrives at Yanga."



Nikola Kavazovic

"I just want to tell you, he is the one leading the race, his name has also been forwarded to the club's bosses so they can start planning his travel schedule and they want to use the international break to sort out the coaching problem at the club."

Kavazovic started his coaching career in 1996 with BASK Belgrade. Besides BASK, he also worked as a youth and senior coach at BSK, Zarkovo, Borac, and Resnik.

Ahead of the 2017/18 season, he was appointed as the new manager of Township Rollers in Botswana, and in the first season in Africa, Kavazovic won a double, the Botswana Premier League title and Mascom Top 8 Cup competition's top honour.

Besides the local achievements under Kavazovic, Township Rollers became the first-ever club from Botswana to reach the group stage of CAF Champions League and ironically, he achieved the feat against Yanga after they beat them 2-1 on aggregate, winning the first leg 2-1 in Dar es Salaam and drew 0-0 in Botswana.

Township Rollers were drawn in Group A with Egypt's Al-Ahly, Esperance de Tunis of Tunisia, and KCCA FC (Uganda) but Kavazovic resigned after his first game, a 1-0 victory over KCCA FC.

The tactician then headed to Kenya and he signed to handle AFC Leopards for the 2018/19 season but he left the FKF Premier League outfit a day before the season started, claiming he was heading back home to take care of a relative who was 'unwell' and never returned, only to resurface at South African club Free State Stars weeks later.

The 45-year-old left South Africa at the end of that season and rejoined Township Rollers in November 2020.

Taifa Stars to take on Harambee Stars in international friendlies



Tanzania's senior national football side 'Taifa Stars' assistant coach, Juma Mgunda (C), speaks to the side's players (not in the picture) at a recent training, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Looking on are (L) Taifa Stars' manager, Nadir Haroub, and the squad's keepers' coach, Salehe Ahmed. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S senior national football side 'Taifa Stars' is expected to leave today for Kenya ready for two friendly matches against the country's se-

nior national team 'Harambee Stars'.

Taifa Stars held their final practice yesterday morning at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam before traveling to Kenya today afternoon.

Speaking after the training, Taifa Stars head coach Kim Poulsen explained how the trip will be prepared for the team as a whole towards the

matches. "We will take off tomorrow afternoon by plane and when we get to Nairobi Kenya we will set up camp and rest a bit and then continue training in

the evening," he noted.

He disclosed: "We will leave with all these players as you saw today (22), also Himid Mao who has arrived in the country this morning."

"The other Simba players who have not reported to the camp will come directly to Kenya to join the team for the upcoming matches," he disclosed.

The two matches are friendlies bringing together the two nations and the first match will be played on March 15 while the second one is expected to be played on March 18.

According to coach Poulsen, all of this is aiming at seeing to it Taifa Stars go for better preparation for the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers.

Taifa Stars will confront Equatorial Guinea in Malabo on March 25 and Libya in Dar es Salaam on March 26.

The 22 players who took part in training yesterday are Juma Kasheja, Metacha Mnata, Kelvin Yondani, Nickson Kibabage, Israel Mwenda, Yassin Mustapha, Dickson Job, Hassan Kessy, Edward Manyama, Salum and Ayoub Lyanga.

Farid Mussa, Kelvin John, Deus Kaseke, Idd Selemani, Feisal Salum, Baraka Majogoro, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Meshack Abraham, Laurent Alfred, Nassor Saadun and Abdul Selemani also made the list.

All set for 2021 Kazim Nasser Memorial Division A tourney

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S cricket big guns, Aga Khan SC, will today be out to maintain their stranglehold in cricket domestically, in which the squad will lock horns with Gymkhana Cricket Club in one of this season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A opening day fixtures at Anandil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam.

Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) organizes the annual tournament under the auspices of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) with a view to boosting the game's promotion in the country.

The day's other fixtures will see Pak Stars take on Upanga SC, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Sports Centre (SKLSPSC) face Caravans.

Aga Khan SC is an outfit boasting of a glorious history in domestic cricket.

Upanga SC is another outfit which is also deemed as a successful team in the sport in the country that had been out of action for about four to five years.

The club has this season returned to action, seeking to reclaim its glory.

With the return of veteran player, Virendra Kamania, who chose to get out of retirement and take charge of the proceedings at Upanga SC, an exciting future certainly beckons for the outfit.

Kamania is a team leader that has played at the highest level of cricket for Tanzania

in his prime.

"When he returned, we all knew he at his age may not be as effective but, in a recent event which had the all-rounder taking part in, he showed his class," DC Chairman, Azim Thakur, stated.

Upanga SC moreover boasts of some outstanding players including Vikram Rathore who is an aggressive opening batsman and a bowler.

He has participated in the game in decent semi-professional tournaments in India.

After a shot stint in the India competitions, he made his way back to Tanzania and he was somehow out of sorts performance-wise.

He, though, put his class in a T10 tournament, in which he single-handedly won the tournament for his team.

The DC official disclosed the Upanga SC performer is a bit out of form but, as it is said, class is permanent and form is temporary.

Thakur pointed out that cricket enthusiasts look forward to seeing Rathore showcase good cricket.

Kishen Kamania is Upanga SC skipper, assisted by Virendra, popularly known as 'Viru'.

The duo's role looks like a formidable management at the outfit.

In T20 tournaments, Upanga SC has two best finishers in Sanjay Bom, who has had the leverage of playing with quite a few India national team's



Aces Cricket Club's all-rounder, Waheed Mushtaq (L), is presented with man of the award by an official of Caravans Club's committee after one of the previous season's Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A showpiece fixtures, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Harab Motors Company sponsored the prize. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ACES CLUB

players, and Ashish Kamania. Bom, Thakur said, is a masterclass.

Ashish executes similar role for both senior national cricket team and his side.

The performer has a wealth of experience, given he played a lot for both club and senior national team.

With all the experience in the outfit the squad is expected to have an upper hand in this season's showpiece.

A new-look Pak Stars have their founder, Kashif Adnan, who is as well the club's player, back in action along with vice-captain, Basit Raza.

They have moreover roped in some class local cricketers in the likes of Zamoyoni Ramadan and Ivan Ismail.

Youthful Ismail has turned out to be one of the most explosive batsmen domestically recently.

He won the best batsman prize in this season's TCA Reliance T20 Super League.

Pak Stars further boast of young, talented wicket keeper-cum-batsman, Mohamed Kitunda, an up-and-coming left arm pace bowler, Abdulrahman Akida, and a senior cricketer with a lot of tricks up his sleeves, Humayun Taj.

Humayun can surprise the doubters with skillful displays with both bat and ball.

The team moreover are made up of the most passionate fighter in Maqsood Alam, who is also the current skipper.

Abdallah Jabir is yet another T20 tournament's specialist in the side.

Thakur noted: "The mentioned players, nevertheless, need to play to their potential, so we expect this game to be the biggest game in recent times and it is expected to be closely contested."

"We commend Harab Motors Company, Shamsu Pharmacy, Swepac Imports International and all other sponsors for putting their weight behind this tournament," he noted.

He disclosed: "We, futher, congratulate the DC management, which include officials Ashish Nagewadia and Adil Kassam, who have worked daily to get this competition ready."

"We also would like to congratulate the participants and we are looking forward to seeing people come in large numbers to enjoy the game of cricket."

He stated this season's KNML T20 Division A showdown is expected to be the most lively event across the country with full of fireworks.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

SO WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD THE MEETING, IN MY VIRTUAL OFFICE OR IN YOURS?

