



ELECTION



JAFU SETS STAGE FOR CIVIC POLLS PAGE 4

WATER



OFFICIALS ARRESTED OVER 3.6BN/- FRAUD PAGE 5

STUNTING



MILK DRINKING COMPETITION IN SCHOOLS PAGE 6

TOURISM



HOTELS IN PANGANI IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS OF LOCALS PAGE 7



Target infrastructure growth, social welfare balance - UNDP

TANZANIA aspires to become a prosperous, semi-industrialized middle income economy by 2025, which the UNDP executive said it is a peaceful country “which must capitalize on this situation to move forward.”

By Henry Mwangonde

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative and UN agencies coordinator in the country, Alvaro Rodriguez, whose tenure has ended yesterday opened up about his five-year stay in Tanzania, recounting strengths and areas of improvement.

Speaking to The Guardian in an interview in Dar es Salaam, Rodriguez said Tanzania is the only country he has stayed the longest in his 29 years at the UN and also worked under the leadership of former president Jakaya Kikwete. “Tanzania has a lot of potential. I am optimistic that it will achieve a lot because it is committed to support those left behind in development and people are active at demanding what they want,” he said.

Tanzania aspires to become a prosperous, semi-industrialized middle income economy by 2025, which the UNDP executive said it is a peaceful country “which must capitalize on this situation to move forward.”

However, for Tanzania to realize this dream there is need for scaling up and balancing infrastructural development and social development, that is, development of the people.

Major issues that preoccupied his mission in Tanzania were three, including facilitating and forming the five year circle on development assistance which has been aligned to the five year national development plan. Another area of concern was the Kigoma joint programme, an attempt by the UN and government to support refugees and people outside the camps.

“I think the process of industrialization and infrastructure which is very important must be balanced by equal attention to the social sector, and this is difficult to do when you have limited resources. It is a real challenge, but a proper



Anne Kabagambe (2nd-L), the World Bank's Executive Director for the Africa Region, is briefed in Dar es Salaam yesterday on progress in the implementation of Tanzania's Standard Gauge Railway project - in particular, as relates to the stretch running from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro. Photo: Ministry of Finance.

Kenyan nurse sentenced to life in jail in US for raping an elderly patient

TEXAS

A KENYAN man has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a US court for sexually assaulting a 74-year-old patient at a medical facility where he was working as a nurse.

Anthony Mamboleo Nyakeo, 53, was convicted Wednesday of two counts of aggravated sexual assault of an elderly or disabled person.

A Texas court handed him a life sentence on each account.

Nyakeo's victim was living at the Woodridge Health and Rehabilitation Center in Grapevine, Texas when the



A Texas court handed him a life sentence on each account.

crime occurred in January 2018. She died late last year aged 75.

Evidence filed in court showed that the sexual assault was discovered after other nurses working at the facility found blood in the underwear of the victim.

“An exam found evidence of vaginal tearing consistent with sexual abuse and staff collected DNA that was eventually used to tie Nyakeo to the assault,” Fox News reported.

After the discovery of the blood, all male staff at the facility at the time the

TURN TO PAGE 2

TBA evicting defaulting tenants to recoup 20bn/-

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE crackdown to evict defaulting tenants including MPs and senior government officials which started in Dodoma on Wednesday will now extend to other regions as it emerged that the debt stands at a whopping 20bn/-.

Responding to a query raised by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Infrastructure yesterday, the



Apart from holders of political leaders, other debtors include government institutions and civil servants in ministerial departments and agencies.

Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Isack Kamwelwe said the crackdown executed by the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) was sanctioned at the ministerial level.

Apart from political leaders, debtors include government institutions and civil servants in ministerial departments

TURN TO PAGE 2



He said the most interesting thing during his five years in the country was the change of government after the General Election in 2015 which to him ushered in new ways of doing business.

balance between software and hardware is necessary by investments in people,” he said.

“It is vital for people to be active participants in development rather than being passive recipients of government actions or donor activities because hearing people generates constructive ideas,” the outgoing UN executive underlined.

He said with the fast changes in global affairs, there are many challenges at global level rang-

TURN TO PAGE 2

China will stick with Tanzania in time of need, says envoy

By Aisia Rweyemamu

CHINA'S ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, yesterday said that China cannot decline requests by Tanzania for development assistance in areas it is capable of helping, thanks to friendly relations since the early 1960s.

Speaking during the launch of solar-powered automatic street lights at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) that the embassy financed,



Wang said her country cherishes the cordial relations with Tanzania and has always been ready to support Tanzania without strings attached.

The two countries established bilateral relations in 1964. China which accepted to construct the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) in the 1970s after the World Bank turned down the project “stood out from the crowd as a true friend of Tanzania and Africa.”

“We are always glad to assist Tanzania so as

to continue friendly bilateral relations. That is why I accepted the request to put up street lights which will improve security for students as well as staff,” she said.

The 35 lights that sense light or darkness to go on and off automatically have been erected along key roads linking lecture halls, halls of residence and the new library. The request to finance the project was extended to the

TURN TO PAGE 2



TBA evicting defaulting tenants to recoup 20bn/-

FROM PAGE 1

and agencies. "The ministry has decided to embark on evictions because unpaid rent now stands at over 20bn/- . If we don't take action, the agency will fail to undertake its functions and finally collapse," he asserted.

The committee sought to know the position of the government regarding evictions being undertaken by TBA as it falls under Kamwele's docket.

The crackdown will be carried out in accordance with the law, as only defaulters will be kicked out, he stated.

Speaking to reporters during the start of the operation, acting TBA Manager for Dodoma Region said debtors, including serving and retired public officials, owed the agency 1.5bn/- in the region alone.

In the financial year 2018/19, TBA collected 19bn/- and projects to collect a massive sum of 114bn/- in the 2019/20 fiscal year, the minister intoned.

Parliamentary committee chairman Selemani Kakoso (Mpanda Rural-CCM) said the ministry and TBA were tough in collecting rent without improving the quality of government buildings.

He also recommended that the government considers giving TBA an emergency fund to complete some of its installed projects.

In March this year, President John Magufuli ordered the Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) to take over the Ukonga Prison Housing project after failure by the TBA to complete it on time.

President Magufuli gave the order after he made a surprise visit to the prison wardens housing project.

Clearly disappointed, the president inquired from TBA officials present on site why there was not much progress in the project.

"I do not want to see any TBA personnel here, nor any Prisons Department official. Let the army take over the project to its completion," he ordered, affirming also that he would seek a report on how the Sh10 billion that the government released for the project was spent.

Giving a report on the building sector earlier, Deputy Minister Elias Kwandikwa said compensation for people whose land is being taken over for construction of various infrastructure projects was going on well.

"We have already received 5.7bn/- to be used in compensating those vacating land to pave way for Msalato International Airport here in Dodoma," he pointed out.

Target infrastructure growth, social welfare balance - UNDP

FROM PAGE 1

ing from conflicts to hunger which will affect achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the next ten years.

He said the most interesting thing during his five years in

the country was the change of government after the General Election in 2015 which to him ushered in new ways of doing business.

"As you all know the fifth phase government has been very aggressive on infrastructure development, fighting

corruption and extending free education so adapting to a changing national complex is a tricky balance for the UN. At the end of the day we should adhere to the role of assisting sovereign nations as required by the UN," he asserted.

On Tanzania and his new roles

in Turkey, Rodriguez said he has been deeply engaged with the people of Tanzania hence it was upsetting for him to leave.

He said he was moving to a country with similar characteristics as Tanzania in hosting large numbers of refugees and having plenty of

natural resources.

"The people first and foremost and the food namely mango berries, roasted corn, dagaa from Lake Tanganyika, and my local brew mbege in Kilimanjaro," he said of what he would miss most.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein addresses Isles Labour, Empowerment, Elderly, Women and Children ministry employees yesterday on the implementation of strategic goals as appear in the July 2018-June 2019 and 2019-2020 work plans. The meeting was held at Zanzibar State House. Photo courtesy of Zanzibar State House

Russia forgives most of Mozambique's debt

MAPUTO

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi announced on Tuesday in Moscow that Russia has forgiven 95 per cent of Mozambique's debt to the Russian Federation.

Nyusi, who is on a working visit to Russia, made this announcement at a Forum with Russian and Mozambican business people, but did not give an exact figure for the amount of debt pardoned.

Nyusi invited Russian businesses to invest in Mozambique, pointing to the potential the country has in agriculture and livestock, and tourism as well as in minerals and hydrocarbons.

Cited by the Maputo daily "Noticias", Nyusi said "Our challenge is to make our agriculture ever stronger".

He said that trade between Mozambique and Russia increased by 25 per cent between 2017 and 2018, and he regarded this as positive given the long period of stagnation in commercial relations between the two companies.

There were longstanding political and military ties, dating back to the days of the Soviet Union, and Nyusi wanted to see these transformed into gains for the economy.

During the Forum, Russian businesses said they would do all in their power to reactivate trade not only with Mozambique but with the entire African continent. A step in this direction would be the Russia-Africa Forum scheduled for October in the city of Sochi.

The Russian Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday signed

a Memorandum of Understanding with the Confederation of Mozambican Business Associations (CTA) intended to speed up the procedures necessary for setting up investment partnerships.

Prior to the Forum, Nyusi met with the Mozambican businessmen accompanying him, and urged them to go beyond the official forum and prioritise face-to-face contacts to get to know their Russian counterparts better.

One of the Mozambican businessmen, Fernando Couto sounded a note of caution, pointing out that Russia is under sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union because of its annexation of the Crimea, which is part of Ukraine.

"We don't yet know what effect our relations with Russian

businesses will have", he said, pointing out that it is very easy to be out on a Western black list, and very hard to come off it.

Nyusi gave no specific response to this concern, but said Russia is expecting to step up its cooperation with Africa in various fields, and the planned forum in Sochi is an example of this. He said that, in the recent summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Tanzania, he had found that the other SADC member states are also enthusiastic about the Sochi Forum.

On Wednesday, Nyusi met with representatives of the Russian bank Gazprombank, which has specialised in financing oil and gas projects. At the end of the meeting, according to a report in the independent daily "O

Pais", the vice president of the bank, Marc Partridge, said Nyusi had expressed an interest in Gazprombank contributing to the financing of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Area One of the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

The LNG project is being developed by a consortium headed by the US company Anadarko, and involves total investment of about 25 billion US dollars.

Partridge also said that Gazprombank is in "intensive negotiations" with Mozambique's National Hydrocarbon Company (ENH) in order to lend it the two billion dollars it needs to finance its share in Area One.

AGENCIES

Kenyan nurse sentenced to life in jail in US for raping an elderly patient

FROM PAGE 1

suspected sexual assault took place were asked to undergo a DNA test. The Tarrant County District Attorney's office told the court that Nyakeo's DNA sample "matched the sample recovered from the woman during her sexual assault exam."

The court was also told that the Kenyan nurse, who immigrated to the US, raped the elderly woman despite knowing that she could not resist or consent to his sexual advances because of her medical condition.

"She could not speak, feed herself or use the bathroom on her own as she wore a diaper and relied on staff. We are an ageing community and we each deserve the peace of mind of knowing we will be treated with dignity when such time comes," Jordan Rolfe, the lead prosecutor told the court.

"The defendant violated that right, and the jury demonstrated with their sentence this kind of abuse against the vulnerable will not be tolerated here," he added.

In his defence, Nyakeo denied sexually assaulting the elderly woman. He claimed that someone took his DNA from a used condom and planted it on the victim's body. His colleague however, who testified against him, said he had told his friends to lie to the court during the trial.

In addition prosecutors also said in court documents that Nyakeo had also sexually harassed his colleagues and that he attempted to leave Texas during the investigation.

China to stick with Tanzania in time of need, says envoy

FROM PAGE 1

embassy by UDSM former lecturer Dr Bashiru Ally, who is currently secretary general of the ruling CCM.

Speaking at the event, Dr Bashiru said that China's assistance at the university is part of advancing the African continent's liberation in the area of knowledge.

"The doors are open for anyone who wants to help us, but should not put any conditions," he declared.

Speaking before launching the street lights along Chief Kunambi Road, he thanked China for the donation, noting that Tanzania will continue to strengthen exiting bilateral relation between the two countries.

He said the lights will improve security at the university.

The new modern library at the university which was funded and constructed by China is another testimony of China's commitment toward assisting Tanzania in achieving its development goals.

Earlier in introductory remarks, UDSM Vice Chancellor Professor William Anangisy explained that the Chief Kunambi Road is the popular road used by students and staff than all other roads at the university.

The installed lights have a capacity for 8000 lumens and can last for 50,000hours without needing to be replaced, he elaborated.

The project worth 49,330 USD (113.4m/-) was conducted in the past two months, the VC added.



Muhimbili National Hospital managing director Prof Lawrence Museru (R) receives 5m/- from advocate Albert Msando in Dar es Salaam yesterday in payment for medical bills in respect of Sabina Kitwae Loita. President John Magufuli promised to pay the amount when he visited the hospital recently to console the woman, who has since succumbed to her injuries, and other people hurt in the Morogoro oil tanker blaze earlier this month. The money is a donation from members of the public. Photo: John Stephen of MNH.

Government to set up emergency centre in Dodoma for disaster preparedness, says PS

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is to establish communication and emergency centre in the capital city Dodoma to save lives in case of disasters such as the oil tanker explosion which killed at least 100 people in Morogoro Region this month.

Permanent Secretary, in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Investment) Dr Dorothy Mwaluko said that yesterday in Dar es Salaam after receiving 8m/- from the Chinese community in the country to support casualties injured in the oil tanker explosion august 10 this year in Morogoro Region.

She said the centre will strengthening communication among stakeholders and reducing delays when accidents happen across the country.

Furthermore, PC said the centre will enable all stakeholders to take action on time when similar accidents happen and on so doing according to her, will reduce impacts.

"Delaying and lack of communication is among the factors that led to deaths of more casualties in the recent accidents. If there was up to date communication, the number of people dying could be minimal," she said.

Dr Mwaluko thanked the Chinese community living in the country for their humanitarians support to support the casualties who are still getting treatment in Morogoro and at Muhimbili National Hospital.

"The support shows the true friendship between the two countries. You are really a good friend in indeed and in need," she said.

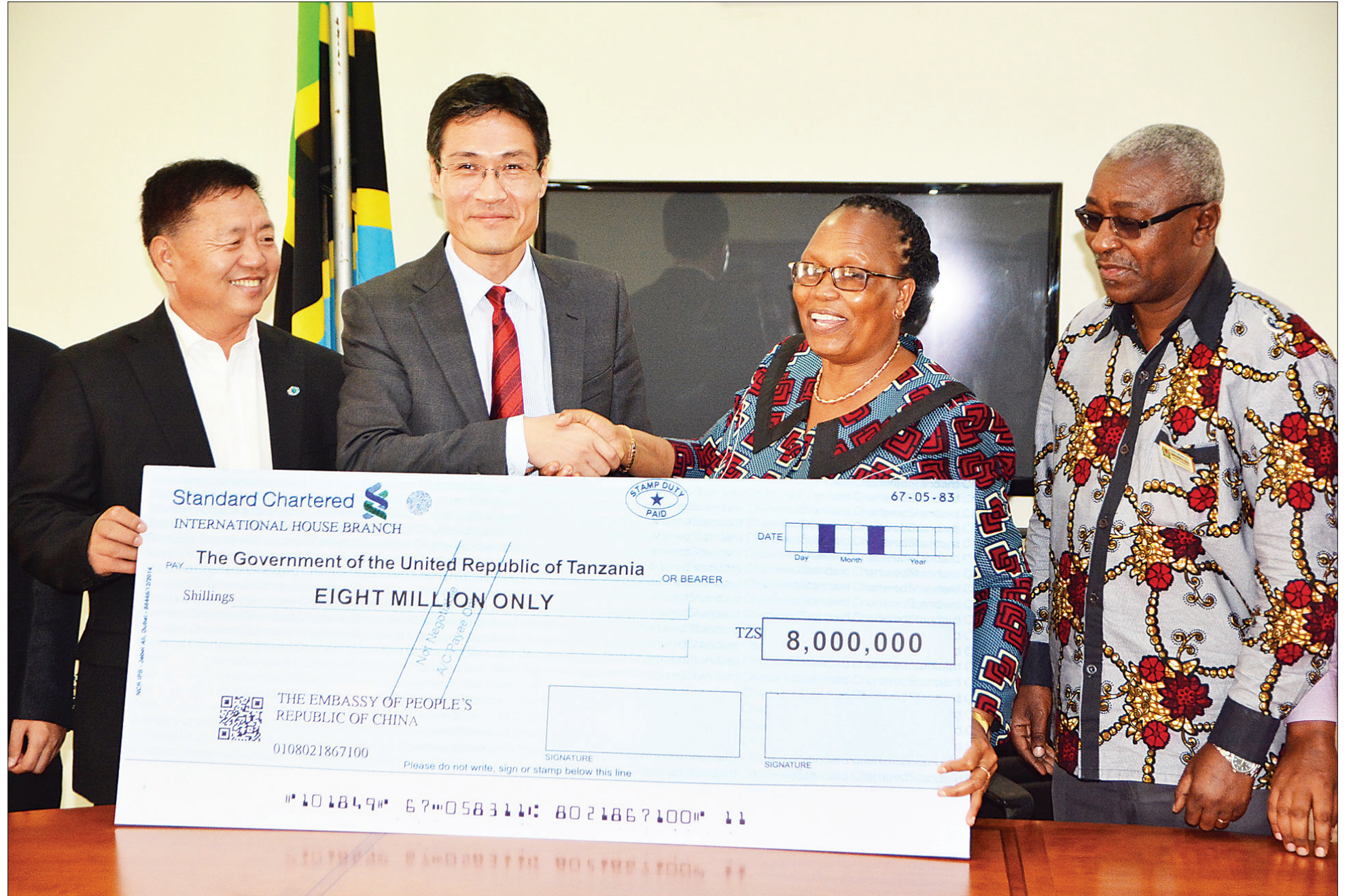
PS said increased awareness about disasters and impacts are highly needed adding that the community should know the pros and cons of living near risky areas such as doing businesses along the high ways.

According to her, the number of deaths by today (yesterday) had reached 101 while in Morogoro hospital there are still 14 persons nursing injuries and MNH had 17 survivors still admitted for treatment.

For his part, the Minister Counselor at the Chinese embassy in Tanzania Xu Chen said that the donation meant to support the government of Tanzania to help people injured and the family members of the deceased during the oil tanker explosion in Morogoro region on august 10 this year.

Chen noted that when accident happened president Xi Jinping of China send a heartfelt condolence messages to his counterpart, President John Magufuli.

He said the support was from the Chinese embassy in the country, construction companies and the Chinese business community living in the country.



Dorothy Mwaluko (2nd-R), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination and Investment), receives a dummy cheque for 8m/- in Dar es Salaam yesterday from Chinese Embassy Minister Counsellor Xu Chen to help in the treatment of people injured in Morogoro municipality's recent fuel tanker fire who are admitted to Muhimbili National Hospital. With them are Emergency and Disaster Services Coordinator Dr Christopher Mnzara (R) and the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania, Zhu Jin Feng. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

"China and Tanzania are real good friends. To show our solidarity, we are today (yesterday) present our donation to the government of Tanzania following the death of 101 people in the oil tanker explosion," he said.

"We hope all injured people remained in Morogoro referral hospital and Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) will get well soon

and go back home," he said.

On August 10, this year, it was reported that an oil tanker exploded on a busy road in Tanzania, killing more than 60 people and injuring 70. The fuel tanker burst into flames in the Morogoro.

An eyewitness said the truck was attempting to avoid a motorcyclist near Msamvu bus station, causing it to lose con-

trol and overturned.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa confirmed that 62 people were killed.

The bus station along the busy road in Morogoro, 109 miles west of Dar es Salaam, is a major hub for motorcyclists, who were among most of the dead with most bodies burnt beyond recognition.

Morogoro regional Commissioner Kibwe Stephene said that the area became crowded when many people rushed to get buckets to collect the fuel after someone noticed the tanker's cargo was leaking.

More than 150 people were at the scene when the truck exploded about 20 minutes later. Photos from the scene show flames and thick black smoke from the wreckage

Hope as three fire victims leave ICU, more doing well

By Henry Mwangonde

THREE out of 14 victims of the oil tanker explosion in Morogoro a fortnight ago who were admitted to the Muhimbili National Hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) have been shifted to regular wards after showing improvement.

The hospital's spokesman Aminiel Eligaesha told reporters in Dar es Salaam that out the 15 patients who are in the hospital, one died early yesterday but the others are doing well with only 11 remaining in the ICU.

According to Eligaesha even those in the ICU, few are showing some improve-

ment and that soon they may be transferred to regular wards. "There is hope that they may survive because we have seen some improvement in recent days despite losing one out the 15 who were in the ICU," he said.

Last week, MNH explained why there was low rate of survivors, saying they suffered severe burns of between 70 to 100 per cent, which made efforts to save lives a matter of chance.

Dr Edwin Mrema a plastic surgeon at the facility said the victims inhaled toxic fumes from the blast and had their internal organs badly damaged, Dr Mrema noting that even area residents who tried to help covered the victims, which exacerbated their injuries.

The surgeon stated that given the lack of proper first aid after the explosion, those who were rushed to the facility 200 kilometres away arrived in a critical condition.

Victims were mainly from those who were trying to collect leaking petrol from an overturned fuel tanker but it later exploded.

Witnesses said the tanker tipped over as it tried to avoid a motorcycle, and locals quickly converged on the scene to collect fuel. The explosion was triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel, police officials asserted.

Many of the victims were motorbike taxi drivers who rushed to the scene to try to siphon off leaking petrol. A video posted on social media taken before the explosion showed dozens of people carrying yellow jerry cans around the tanker.

The blast, which took place Saturday August 10 is the latest in a series of similar disasters in Africa and at least the third this year.

International migration organisation sets up vocational training in Gambia in an effort to make youth stay home

Banjul

The lack of access to employment opportunities among Gambian youth is widely cited as a major contributing factor to irregular migration.

According to the 2018 Gambia Labour Force Survey, 95 per cent of Gambian irregular migrants surveyed cited "lack of work" as their primary reason for migrating.

In response to this, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has launched a vocational training programme aimed at equipping Gambian youth with the skills they need to engage meaningfully in entrepreneurial ventures or seek employment.

"If I equip myself with skills in information technology, I can open my own company and employ

Gambians. There would be no need for me to consider the backway (irregular migration)," said trainee Sidia Hydera.

The programme was designed after a baseline assessment meant to identify market gaps, demands and opportunities in the West Coast and Upper River regions - which represent the first and third highest, respectively, origin of Gambian migrants.

While laptops and satellites are more widely used in the peri-urban West Coast Region, the demand for mobile phone repairs and solar panels was higher in the Upper River Region.

Sidia joins a total of 100 youth who will participate in four separate vocational training courses at the Gambia Telecommunications and Multimedia Institute (GTMI):

satellite installation and laptop repairs in the West Coast Region; and solar panel installation and mobile phone repairs in the Upper River Region.

Lasting six to 12 weeks each, the courses will see 50 young men and 50 young women learn both technical and entrepreneurial skills, including business administration, financial management and customer service.

After completing their courses, each of the students will receive a toolbox to enhance their ability to engage in income-generating activities.

In addition, with support from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), IOM will establish a revolving micro-credit fund which the students who develop viable business proposals after the

training will have the opportunity to access.

"Many youths embark on irregular migration journeys because they have no hope. They can't find employment," said Malick Bah, GTMI Director, adding: "With an increasingly digitised Gambia and with training opportunities like this, there is renewed hope."

"Since 2017, IOM has assisted in the voluntary return and reintegration of over 4,000 stranded Gambians," says Fumiko Nagano, IOM Chief of Mission in The Gambia.

"We recognize that many youths without economic opportunities are still tempted to engage in irregular migration. So, the launch of this inaugural vocational training is aimed at addressing the root causes of irregular migration," added Nagano.

Population Council

Call for Proposals

USAID Tulonge Afya Midterm Performance Evaluation

The Population Council is an international, nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve the well-being and reproductive health of current and future generations around the world and to help achieve a humane, equitable, and sustainable balance between people and resources. Headquartered in New York City, USA, the Population Council conducts research in over 50 countries around the world.

Objective of the study: With support from USAID/Tanzania, and under its global Breakthrough-Research Project, the Population Council has been asked by USAID/Tanzania to conduct a midterm performance evaluation of the Tulonge Afya program. The proposed evaluation aims to rapidly generate evidence of Tulonge Afya's effectiveness to date, which will inform recommendations to enhance the impact of activities as the project enters its remaining two years.

Potential research sites: The study will be conducted in six districts from two of the three zones of Tanzania where Tulonge Afya is being implemented - North/Central and Lake/Western Zones. Three districts will be selected from each of the two zones, for a total of six selected districts.

Data collection methods: Key suggested methodologies include (but are not limited to): Key informant interviews, in-depth interviews, focused group discussions, and structured observations.

Applicants are requested to submit a technical proposal and a financial proposal for this qualitative study. The technical proposal should be no longer than 10 pages including budget and budget narrative and be responsive to the research objectives described above. The applicant is expected to articulate any necessary assumptions made in conceptualizing this research proposal. Applicants are encouraged to apply innovative methodologies while remaining cognizant to study scope and budget constraints.

Proposals will be evaluated based on responsiveness to the RFP and quality of the response. All proposals will be first evaluated on whether they sufficiently responded to the RFP in form and content. Proposals deemed sufficient and complete will be evaluated on data collection and management methods, organizational capacity and cost effectiveness.

Applicant institutions are invited to request the call for proposal document from rndeona@popcouncil.org. Final application package consisting of a technical proposal and a financial proposal must be submitted to Population Council by email before 5 PM Tanzania East African Time, on Friday, August 30, 2019.

Applicants are expected to review, understand and comply with all aspects of the request for proposals. Failure to do so will be at the applicant's risk. This call for proposals does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Population Council, nor does it commit the Council to pay for any costs incurred in the submission of the proposal. The Council reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received and is not obligated to issue any award based on this call for applications.

Journalist held over alleged fake news is taken to Iringa

By Guardian Reporter

A journalist is being held by police in Dar es Salaam for allegedly publishing fake news about police abuse of suspects was yesterday morning taken to Iringa region where he filed the story.

Joseph Gandye works for Watetezi TV, a station established last year by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC).

THRDC issued a statement yesterday condemning Gandye's arrest and later Watetezi TV tweeted that he had been taken to Iringa in the morning.

Iringa is where he did a report earlier in August for Watetezi TV about alleged police maltreatment of suspects in custody.

THRDC said the police in Iringa had responded to the report with a warning that "issue false and misleading reports that aim at degrading the Tanzanian police force and the government as a whole" would not be tolerated.

"I have ordered the chief intelligence officer to follow up on people who are mis-

leading and reporting false information. Once they are caught legal action should be taken." THRDC quoted Juma Bwire, the regional police commander of Iringa, as saying.

Earlier this month, freelance investigative journalist Erick Kabendera was charged with money laundering, economic sabotage and organized crime at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's court.

Prosecution alleged that that in between 2015 and July 2019, at different places within Dar es Salaam, together with persons who were not in court, they led organized crime by providing assistance in the conduct of affairs of a criminal racket with intent to reap profit contrary to paragraph 4 (l) (c) and section 57 (1) and 60 (2) of the Economic and Organized Crime Control Act, 2002.

Kabendera was on Monday, July 29 taken away from his home at the Mbweni suburb by individuals who told the family that they were police officers, but family sources said they refused to show their identity cards.



Pupils of Dar es Salaam's Bongoyo Primary School preparing for their Standard Seven examinations study in the school's library, which was renovated recently with South Korean government support, as captured yesterday. Photo: Romana Mallya

Daily pill that halves heart attack, reduces stroke

PARIS

A CHEAP, once-a-day pill combining aspirin with drugs that lower blood pressure and cholesterol cuts cardiovascular disease as a whole by a third, and heart attacks by more than half, researchers said here yesterday.

In clinical trials, the so-called "polypill" was especially effective among people with no history of

cardiovascular disease, reducing the number of severe events by 40 per cent, the researchers reported in *The Lancet*, a medical journal.

For those with a history of heart problems and strokes, the drug combo was only half as effective compared to the control group, who received advice on healthy living but no drugs.

Among participants who took the pill as directed – at least 70 per

cent of the time – heart attack incidence declined by 57 per cent.

The polypill concept was first proposed more than 20 years ago as a simpler, cost-effective approach to treating cardiovascular disease, which often requires taking several medications.

Currently, patients are typically prescribed one or more drugs to lower blood pressure along with a statin, which holds lipids such as

fatty acids in check. Aspirin, an analgesic, has blood thinning properties.

"The more tablets people have to take, the less they comply in the long-term," noted Kausik Ray, a professor in public health and Imperial College London not involved in the study.

"For chronic diseases, this is a challenge as you are asking people to take multiple medications every

day for 30 or 40 years."

About a third of patients stop taking their meds as early as 90 days after a heart attack, according to earlier research.

But despite its obvious potential, the polypill had yet to be tested on a large number of people over a long period of time.

Scientists led by Reza Malekzadeh from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences recruited nearly

7,000 men and women, aged 50 to 75, living in rural Golestan, a province in Iran.

About one in 10 had previously had heart attacks, strokes or other cardiovascular episodes.

The participants were divided into two groups of roughly the same size. One was given "lifestyle advice" only, while the other also got a daily polypill from 2011 to 2013.

Doctors monitored compliance with the drug regimen, and then tallied the number of strokes and heart attacks across each cohort over the next five years.

Crucially, adherence was significantly higher with the all-in-one pill.

"Drugs do not work if they are not taken," noted Amitava Banerjee, a consultant cardiologist at University College London.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa addresses Rutamba ward residents during his one-day tour of Lindi Region yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Jafo sets stage for civic poll

MINISTER of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo has directed regional commissioners and administrative secretaries in the country to ensure the forthcoming civic elections are smoothly and peacefully conducted.

Jafo wanted the officials to adhere to the country's elections rules and regulations during the polls.

The minister made the appeal yesterday when he allayed fears of some opposition political parties assuring them that the 2019 elections will be free and fair.

"This year's election is go-

ing to be one of its kind as it is going to clear all the gaps and challenges occurred in the previous elections... this one has engaged all key stakeholders and political parties to ensure that it is free and fair," he said.

Jafo highlighted some of the positions to be contested in the forthcoming November elections for village/street chairpersons as well as street and village committee members.

"As per regulations, votes will be conducted by using special voter's papers which will be put in special boxes," he said.

He wanted all the candi-

dates to make sure that they meet all the required procedures and the election's rules and regulations in order to vie for the positions.

"As per the elections schedule, requests for supervising the elections will be submitted on August 27 to September 16 and they will wait for few days later for the names to be announced," he said.

The minister further outlined that the voter registration exercise will commence on October 15, where its inspection of the voters' list will be done on October 15 to 21.

He also announced that

the elections campaigns will officially begin on November 10. Earlier, the ministry's Permanent Secretary Joseph Nyamhanga said that all the preparations had completed except for elections equipment which will be cleared soon.

According to him, at least 12,319 villages, 4,264 streets and 64,384 suburbs will conduct the elections.

In June this year, the government said that it will spend 82.9bn/ in conducting the local government elections.

The deputy minister of state in the President's Office Regional Administra-

tion and Local Government (PO-RALG), Mwita Waitara said this in Parliament when responding to a question by Mtambile MP, Masoud Abdallah Salim (CUF) who sought to know how far the preparations for the elections had gone.

Waitara said regulations for local government elections has been prepared and published in the government gazette (GN) of April 26, 2019.

"The government has verified areas of administration, carried out trainings and meetings with election stakeholders. It is now in the process of procuring election equipment and 82.9bn/ will be spent for elections," he said.

TTB to lure more Asian tourists

By Getrude Mbago

THE Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has embarked on a programme aimed at promoting tourists attractions from Asian countries and the rest of the world.

Implemented in collaboration with Chinese-based marketing company Baidu, the project dubbed 'Wander Planet' involves the introduction of Baidu website which TTB and other tourism agencies will be using to market tourist attractions available in the country.

Speaking during the launch of the project in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the ambassador of Tanzania in China Mbelwa Kairuki said that the move will play a significant role in the country tourism growth as it will draw big number of tourists from the Asian continent.

According to him, Baidu website reigns supreme in the world of search engine marketing in China, so by using it, is an excellent way to tap into the market in China and neighbouring countries.

"Apart from that, we will be working closely with tourist agents and tour operators in the Asian agent...this will encourage and make the companies bring visitors in Tanzania," he added.

He said that right now the demand is very high as there are many Chinese who are very eager to visit in Tanzania to witness the available attractions in Tanzania.

"We have already conducted research in various areas of China and identified what Chinese need," he said, adding that majority of Chinese prefer to visit at Olduvai Gorge – one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world; it has proven invaluable in furthering understanding of early human evolution.

Richard Rugimbana, TTB board member said that most of the Chinese use Baidu website when seeking for travel information and assistance. "So by collaborating with this giant company, will enable us tap more visitors from Asia."

"When tourists come to Tanzania,

the country benefit a lot in terms of tax, foreign currency as well as employment, let's join our hands together by strengthening relation between Tanzania and China," he said.

For her part, Maria Lee, a lecturer from Communication University of China said "The project will discover the most magnificent and civilized travel destination in Tanzania and introduce the "earth civilization landscape" event from various dimensions such as culture, life, food and tourism," she noted.

She said that through channels, brand alliances, event marketing, topic marketing, event marketing and other ways, gain a single communication exposure of more than 200 million viewers across the globe.

Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner since 2012, contributing an average of \$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 per cent of all exchange earnings, according to the government data. It also contributes to more than 17 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creating more than 1.5 million jobs, 500,000 of which are direct, according to the government data.



Through channels, brand alliances, event marketing, topic marketing, event marketing and other ways, gain a single communication exposure of more than 200 million viewers across the globe

Mawenzi hospital in urgent need of staff

By Guardian Reporter

MAWENZI Referral hospital in Kilimanjaro Region is in dire need of 232 medical staff including specialists to enable it to improve provision of health services in the area.

According to the hospital's acting doctor in charge Josephine Rogath the hospital has a shortage of key specialists such as radiologists, pediatricians, gynecologists, ear and eyes as well as medical technicians.

Rogath made the appeal yesterday when the vice chairperson of the ruling party's women wing (UWT), Thuywaybah Kissasi visited the hospital's maternal and child health department.

According to her, currently the hospital has 449 staff which is 66 per

cent of the required needs, which is a very low number to enabling the hospital provide its services efficiently.

"We are in dire need of 14 specialists, 33 assistant nursing officers as well as 95 normal nurses...the hospital also lacks specialists in various departments including mortuary, and health attendants among others," she added.

She further said that the hospital lacks a wall something which threatens the safety of patients and workers.

"Most of the facility's buildings are disintegrating, so this is also a big challenge, we also have shortage of essential medical equipment like ultra sound machine, CT Scan, ultra sound machine), CT Scan,

electrocardiogram (ECG) machine as well as important equipment in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)," Rogath added.

For her part, UWT vice chair Kissasi wanted the staff to continue working hard despite the challenges.

She urged them to serve the public diligently while the government and stakeholders work to address the challenges facing them.

"My appeal to the general public is for all of them to continue support president John Magufuli's efforts to improve the country's health sector... the government is well determined to make sure that all the challenges facing the sector are addressed for better provision of quality services," she said.



Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania director Anna Kulaya speaks at a Women and Leadership seminar held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The theme was 'Towards inclusive leadership for gender equality and sustainable development'. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Kenyan brewery owners in court over tax evasion

NAIROBI

OWNERS of alcohol brewing giant Keroche Industries Ltd were yesterday released on cash bail after denying 10 counts relating to tax fraud.

A Nairobi court ordered Keroche CEO Tabitha Karanja to pay KSh10 million cash bail and her husband Joseph, who is the chairman of the beer company, KSh5 million.

Milimani Chief Magistrate Francis Andayi ordered them to deposit KSh15 million in seven days failure to which directors apart from the chairman will be arrested.

In his ruling, Andayi granted Karanja different bond terms because he is a senior citizen.

The prosecution through Alexander Muteti and Catherine Mwaniki were not opposed to the suspects release on bond but they wanted the magistrate to direct them to deposit their passports in court.

The defendants' lawyer James Orenge opposed the request arguing that his clients cannot flee the country because they have invested heavily in Naivasha.

He added that the prosecution had not showed any evidence that the suspects will not abide by the bond terms.

The case will be mentioned on September 2.

Director of Public Prosecutions Noordin Haji Wednesday ordered their arrest and arraignment to answer to charges of tax fraud committed between January 2015 and June 2019.

Karanja accused the taxman of selective and unfair targeting, arguing that she has always followed the law and was shocked to be accused of tax evasion when the matters were still under a tax tribunal.

"There is nowhere in the world where you can build a business having complied all through and still be subjected to such embarrassment and intimidation," Karanja said.

"We are deeply shocked by both the allegations and the manner in which the matter has been handled. My shock is how a local investor can be humiliated, embarrassed and denied well-deserved respect," said Karanja.

Deputy minister orders the arrest of officials over misuse of 3.6bn/-

By Guardian

Reporter, Arusha

THE deputy Minister for Water and Irrigation Jumaa Aweso has ordered for the arrest of four officials for the 3.6bn/- Mwakilenga water project in Arumeru district in Arusha over fund misuse allegations.

Those arrested include the accountant for the project Waliaranga Kisetu, the Chairman Goodhope Nnko, Manager Onest Kyori and Ndelelo Kaaya who is the assistant technical operator.

The deputy minister made the decision after listening to residents of King'ori and Malula on the distribution of water in the area where they told him on the misuse. The officials failed to answer some key questions which were asked by the minister.

"You have failed to administer the distribution of water, and there is a leadership crisis, in your own grading system you have decided to give some people water and not others

I cannot withstand this," he said.

He said when he reaches the ministry, he will send auditors to find out the real value of the missing money and equipment. He said the government can't sit and watch few individuals distribute water on the basis of tribalism.

He directed the board of the project to have a representation of all the villages to ensure a fair participation in decisions to distribute water.

In his remarks, the District Commissioner for Arumeru Jerry Murro requested the minister to dissolve the board so that all the villages can get water. In December last year, President John Magufuli laid the foundation stone for a Sh520 billion project that will see the construction of 56 wells for clean water that will also ensure conservation of the environment in Arusha Region.

It was expected that once completed, the multibillion shilling project was to reduce water loss in the fast-expanding Arusha city to 25 per cent from the current 40 per cent.



RFQ Number	07-19-0003
Requested Services	IRS site refurbishment in 6 districts: Biharamulo, Bukombe, Kakonko, Kasulu, Kibondo and Ukerewe
Issuing office and Address	Abt Associates Inc , VectorLink Project, Tanzania Capri Point, Station Road, Plot No. 73 Nyamagana, P.O. Box 1212 Mwanza, Tanzania
RFQ Issuance Date	24 th August 2019
RFQ closing Date	30 th August 2019 – 11.00 am
USAID Prime Contract Number	AID-OAA-I-17-00008

Background

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) Vector Link Project, Tanzania is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Project is implemented by Abt Associates in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania and has the overall goal of reducing the burden of Malaria. The Vector Link project is implemented in Kagera, Mwanza, Geita and Kigoma regions, and Zanzibar.

Abt Associates Inc. is hereby inviting interested bidders to submit quotations in an open tender procedure for the above-mentioned services of sites refurbishment as listed in the table below.

Bidding Instructions:

All responses must include:

- The owner's name / business name, physical address and phone number;
- Copy of company's business License, TIN Certificate and/or VRN Number;
- A written statement indicating that the service will be delivered prior to payment.
- Past performance information and references (experience of similar contracts executed);
- Financial offer using the table provided (Financial Offer), must clearly indicate the Price and VAT quoted separately for each lot in Tanzania Shillings
- All submissions must be stamped or presented in company letter head.
- All bids should be enclosed in sealed envelope that are clearly marked on top with the respective bid reference as indicated above.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain the further information from and collect the BOQ showing the description of the service required from the following Abt Office below.

Abt Associates, Vector Link Project-Tanzania
Capri Point, Station Road, Plot No. 73
Nyamagana, P.O. Box 1212
Mwanza, Tanzania

Abt Associates, Vector Link Project-Tanzania
Chato Office, near District hospital
P.O. Box 11
Chato, Geita

General RFQ Information:

- All interested bidders are advised to carefully read the details in the table before quoting. Offers must include the labour charge according to the BOQ showing the description of the service and materials required.
- Abt Associates encourages equal opportunity to all – female bidder/s are encouraged to apply.
- All interested bidders are advised to visit demo site located at Kanyonza dispensary in Kakonko district along Nyakanazi – Kakonko road
- Respondents may elect to provide pricing for one Lot, several, or all of the Lot listed in the Financial Offer section; however, only those vendors who are able to meet the selection criteria will be considered.
- Selected bidder shall bear full safety responsibility and risks for its staff while deployed to provide the services contracted in response to this bid; whether on site(s) or en-route to and from the site(s); and shall in no way hold Abt Associates or its affiliates liable for any adverse incident while performing their contracted duties.
- Abt Associates Inc. shall make payment to the vendor within 10 days of receiving, in good condition, all goods and services specified in the Purchase Order and a full and complete vendor invoice.
- Successful bidders will be provided Abt expert to supervise the refurbishment exercise to ensure compliance to required standards.
- Abt Associates general terms and conditions as well as USAID Prime Contract flow downs are applicable and a copy of each is available for pick-up at one of the below Abt Associates offices.
- This RFQ shall not be misconstrued to be a commitment on the part of Abt Associates to award any form of contract to any respondent nor shall it entitle any organization or individual to be reimbursed for the costs preparing or delivering their response to Abt Associates.

List of Sites to be Refurbished:

Please refer to the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) for the specific site details and scope of work. Copies are available for pick up at any of our offices listed above. Interested parties can also request copies be sent via email at: Gwamaka_Nsekela@pmivectorlink.org

District	No. of sites
Bukombe	6
Biharamulo	13
Kakonko	15
Mtendeli Camps	3
Kibondo	9
Nduta Camps	6
Kasulu	9
Nyanugusu Camps	11
Ukerewe	22
Total	94

Evaluation Criteria:

Award will be made to the most advantageous offer, the following factors considered:

- Compliance to technical specifications and RFQ instructions
- Price and Price related factors:
- Past performance and experience
- Lead time
- Payment terms

A. FORMS

[Insert letterhead paper of the Tenderer full postal address, and telephone, facsimile and telex numbers and cable address]
QUOTATION SUBMISSION FORM

.....[date]

To: Abt Associates Inc
PMI VectorLink Project-Mwanza]

We offer to provide the [insert description of service and Lot Ref No.] in accordance with the Conditions of Contract accompanying this Quotation for the Contract Price of [insert amount in words, figures and currency].

We also offer to complete the said services within a period of [insert period] that includes mobilization period.

This quotation and your written acceptance of it shall constitute a binding Contract between us. We understand that you are not bound to accept the lowest or any quotation you receive.

We hereby confirm that this quotation complies with the conditions required by the Invitation for Quotations.

Authorized Signature:
Name and Title of Signatory:
Name of Tenderer:
Company stamp/seal.....Date.....

B. FORM OF INTEGRITY

[Each tenderer must submit a statement, as part of the tender documents, with the following formats]

UNDERTAKING BY SERVICE PROVIDER ON ANTI – BRIBERY POLICY / CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME

We, [insert name of the service provider], place importance on competitive tendering taking place on a basis that is free, fair, competitive and not open to abuse. We are pleased to confirm that we will not offer or facilitate, directly or indirectly, any improper inducement or reward to any public officer, their relations or business associates, in connection with this quotation, or in the subsequent performance of the contract if it is successful.

We have an Anti-Bribery Policy/ Code of Conduct and a Compliance Program which includes all reasonable steps necessary to assure that the No-bribery commitment given in this statement will be complied with by our management and employees as well as by all third parties working with us on the public sector projects or contract including agents, consultants, consortium partners, sub-contractors and service providers. Copies of our Anti- Bribery Policy/Code Conduct and Compliance Program are attached.

(Name of the Authorized Person)

Signature

Date

Company stamp/seal

Milk drinking competition used to fight stunting

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA Dairy Board (TDB) in collaboration with dairy industry stakeholders have organised regional milk-drinking day in schools to encourage students to consume more in a bid to reduce stunted in Iringa region.

This was revealed yesterday by Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), Acting Registrar, Dr Sophia Mlote at the Tanzania Dairy Board Meeting on Dairy policy and Regulatory Framework Rationalisation in Tanzania funded by the Netherlands Development Organisation SNV.

The event will take place in Iringa region on August 25th this year and the main goal was just to increase milk consumption level, promote its consumption for the national development and help people in Iringa region reduce stunted for their children.

TDB in collaboration with Dairy industry stakeholders have decided to organise this event after discovered that stunted rate in Iringa region is very high and as stakeholders engaged in this sector they have to encourage children and adult to drink milk for their health status.

She said stunted in children is very high in Iringa Region because many people don't drink milk and eat a highly nutritious crops that has health benefits for them although Iringa is the main producer of different cash crops.

During the event free milk will be distributed to students in schools by stakeholders and will be educated on the health benefits it has for them and their parents.

During the event, also they will invite officials from Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and Ministry of education to participate in this event to educate students on the importance of drinking milk and the health benefits it has for them.

"Drinking milk help your body

function well and keep you refreshed through the day, it contains Vitamin A and B for good eyesight and increasing red blood cell count, magnesium for muscles, carbohydrates for vitality and energy, phosphorus for energy and proteins for body repair and growth," she noted.

According to her, milk is one of the biggest sources of calcium, it provides Vitamin D and is also amazing for strong teeth, which helps prevent conditions like tooth decay and cavities.

Apart from that milk helps in muscle growth because of the protein it has, maintains skin health and improves heart health.

She called on the public to consume milk regularly and keep their bodies healthy and energetic.

Emphasising on dairy sector, for his part, dairy consultant, Prof Lusato Kurwijila added that Tanzania has huge potential to develop dairy industry but processing just about 3 per cent of more than 2.4 million tonnes of milk produced in Tanzania.

Studies on the sub sector indicates that an unfavourable regulatory environment is partly responsible for the dismal performance.

"As a result he called on the government to put in place a Business Facilitation Act that will amend various laws and regulations that impede the ease of doing business in the country," he noted.

Apart from that there is also need to demonetize the regulatory framework to reduce number and cost of fees payable to government agencies except for provision of services that are not regulatory in nature.

Reducing number of regulatory authorities and cost of fees payable to government authorities will reduce operation cost of doing business in dairy industry and help them benefit from what they did.

He also recommend the government to make it easy to register business and pay taxes using single window payment systems through



Primary school pupils from Temeke and Kigamboni districts in exchange ideas at a workshop on strategies to prevent child sexual abuse organised by Ekama Development Foundation Tanzania. The event, which was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, also drew scores of parents, guardians, teachers, local government officials and religious leaders. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

the e-government payment system and further implement blue print including sustainable funding mechanisms for regulatory agencies and local governments.

Also in the long term, the food law should provide for International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)/ Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) based registration and

certification of enterprises rather than individual or batch registration and certifications of dairy (food) items for the domestic and export market based on regional EAC standard.

US names Nigerians in massive fraud investigation

NEW YORK

THE United States authorities have charged 80 people, "most of whom are Nigerian nationals", with participating in a conspiracy to steal millions of dollars, prosecutors said yesterday.

They are accused of using business email fraud schemes and romance scams to con victims - many of them elderly.

Police have so far arrested 14 suspects across the US, 11 in Los Angeles alone.

The authorities said it is one of the "largest cases of its kind in US history".

The FBI investigation is a major step to disrupt criminal networks, US Attorney Nick Hanna said.

"This case is part of our ongoing efforts to protect Americans from fraudulent online schemes and to bring to justice those who prey upon American citizens and businesses," he added.

The FBI started investigating the case in 2016 in a single bank account but it later extended to cover multiple victims in the US and around the world.

All the 80 defendants have been charged with conspiracy to commit fraud, conspiracy to launder money, and aggravated identity theft, the US Attorney's Office in the Central District of California said in a press release.

Two Nigerian nationals, identified as Valentine Iro and Chukwudi Christogunus Igbokwe, who are part of those arrested in the US, have been named as co-conspirators working with others in the US and in Nigeria, to obtain money from victims and then transfer it abroad.

They managed to fraudulently obtain \$6m (£5m) in a conspiracy aimed at stealing \$46m, the US Attorney's Office alleges.

The remaining 66 defendants are believed to be abroad, "with most of them located in Nigeria", the authorities said.

The suspects used illicit money exchangers to move money to Nigeria, generally avoiding transferring the funds directly through banking institutions, the indictment said.

The authorities have listed a total of 252 charges against the 80 suspects.

One of the victims, a Japanese woman named FK in court papers, was conned out of \$200,000 after being contacted by a fraudster identifying themselves as US Capt Terry Garcia who wanted to smuggle diamonds out of Syria.

She made 35 to 40 payments, receiving as many as 10 to 15 emails a day directing her to send money to accounts in the US, Turkey and the United Kingdom through the captain's many purported associates, the LA Times reports.



A Dawasa (Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority) staffer (R) pictured yesterday briefing the agency's board chairman, retired General Davis Mwamunyangye (in striped shirt), who visited Dawasa's offices at Tegeta, Kawe, Kinondoni and Ilala for an eyewitness account of efforts to improve water supply in Dar es Salaam Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

How hotels use CSR to improve the lives of locals

By Correspondent George Sem-bony, Pangani

MORE hotels operating here have begun engaging their guests in corporate social responsibility with the view to improving lives of local communities.

Reports indicate that guests are responding to these efforts. According to a 2015 study conducted by Tourism Cares, about 55 percent of travelers surveyed made a donation of time, money, or supplies while traveling over the past two years. Additionally, 64 percent of those surveyed felt that giving back greatly contributed to their trip satisfaction. Tourism Cares, a nonprofit, unites the travel and tourism industry to benefit the people and places our industry depends on.

"When you look at that research and you look at the state of the world, we're living in a time in which there's no shortage of problems. Whether you want to talk about air pollution, water pollution, wildlife conservation, just overall community support, animal welfare, or anything, really, there are plenty of people and organizations that need assistance," said Jessica Blotter, founder and CEO of Kind Traveller.

It is not just happening in other parts of the world. In Pangani, a hospitality brand, The Tides, is taking the initiative.

According to the company General Manager, Willem Pelser, the properties are creating positive change not only among their staff but also in the surrounding community of Ushongo. "Over 90 per cent of our staff come from the surrounding community and we don't just want to uplift their standard of living but also that of their children, neighbours and friends, we want this community to be successful."

"Development or business cannot succeed without close and cordial relations between the properties (investor), government, village and the communities where the investment is placed," said Pelser.

Pelser said that the investment, comprising of two properties in Ushongo, The Tides Lodge and a sister property known as Mawimbi Villa has and still is undertaking projects that are aimed at improving the standards of living of the people in the village and Pangani in general.

"Our major focus is on health care and education. Everyone deserves to get basic health care, it is a basic human right and currently the people of Ushongo have none available in the

village. Without the resources to get a good education how can children serve their communities and their country successfully in future?" he pointed out.

"Investors and properties alone do not have the means available to create real change by themselves. Guests and travellers to our communities play a vital role in mobilizing funds and connections to ensure these projects can come to life. The role of the villagers and communities in this is vital. By welcoming guests, showing them this amazing piece of Africa and by looking after the natural resources here the communities ensure that the guests become a part of the story and thus being much more willing to contribute in any way possible to the cause."

"National laws require investors to pay a monthly village levy. This levy is not enough for the village to implement development projects that can have an impact on the people's lives," said Pelser.

Going above and beyond the monthly village levy the most recent project that the company has undertaken is the completion of a clinic that was previously built by a Kenyan NGO to three quarters completion.

He said that they are collaborating with a New York-based NGO, Afya Foundation to complete the clinic. "Afya Foundation is based in Yonders, New York and it was founded in 2007 by Ms. Danielle Butin, MPH, OTR after a trip to Tanzania where she encountered the dire circumstances and severely limited medical resources of its medical clinics.

"It seeks to spread "Good Health Through Giving," and does so by providing medical supplies, consumables, sustainable equipment, and community outreach supplies to international health clinics," she said.

According to Ms. Butin the primary goal of Afya is to bring good health to those who need it most and one way in which it accomplishes this goal is by collecting donations of surplus medical supplies from New York hospitals.

"These supplies are stored temporarily in the Yonkers warehouse until volunteers load them into 40 foot containers bound for various international locations," she said.

Ms. Butin added that Afya tailors its shipments to the needs of specific communities by maintaining an up-to-date computer-based inventory menu from which international health organizations and professionals can self-select medical supplies from the warehouse via the web.

So far, Afya has sent over 30 supply



Water deputy minister Jumaa Aweso has a feel of hot water on Thursday at a natural spring where a well is being developed under a project worth more than \$20bn/- implemented by the Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. Photo: Correspondent Cythia Mwilolezi

filled 40 foot containers to Haiti, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi and Sierra Leone. Included in these shipments, according to the foundation, are a range of items from ultrasound machines and operating tables to soccer balls and pens.

"The completion of the clinic and securing the medical equipment needed is a large undertaking and one that will require cooperation from all involved. We have inspected the property and are in the final stages of planning the completing construction. We are raising funds from guests and neighbouring communities and businesses in order to transport the vital medical equipment from the US. A contingency plan is being set in motion in order to

keep receiving the necessary medical supplies on a regular basis once the clinic is operational. The village has played a vital role in this project by aiding with labour, welcoming guests and showing them the community.

It is vital to increase awareness about the factors that influence the guest experience, and indirectly the funding of this project, in our area such as pollution, sustainability and noise pollution. Increased and continued support from our community will ensure the project is successful" Pelser was quoted saying.

The brand has executed several other projects including collaborating with a Canadian NGO to ex-

ecute a USD 3000 project to rehabilitate Ushongo Primary School.

"Our maintenance team cooperated with villagers for one month to fix the roof, walls and installing steel rods in windows and we will continue to review the maintenance necessary annually," he said.

Pelser mentioned that there is a massive shortage of school supplies including teacher materials and text books in our community. "Our guests have played a vital role in securing funds on a regular basis to replenish stock according to the head teachers requirements and requests. The welcoming nature of the school and its pupils has ensured that this project can be successful for years to come," he said.

Uganda blocks online access to Rwandan newspaper after peace pact

KAMPALA

UGANDA said yesterday that it had blocked online access to Rwanda's main state-owned newspaper on national security grounds, two days after the countries signed a pact to end tensions that closed their busiest border crossing for six months.

Uganda's communications regulator asked all internet service providers to block access to New Times website in the country, the regulator's executive director told Reuters.

"We have blocked it," said Godfrey Mutabazi, adding that the newspaper had been identified by a government agency in charge of internal security as "a hostile platform that is likely to cause insecurity in this country."

New Times has a sizeable audience in Uganda, an Anglophone country with a large Rwandan community.

There was no immediate comment from the Rwandan government on the Ugandan regulator's decision.

On Wednesday, the presidents of Rwanda and Uganda signed a deal in the Angolan capital. They agreed to respect each other's sovereignty, refrain from actions that destabilize the other's territory and resume "as soon as possible" cross-border ac-

tivities.

The neighbours have a long-running rivalry that led to conflict in the past, but tensions boiled over in February, when Rwanda closed their main border crossing.

It was briefly re-opened to cargo trucks in June but then closed again. Rwandans are banned from traveling to Uganda, which has accused Rwanda of effectively imposing a trade embargo.

Uganda's move illustrated that Wednesday's pact would not yield a quick end to the long-running rivalry between the two countries, said Nicholas Sengoba, a columnist at Uganda's Daily Monitor newspaper.

"That signing was for the eye...as long as the suspicions, the accusations, the personal animosities are not yet resolved the rest is just playing the gallery," said Sengoba.

The pact aimed at ending months of tensions that saw the two neighbours accusing each other of espionage, political killings and attacks on trade.

President Paul Kagame and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni, were once close allies but have recently faced off in a series of disputes that many feared could threaten regional stability and economic integration. The enmity led to the closure of an important commercial crossing in February.



A truck is moved to safe ground shortly after breaking down on Dar es Salaam's Msasani Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

CITES: Fundamental loopholes and flaws in the legal system must be addressed

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora, also known as the Washington Convention) is a multilateral treaty to protect endangered plants and animals. It was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The convention was opened for signature in 1973 and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 35,000 species of animals and plants. In order to ensure that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was not violated, the Secretariat of GATT was consulted during the drafting process.

CITES is one of the largest and oldest conservation and sustainable use agreements in existence. Participation is voluntary, and countries that have agreed to be bound by the Convention are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws.

Rather it provides a framework respected by each Party, which must adopt their own domestic legislation to implement CITES at the national level.

Often, domestic legislation is either non-existent (especially in Parties that have not ratified it), or with penalties with the gravity of the crime and insufficient deterrents to wildlife traders.

Groundbreaking reforms to the \$320 billion legal wildlife trade are being put up for discussion at a major international conference this month as campaigners seek to modernize a system they say hasn't changed in nearly

50 years.

Trade in everything from rhino horn and elephant ivory to python skins, wild orchids and timber is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), a treaty dating back to 1975 and backed by more than 180 countries around the world.

But campaigners say that the way in which CITES manages the global wildlife trade has not been updated since it was first set up. In particular, it still relies on a paper-based permit system that does not integrate with international customs protocols, leading to a lack of transparency and traceability in the industry.

In addition, the basis on which CITES operates – to list those species for which trade is limited or banned completely – is the opposite of many other industries, campaigners say. It should be reversed, they contend, so that those only those species in which trade is permitted are listed, and those wishing to profit from the trade must demonstrate that it is sustainable.

Lynn Johnson is the CEO and founder of the Australia-based nonprofit Nature Needs More, which initially looked at the illegal trade in wildlife products and quickly realized there were many fundamental loopholes and flaws in the legal system that needed addressing first.

"We started to look at all the research that had been done, and the two major pieces of work we found was one study that showed that only 7.3 percent of CITES permits were discrepancy-free, and research published this year which showed that it took an average of 12 years for a species listed on the IUCN Red List and therefore at risk of extinction to be regulated under CITES," Johnson said.

Young people must be at centre of sustainable development agenda

AS key drivers of change in the post-2015 era, the world's 1.2 billion young people must be bolstered by robust national policies and innovative solutions to the challenges they faced. The youth are in the driving seat of the sustainable development agenda.

Today's young people were the first generation that could end poverty, and the last that could act to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Youth in Africa constituted 19 per cent of the global youth population in 2015, numbering 226 million. The United Nations defines youth as people aged 15 to 24 years. By 2030, it is predicted that the number of youths in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent. Africa's population as a whole is very young, with 60 per cent of the entire continent aged below 25, making it the youngest continent in the world, in relation to its population makeup. All of the world's top 10 youngest countries by median age are in Africa. A 2004 study found that young people are the most likely to commit violent acts, as well as more likely to become victims of violence themselves. The youths of Africa experience the globalisation of culture in many different forms, such as through fashion and music.

There is a crisis in the lack of formal skilled employment opportunities across Africa, which is exacerbated by the addition of 10-12 million youths to the labour market each year. Youth unemployment across Africa is high, at 30.6 per cent in North Africa, the second-highest rate of a region globally, whilst in sub-Saharan Africa the rate is declining, to 12.9 per cent in 2016. As age within the working population increases, so do levels of employment, as youths are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults which demonstrates an anti-youth bias across African labour

markets.

A lack of graduate employment opportunities across the continent has contributed towards high levels of informal employment, underemployment and unemployment across university graduates. It is estimated that 600,000 South African graduates are unable to find suitable employment. [Many African nations have worked to promote formal skilled graduate employment through schemes which seek to develop employability skills amongst students, and the National Youth Service in Tanzania.

Young women have higher rates of unemployment than men in all African countries, which may potentially result from gender inequalities in primary and secondary education. The informal economy comprises 75 per cent of non-agricultural employment in Africa.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is convinced that the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youth – a quarter of the global population – have a key role to play in helping implement the UN's 2030 Development Agenda.

We must equip young people with the skills they need to navigate the technological revolution.

Africa should stress the importance of young people in addressing the challenges confronting the contemporary world, including peace, impacts of climate change and growing inequalities.

UNFPA believes that one of the most essential routes to achieving sustainable development lies in educating and empowering young people to make decisions about their health and wellbeing, giving them the tools to take charge of their lives, to drive development, and to sustain peace.

Poverty, humanitarian crises, race, ethnicity, gender and cultural traditions are just some of the barriers that may stand in their way.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

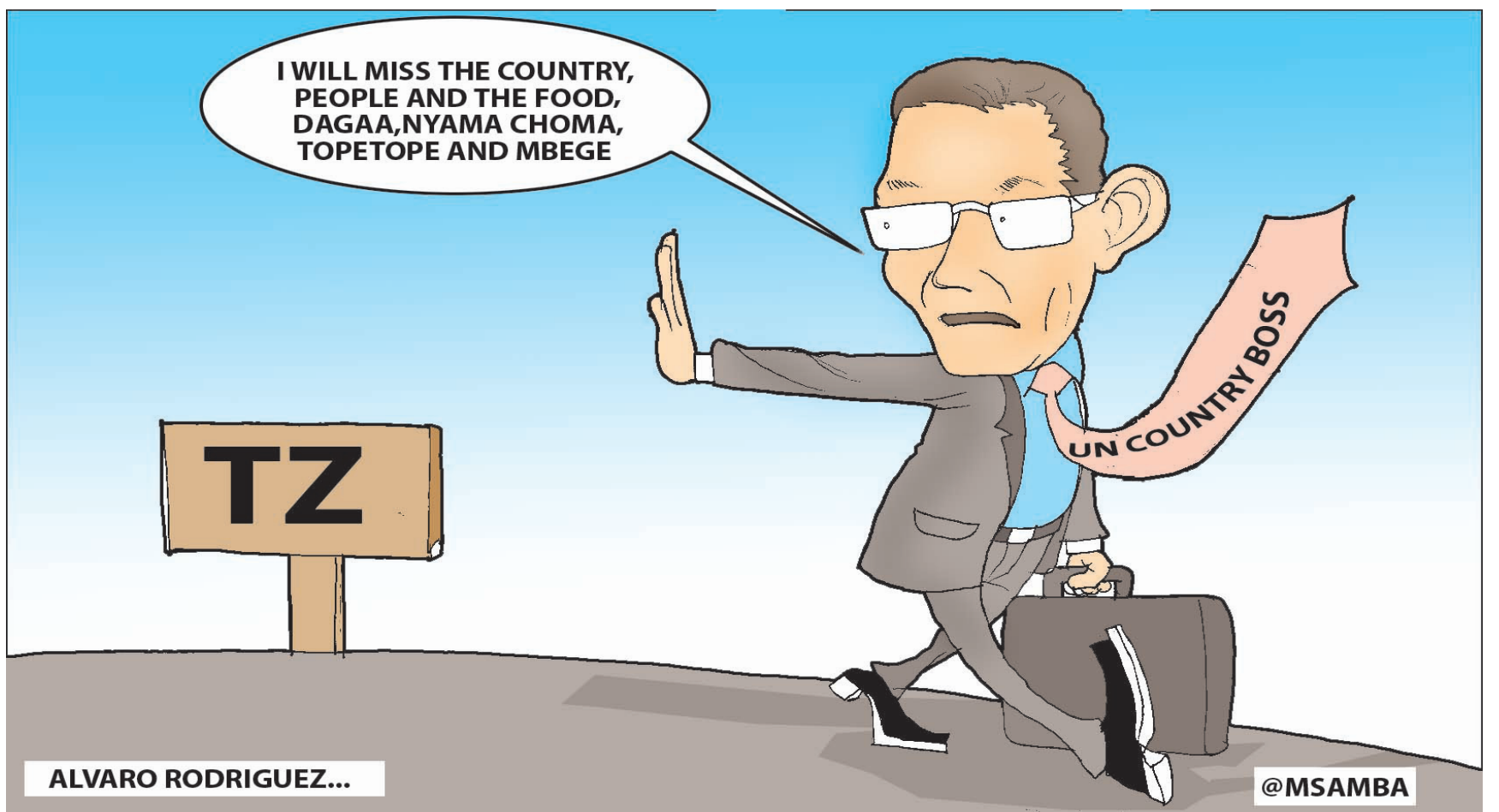
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER: EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 022 2700735/8
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com



ALVARO RODRIGUEZ...

@MSAMBA

What the Union of the Comoros' SADC membership means...

By Victor Mlunde

POLITICAL pan-Africanism has been an important pillar in achieving the continent's political independence in the last 50 years. This stands to assume full meaning if Africa achieves economic pan-Africanism through the expansion and amalgamation of free trade areas across the continent as well as harmonisation of trade, customs and fiscal policies, amongst the respective countries.

To effect economic pan-Africanism, "independent" African states will have to think beyond the traditional 'comfort' of political sovereignty by enhancing trade amongst each other and review their approach towards bilateral and multilateral engagement in the global economic environment.

In the recent past, many French-speaking African countries have started breaking the taboo – if you will – by re-evaluating their partnership with France, operating under the auspices of 'Françafrique'. This is the post-colonial French foreign policy towards Africa, accused by many for the economic impoverishment and political instability in former French colonies, allegedly through protection of autocratic regimes in exchange for business deals.

The Union of Comoros participated in the just-ended (August 17-18) 39th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It was the first time the island nation was attending such a meeting and came in the wake of its admission last year, following in the footsteps of Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

Two other francophone African countries, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) had earlier in the year sought to join the SADC and EAC (East African Community) regional economic blocs, respectively.

In the same spirit, many francophone countries in West Africa have recently started engaging in open discussions about giving up the CFA franc currency union for their own ECOWAS currency – the ECO – if possible from next year.

Back in France, a movement to reform 'Françafrique' has gained enough of the political correctness that former presidents Nicolas Sarkozy and Francois



Hollande were once reported to have vowed during their campaigns for office to gain and therefore end the 'old-fashioned' Françafrique policy.

In 1945, France reportedly agreed to eventually grant independence to its African colonies, provided that they accepted to use the CFA franc, pegged to the French franc, while France retained a monopoly on their raw materials.

In 1999, the CFA franc was pegged to the euro, with the financial backing of the French Treasury – which prints and regulates the currency.

An Italian deputy prime minister once blamed France for impoverishing Africa and encouraging the migration of Africans to Europe by printing money for 14 African states and pegging their currencies to the French franc.

The CFA franc requires countries to store up to 50 per cent of foreign exchange reserves with the French Treasury in something called an "operational account". In doing so, African countries reportedly channel more money to France than they receive in aid.

Proponents of the CFA franc argue that the currency helps stabilise national currencies of the respective community and facilitates the flow of exports and imports between France and member countries.

DRC, a former strategic partner of France during the Zaire days, eventually applied to join the EAC this year to enjoy economies of scale and thus effectively do away with its Mobutu-era traditionally lop-sided partnership with France.

With the DRC's only chief sea port – Matadi – located far away on the Atlantic Ocean side of the continent, the East African In-

dian ocean coast obviously provides an alternative shorter sea route for imports to the eastern, central and southern parts of the vast central African country.

Rising from the 'pit' of ethnic and civil strife partly blamed on France, landlocked-Rwanda and Burundi resolved to join the EAC a decade ago, chiefly to boost, facilitate and expedite their own stability, reconstruction and development.

In 2008, Rwanda abandoned French as a medium of instruction in all public schools at all levels in preference for English, Kinyarwanda and Kiswahili as its lingua franca. It also joined the Commonwealth in 2009, in part to enhance its participation in regional and global economic development on own terms.

Tanzania, a SADC pioneer and EAC powerhouse, is renowned for its stabilising role in the East African Great Lakes region and Southern Africa. This is mainly thanks to the country's historically active role in liberation, reconstruction, the brokering of peace deals, the resolution of conflicts and the resettling of refugees and asylum seekers from its conflict-prone neighbours.

For the Comorians (alias 'ngazidjas', as they are commonly referred to as in Tanzania), a shared historical heritage with East Africa has proved to be of socio-economic, political and strategic importance. Alongside the fact that Tanzanians make up one of the ethnic groups in the Comoros, the Comorian lingua franca is a cocktail of Kiswahili, Arabic, Comorian and French.

The Comoros' bilateral cooperation with Tanzania is symbiotic, at least in that most foodstuffs, livestock and basic goods consumed in the island nation are imported from the East Afri-

can country – a whole 1096 kilometres off the Eastern coast of Africa.

With Air Tanzania flying to the Comoros three times a week, an average of 600 Comorians reportedly visit Tanzania for business and medical tourism per month.

Through "operation restore democracy", Tanzania led an African Union-sanctioned military intervention to restore civilian rule and stabilise the Indian Ocean islands in 2006.

One legend in the Comoros suggests that the archipelago was eager to join Zanzibar's union with Tanganyika in the 1970s to form what would have been Tanzania – but which was later to be known as Tanzania. The hope for the union that would have been is said to be still alive among many ngazidjas today.

The continued occupation of Mayotte by the French is perhaps the most unreported burning questions missing from mainstream media headlines inside and outside Africa. Mayotte, a sister island of the Union of the Comoros, remains under French occupation and has remained a bone of contention between the Comoros and France since independence of the former in 1975.

With the three remaining constituent islands of the Comoros archipelago have become the 16th SADC member-state, it is natural that material and moral support in stabilising the archipelago and liberating Mayotte, the 'French-dominated' sister island, may be expected.

Comorian Foreign minister Souef Mohamed El Amine once said his country's decision to join SADC was not related to Mayotte, but the membership could certainly bring it stronger allies and more influence in its dispute with France.

Initially formed by Africa's frontline states including Tanzania, SADC evolved into a regional economic bloc in 1980 buoyed by the Pan-Africanist zeal to liberate and rebuild the economies of southern Africa nations.

Famous for exporting cloves; ylang-ylang, the most coveted flower in perfumery; vanilla; essential oils; and scrap aluminium, the Comoros will now have direct free access of for its produce into the European Union market, should it wish to join the EU-SADC Economic Partnership Agreement which came into effect in 2016.

However, to realise genuine economic pan-Africanism, regional blocs should not be used as mere instruments for regime protection.

Rather, member countries will have to revitalise their commitment to democracy and enhance economic integration by removing trade and non-trade barriers, integrating markets, allowing free movement of labour, goods and services, and moving towards currency union(s), to counter global monetary and economic hegemony.

The author has introduced himself as a Dar es Salaam-based independent political analyst with experience in international development and governance work. He can be reached through vicmlunde007@gmail.com

Will the cure for Ebola stop the stubborn outbreak if people won't find treatment?

COTONOU, Beni

WHILE people in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are slowly being made aware that scientists have discovered two drugs that are effective in treating Ebola, letting go of the fear and anxiety that has prevailed across the country this year will require more work.

After several months of intense research, mAb114 and REGN-EB3, two out of four drugs tested, were found to have been effective in a clinical trial, according to a joint statement on Aug. 12 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), DRC's National Institute for Biomedical Research (INRB) and Ministry of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

It is the first ever multi-drug trial for the deadly virus.

The deadly hemorrhagic fever has claimed the lives of 1,800 people since last August.

"This is very good news for patients," Dr Esther Sterk, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Adviser for Tropical Diseases, told IPS. "It is good that these two drugs are recommended because not only do we expect them to improve their chances of survival, but they are also easier for medical staff to administer."

The complexities of receiving treatment

But the latest outbreak of the deadly virus has resulted in fear among local communities. With the epicentres of the outbreak largely centred in conflict-ridden areas, communities there have been fearful and mistrustful of the virus and medical workers. Many also found the process of screening for the disease reportedly intimidating.

And on Aug. 13, residents in Goma, the capital of North Kivu province and a city of two million people overlooking Gisenyi in neighbouring Rwanda, was overrun by protestors after the news spread that two Ebola patients were being treated and discharged from the treatment centres.

"People misunderstood it, and thought the government and white people were plotting to infect us all



with Ebola by letting these patients go home. It is only later in the day that we were told that these people were free to go because they were treated with a new cure that has just been found," Christian Kasereka, an informal trader, told IPS.

In July, Marixie Mercado, United Nations Children's Agency (UNICEF) spokesperson told IPS that, "the Ebola outbreak is taking place in an extremely complex operational environment and the response must of course factor in political, security, and socio-cultural challenges".

She said that UNICEF was leading the work on community engagement. "We work with a broad swathe of influential community and religious leaders, mass media, schools, and Ebola survivors, to bring crucial knowledge on symptoms, prevention and treatment, to the households and communities most at risk."

"We are learning from intensive, ongoing research and analysis of community feedback to better understand local needs, fears and concerns, and to adapt the response in ways that are socially and culturally acceptable. There is growing community ownership over the response, but far more is needed,"

Health workers inside a "CUBE" talk to an Ebola patient, while a nurse consults a chart outside. ALIMA Ebola Treatment Centre, Beni, Democratic Republic of Congo. Two drugs have been found to successfully treat the Ebola virus. Aid agencies have welcomed the news saying it allows communities to access early treatment. Photo: World Health Organisation

Mercado said at the time. Greater community ownership and understanding needed to stop the outbreak

The Goma protests offered truth to her words that more still needs to be done.

Other international health agencies have the same view.

Sterk did caution that while the drugs improved the chances of survival of patients, teams working on the ground could not relax as ways to reduce transmission needed to be found.

"While this is welcome news, it alone won't end the Ebola outbreak. We still urgently need to find a way to cut transmission, which requires placing affected communities at the centre of the response by prioritising their healthcare needs and rethinking the current failing response strategies," Sterk told IPS.

"We expect that using the two most successful treatments will improve the outcome for patients, but the challenges remain there: to break the chain of transmission, to improve the follow-up of contacts, to encourage people to report to a health facility as early as possible when the symptoms appear, to support the healthcare infrastructure

in the region so that access to general healthcare is preserved during this difficult time."

The WHO had echoed these concerns in its statement last week stating that not enough people were being treated. Currently people take 5 to 6 days before seeking treatment.

Euloge Ishimwe, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) head of communications for Africa region, told IPS that people with symptoms often delay or avoid going to a health facility or an Ebola treatment centre, placing their families and communities at risk.

"This also has critical impacts on our work with communities. If communities are engaged and understand the treatment as well as see more people surviving from the disease, they are more likely to seek health care early," Ishimwe said, adding that the findings were a pinnacle moment in the Ebola response, as it allowed communities to access early treatment.

MSF has worked alongside several partners under the supervision of the WHO and took part in the implementation of the trials while supporting the Ebola treatment centres in Katwa and Butembo between January and February this year.

The study is part of the emergency response in the DRC, in collaboration with a broad alliance of partners, including MSF, the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), the International Medical Corps (IMC), INRB and NIAID, which is part of the United States' National Institutes of Health.

The study has since stopped and the successful drugs are being administered to all those affected.

"We must move forward to implement the outcomes of this research. We will continue to conduct rigorous research with our partners. We'll incorporate those findings into the outbreak response through a variety of prevention and control strategies," Dr Mike Ryan, WHO Executive Director for Emergencies Programme, had said in a statement.

IPS



New report: Southern African Development Community loses billions in illicit outflows

UNITED NATIONS

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC), which comprise 16 member states, loses about 8.8 billion dollars in trade-related illicit outflows and about 21.1 billion dollars in external government debt payments annually, according to a new report released here.

Michael Buraimoh, Director, Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA), told IPS there are several reasons for this, including the lack of capacity to combat trade misinvoicing and managing debt; nature of politics and institutions in Southern Africa leading to corruption and mismanagement; and the unjust nature of the global economy.

The report, titled The Money Drain: How Trade Misinvoicing and Unjust Debt Undermine Economic and Social Rights in Southern Africa, was launched ahead of a summit meeting of SADC leaders in Tanzania August 17-18.

Sunit Bagree, ACTSA's Senior Campaigns Officer and author of the report, said: "It's a scandal that rich countries barely seem to care that Southern Africa is haemorrhaging money."

"A broken international economic system is, fundamentally, why trade misinvoicing and unjust debt are depriving SADC governments of massive funds that they could use to realise economic and social rights for the many people living in poverty in the region," he noted.

Bagree said SADC governments can certainly do more, for example by employing innovative tools to detect potential misinvoicing of trade transactions and organising comprehensive public debt audits.

"But they must also call out powerful international countries for failing to live up to their responsibilities and turning their collective backs on vulnerable people in Southern Africa," he declared.

The 16 member countries of SADC are: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report revealed that in Southern Africa, the youth unemployment rate is 31 percent, 5.4 million people are currently undernourished, at least 617,400 new HIV infections emerge a year, and more than 40 percent of the population in 12 countries lack access to basic sanitation services.

Trade invoicing causes the SADC region to lose at least 8.8 billion dollars a year, and the report estimated that South Africa alone suffers of a loss of at least 5.9 billion dollars per year due to illicit trade

flows. On top of this, the region is bearing even more losses due to debt. The report cites that Angola alone is emptied of 21.1 billion dollars a year as a result of principal and interest payments on debt.

To add to this, the parts of Africa that were devastated by cyclones earlier this year has mass debts to pay back to wealthier countries.

Several institutions have attempted to raise concerns about trade misinvoicing and debts, but progress has been fragmented and slow, and nothing fruitful has emerged.

Asked what role ACTSA will take going forward, Buraimoh said: "We are promoting our report to the media in the U.K. and USA, as well as in Southern Africa and in continental Europe."

He also revealed they are aiming to meet with and directly influence, the U.K. and U.S. governments, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, the United Nations, the Commonwealth and African Union (AU) in relation to the report's findings and recommendations.

This is expected to lay the basis for future advocacy work on debt and trade-related illicit flows with civil society partners such as Jubilee Debt Campaign, Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), Global Financial Integrity and the Southern Africa Trust.

He added that they aim to add value to the work of these partners and join up regional and global work on these two crucial issues, and that this will be a vital contribution to efforts that considers development from a rights-based perspective and as a concept that relates to issues beyond aid.

"By evaluating success of all the above we can measure progress as relates to the report's recommendations."

As what role the U.N. should play, Buraimoh said the U.N. Human Rights Council has done some good work on these issues.

"We want to see this continue. The U.N. General Assembly should do more, and some U.N. agencies e.g. Economic Commission for Africa also have engaged, while others can do more."

He said that all need to work together to ensure International Financial Institutions take more progressive approaches.

"You can really help us by getting the report circulated as widely as possible. The more people are energised about this the better it would be for us to make it an international priority. It is a problem plaguing the entire Global South, not only Southern Africa", he declared.

IPS

G7 leaders urged to promote gender empowerment

UNITED NATIONS

AS leaders of the seven major industrialised nations (G7) meet in the coastal seatown of Biarritz in the south west of France, one of the world's leading women's organisations is calling for the protection and advancement of women worldwide.

Katja Iversen, President/CEO of Women Deliver, and a two-time member of both G7 Gender Equality Advisory Councils (GEAC), is delivering a strong, gender-inspired message to the leaders: "Firstly, ditch the gender discriminatory laws you have on your books. Secondly, push progressive ones."

"Thirdly, invest specifically in implementation of progressive laws, and also invest in women's and civil society organisations (CSOs) that work every day to drive progress. And lastly, monitor, measure and be ready to be held to your promises."

The four recommendations are in the HYPERLINK "https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/08/20/publication-of-the-report-of-the-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council" Biarritz Partnership on Gender Equality.

The G7 countries, comprising Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States, plus the European Union (EU), are holding their 45th annual meeting in France, August 24-26. Women currently comprise nearly 50 percent of the global population of 7.7 billion people while the G7 accounts for more than 58 percent of the world's net wealth.

Iversen, whose organisation is described as a leading global advocate for the health, rights and wellbeing of girls and women, has also brought together diverse voices and interests to drive progress for gender equality, with a particular focus on maternal, sexual,

and reproductive health and rights.

In an interview with IPS, Iversen said that within the four focus areas, Women Deliver has identified 79 examples of laws and policies that advance gender equality, drawn from different regions of the world.

While this list is not comprehensive, she said, the examples show that progress is possible and is, in fact, happening.

"We call on the G7 and other world leaders to take these as inspiration, and act before they meet again in 2020, both at the G7 but also at the global Generation Equality Summit to be held in Mexico and France respectively."

In Canada, abortion is allowed by law without specifications on gestational limits, it is available to women of any age, and it is covered by insurance in hospitals.

Colombia has compulsory sex education with curriculum tailored to the students' age. Paraguay provides contraception free of charge and without an age restriction.

In India, a 2005 law reforms the discriminatory inheritance practices and establishes equality in land inheritance between unmarried girls and unmarried boys.

And in Rwanda, beginning 2010, at least 30% of parliamentary candidates had to be women - and today more than 60% actually are.

Meanwhile, the HYPERLINK "https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/08/20/publication-of-the-report-of-the-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council" Gender Equality Advisory Councils (GEAC) have called on G7 leaders to:

- End gender-based violence;
- Ensure equitable and quality education and health;
- Promote economic empowerment;
- Ensure full equality between women and men in public policies.



The G7 leaders in 2018. File photo

Excerpts from the interview follow:

IPS: Can you tell us what the Gender Equality Advisory Council is, and what role it plays at the G7?

IVERSEN: The G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council was created by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to promote gender equality as an issue that deserves the attention of the G7, along with economic development, trade, technology and everything else that heads of state work on. This was last year when Canada held the presidency of the G7.

I guess we did a pretty good job since French President Emmanuel Macron right away said that he was going to continue the idea under France's presidency. He formed his own at the beginning of the year, and I and a couple of others were asked to continue.

Both independent Councils have brought together activists and advocates, Nobel prizewinners, UN, civil society and business leaders, and a diverse group of people with different perspectives and expertise to share-ranging from education, gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, women's health, indigenous

rights, youth engagement, technology, climate change, LGBTQI issues, and male engagement.

Trudeau, Macron and others know that leaders must invest in politically and economically in gender equality to create a healthier, wealthier, more productive and more peaceful world. Our role has been to show the G7 leaders what they need to do to drive progress.

What has been exciting and gratifying about these Councils is that it has really changed the conversation on gender equality. I mean, I talk about gender equality all the time, the members of the Council's talk about it...but not everybody does. But more and more now do, and we see the discussions being much more prominent - and substantial - in governments, businesses, and in society at large.

IPS: You have served on the 2018 inaugural GEAC and now this one. Can you tell us about the experience of working with two different groups?

IVERSEN: I'm so proud of the work of both Councils and the fact that the various issues related to gender equality have been elevated to the global stage in such a big way.

Prime Minister Trudeau really went

Anti-corruption boost as SA arms deal inquiry set aside

BY JUDITH FEBRUARY

ON Wednesday South Africa's Pretoria High Court set aside the findings of the Seriti Commission of Inquiry into the Strategic Defence Procurement Package (the 'arms deal').

The application was brought by civil society organisations Corruption Watch and the Right2Know campaign. The judgment is a victory for civil society groups that have been part of a decades-long campaign for some form of accountability after the corruption-riddled deal.

The commission, appointed by former president Jacob Zuma in 2011, was to investigate 'allegations of fraud, corruption, impropriety or irregularity in the strategic defence procurement package.' However it was patently clear to most objective observers that Judge Willie Seriti was unwilling to find any evidence of corruption. Its witnesses implicated in corruption were rarely cross-examined while those presenting evidence were vigorously grilled.

Despite Tony Yengeni and Schabir Shaik being criminally convicted for corruption related to the arms deal, and foreign arms companies paying many millions of dollars and euros in fines to their home countries for irregularities related to graft, Seriti found 'not one iota of corruption.' The ill-fated commission cost the country R137 million.

This week, however, Judge Dunstan Mlambo didn't mince his words when he said, 'It is clear that the commission failed to inquire fully and comprehensively into the issues which it was required to investigate on the basis of its terms of reference.'

Given the plethora of commissions set up in South Africa to deal with corruption, and ultimately the failure of our political system, this is an important judgment. Now that the commission findings have been set aside, logic would dictate that fresh investigations and subsequent prosecutions follow.

Yet one has to wonder given the limited capacity of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and the overwhelming instinct to prosecute the larger, more



Had the arms deal been properly investigated, the Zuma-led state capture project would have found less purchase. File photo

recent and most egregious instances of state capture. Prosecuting historical crimes is always difficult and will be especially tough given the many challenges the NPA faces.

It is easy to forget the details of the arms deal given the far more sensational stories of state capture during the Zuma years. In a sense, state capture makes the arms deal look like proverbial child's play.

Yet the arms deal, after the Sarafina corruption scandal of 1996, was the largest scandal of its kind a mere five years into democracy. It was an early red flag that ruling party politics would contribute to the failure of South Africa's democratic institutions. In particular Parliament failed to exercise oversight over the executive while other institutions failed to hold the corrupt to account either civilly or criminally.

In 1999, former president Thabo Mbeki's cabinet decided to purchase R29.9 billion worth of military hardware the country had no need for - at great risk.

In late 2000, then auditor-general Shauket Fakie investigated certain aspects of the arms transactions and recommended an investigation.

In October 2000, the Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa) produced its own report on the arms transactions after conducting hearings into the matter. During those hearings, Chippy Shaik, the Department of Defence's head of arms acquisition, and Jayendra Naidoo, government's chief arms deal negotiator, admitted that the costs of the deal had by then ballooned to R43.8 billion.

Scopa has a very specific and significant role in the parliamentary oversight process. Its core function is to satisfy the legislature that money has been spent in accordance with decisions in the budget. Its chairperson at the time of the arms deal investigation was Inka-

tha Freedom Party (IFP) Member of Parliament (MP) Gavin Woods, a man of unassailable integrity.

Before the arms deal, Scopa enjoyed a reputation as one of the best-run, most efficient committees in Parliament, working effectively across party lines. It recommended that the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) headed by Judge Willem Heath form part of a multi-agency investigation team to probe the arms deal. This was refused by Mbeki, and then Parliament's speaker Frene Ginwala also actively intervened to stymie Scopa's work.

Instead, a joint investigation team into the arms deal comprising public protector Selby Baqwa, auditor-general Fakie and national director of public prosecutions Bulelani Ngcuka was charged to look into the arms deal in 2000.

They produced a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) report in November

2001 which Woods subsequently described as 'sub-standard'. That report essentially exonerated government. Woods resigned in February 2002 in protest at what he deemed to be a 'cover up' of possible corruption in the deal, as did African National Congress MP Andrew Feinstein. Scopa has never quite recovered from the manipulation of Parliament and a powerful executive.

What the Seriti Commission judgment this week shows is that commissions of inquiry cannot replace effective and strong democratic institutions. Had Parliament and other institutions fulfilled their constitutional mandates two decades ago, many more senior politicians guilty of corruption in the arms deal would have found themselves behind bars. The Zuma-led state capture project would also probably not have found fertile ground.

This might well be one of the most fundamental lessons of post-apartheid South Africa. Our democratic institutions are meant to be living, breathing instruments that shape our society for the better. Yet political battles have seen weakened institutions struggle to maintain their independence in the face of an onslaught of political pressure. Institutions recover with difficulty once they have been hollowed out either by political interference or weak leadership.

These are important lessons for the current Parliament as it investigates the fitness of the Public Protector to hold office and as the Zondo Commission continues its painstaking but necessary work.

Judith February, Senior Research Associate, Justice and Violence Prevention, ISS Pretoria

The tigers approach to development is perhaps best

By Muharram Macatta

CURRENT efforts at third-world development seem to be proceeding. Are there lessons to be learnt from the rapid economic growth of the Tigers, from the 1960s through to the 1990s, and do these have a practical application in contemporary development?

Soon after the World War II the concept of development to the worlds was introduced, identifying it as a key priority of the West in order to maintain peace and prosperity amongst all the people of the world.

In the beginnings of the great ideological war against Communism, they took care to articulate that the program of development would be "based on the concept of democratic fair-dealing."

This vision shapes the nature of development even today, with economic development and state-building more generally predicated on the assumption that if liberal democracy is established then all other aspects of development will naturally follow.

We see this in IMF loan conditionality, requiring liberalization of economies in regions where the government formally had tight control, and even in post-conflict state-building exercises, where the end goal is often the establishment of democratic elections.

We will not dispute the value of democracy, but there is a fundamental difference between a thing being good in its own right and a good thing leading to other good things.

The examples of the Tigers show us an alternate path to development: a strong central government guiding the economy rapidly forward through distinct stages of development until it reaches full industrialization.

This hypothesis, the "developmental state," is one that has been argued for by a number of economists for some time now. However, if we accept this as a viable method of development two questions remain unanswered: why



IMF Managing Director, Christine Lagarde

was it particularly successful in East Asia, and how can we transplant it to our parts of the world in need?

Before examining the economic development of the Asian Tigers it is important to identify the theoretical framework in which they might sit.

Models for economic development are as varied as there are development economists, but at the risk of sacrificing diversity for ease of analysis we can broadly identify three distinct models.

These three models are less cohesive blueprints and more categories of development policy broadly derived from the Neoliberal, Keynesian and Heterodox economic traditions respectively, which for our purposes we can identify as Market-led, Interventionalist and State-led models for economic

development.

Of the three models of development we can identify in literature, it is the state-led model that was successfully employed in the "Asian Miracle" of the Tigers.

In contrast to the Neoliberal approach of market liberalization and faith in the rationality of individual actors, this model describes a strong central state utilizing a range of policy tools to aggressively pursue development even against the wishes of market actors.

This sees development follow a clear progression through ISI, light industry, heavy and chemical industries, and then finally technological industry, with the

export revenue of each stage being used to fund the next and heavy protection from the international market until industries have been sufficiently established.

Rather than being a product of particular cultural values, the success of this model in East Asia can be attributed to the unique pressures placed on the leadership of these states to pursue economic development lest stagnancy threaten their legitimacy.

The reliance on economic development for legitimacy rather than democratic elections or ideological justification allowed the East Asian states to have both stability and flexibility in their

planning.

Effectively enacting long-term plans for reinvestment and development while still adapting to the situation of the international economy and any new challenges that might arise (such as China's development of light industry in competition to Singapore's).

A state-led economy has every chance of failing if they are not sufficiently stable, flexible and motivated to pursue development, as other cases might suggest.

The Asian Tigers provide us with an interesting alternative to the developmental strategies most commonly seen in state-building exercises, with their emphasis on liberal values like democracy and market-led growth.

Replication of their successes may well be possible, though it will require a dramatic rethinking of our approaches to development economics and our conception of the relationship between a regime's legitimacy and security.

State-builders need to generate in state leaders a pressing urgency to pursue sustained economic development that will make the government stable (non-democratic) flexible (not bound to ideology) and motivated to actively pursue sustainable development progression.

Alternate sources of legitimization, such as military strength, need to be stripped by some means from leaders who show no signs of interest in the long-term economic interests of their state in order to refocus their attentions, while short-term revenue streams that will eventually dwindle need to be limited.

Extractive industries for instance should have their exports limited to fight the "resource

curse" and force consideration of alternate industries.

Here overzealous democratization poses its own danger, quite apart from any criticism of market liberalization in developing states. Democracy at best provides a degree of instability in leadership.

It is hard to make effective Five Year Plans (as in South Korea) when the government could be radically different as little as three years into the future, let alone long-term plans for development of key strategic industries as in Taiwan.

At its worst, democracy provides yet another legitimization for leaderships primarily concerned with its own benefit and not sufficiently motivated to aggressively push through development plans.

Democracy is certainly a good thing and should be a goal of state-building, but it is not the only good thing, and it may even provide an obstacle to development - better perhaps to wait until the government is more institutionalized and society is more stable overall than to introduce it too soon.

Ultimately the pattern of economic development achieved by the Asian Tigers is replicable elsewhere in the world, if the key issue of legitimization and the role of the leadership in development are addressed.

However it may require some rethinking of the priorities of state-building exercises, and other goals like the establishment of democracy may need to be pushed back in order to maintain the stable, flexible, and economically-motivated leadership that seems to be required for effective state-led development.

Africa is right on the verge of reaching a milestone on polio but fight remains unfinished

By Matshidiso Moeti

AS the world strives to eradicate polio, Africa may soon reach a major breakthrough in efforts to rid the planet of one of the most devastating diseases of all time. The continent's resilience and strong commitment to stopping the virus overcame tough challenges, and Africa now stands on the threshold of becoming the next region to be declared free of wild polio.

This week, Africa marks an important moment on the path to zero cases: three years since the last case of wild poliovirus was detected. This three-year landmark sets in motion a comprehensive evaluation process by the Africa Regional Certification Commission to determine if the entire World Health Organization (WHO) African region can be declared wild polio-free.

Should national level data prove the wild virus is gone, Africa will join four of the WHO's six regions - the Americas, the Western Pacific, Europe and South-East Asia - in holding this distinction. It will leave only the WHO Eastern Mediterranean region still working to stop the virus.

The path to eradicating polio in Africa has been a monumental effort of multinational coordination on an unprecedented scale, providing vaccinations to hundreds of millions of children and conducting immunization campaigns in some of the most remote locations in the world, with vigilance and exhaustive surveillance to monitor outbreaks and people on the move. It has involved men and women volunteering in the thousands, sometimes putting themselves in harm's way.

Yet, while this August's marker is a positive sign of progress across the continent, our work is not yet done. We must remain vigilant in our eradication and surveillance efforts: every country must continue ensuring that it is closely monitoring for any signs of the virus and reaching every child with vaccines.

Unfortunately, there is one concerning sign of gaps in Africa - several countries have reported outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus that only appear in areas where children are not fully immunized. The same methods that stop wild polio will stop this rare form - strong surveillance and vigilant distribution of the polio vaccine, and countries across the region have launched coordinated responses.

Stopping the disease has not been easy. Some health workers have even lost their lives. But despite the risk, I am inspired by the continued dedication I have seen. Governments, partners, civil society and local communities are using tried-and-true methods while staying innovative to overcome the obstacles.

And the progress we have experienced over the past three years is significant. In Nigeria, for example, polio workers painstakingly mapped the many islands of Lake Chad and travelled hours by canoe to reach hundreds of settlements for the first time. They also rolled out a new app-based electronic surveillance system called e-Surve to track the virus to its very last hiding places.

These successes would not have been possible without the incredible perseverance of countries and partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative who have mobilized the financial and technical resources to get the job done.



to write the final chapter in this unfinished success story, we must stay committed to ramping up immunity levels, disease surveillance and outbreak readiness. While countries across the region are grappling with other health challenges and emergencies, such as Ebola and measles outbreaks, we must not lose sight of how unified efforts to strengthen

health systems and maintain confidence in vaccination will provide the best shot at protecting all children from preventable diseases.

Africa has united against polio before - we can do it again. Just over 20 years ago, Nelson Mandela first issued the call to achieve a polio-free Africa. During that year, in 1996, wild polio had paralysed more than 75,000 children across the continent.

Mandela's challenge was heard. Africans

came together, with political leaders, traditional and religious leaders, front-line health workers, partners, donors and, most importantly, parents - all united for the common goal of finding and vaccinating every child to protect them from polio.

On the cusp of achieving a planet free of polio, let us listen to Nelson Mandela again. Let us unite once more and kick polio out of Africa for good!

Suffocating in wreckage of energy-sapping meltdown

By Nyasha Chingono

IT is 5pm on Wednesday in central Harare and Douglas Marima, a 34-year-old journeyman, patiently waits at the tail end of a long, snaking queue for a bus which will take him to his home in Chitungwiza.

Marima has been in the queue for the last two hours and, like many urban dwellers who cannot afford commuter omnibus fares, he has no choice but to endure long hours before getting transport home.

Waiting for long hours has become a daily routine for Marima, but still he cannot get used to it, just like spending 18 hours daily without electricity, while also reeling from fuel queues and bread shortages, as well as skyrocketing inflation.

To alleviate the plight of urban commuters, who are finding it hard to pay commuter fares, government in January introduced a public transport system coordinated by the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (Zupco) at heavily subsidised fares. The move was also meant to pacify restless citizens as social discontent and public anger grew over government's inability to solve the country's economic woes.

The disaffection had initially resulted in widespread protests over a 150% hike in fuel prices introduced earlier in January. But the public transport system has failed to ease the plight of the majority of commuters, given that everything else around them, including basic commodities and healthcare, is expensive.

The queue where Marima impatiently waits is a melting pot of the day's struggles and frustra-

tions of Zimbabwe's growing economic problems. Here, people talk bitterly of their problems, their daily struggles and possible solutions are often proffered. The murmurings grow louder with the bus's further delay.

The mischievous ones, who dare skip the line, receive instant chastisement from frustrated commuters. Ironically, the bus that Marima is impatiently waiting for is inscribed "Blessed", but the biblical virtues are not evident in any of those in the queue.

Marima tells the Zimbabwe Independent how his salary - now more than 10 times lower than what it was when President Emmerson Mnangagwa came to power in 2017 - has been decimated by soaring inflation.

His wife, Mavis (30), supplements the family income by selling second-hand clothes in Harare's central business district, where she has had to endure constant running battles with municipal cops.

"Around this time last year, my family could afford a decent breakfast but we can hardly afford two meals a day. My wife tries to help me but it has become increasingly difficult for her to sustain her business in this tough economy. This economy is making us poorer almost daily," Marima said.

"How do you plan when you have no fixed pay date? This is déjà vu, we have been here before. The signs are clear and it's not looking good. We are going back to 2008."

Marima's three school-going children had to endure the humiliation of being sent home af-



ter he failed to pay fees last term.

The children, aged six, nine and 11, respectively, spent a month without school fees before he managed to secure money through a cash baron. Paying back the money is a mammoth task for Marima.

Marima explains how at one point he contemplated transferring his eldest son, 11 to his rural home, where school fees is relatively affordable.

"We have had to adjust to the current situation and it's difficult also considering we have school going children. We are failing to pay their fees on time and this is always problematic. It has affected their performance at school," Marima said.

"I have resorted to borrowing from loan sharks, I have no choice." Just across the street, Josephine Munengiwa, a 40-year-old mother of three from Epworth, sits in a dark corner; a spot she secured after long running bat-

tles with council police. Under an improvised lighting system, she touts to attract customers' attention to her makeshift vending stall. On a good evening, Munengiwa makes ZW\$80 from vending, but such good days come once in a long while.

"My chest is painful from running from the police. I am relieved that my goods were not taken; now I can sell. I hope I can get something to take home to my children. I don't want them to suffer," Munengiwa says.

Munengiwa has had to grapple with feeding three teenage boys who often miss school to sell wares on the dusty streets of Epworth. "Food is our biggest problem. We have had to register for the food programme in our area to supplement the little we have. I never thought I would live on charity but if we don't get that food, it will be tough," she said. "Eating meat is now a luxury; the closest we have to that delicacy

is when we eat soya chunks. As long as my family get something to eat, anything goes."

Her township was under lockdown when security services cracked down on protestors in January. The protests led to the death of 17 people at the hands of the army while more than 70 were left nursing gunshot wounds. The crackdown left a dent on the country's image, worsening an already strained relationship with the West.

Another vendor, Yvette Mabasa (32), a Glen View resident, said life had become difficult since last year.

Struggling to fend for her two children following the death of her husband, Mabasa, resorted to street vending to try and escape from the vicissitudes of an unemployed life.

"Life is really getting tough and there seems to be no end in sight. We spend 17 hours without electricity, running water is

scarce, this economy needs urgent attention," Mabasa said.

Mabasa spends the little she makes from vending on alternative sources of energy like firewood due to a crippling electricity crisis.

"I hardly make enough to save. I am literally living from hand to mouth. The power crisis has also worsened things because I have to part with money to buy firewood."

Zimbabwe has continued on a freefall since last year's disputed election. The country has gone from deflation to triple-digit inflation in less than three years. According to ZimStats, annual inflation rose to 176% in June from 97.9% in May. Runaway inflation has raised the spectre of hyperinflation, experienced in 2008 when inflation peaked at 500 billion percent, prompting the government to abandon the Zimbabwe dollar. The return of the Zimdollar and subsequent banning of other currencies like the United States dollar and South African rand as legal tender has also raised concern over the trajectory of the economy as the new currency continues to tumble in value since introduction.

Economists say the annual inflation may end conservatively at between 200% and 300%, but to conceal figures the burn government banned ZimStats from publishing inflation numbers until February next year.

Government has been battling to contain civil unrest in recent months ahead of the MDC's demonstration scheduled for today while teachers have also threatened to go into the streets, demanding better wages which

have been decimated by inflation.

Rudo Jonasi (36), a school teacher, said educators were leading undignified lives due to growing economic challenges.

"There are no clear promises by the government except for these threats of losing jobs. Currently there are no salary increments, even a cushioning allowance. Life is difficult, most teachers are surviving through ponzi schemes which leave us in debt," Jonasi said.

Pulling a cart for a living, Mufaro Mabuto (27), a resident of Mbare, has never held a pay slip in his life. Mabuto, a high school dropout, yearns for a comfortable life.

"I get ZW\$5 per load and it's not enough to take care of my family. Lucky enough, I stay at home but taking care of my extended family is getting tougher every day, it's simply impossible," Mabuto said.

Part of his growing extended family includes a hypertensive uncle whose medication costs US\$45 per month.

"This burden is tough to bear. On top of the food whose prices go up every day, I have to buy medication for my uncle and it's expensive. Last month, he had to miss his medication for some days because I had no money. He is not safe anymore," Mabuto lamented.

Mabuto was hopeful that after last year's election, life would get better.

"My family now relies on an aunt abroad. But she has stopped sending money. She is also complaining that she cannot continue to support us and this is a blow."

African central banks' meetings show noise on Chinese debt to Africa

KIGALI

A presentation referring to "the noise around the Chinese debt to African countries" made at the annual meetings of African Association of Central Banks indicated the noise is "unfounded", said John Rwangombwa, chairperson of Association of African Central Banks and governor of Rwandan central bank.

The percentage that the Chinese debt accounts for to the total African debt can't be taken as a problem to Africa, said Rwangombwa (pictured) at a press conference in Kigali, capital city of Rwanda, shortly after the meetings closed.

It is good to borrow, and borrow externally is ok, but African countries have to ensure investing in right projects that make the economy to generate foreign exchange, which in turn help them pay back the debt, he said.



It is advisable to borrow from the internal to reduce foreign exchange risk, but Africa faces the financing gap, said the governor, adding that African countries have to improve debt management capacity, borrowing for the right purpose and manage to build their capital markets.

The fact that the debt in Africa has ratcheted up is not unique to the continent, but

a global phenomenon which requires global management, Rwandan economist and former president of the African Development Bank Donald Kaberuka said at Wednesday's plenary session of the symposium on the topic: "African sovereign debt management strategies: lessons from regional and international experiences."

Rwanda hosts the meetings from July 28 to Aug. 1, under the theme "Rising African Sovereign Debt: Implications for Monetary Policy and Financial Stability", which brought together more than 400 participants including African central bank governors and their senior staff, domestic economic policymakers, development partners, financial sector players, academia, think tanks and representatives of African regional economic communities.

AGENCIES

Zambia, Rwanda to launch SDGs sub-regional centre

LUSAKA

ZAMBIAN President Edgar Lungu and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sub-regional centre for southern Africa, a government official said last week.

Alexander Chiteme, minister of National Development Planning, said the two leaders launched the centre on Wednesday August 7 in Lusaka, the Zambian capital.

The launch brought together over 200 government officials, international organizations, development financing institutions and experts to discuss issues concerning implementing SDGs in

southern Africa, he added.

The launch follows the signing of a country agreement in September 2018 between the Zambian government and the SDG Center for Africa.

"The SDG Sub-regional Center is an international not-for-profit institution, which, once launched, will provide technical support, neutral advice and expertise to national governments, private sector, civil society and academic institutions in order to accelerate the implementation of the SDG agenda," he said in a release.

The sub-regional center, he said, will assist southern African countries to unlock bottlenecks that hinder the smooth implementation of the SDGs and help achieve the goals.

TARI appeals for new researched technologies for agriculture transformation

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THROUGHOUT my ten years working in international development and climate policy, I've mostly heard colleagues talk about the private sector as if it was this intangible, multifaceted medusa with its own business lingo that is impossible for us policy experts to tackle: "the 'private sector' needs a return on investment in order to act on climate" or "the 'private sector' does not have the right incentives, but we need 'private' capital to solve this crisis"

Extension agents at village ward and districts have been urged to be at the forefront in promoting technologies and disseminating to the farmers to ensure they meet their needs for increased productivity.

The call was made by senior agricultural Research Officer, who is also Centre Coordinator for Technology Transfer and partnerships, Rose Matiko Ubwe in an interview with the Guardian.

She said that it is important that the agro-extension officers reach many farmers so that the adopters will keep on disseminating the technologies to fellow farmers (farmer to farmer technology dissemination). Extension workers and farmers should be proactive in seeking new technologies from researchers for agriculture transformation. However, farmers should change their mind set by becoming inquisitive in seeking for new technologies.

She also called for the private sector to utilize unfolding opportunities by investing in the production of affordable new technologies for farmers. Markets opportunities should be identified for reliable agricultural produce markets, stable, free from interference and less dependence on international markets, by promoting



local Agro-industries for value addition. Facilitating farmers and other stakeholders to have access to credit facilities from financial institution with soft loans which are more friendly to promote investment and adoption of appropriate technologies for increasing crop production, productivity and income.

She said that Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has a directorate for the technology transfer and partnerships. This directorate aims at disseminating agricultural technologies, innovations and management practices to stakeholders, establish and, or strengthen partnerships at national and international level.

Inlonga TARI centre director Dr Joel Meliyo (R) makes a briefing on newly introduced high-yielding sunflower varieties recently. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

According to Ubwe, technology transfer and partnership is one of the directorates under TARI mainly for technologies documentation, dissemination and commercialization. In the past there was a big gap between research and extension, thus this directorate was established to bridge that gap as a communication strategy has been strengthened for the developed technologies to reach wide range of end users such as farmers, public and private sectors, companies, NGOs, processors and entrepreneurs.

She named the technologies under research as soil and water management practices, improved crop

varieties for increased productivity; early maturity; tolerance to drought; resistance to diseases and pests, good agricultural practices (GAP) for increased productivity, use of farm implements as labour saving technology to reduce work load, post-harvest management practices for proper handling of produce after harvest and the value addition for diverse uses of crops and increased income.

"We understand and we want to make sure that the role of these technologies contributes and empowers the farmers to improve production per area, income, food security technologies and nutrition," she said.

Commenting on what these technologies have contributed to increased production, Rose Ubwe explained that maize production has increased from 1 ton/ha to 5 tons/ha; common bean production from 1 ton/ha to 3 tons/ha; wheat production from 1 ton/ha to 4.7 tons/ha

The current strategies to ensure the technologies contribute effectively to increased crop production and food security include strengthen partnership and collaboration with different stakeholders from government, private sector, Civil Society Organizations, NGOs and Community based Organization. Others are international organizations for increased technology dissemination.

Also in the list are to build capacity of farmers and other stakeholders in technology dissemination, participatory technology development and dissemination with farmers and other stakeholders.

Commenting on the challenges and solutions, she said that some farmers fail to adopt technologies because they do not have enough money to effectively apply the technologies, unpredictable weather due to the climate change which has resulted to changing rainfall pattern, emergence of new pests and diseases, unreliable markets for sell of agricultural produces and expensive inputs the cause for high cost of production.

The Director General of Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said that TARI has many technologies related to enhancing crop production and productivity. They include improved varieties.

"There are also some technologies related to processing different crops to high quality flour. We also have a number of ongoing initiatives on processing," he said.

We are going to use the technologies that are already available and then in partnership with other stakeholders along the quality value chain, we are going to disseminate them so that they can make impact to the small holder farmers," he added.

There are going to use the technologies that are already available and then in partnership with other stakeholders along the quality value chain, we are going to disseminate them so that they can make impact to the small holder farmers," he added.

There are going to use the technologies that are already available and then in partnership with other stakeholders along the quality value chain, we are going to disseminate them so that they can make impact to the small holder farmers," he added.

There are going to use the technologies that are already available and then in partnership with other stakeholders along the quality value chain, we are going to disseminate them so that they can make impact to the small holder farmers," he added.

R&D is decisive in rising to the challenge of malaria eradication

GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has said accelerated research and development (R&D) in new tools for malaria prevention and treatment is key if the world is to eradicate malaria in the foreseeable future: today less than 1 per cent of funding for health R&D investment goes to developing tools to tackle malaria.

The UN agency also flags the urgent need for progress to advance universal health coverage and improve access to services and better surveillance to guide a more targeted malaria response.

The findings have emerged in a report from WHO's Strategic Advisory Group on Malaria Eradication (SAGme).

"To achieve a malaria-free world we must reinvigorate the drive to find the transformative strategies and tools that can be tailored to the local situation. Business as usual is not only slowing progress but is also sending us backwards," according to SAGme chair Dr Marcel Tanner.

The group has published the executive summary of its report ahead of a WHO-hosted forum on "Rising to the Challenge of Malaria Eradication" to be held in Geneva on September 9.

"Freeing the world of malaria would be one of the greatest achievements in public health. With new tools and approaches we can make this vision a reality," says WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Eradicating malaria would both save lives and boost economies. The health benefits would be greatest among some of the world's most vulnerable populations. Children under five account for 61 per cent of all malaria deaths, while more than 90 per cent of the world's 400,000 annual malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

The group's analyses show that scaling up current malaria interventions would prevent an additional 2 billion malaria cases and 4 million deaths by 2030 - provided that those interventions reach 90 per cent of the population in the 29 countries that account for 95 per cent of the global burden.

The cost of this scale-up is estimated to be US\$ 34 billion. The economic gain would be around US\$ 283 billion in total gross domestic product (GDP) - a benefit to cost ratio in excess of 8:1.

Global malaria infection and death rates have remained virtually un-



changed since 2015. WHO's World Malaria Report in 2018 revealed that the world is currently off track to achieve the 2030 goals set out in the WHO Global Technical Strategy for malaria 2016-2030 - that is, a 90 per cent reduction in the malaria case incidence and mortality rate.

In many countries, access to health services remains a major challenge. Only one in five pregnant women living in areas of moderate to high malaria transmission in Africa is able to obtain the drugs she needs to protect herself from malaria.

Half the people at risk of malaria in Africa sleep under an insecticide-treated net and just 3 per cent are protected by indoor spraying with in-

Christine Lagarde, outgoing Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

secticides.

This highlights the need to advance universal health coverage and strengthen health services and delivery systems so that everyone can access malaria prevention, diagnostics and treatment when and where they need them - without suffering financial hardship.

The group notes the need to rethink approaches. WHO and partners are already establishing some new strategic approaches to tackling malaria. Last November, for example, WHO and the RBM (Roll Back Malaria) Partnership to End Malaria launched the "High burden to high impact" ap-

proach.

The approach is meant to jumpstart progress against malaria by targeting attention to the 11 countries with 70 per cent of the world's malaria burden - ten African countries and India.

This complements efforts to secure certification among the countries seeking to eliminate malaria by 2020, the WHO "E-2020" initiative. So far, the UN agency has certified 38 countries and territories as malaria-free.

Most of the tools being used to tackle malaria today were developed in the last century or even earlier: insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spray-

ing, rapid diagnostic tests and drugs based on artemisinin.

Promising new diagnostics, medications, insecticides and vector control approaches are being developed alongside passive immunisation therapies such as monoclonal antibodies. The world's first malaria vaccine, RTS,S/AS01, has been deployed in Ghana and Malawi, with plans for rollout in Kenya.

SAGme highlights the urgent need to scale up R&D to strengthen this pipeline, pointing to the Malaria Eradication Research Agenda (malERA), which provides a useful starting point to guide needed R&D investment.

SAGme is composed of 13 leaders and scientists representing a range of disciplines and geographies. They are supported by representatives from WHO collaborating centres, WHO staff and other key stakeholders.

Over the past three years, SAGme has considered the biological, technical, financial, socio-economic, political and environmental factors that underpin malaria. Its final executive summary presents a set of findings and recommendations to director general Dr Ghebreyesus.

BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING

Old-school bars in Kenya stand the test of time

NAIROBI

When bars are trying very hard to modernise their look to attract as many new generation customers as possible, there are some that are not in a hurry to change with times. They have distorted lighting, scraped up floors, old seats, no adherence to interior design standards and one bartender as if they are in the 80s.

Kamlesh Kamau (61), who has patronised one such bar along Nairobi's Juja Road for the past 33 years says "these bars are like a home to me ... I feel so comfortable to a point I do not even realise I'm spending. I can buy beer on credit and when I will die, the managers will even fundraise owing to my long history with them."

Julius Kariuki (52), says he has no time for modern bars "which are full of evil people who spike your drink and rob you." Walking into these bars, the first impression you get is that they are abandoned houses or under renovation. Then you see waiters busy serving patrons.

Kioi's Bar in Nairobi is one such bar that has stood the test of time. It has been in existence since 1960s when it used to sell muratina, Agikuyu traditional brew. Its management says it will unlikely change its style.

Job Kioi, who manages the bar says, "You tether your donkey where you wish ... That if you don't like our style, you are free to go seeking where your comfort will best be catered for."

Older men, who now have few places where they can sit and enjoy a drink without too much noise, he says, frequent his bar.

When it rains in these old-school bars, the roof leaks and customers just shift from the drops without any complaint. They are bars that do not pretend to strive to assuage your ego. Some of the bars have no restrictions on how to behave once drunk. You can light up a cigarette without caring who will get offended, the onus being on you who feels uncomfortable with the smoke to devise a way of getting of the path of the offending smoke.

They also identify themselves with the tribal tag. In Nairobi's Park Road, they have traditional names and they are spacious given that they were designed during independence. David Irungu, a manager of an old bar called Rwathia in Murang'a town, says they want to retain their historic roots. At the bar, they do not play loud music. "We exclusively play one kind of music. Even the bartenders are old-school," he says.

In these bars, you cannot expect to watch European football because there is only one TV tuned for news only. "These bars have a unique history. They have weathered pressures of modernity and have retained that commoner's feel as their selling point," says James Kanene, a manager at Kimani's Place in Nairobi's River Road.



J's Fresh Bar & Kitchen at Karen in Nairobi.

UNRULY

Protesting KZN high school pupils demand smoke breaks

NDURBAN

Roseville Secondary School pupils in Umzinto, KwaZulu-Natal, have refused to attend classes because they are demanding a designated smoking area on school grounds, which the provincial education department has denounced.

On Thursday, provincial education spokesperson Kwazi Mthethwa told News24 if their demands were to be met it would be a world first. "We are not aware of any other country in the world that would even consider such a request."

"Our attitude to smoking is that it cannot add anything to the health [of pupils] or the quality of learning. It will lead to a total breakdown of discipline at the school, let alone the impact on the pupils," Mthethwa said.

TimesLive reported the pupils had "demanded a smoke break between 08:00 and 09:00 at a designated area

on school grounds." The publication said they had refused to attend classes last week and their next course of action was a protest. The legal smoking age in South Africa was 18, Health24 previously reported.

In a Government Gazette notice on the Draft Control of Tobacco Products and Electronic Systems Bill, which was released for public comment last year, then-health minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi noted the bill was "to provide control over smoking ... to prohibit the sale of tobacco products and electronic delivery systems to and by persons under the age of 18 years".

Motsoaledi's proposed bill would also give the health minister powers to prohibit smoking in any outdoor public space or workplace "if they believe it would be in the public interest." The former minister previously expressed his disdain for the tobacco industry, saying it had only caused "mayhem."

RELIEF

Exercise works for treating depression - but not for all people, researchers say



India's corporate employees exercise in New Delhi.

LONDON

The evidence of the use of physical activity and exercise for the management of depression is substantial and growing fast, researchers say, but note that exercise may not provide equally effective treatment for all people with depression.

A study points out that more than 40% of India's corporate employees suffer from depression and anxiety. It's a common illness, yet talking about it is still a taboo. And it costs the global economy \$1 trillion in lost productivity each year. "The evidence of the use of

physical activity and exercise for the management of depression is substantial and growing fast," said study authors Felipe Barretto Schuch, from Federal University of Santa Maria in Brazil, and Brendon Stubbs, from King's College London.

"Despite this substantial evidence, the incorporation of exercise as a key component in treatment is often inconstant and often given a low priority," they added. In the review, the researchers analysed 49 studies that included a total of nearly 267 000 people and concluded that physical activity reduces the risk of depression by 17%, after adjustment for other factors.

Chris Hemsworth opens up about past experiences with depression

After his brief 2009 role in 'Star Trek' as Captain Kirk's father, Hemsworth admitted to 'Heat Magazine' that finding work became difficult. They also examined another 25 studies that included a total of nearly 1 500 people with depression and found that physical activity had a "very large and significant antidepressant effect", according to the report.

But the researchers noted that exercise may not provide equally effective treatment for all people with depression, because a large number of biological, clinical,

psychological and social factors affect their response to exercise therapy. Knowing this might help match "the right patient for the right treatment," Schuch and Stubbs wrote. The findings were published in the August issue of the journal Current Sports Medicine Reports.

Most treatments for depression focus on antidepressant medications and psychotherapy. While both can be effective, they also have significant limitations, according to the researchers. Only about half of people taking antidepressants will have a clinically significant response, and not all patients respond to psychotherapy.

There "is growing recognition that lifestyle behaviors, such as physical activity and exercise, partially contribute to the risk of developing depression and can be useful strategies for treating depression, reducing depressive symptoms, improving quality of life, and improving health outcomes," Schuch and Stubbs said in a journal news release.

How physical activity may help treat depression is not clear, but possible explanations include effects on inflammation, oxidative stress, and brain cell regeneration (particularly in the hippocampus), the researchers said.

CONTROVERSY

Internal fraud rocks Jumia in Nigeria

LAGOS

Established African e-commerce site Jumia has confirmed it recently uncovered evidence of internal fraud within its Nigeria operation. Jumia believes that members of its network of commissioned agents or 'Jumia Force' were behind erroneous orders that were subsequently cancelled on the platform to inflate order volumes.

These orders are reported to have generated around US\$17.5-million in gross merchandise volume (GMV) value (total value of merchandise sold through the site) between the last quarter of 2018 and the first two quarters of 2019.

Nigeria is Jumia's largest market and the company launched its initial public offering (IPO) on the New York Stock Exchange in April, with top shareholders including MTN and Rocket Internet. The first established Africa-centric e-commerce platform to go public generated quick interest and this helped drive its share price to a peak of \$49.77 on NYSE.

However, claims of fraud by a short seller analyst knocked the company's stock value below IPO rate as speculation



Jumia motorbiker messenger delivers merchandise to a client in Lagos.

continues over impending lawsuits and investigations. Jumia confirmed several class action lawsuits have been filed against it over "alleged misstatements and omissions" in its IPO prospectus, but maintains they are still in their preliminary stages.

Adeshina Adewumi, co-founder of One Kiosk Africa

which uses artificial intelligence to disrupt the e-commerce sector, commented: "The internal fraud has a lot to do with, first, the internal control measures in place and, secondly, its reporting. My opinion has always been that the e-commerce model playing out in Nigeria and Africa has been very unsustainable over

the years."

Adewumi added that a lot has changed since his company announced a model to play within the space and "we are very happy about the potential it holds for the e-commerce space and growth across Nigeria and Africa."

The unfolding situation comes as Nigeria-based

payments firm Interswitch renews plans to go public in London and Lagos later this year with JP Morgan Chase & Co., Citigroup Inc. and Standard Bank Group Ltd. behind the financial technology company. Insiders speculate the value to be at between US\$1.3-billion and US\$1.5-billion.

ON RECORD

These are SA's 5 biggest PowerBall and Lotto winners

JOHANNESBURG

With the total estimated payout of Friday's PowerBall standing at more than R200m, it is quite possible that one lucky person could go from working hard to sailing around the world in their own yacht. Or finally telling their annoying boss exactly where they can stick their job.

Many people have dreams of what they would do should they win big in South Africa's Lottery or PowerBall draws. But for some, the dream has become reality. Here are South Africa's five biggest PowerBall and Lotto winners, according to lottery.co.za.

PowerBall winners: Jackpot: R232m: Cape Town: A record-breaking PowerBall jackpot came to the boil after virtually a whole summer without a winner, jumping up to R232m for the draw on February 19, 2019. A single ticket matched all the numbers and the winner came forward to claim the money one week later, opting to stay anonymous.

It was revealed, however, that the ticket belonged to a man in his 50s from Cape Town who worked in a blue collar job and had no intention of quitting work. He picked his own numbers and spent just R22.50 on buying his tickets at an OK Mini Mart in Tygerdal. His main focus for the money was to give his children the best education possible.

Jackpot: R145m; Location: Secunda; Winner: Anonymous; Date: August 3, 2018: An engineer from Secunda revealed that he had used his dreams for guidance after winning R145m. The young man, who did not want his name to be disclosed, had picked the number 4 as his PowerBall, based on the "Fafi" system of dream analysis and associating objects or events with numbers, having dreamt of a fight before he played.



A person filling a PowerBall ticket in Johannesburg.

The winner bought his R20 ticket from Evander Dientsstasie at 1 Rotter Dam Road, Evander, and decided to keep his ticket in his sock over the weekend until he was ready to claim. He even said that he was too afraid to go outside before he claimed the money in case something happened to him.

Jackpot: R102m; Location: Bloemfontein; Winner: Anonymous; Date: June 3, 2011: The winning PowerBall ticket for the R102m draw on June 3, 2011, was nearly thrown away after the player asked for it to be checked and the cashier's scanner failed twice in a row. The winner said it might as well be discarded as it probably wasn't a lucky ticket, but the cashier finally got the scanner working at the third attempt and a message appeared to say the player needed to visit a lottery office.

The man bought his ticket at the Spitskop Total fuel station in Langenhovenpark, Bloemfontein, and said he wanted to use his money to expand his business.

Jackpot: R91m; Location: Western Cape; Winner: Anonymous; Date: February 12, 2010: A 43-year-old woman from the Western Cape was revealed to be the winner of this enormous jackpot. She kept the lucky ticket in her husband's wallet and they booked into a hotel for a few days before claiming the money, not even telling their two teenage children straight away. They planned to use the money to buy a new home and a car for their eldest child.

Another person, deaf-mute cleaner Stanley Philander, had been widely and wrongly reported to be the winner after he contacted the media to claim he was. He had

a ticket with the winning numbers, but lottery operator Gidani clarified that he had bought his ticket after the draw had taken place.

Jackpot: R87m; Location: Limpopo; Winner: Anonymous; Date: July 22, 2016: A Limpopo man who for 16 years prayed every time he bought a lottery ticket declared that his R87m was "a gift from God". A 45-year-old government worker, he said he had no plans to give up his job and would use the money to help others who were in need of assistance. He insisted that he would not make any big changes to his life, although he was keen to buy a mansion in Gauteng or Mpumalanga.

Jackpot: R110m; Location: Cape Town; Winners: Anonymous; Date: January 27, 2018: There were four winning tickets in the biggest Lotto draw of all time, each worth

R27.5m. It took 21 rollovers to create the R110m jackpot, with no winners for two-and-a-half months.

One of the lucky winners left it almost a full year to come forward, claiming the prize just a day before it expired. He was described as a 58-year-old from Ravensmead but did not want any further information to be divulged.

Jackpot: R79m; Location: Cape Town; Winner: Anonymous; Date: May 4, 2019: The Cape Town winner of this big jackpot revealed that she wanted to give R2m to a petrol attendant who had always been polite and helpful. She also intended to buy a house with a garden for her grandson to play in, and pay for her daughter to quit her job as a call-centre agent so she could fulfil a dream of studying towards a psychology degree.

HOME-COMING

Ghana draws near African-American tourists with 'Year of Return'

ACCRA

US preacher Roxanne Caleb blinked away the tears as she emerged from a pitch-dark dungeon where African slaves were once held before being shipped across the Atlantic to America.

"I wasn't prepared for this. I'm heartbroken," she told AFP as she toured the Cape Coast slave fort on Ghana's ocean shore. "My mind still can't wrap around the fact that a human being can treat another worse than a rat."

Caleb is among the African-American visitors flocking to Ghana as it marks the "Year of Return" to remember the 400th anniversary of the first slave ship landing in Virginia. The West African nation is banking on the commemorations to give a major boost to the number of tourist arrivals as it encourages the descendants of slaves to "come home."

Cape Coast Castle, 150 kilometres (90 miles) from the capital Accra, is a major magnet for those visiting. The white-washed fort lined with cannons was one of dozens of prisons studding the Atlantic coast where slaves were held before their journey to the New World.

A string of prominent African-Americans have headed to the site this year to mark the anniversary since the first slave landing in 1619. Among them was a delegation of Congressional Black Caucus led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that toured last month.

'Can't forget history'

For those visiting it is an emotional rite of passage. "This has been understanding my history and my roots where I came from," Caleb said. "I am very thankful I came here as part of the Year of Return." Sampson Nii Addy, a corrections officer with the Montgomery police department in Alabama, said he and his family had found the tour an "education."

"I think every black person needs to come around to learn history; how people were treated," the 52-year-old told AFP. "We can't forget history but we can always learn something from it." Ghana, one of the continent's most stable democracies, has long pitched itself as a destination for African-Americans to explore their heritage and even settle permanently.

In 2009 President Barack Obama visited with his family and paid homage at the Cape Coast Castle. The "Year of Return" has added fresh impetus and the country is hoping it will increase visitor numbers from 350,000 in 2018 to 500,000 this year, including 45,000 African-Americans.

Kojo Keelson has spent nine years guiding tour groups around the Cape Coast Castle and says 2019 has seen a surge in interest as Ghana looks to rake in tourism revenue of \$925 million (830 million euros).

"It's like a pilgrimage. This year we've a lot more African-Americans coming through than the previous year," he told AFP. "I'm urging all of them to come home and experience and reconnect to the motherland."

'Love to come again'

Akwasi Awua Ababio, the official coordinating "Year of Return" events, pointed to high hotel occupancy rates as he said "enthusiasm is very high and we've got huge numbers coming from the US and Caribbean."

He insisted that beyond the major economic boost, Ghana was also looking to use the new connections it is forging to convince the descendants of slaves to resettle for good and help the country develop.

"Human resource is always an asset and we need to see how we can welcome them home to utilise their expertise and networks," the director for diaspora affairs at the presidency said. The African American Association of Ghana brings together those who have moved to West Africa and offers help to integrate them into their new surroundings.

President Gail Nikoi praised the "Year of Return" initiative by Ghanaian leader Nana Akufo-Addo and said the country was "setting the stage for future engagements and involvement of African-Americans and other Africans from the Diaspora in the development of this country."

But she said the authorities could still be doing more to help attract arrivals and convince them to stay. "Dialogue and engagement is the first step," she said. While most of those visiting Cape Coast were not thinking about settling back permanently – they said the trip had opened their eyes to both their own history and what Ghana has to offer.

"It has broadened my horizons about how we came to be here and what our ancestors went through," said William Shaw, 57, from Montgomery. "I would love to come again. There is a lot more to see here in Ghana... at least once in a year I'd advise African-Americans to come back to their native land and learn about their history."

EXCELLENCE

Meet Emmy Cyuzuzo, Park Inn Hotel's award-winning barista

KIGALI

When he joined Park Inn Hotel Kigali by Radisson Hotels in January this year, Emmy Cyuzuzo Omar committed to doing his best to gain more skills to not only advance his career in the hospitality sector but also to serve to full satisfaction the hotel's clientele. To do this, he had to find a niche, and he found this in specialty coffee.

With the support of the hotel's management, he started to hone skills in brewing high-quality coffee and as a result, he recently emerged runner-up among the top three baristas in the just-concluded GoldenBaristaRw2019 Championship.

The contest was organized by the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The initiative aimed at contributing towards enhancing skills of Rwandan baristas to become more professional and brew quality and great-tasting coffee beverages and this will ultimately increase local consumption of Rwandan coffee, hence the growth of the sector.

The grand finale had 20 contesting baristas of whom the top three were selected and Cyuzuzo, the barista from Park Inn Hotel emerged the first runner-up. Before joining the final contest, they underwent an intensive boot camp that focused on preparing coffee that meets international standards, which was facilitated by the 2011 World Barista Champion, Alejandro Mendez from El Salvador. He was later to lead the jury for the grand finale.

Park Inn Hotel's Cyuzuzo started his carrier in the hospitality sector as a waiter, then became a bartender mixing cocktails before joining Park Inn Hotel. He said he started to prepare coffee by using the single espresso machine and when he realized that many people liked the coffee he brewed, he put more effort in exploring, exercising and visiting many coffee shops and restaurants to learn.

Motivated by Park Inn Hotel



Emmy Cyuzuzo of Park Inn Hotel in Kigali displays his trophy.

The mixologist said he got inspired a lot when he joined Park Inn by Radisson, Kigali, saying that he got much support from the management of the facility. "Our General Manager

helped me with making the right choice. He told me that if I could dedicate my time to coffee brewing, I would become a good barista and that is where I started following this passion," he said. He emphasized that being bartender or barista requires a passion for it.

"It has been just months since I became a professional barista at this hotel and I am already doing well in national competitions. This is because I have passion for it and I have a supportive employer," said Cyuzuzo. He thanked the hotel management for the several training opportunities to which he has been seconded which he said have equipped him with good skills in preparing coffee.

"Within just four months at this hotel, I have grown to become the barista of choice for clients and to me that is really an honor for me. I remain as ambitious as ever to compete as a barista at the global level," he said.

He noted that emerging the best in the competition is a big opportunity for him and the hotel. "It means that clients who come to this hotel will have more trust in the quality of our coffee, just like other services," he said. He said that at Park Inn Hotel, he serves over 100 orders for coffee per day.

The General Manager at Park Inn, Bernard Theron said that it means a lot for the hotel to see its staff succeed and it is one way for them to gauge the impact of their skills development program. "We as Park Inn Kigali strive to grow all our staff; to give them a better future and career growth, and seeing the performance and outcome of this training through a gentleman like Emmy is increasingly motivating," said Theron.

According to Amr Mahdy, the Food and Beverages Manager at the hotel said that Cyuzuzo is a favorite among their guests, with amazing reviews mentions his service through various online platforms. "He always has a smile on his face and is quick to assist the guests. Here at Park Inn by Radisson Kigali, we strive to deliver memorable moments every day, everywhere, every time."

London Distillers, Erdemmann pollution row escalates

NAIROBI

The dispute between Chinese developer Erdemmann Properties and liquor manufacturer London Distillers Kenya (LDK) over alleged pollution affecting the former's housing units in Athi River has escalated with the two

now opting to square it out in court.

The two firms have been embroiled in a dispute over air pollution and disposal of waste into the waters of River Athi. London Distillers has now moved to court to block phase three of Erdemmann's housing project that is in its early stages.

In a letter dated July 14, filed under certificate of urgency, LDK has sued the National Environment Management Authority (Nema) for licensing the Chinese investor's project. LDK environment officer Chrispas Michira maintains that resolving the matter amicably has failed and that it's time for

the court to settle the matter.

Erdemmann has been named the second respondent with the distillery noting that the developer did not consult them during an environment impact assessment report compilation.

According to the Safari Cane and Meakins spirits maker, the housing

project has ignored a buffer zone provided by law and argues that setting up the project adjacent to the factory is a breach of industrial and residential planning regulations.

The move comes after failure by Nema to resolve the dispute between the two investors who have been

cleared by the regulatory body to carry on with their businesses. At the centre of the disputes has been disposal of what is suspected to be affluent. Both investors accuse each other of waste water disposal endangering residents' health.

WORLD

President Macron says Amazon fires 'global crisis', Brazil wants no meddling

BRASILIA/SAO PAULO

AMID growing international criticism over the wildfires raging through the Amazon, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Thursday admitted farmers could be illegally setting the rainforest ablaze but told foreign powers not to interfere.

French President Emmanuel Macron and United Nations Secretary General António Guterres both took to Twitter to express concern about the fires that have reached a record number this year, devastating vast swathes of forest considered a vital bulwark against climate change.

Bolsonaro responded angrily to what he regarded as meddling.

"These countries that send money here, they don't send it out of charity. ... They send it with the aim of interfering with our sovereignty," he said in a Facebook Live broadcast.

But earlier on Thursday, he said that Brazil alone lacked the resources to control the fires.

"The Amazon is bigger than Europe, how will you fight criminal fires in such

an area?" he asked reporters as he left the presidential residence. "We do not have the resources for that."

Fires in the Amazon have surged 83% so far this year compared with the same period a year earlier, government figures show.

Although fires are a regular and natural occurrence during the dry season at this time of year, environmentalists blamed the sharp rise on farmers setting the forest alight to clear land for pasture.

Farmers may have had at least tacit encouragement from the firebrand right-wing president, who took power in January.

Bolsonaro has repeatedly said he believes Brazil should open the Amazon up to business interests, to allow mining, agricultural and logging companies to exploit its natural resources.

On Wednesday, he blamed non-governmental organizations for setting the fires, without providing evidence. He appeared to row back on Thursday, when he said for the first time that farmers could be behind the fires.

AD FOR 'FIRE DAY'

Macron took to Twitter to call the Amazon fires an "international crisis" that should be discussed by the G7 summit that will begin on Saturday in Biarritz, France. The Group of Seven rich countries does not include Brazil.

Guterres said he was "deeply concerned" by the fires, adding, "We cannot afford more damage to a major source of oxygen and biodiversity."

Federal prosecutors in Brazil said they were investigating a spike in deforestation and wildfires raging in the Amazon state of Pará to determine whether there has been reduced monitoring and enforcement of environmental protections.

Prosecutors said they would look into an ad that they said was published in a local newspaper encouraging farmers to participate in a "Fire Day," in which they would burn large areas of forest "to show Bolsonaro their willingness to work."

Colombia, home to part of the northern Amazon, on Thursday offered its support in the fight to protect the forest.

"Colombian authorities are already working to contain the propagation of these fires toward Colombian territory and we are willing to collaborate with our neighbors in this common cause," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Brazil is facing growing international criticism over its handling of the Amazon, 60% of which lies

in the country.

Earlier this month, Norway and Germany suspended funding for projects to curb deforestation in Brazil after becoming alarmed by changes to the way projects were selected under Bolsonaro.

At the time, when asked about the loss of German funding, Bolsonaro said, "Brazil does not need that."

Others were less sanguine.

Brazil's lower house speaker, Rodrigo Maia, said on Twitter he would create "an external committee" to monitor the burning of the rainforest, and he vowed to form a group "to evaluate the situation and propose solutions to the government."

The Bishops Conference for Latin America expressed concern about the "tragedy," and on Thursday called on countries to take immediate action to protect the rainforest and nearby communities.

"We urge the governments of the Amazon countries, especially Brazil and Bolivia, the United Nations and the international community to take serious measures to save the world's lungs," it said.

Wildfires are also raging in Bolivia, where officials estimate that an area the size of the US state of Delaware has burned in recent days.

Agencies



French President Emmanuel Macron

Anson Chan's treacherous misdeeds in decimating Hong Kong

BEIJING

AS her misdeeds of betraying Hong Kong and her country continue to come to light, it has become increasingly clear that Hong Kong's former chief secretary Anson Chan Fang On-sang is a major culprit in disarranging Hong Kong.



Chan (pictured), a former chief secretary of the Hong Kong government before Britain returned Hong Kong to China in 1997, is an important pawn for anti-China forces in the West to meddle in Hong Kong affairs.

Chan has been a chameleon political speculator.

After Hong Kong's return to the motherland, Chan served as chief secretary for administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) government, pledging her loyalty to the HKSAR Basic Law, upholding the "one country, two systems" principle and professing her patriotism and love for the country and Hong Kong.

As her plan to become the HKSAR Chief Executive failed, however, she became uncooperative with the then chief executive. As soon as she retired, Chan openly confronted the HKSAR government and the central government.

After she took up the Hong Kong Legislative Council seat, Chan even led Hong Kong opposition to stage all sorts of activities to create disorder and chaos under the guise of democracy.

Calling herself "the conscience of Hong Kong," Chan carries in her pocket "political black gold."

Several Hong Kong media reports have disclosed that between 2013 and 2014 alone, Chan received 3.5 million Hong Kong dollars (446,000 U.S. dollars) in "political contributions" from media tycoon Jimmy Lai Chee-ying on three separate occasions for various activities to oppose the central government and incite chaos in Hong Kong.

Serving as a political tool for foreign powers to oppose China and cause chaos in Hong Kong, Chan met senior U.S. officials during Hong Kong's "Occupy Central" incident in 2014.

Chan has used the proposed amendments to the fugitive offenders ordinances in Hong Kong this year to repeat the same old trick.

Xinhua

India increases restrictions in Kashmir amid call for protests

SRINAGAR

AUTHORITIES in the main city of Indian Kashmir tightened security ahead yesterday prayers after separatists called for a protest march to a UN office, with streets bristling with paramilitary personnel and some blocked by checkpoints.

Posters appeared overnight this week in Srinagar, the Muslim-majority region's main city, calling for a march to the office of the UN Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), to protest against India's revocation of Jammu and Kashmir state's special autonomy.

The call by separatists seeking Kashmir's secession from India was the first since that decision on Aug 5, which brought communication and travel restrictions in Kashmir that are still largely in place. Some landlines were restored last week.

The UNMOGIP was set up in 1949 after the first war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the Himalayan region both countries claim in full but rule in part. The group monitors ceasefire violations along the border between the countries.

US President Donald Trump plans to discuss Kashmir when he meets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a G7 meeting in France this weekend, a senior US administration official said on Thursday.

Trump, who has offered to mediate between Indian and Pakistan, will press Modi on how he plans to calm regional tensions after the withdrawal of Kashmir's autonomy, and stress the need for dialogue, the official said.

SHOPS SHUT

Protests have broken out in parts of Srinagar over the last two weeks, some drawing hundreds of people. At least 152 people have been hurt by teargas and pellets since security forces launched a sweeping crackdown, data from the Himalayan region's two main hospitals shows.

Yesterday, several dozen paramilitary personnel manned at least two barriers on the main road leading to the office of UNMOGIP in Srinagar and public movement around it was blocked.

Entry into the city's old quarter, which has long been a center for protests, was severely curtailed, as policemen blocked street after street with concertina wire.

Large swathes of Srinagar remained deserted with shops shut except for some provision stores with shutters half-down.

Agencies

Japan PM says ROK's decision to cancel intel deal damages trust

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said South Korea's decision to cancel a deal to share military intelligence is damaging mutual trust, and he vowed yesterday to work closely with the US for regional peace.

Abe also accused Seoul of not keeping past promises. The military agreement started in 2016.

"We will continue to closely coordinate with the US to ensure regional peace and prosperity, as well as Japan's security," he said,

ahead of his departure for the Group of Seven summit of industrialized nations in France.

ROK said on Thursday it was ending the intelligence-sharing agreement with Japan, further straining ties between Seoul and Tokyo amid a dispute over ROK people pressed into forced labor during Japan's wartime occupation of Korea.

Senior ROK presidential official Kim Hyun-chong yesterday defended his government's decision. He told reporters that "there is no longer any justification" for Seoul



to maintain the deal because of Japan's claim that basic trust between the countries had been undermined.

Kim accused Japan of having ignored ROK's repeated calls for dialogue and other conciliatory steps to resolve bitter trade and history disputes. He said Japan's such "breach of diplomatic etiquette" has undermined "our national pride."

ROK will try to bolster its own defense capability by introducing military satellites and other reconnaissance assets, Kim said.

He also said ROK will push to bolster its alliance with the United States.

ROK will also try to actively use

a trilateral intelligence-sharing channel with the United States and Japan, Kim said. Before the 2016 bilateral deal was forged, Seoul and Tokyo used that three-way channel to exchange intelligence via the United States.

Earlier yesterday, Japanese Minister of Defense Takeshi Iwaya said ROK's decision was regrettable and showed it failed to appreciate the growing national security threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s missiles.

Agencies

Putin hands down orders to work on symmetric response to US new cruise missile's test

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has given instructions to analyze the threat level in the wake of the US test of a new cruise missile modification and take measures for preparing a symmetric response, the Kremlin's press office reported yesterday.

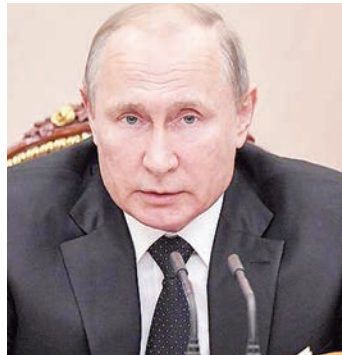
The Russian leader stated this at a meeting with permanent members of Russia's Security Council, which focused on this issue.

"Considering the newly emerging circumstances, I instruct the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and other specialized agencies to analyze the level of the threat, which the above-mentioned US moves are creating for our country, and take comprehensive measures for preparing a symmetric response," the Russian leader said.

At the same time, "Russia is still open for an equitable and constructive dialogue with the United States of America for restoring trust and strengthening international security," Putin (pictured) stressed.

The new missile test conducted by the US and Washington's withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty were the links in a chain of pre-planned events, according to Putin.

"It is noteworthy that the tests of a missile with characteristics prohibited under the treaty were conducted just 16 days after the completion of the procedure of denouncing that treaty initiated by Washington," he said. "Apparently, that was not an improvisation but another link in a chain of pre-planned actions." Putin also said that Moscow will not be drawn into the ex-



pensive arms race despite the US' actions.

"As you know we have never wanted, do not want and will not be drawn into the expensive arms race that is devastating for our economy," he said.

Putin believes that the US staged a propaganda campaign accusing Russia of violating

provisions of the INF Treaty in order to cover up its own plans to withdraw from the agreement.

"Instead of trying to straight out this unacceptable situation and getting back to the observance of the Treaty, the Americans staged a propaganda campaign on Russia's alleged non-compliance with the Treaty's provisions," Putin said.

"It is now obvious to everyone that the main aim of this campaign was to cover up Washington's work, which was in violation of the Treaty and initially envisaged the withdrawal from this agreement," the Russian president added.

Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters earlier on

Thursday that Putin had held an ad hoc meeting with permanent members of the Russian Security Council, centering on the INF Treaty in the context of Washington's test launch of the Tomahawk cruise missile's latest modification.

US cruise missile test

The US Department of Defense said in a statement on Monday that on August 18 the US "conducted a flight test of a conventionally-configured ground-launched cruise missile at San Nicolas Island, California."

"The test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately impacted its target after more than 500 kilometers of flight.

Agencies

US covers up its own misdeeds by accusing China of cyber theft

SOME U.S. politicians have really racked their brains to trump up charges against China. Recently, they once again framed China by saying the country hacked U.S. computers and stole U.S. trade secrets, staging a farce with new wording.

The large-scale and organized cyber espionage activities conducted by relevant U.S. departments on foreign governments, enterprises and individuals are not a secret at all, making Uncle Sam the largest empire of hackers - a globally recognized fact.

However, these politicians are disguising the U.S. as a victim of cyber-attacks, trying to cover up its own misdeeds by shifting the blame. How laughable it is!

The "achievements" made by the U.S. in cyber theft have no parallel in the whole world.

Edward Snowden revealed that the notorious PRISM surveillance program of the National Security Agency (NSA) of the U.S. was running 24 hours a day for unauthorized monitoring of emails and social media communication. Even some state leaders and heads of international organizations had long been secretly monitored by U.S. intelligence agencies.

In 2017, WikiLeaks disclosed nearly 9,000 confidential documents, revealing that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), with its unparalleled hacking capability, hacked into various smart devices including cellphones, computers, and smart TVs.

According to reports by Western media, 90 percent of the world's communication was under U.S. surveillance.

What's worth more attention is that

the U.S. military and intelligence agencies are building the world's largest cyber arsenal that is as deadly as nuclear weapons, triggering a global cyber arms race. In 2009, the U.S. military established the U.S. Cyber Command, and elevated it to the 10th unified combatant command of the country in 2017.

Julian Assange, founder of WikiLeaks, revealed that the U.S. has developed as many as 2,000 types of cyber-weapons, making it the No.1 cyber weapon producer in the world.

In addition, information disclosed by cyber security organizations indicated that the two advanced persistent threats (APTs) groups, Equation and Project Sauron, which are considered to be at Thanos level in the industry, are both supported by NSA behind the scene.

As indicated by a recent annual report

on China's cyber security published by China's National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team (CNCERT), most of the cyber-attacks China received were from the U.S., and the number kept growing.

In 2018, 3,325 IP addresses in the U.S., up 43 percent from 2017, planted Trojans in 3,607 websites on the Chinese mainland.

Cyber theft and hacker attack are just all-too-common practices of the U.S., as substantial evidences suggest.

Who on earth is launching frequent cyber-attacks and stealing secrets around the globe? Who is the first opening the "Pandora's box" of enhancing cyber warfare capabilities? Facts speak louder than words, and the truth is self-evident.

As it is written in ancient Chinese

political and philosophical text Guanzi, "Nothing is more beneficial than stability, and nothing is more detrimental than chaos." Cyber security concerns the common interests of various countries and needs to be jointly safeguarded by the international community.

China has a consistent and clear stance on cyber security. Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed on many occasions that both commercial cyber theft and hacking against government networks are crimes that must be punished in accordance with law and relevant international treaties.

As a firm defender of cyber security, China has never engaged in any form of cyber theft or supported anyone in stealing trade secrets.

China is also an active advocate for international cooperation on cyber se-

curity. The country has proposed four principles that must be upheld in order to make progress in the transformation of the global Internet governance system, put forward five proposals with an aim of jointly building a community of shared future in cyberspace, and actively carried out international cooperation on cyber security via bilateral and multilateral channels.

In recent years, China has jointly established specialized dialogue mechanisms with the U.S., the UK, and the European Union (EU) to boost cyber security cooperation, and put forward constructive proposals for promoting international cooperation on cyberspace through multilateral mechanisms including the UN and Group of 20 (G20).

People's Daily



Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan

China is 'example' for Pakistan and developing world - Pakistani PM

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN needs to learn from Chinese experience in many aspects such as anti-corruption, poverty alleviation, urban development and pollution control, as the way China dealt with those issues "has been an example not just for Pakistan but for a lot of the developing world", Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday in an interview with Chinese media in Islamabad.

The remarks were made by Khan ahead of his first official visit to China from November 2-5 at the invitation of the Chinese leadership, during which he will also attend the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai.

The upcoming CIIE is "a great opportunity" for Pakistan as the country needs to improve its exports to curtail the current accounts deficit, Khan said, adding that Pakistan will exhibit its exports such as agricultural products, sugar, leather, sports goods and surgical equipment.

Khan said he is looking forward to meeting with the Chinese leadership as Pakistan can learn more from China than any other country. "I hope not just to learn from the way they have evolved and their experience, but also how we can benefit from Chinese experience," he said.

Unlike Western economies which have developed for a long time, China has achieved rapid development in recent years, therefore Pakistan "can identify a lot of problems which we are facing right now, which China managed to remove and move forward", he explained.

According to Khan, anti-corruption and poverty alleviation would

be the main subjects as China has made "incredible" achievements in the two fields.

Saying that corruption is one of the main reasons now stopping Pakistan from achieving its potential, Khan noted that Pakistan needs to learn from Chinese expertise in fighting white collar crime.

As to poverty alleviation, Khan said that a main plank of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party's manifesto is to bring people out of poverty.

"China has progressed very fast in agriculture and we can also learn from Chinese experience to raise our yields and help our farmers," he said, noting that removing rural poverty is key to the poverty alleviation work.

Speaking of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Khan said that CPEC is a great opportunity for Pakistan and will help Pakistan to bring in foreign investment to get out of the current difficult economic situation. He said that the CPEC started from the time-honored friendship between the two countries and is "the continuation of that".

The prime minister spoke highly of the Pakistan-China relationship, stressing that it is the "oldest" and a "very special" one and the Pakistani people regard China "very positively as a friend".

"Since I am almost as old as Pakistan, I know how the relationship has evolved. If there is one relationship or one country, which people of Pakistan have always felt that in our times of need we can depend on, China has always been that country," Khan told People's Daily.

People's Daily

Huawei trains Nigerian civil servants to promote e-governance

ABUJA

COOPERATION between China and Nigeria further yielded a positive result on Thursday, following the graduation of a total of 935 Nigerian civil servants who had undergone a training program on information and communications technology (ICT) by Chinese technology giant Huawei.

The training, tagged "ICT for Change", commenced in January and ended in June, was held in 19 batches. It aimed at training Nigerian civil servants on core ICT capacity and boost e-governance in the country.

The participants were drawn from various federal ministries, departments, and agencies, following a memorandum of understanding signed last October by the Nigerian government and Huawei Technologies Company Nigeria Limited.

Boss Mustapha, the secretary to the government of the federation, described the initiative as one which signifies a further collaboration between government and private sector organizations in Nigeria.

He said the training programme supports the area of automation of civil service processes while limiting bureaucratic procedures to ensure effective and efficient service delivery.

"This gesture is highly commendable and we look forward to more of such programmes that seek to compliment Federal Government's commitment to deliver good governance," Mustapha said.

The minister of communications Ali Isa Pantami said the training program became necessary for civil servants to improve their ICT skills in order to face the challenges ahead.

Xinhua

US seeks to use Russia in standoff with China, Italian expert says

ROME

THE US administration will keep on trying to use Russia in its standoff with China, which may help improve relations between Washington and Moscow, Italian political scientist and Limes magazine analyst Dario Fabbri told TASS yesterday.

"It is definitely Donald Trump's idea to reconstitute the G8 with Russia as a member. Just like the Barack Obama administration, the current US administration wants to build relations with Russia to use them against China.

The domestic political situation in the United States doesn't allow Trump to reach a rapprochement with Russia but it will become possible once Washington decides to use Russia in its standoff with China," Fabbri (pictured) emphasized.

According to him, the US withdrawal from the Intermediate-



Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty and the recent test of a ground-launched cruise missile, which exceeded limits set by the document, make it clear that Washington's determination to end the INF Treaty had to do with China.

"It is no coincidence that the missile was tested off the Pacific coast. It indicates that the INF Treaty pullout was aimed more against China than against Russia," the Italian expert pointed out.

Russia and G7

US President Donald Trump told

reporters on Tuesday that "it's much more appropriate to have Russia in" [the G8].

According to a senior US administration official cited by CNN, Trump and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held a telephone conversation on Tuesday and agreed that the Russian president should be invited to the G7 summit in 2020.

According to CNN, Trump plans to broach the topic at a G7 summit scheduled to take place in Biarritz, France, on August 24-26.

On Wednesday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Moscow was ready to consider initiatives concerning the revival of the G8 platform if the G7 countries put any forward. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in turn, told reporters on August 22 that returning to the G8 was not a goal in itself for Russia particularly because the G20 platform provided more opportunities for resolving various issues. **Agencies**



President Trump to square off in court with House Democrats over financial records

NEW YORK

U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to ask a federal judge yesterday to block Deutsche Bank AG and Capital One Financial Corp (COF.N) from handing the financial records of the Trump family and Trump Organization to Democratic lawmakers.

The case, before the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, is one of several legal battles between the Democrats, who took control of the U.S. House of Representatives in January, and the Republican president, who is seeking re-election next year.

Deutsche Bank has long been a principal lender for Trump's real estate business, and a 2017 disclosure form showed that Trump had at least \$130 million of liabilities to the bank.

In subpoenas issued in April, Democratic lawmakers asked the banks for records related to Trump, three of his children and the Trump Organization.

The subpoena on Deutsche Bank, issued by the House Financial Services Committee and the Intelligence Committee, seeks extensive records of accounts, transactions and investments linked to Trump, his three oldest children, their immediate family members and several Trump Organization entities, as well as records of ties they might have to foreign entities.

The subpoena on Capital One, issued by the Financial Services Committee, seeks records related to the Trump Organization's hotel business. It followed an informal request to the bank by Democratic lawmakers in March seeking records related to potential conflicts of interest tied to Trump's Washington hotel and other businesses.

Lawyers for the Trumps have argued that Congress does not have authority to demand the records.

U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos rejected that argument in May, clearing the way for the banks to hand over the documents. The subpoenas have been on hold while Trump appeals.

The subpoenas are only part of Democrats' efforts to gather information about the president's finances. In June, a group of Democrats in the Senate urged the Federal Reserve to investigate Deutsche Bank's relationship with Trump and his son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner.

Last month, an appellate court in Washington appeared likely to allow Trump's accounting firm, Mazars LLP, to comply with a House Oversight Committee subpoena seeking records related to Trump's businesses. **Agencies**

Le Brexit breakthrough? Europe says 'Nein', 'non', 'no'

LONDON/PARIS/BERLIN

AFTER sterling soared and some British newspapers roared at a supposed Brexit victory for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Europe's power brokers had a more sobering message: the basic divorce deal is not changing.

Three years after the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, the outcome of the tortuous Brexit crisis remains unclear, with options ranging from an acrimonious rupture on Oct. 31 to a smooth, amicable exit or even another referendum.

Enter PM Johnson, an avowed Brexiteer whose bet is that the threat of a disorderly 'no-deal' exit will convince German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron that the EU must grant him the divorce deal he wants.

On his first foreign trip as prime minister, the response from Germany and France was polite but firm: the Withdrawal Agreement struck last year by then-prime minister Theresa May will not be changed much. And time is ticking.

"I want to be very clear," Macron said. "In the month ahead, we will not find a new withdrawal agreement that deviates far from the original."

In Berlin, Merkel used a puzzling remark about finding an answer in "30 days" to underscore just how little time remained before the Oct. 31 Brexit deadline and how complex the Irish border riddle was.

"LE BREAKTHROUGH?"

Johnson, who allowed himself to put one of his feet on a coffee table at the Elysee Palace in a light moment with Macron, lauded Europe for "positive noises" and insisted a deal could be done, possibly in the "final furlong".

Sterling, which has gyrated to the tune of the Brexit divorce, had its biggest jump in three months on Thursday as some investors bet that even the possibility of some change to the Brexit deal meant a compromise could be reached.

The Daily Mail newspaper ran the headline "Macron makes (un petit) concession" and asked in an editorial: "Le breakthrough?" The Times said: "New hope for Boris Johnson as Emmanuel Macron says Brexit deal is possible."



Boris Johnson leaves his office in London, Britain July 22, 2019. REUTERS

But in Berlin, Paris and Brussels, there was astonishment at the interpretation that there had been a major shift in EU policy.

By 1100 GMT yesterday, investors were reassessing whether British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had made any progress. Sterling, which had jumped more than 1% against the dollar on Thursday, was down 0.3% on the day to \$1.2217.

Johnson's key demand is that the EU remove the Irish border backstop - an insurance policy that would keep the United Kingdom in a customs union with the EU unless a better solution is found to keep open Ireland's 500-km (300-mile) land border with the British province of Northern Ireland.

PLAYING POLITICS?

As the backstop would also keep Northern Ireland aligned to the rules of the EU's single market, Johnson and the Northern Irish party that props up his government see the backstop as a threat to UK unity - and their own political survival.

Britain says there must be a better solution, though it has yet to present one.

But part of the problem is that there

is suspicion in Europe that Johnson is using Brexit diplomacy to line up a potentially vote-winning confrontation with the EU ahead of a possible British election.

Merkel is keen to ensure that the EU is not seen as being unwilling to talk - but is equally keen not to reopen the Withdrawal Agreement. Rather, as has been EU policy for some time, changes would be addressed in the non-binding declaration on future ties.

Still, Berlin was impressed that Johnson had been serious and accepted publicly that if there was to be progress, London would have to come up with a way to solve the Irish border issue.

In Paris, a diplomatic source said Macron was trying to appear constructive - but had not changed his stance.

France's position, the source said, was that discussions are possible within the acceptance that the fundamental principles of the Withdrawal Agreement remain the protection of the EU single market and political stability in Ireland.

So has there been a change in the EU's position? "No," said one official. "No change."

Agencies

JERUSALEM

US officials confirm Israeli strike in Iraq

US officials have confirmed that Israel was responsible for the bombing of an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month, an attack that would mark a significant escalation in Israel's years-long campaign against Iranian military entrenchment across the region.

The confirmation comes as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is strongly hinting that his country is behind recent airstrikes that have hit bases and munitions depot belonging to Iran-backed paramilitary forces operating in Iraq.

The mystery attacks have not been claimed by any side and have left Iraqi officials scrambling for a response, amid strong speculation that Israel may have

been behind them.

Earlier this week, the deputy head of the Iraqi Shiite militias, known collectively as the Popular Mobilization Forces, openly accused Israeli drones of carrying out the attacks, but ultimately blamed Washington and threatened strong retaliation for any future attack.

Such attacks are potentially destabilizing for Iraq and its fragile government, which has struggled to remain neutral amid growing tensions between the United States and Iran.

There have been at least three explosions at Iraqi Shiite militia bases in the past month. American officials now confirm Israel was responsible for at least one



of them.

Two American officials said Israel carried out an attack on an Iranian weapons depot in July that killed two Iranian military

commanders. The US officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter with the media.

The July 19 attack struck a militia base in Amirli, in Iraq's northern Salaheddin province, causing a huge explosion and fire. A senior official with the Shiite militias at the time told The Associated Press that the base hit housed advisers from Iran and Lebanon - a reference to the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah group. He said the attack targeted the headquarters of the advisers and a weapons depot.

On Aug 12, a massive explosion at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad shook the capital, killing one civilian and wounding 28 others. The base housed a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the PMF. The

most recent of the explosions came Tuesday night, at a munitions depot north of Baghdad.

There have been weeks of speculation in Israel that the army is attacking targets in Iraq. In an interview with a Russian-language TV station on Thursday, Netanyahu indicated the speculation is true.

"I don't give Iran immunity anywhere," he said, accusing the Iranians of trying to establish bases "against us everywhere," including Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Iraq.

Asked whether that means Israel is operating in Iraq, Netanyahu said: "We act in many arenas against a country that desires to annihilate us. Of course

I gave the security forces a free hand and the instruction to do what is needed to thwart these plans of Iran."

Early yesterday, the New York Times, citing Israeli and US officials, reported that Israel bombed an Iranian weapons depot in Iraq last month.

It would be the first known Israeli airstrike in Iraq since 1981, when Israeli warplanes destroyed a nuclear reactor being built by Saddam Hussein. It also steps up Israel's campaign against Iranian military involvement across the region.

Israel has previously acknowledged hundreds of airstrikes on Iranian targets in neighboring Syria, primarily arms shipments believed to be destined for Iran's Hezbollah allies. **Agencies**



Raymone Bain, the late Michael Jackson's former spokesperson, addresses a news conference in Washington, U.S., on Thursday. REUTERS

Michael Jackson's ex-publicist touts foundation to 'protect' legacy

WASHINGTON

A FORMER publicist for Michael Jackson on Thursday announced plans for a charitable foundation not affiliated with the late pop singer's family or estate, intended to defend and promote the legacy of the controversial entertainer.

Raymone Bain, who represented Jackson in 2005 and 2006, said the Michael Jackson Legacy Foundation would seek to raise money for the charitable causes Jackson supported during his life, including the advancement of civil rights for African Americans.

Bain told a Washington news conference that the foundation was in its early stages and that she had not yet contacted family members.

Jackson's estate said on Thursday that Bain "is not authorized to act on behalf of the Michael Jackson Estate nor to use Michael Jackson's name in any way for charitable or her own commercial purposes."

Bain said Jackson gave \$300 million to charitable causes during his life, but that she was unaware of any donations made in his name since his 2009 death at age 50.

Jackson's estate noted that the "Thriller" singer's estate remains in probate and has not yet closed.

In 2005, Jackson was acquitted at a trial on charges of molesting a 13-year-old boy at his Neverland ranch in California.

In a documentary released earlier this year, "Leaving Neverland," two other men said they were abused by him from the ages of 7 and 10 in the early 1990s. Jackson's family and estate have denied the accusations.

Bain said Jackson has been "victimized" by false accusations.

"I'm hoping that the Michael Jackson Legacy Foundation will be able to move forward in a positive way to help preserve, protect and defend all of what Michael Jackson did during his life and to maintain someone who helped open so many doors for so many people," she said.

According to Forbes, Jackson was the top-earning dead celebrity last year, taking in more than \$400 million through recordings, tribute shows, and the sale of his EMI Music publishing stake.

Bain filed a lawsuit against the singer's estate, which was thrown out in 2017, claiming that Jackson had left her and three other business partners a 15 percent stake in his company.

She said her new foundation would raise funds independently through donations from individuals and through a planned tribute event for the singer.

Bain said one of the initiatives would be an exhibition at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

REUTERS

Serena and Sharapova in first-round match at US Open

NEW YORK

SERENA Williams and Maria Sharapova will have their first ever clash at Flushing Meadows at the U.S. Open next week after being drawn against each other in the first round.

It will be the 22nd career match-up between the two long-time rivals, who somehow have avoided each other at the U.S. Open throughout their long careers.

Twelve months after losing the final to Naomi Osaka, Williams will have to hit the ground running in her quest for a 24th Grand Slam title.

But the 37-year-old American will take confidence from her dominant 19-2 head-to-head record against five-times Grand Slam winner Sharapova, who is unseeded.

Williams has won the U.S. Open six times, while Sharapova's lone title was in 2006.

Sharapova beat Williams twice in 2004, but has not prevailed since, not counting a walkover in the 2018 French Open, where the American pulled out with an injury.

If Williams, the eighth seed, beats Sharapova and subsequent opponents, she could meet top seed Osaka again in the final, as the pair are on opposite sides of the draw.

Last year's final ended in acrimony between Williams and chair umpire Carlos Ramos, after he gave her three code violations in the second set.

Williams has not played since retiring with a back injury in the final of the Rogers Cup in Toronto on Aug. 11.

Sharapova, ranked 87th in the world, has also battled injuries this year and was beaten by Ash Barty in the second round of the Cincinnati Masters last week.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon finalists Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer



Serena Williams - Maria Sharapova

are on a semi-final collision course at the U.S. Open after they were placed in the same half of the draw on Thursday.

Top seed Djokovic, who saved two match points in the All England Club final to deny Federer a record ninth title at the grasscourt championships, will start his campaign against 76th-ranked Roberto Carballes Baena in New York next week.

The Serbian then faces a potential second-round showdown against American Sam Querrey.

Third seed Federer, who won the last of his five Flushing Meadows trophies in 2008, will open against a qualifier as he chases a 21st Grand Slam title.

Djokovic has a 26-22 head-to-head record against Federer, and has won their last four meetings.

They are 3-3 at Flushing Meadows, with Djokovic

winning the last three times, most recently in the 2015 final.

On the other side of the draw, second seed Rafael Nadal, who was beaten by Federer in the Wimbledon semi-finals, will play Australian John Millman in the first round of the hardcourt major which starts on Monday.

Millman reached the U.S. Open quarter-finals last year after knocking out Federer in the last 16.

The Spaniard, three-times a champion in New York, could run into 2014 champion Marin Cilic in the fourth round.

Djokovic says he is ready for another Grand Slam tilt, almost two months after claiming his 16th title at Wimbledon.

Speaking at the draw on Thursday, he said the Wimbledon final against Federer was one of the two most memorable matches of his career, along with the six-

hour marathon against he won against Nadal in the 2012 Australian Open final.

"It took me time to reflect on everything, relax... and then get back on track," he said of Wimbledon.

In other first-round matches next week, Austrian fourth seed Dominic Thiem meets 87th-ranked Italian Thomas Fabbiano, while fifth seed Daniil Medvedev begins his campaign against 89th-ranked Indian Prajesh Gunneswaran.

Medvedev is coming off three successive finals in as many weeks, culminating with victory over David Goffin in Cincinnati on Sunday, which came after the Russian had beaten Djokovic in the semi-finals.

Medvedev could meet Djokovic as early as the quarter-finals in New York.

REUTERS

Twerking hillbilly? Yes. Cheater and liar? No, says Miley Cyrus

LOS ANGELES

POP star Miley Cyrus on Thursday said she was no angel, but angrily denied rumors she had cheated on her estranged husband, actor Liam Hemsworth.

In a series of postings on Twitter a day after Hemsworth filed for divorce after just seven months of marriage, the 26-year-old singer said she had nothing to hide.

"You can say I am a twerking, pot smoking, foul mouthed hillbilly but I am not a liar," the "Wrecking Ball" singer wrote.

"I can admit to a lot of things but I refuse to admit that my marriage ended because of cheating," she said.

Hemsworth and Cyrus announced through a representative earlier this month that they had separated, shocking fans of the former

Disney Channel child star and leading to rumors and speculation in celebrity media about the cause.

A day later, Cyrus was photographed kissing celebrity blogger and reality TV star Kaitlynn Carter on a boat in Italy. Last week she released a break-up single, "Slide Away," with lyrics that suggested Hemsworth had alcohol issues, which sources close to him have

denied.

Australian actor Hemsworth, best known for "The Hunger Games" films, filed for divorce in Los Angeles on Wednesday citing irreconcilable differences.

Cyrus tweeted on Thursday that although she would always love Hemsworth, who she met 10 years ago and married in December 2018, she "had to make a healthy decision for myself to leave a previous life behind."

From checkpoint to counterpoint: on tour with the Palestine Youth Orchestra

JERUSALEM

MOST international musicians would balk at the notion of a two-day journey to final rehearsals past military checkpoints on alert for weapons smugglers - but for 19-year-old viola player Ibrahim Masri it's an occupational hazard.

He's part of the Palestine Youth Orchestra, which has been touring Europe for three weeks and whose 76 members - crossing borders and religious divides - include Muslims, Druze and Christians.

They say they cannot gather the full orchestra at home because Israeli restrictions make it too hard to bring together members from Gaza, the West Bank, Jerusalem and refugees abroad.

"We can play but it is hard to travel," said Ibrahim, who had to travel two days from Nablus in the West Bank through neighboring Jordan to reach Oslo, where the tour convened.

"When we go to (the West Bank's) Birzeit or to Ramallah we pass through checkpoints. And especially when you have your musical instrument and get searched, you get asked

"What is this, why is this with you?" he told Reuters TV.

"It's always a hassle when you move from one town to another in order to meet."

Israel says its West Bank security measures are to protect its citizens against attacks from suicide bombers and gunmen, which peaked in the Palestinian uprisings of the late 1980s and early 2000s.

Israel has also imposed a blockade on Gaza, whose Islamist militant rulers Hamas refuse to recognize Israel and have fought three wars with it in the past decade.

With a program combining traditional classical and Arabic music, the orchestra played dates in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

"They're always the best trips of my life. We get very close to each other, and we share unforgettable experiences," said cellist Jude Qalawi as she boarded a bus in Jerusalem at the start of the tour.

She and her compatriots earned standing ovations at the finale in Amsterdam's palatial Concertgebouw, the home venue of PYO conductor Vincent de Kort.

He became involved with the orchestra after playing a concert in Jordan in 2017. "I think the music speaks for itself," he said. "The message is beauty... is understanding. And music is the best language to do that because everyone in the world loves music."

Aged 14 to 27, its players on this tour came from Jerusalem, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and inside Israel itself. There were also Palestinian musicians from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, and some non-Palestinians.

However, unlike on previous tours, nobody from Gaza made this trip, orchestra manager Zeina Khoury said.

An easier journey was had by Mostafa Saad, the 21-year-old concert master and lead violinist, whose two brothers and sister also play with the orchestra.

None of the Saad brothers did army duty, despite coming from Israel's Druze Arab community, whose men usually serve in the Israeli military.

"Once you play with your friends in Palestine you can never imagine yourself holding a rifle instead of your instrument," he said.

REUTERS



Singer Nai Barghouti of the Palestine Youth Orchestra sings during a final performance at The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Netherlands August 16, 2019. REUTERS

Arsenal's Pepe ready for more minutes v Liverpool: Emery

LONDON

ARSENAL'S record signing Nicolas Pepe is ready to make his first Premier League start against Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday, manager Unai Emery said.

Pepe, who arrived from Lille for a reported 72 million pounds (\$88.2 million) this summer, has come off the bench in both Arsenal's league matches this season.

The Ivory Coast international impressed the home supporters with intricate passes against Burnley as he continues to build understanding with the likes of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

"The most important thing is, like a person, to help him and his family to feel comfortable here," Emery told a news conference on Thursday.

"Now he is three weeks into working here with us. He didn't do the pre-season here but he's progressively feeling better. For example, in the first match, he played 15 minutes in Newcastle, then he played 45 minutes against Burnley.

"For Saturday, he is maybe ready to have more minutes. I am going to decide on Friday, but really his progress has been positive and has been good for the team and for him."

Liverpool are the early league leaders after consecutive wins over Norwich City and Southampton, while Arsenal are second on goal difference after beating Newcastle United and Burnley.

Emery confirmed Arsenal will make late calls on the fitness of

midfielders Mesut Ozil and Granit Xhaka ahead of their trip to Anfield, where they lost 5-1 last season.

Ozil, who is yet to feature in this campaign, has been absent due to illness while Xhaka has been struggling with a leg injury.

"We will assess them tomorrow. Today they trained but I need tomorrow to have the last training," Emery added.

"I'm positive with some players, but I don't want to decide today or say to you today because tomorrow things may change."

Meanwhile, Shkodran Mustafi and Mohamed Elneny should seek moves away from Arsenal for the good of their careers as they are unlikely to get much playing time this season, manager Unai Emery has said.

German centre back Mustafi made 31 league appearances last season in a defence that leaked 51 goals, more than double the number conceded by champions Manchester City (23), while midfielder Elneny was stuck on the fringes of the first team.

The Premier League window for incoming transfers closed on Aug. 8 but with the Italian, Spanish, German and French windows not closing until Sept. 2 there is still time for players to find other clubs outside the English top flight.

"They are very big players but for one circumstance or another they are going to have fewer chances to show their capacity or to be happy with us and the minutes they play in matches," Emery told reporters.

REUTERS

Barca injuries lay extra burden on Griezmann in home bow

BARCELONA

BARCELONA forward Antoine Griezmann is under pressure to deliver in his home bow against Real Betis on Sunday with the La Liga champions facing an injury crisis in attack as they look to respond to last week's surprise defeat at Athletic Bilbao.

The 1-0 loss was Barca's first opening-day defeat in 11 years and their early-season jitters were further compounded when striker Luis Suarez and electric winger Ousmane Dembele were ruled out for at least a month with muscle problems.

Lionel Messi missed the trip to Bilbao with a calf injury and although Barca's all-time top scorer has returned to training, he is unlikely to be handed a starting berth given he missed most of pre-season.

With the Catalans shorn of three of their top forwards, all eyes will be on Griezmann in his first appearance at the Camp Nou since his 120-million-euro (\$133 million) move from Atletico Madrid, and not least because Barca need a win to kickstart their season.

Griezmann received a hostile reception in his last outing at Barca's

stadium after turning the Catalans down last year to stay at Atletico and he will need to improve on his drab debut display to win over supporters who felt let down by that snub.

The France forward was largely ineffective against Athletic as he struggled to influence play from wide positions and then saw even less of the ball as he moved into the centre forward's role after Suarez had been forced off injured.

Griezmann tends to perform best when playing off a centre forward such as Olivier Giroud with France or Diego Costa at Atletico, but he will be expected to lead the attack against Betis, with Rafinha and Sergi Roberto likely to be the wide forwards and Messi potentially playing a role as a substitute.

Barca coach Ernesto Valverde challenged Griezmann to be more involved in his next outing.

"He has to be more involved in the play and always be looking to get involved," he said.

"It is good to have him near the area because of his movement but that will only work if we completely dominate games." (\$1 = 0.9022 euros)

REUTERS

Bayern hope Coutinho arrival will spark season

BERLIN

GERMAN champions Bayern Munich are hoping their fans' enthusiasm with the arrival of Brazilian midfielder Philippe Coutinho this week will spill over onto the pitch when they travel to Schalke 04 on Saturday.

Defeat in the German Super Cup to Borussia Dortmund and a 2-2 home draw with Hertha Berlin in their Bundesliga opener last week made for a disappointing start to the season for the Bavarians.

Another slip-up at Schalke would set the alarm bells ringing at Bayern, who have won the last seven league titles.

With title rivals Dortmund wrapping up most of their signings by May, Bayern fans were less than impressed with the club's lack of activity in the transfer market but that changed last week.

After missing out on several over the last couple of months, Bayern completed loan deals for Inter Milan forward Ivan Perisic and Barcelona's Coutinho, and signed France youth international Mickael Cuisance.

REUTERS

Arsenal now out to close gap on Liverpool, Lampard seeks first win

LONDON

EARLY Premier League leaders Liverpool and Arsenal face-off, while Frank Lampard is under pressure to deliver his first win as Chelsea boss at Norwich today.

One of the only two remaining 100 percent records in the Premier League will go at Anfield where the European champions will hope to continue a fine recent record against the north Londoners.

Jurgen Klopp has never lost in seven previous Premier League meetings against Arsenal and his side have beaten the Gunners 4-0 and 5-1 at home in the past two seasons.

However, Unai Emery's outfit are hoping a busy summer in the transfer window, while Liverpool did not strengthen, will have significantly narrowed the 27-point gap between the sides last season.

Emery could hand a first start to £72 million (\$87 million) club record signing Nicolas Pepe, while on-loan Real Madrid midfielder Dani Ceballos earned rave reviews by creating both goals on his full debut against Burnley last weekend.

However, it is at the back Arsenal need a drastic improvement and there is an early opportunity for veteran centre-back David Luiz to make his mark by halting the free-scoring trio of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah, who combined for all five Liverpool goals when the sides last met.

"A lot of times in my life I had sensational players always (but) not world-class players," Klopp told Liverpool's website.

"Now, thank God I have them and they make the difference. Sadio Mane, Bobby Firmino, Mo Salah - these guys in the last situation are really outstanding."

Arsenal have some outstanding finishers of their own. Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who shared the Premier League Golden Boot with Mane and Salah last season, has scored his side's winner in the first two games of the campaign.



Three and easy: Roberto Firmino scored a hat-trick as Liverpool beat Arsenal 5-1 in December (AFP Photo)

And on the evidence of Liverpool's first four games of the season across all competitions, a defence that registered 20 Premier League clean sheets last season looks far less solid.

Alisson Becker remains sidelined with a calf injury, meaning Adrian - whose calamitous attempted clearance gifted Southampton a goal last weekend - will keep his place in goal.

- Solskjaer's vision coming together

Whilst Liverpool and Arsenal have taken advantage of a couple of kind fixtures to get their campaigns off to a bright start, Manchester City, Manchester United and Tottenham all dropped points on matchday two.

The roles are reversed this weekend as United host Crystal Palace, who have yet to score this season at Old Trafford, City travel to Bournemouth and Spurs seek to dismiss Newcastle with the ease newly-promoted Norwich did last weekend.

United paid the penalty for Paul

Pogba's miss from the spot in a 1-1 draw at Wolves on Monday, but following on from a 4-0 win over Chelsea on the opening weekend of the season, there have been plenty of encouraging signs that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's vision for a young, quick and hungry side is taking shape.

Harry Maguire and Aaron Wan-Bissaka, who will face his old side this weekend, have made an immediate impact in shoring up a leaky defence, while Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial have formed a dynamic partnership up front.

- Pukki to pile pressure on Lampard?

Lampard was not handed an easy start to life as Chelsea boss with a trip to Old Trafford followed by Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup and the visit of an ambitious Leicester side to Stamford Bridge last weekend.

However, Lampard, who had just one year's managerial experience at Derby prior to taking over his old

club, needs a win at Norwich to ease the questioning of his tactics.

The former England international has been accused of being too gung-ho in his approach as both United and Leicester cut Chelsea open relentlessly on the counter-attack.

If Lampard cannot tailor his approach, Norwich have a striker in form ready to take advantage. Teemu Pukki has scored four times in his first two Premier League appearances, including a hat-trick against Newcastle last weekend.

Fixtures (1400GMT unless stated)

Today
Norwich v Chelsea (1130), Brighton v Southampton, Manchester United v Crystal Palace, Sheffield United v Leicester, Watford v West Ham, Liverpool v Arsenal (1630)

Tomorrow
Bournemouth v Manchester City (1300), Tottenham v Newcastle, Wolves v Burnley (both 1530)

AFP

PSG's annual crisis has come early this season

BY JULIEN LAURENS, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

USUALLY, the crisis comes a bit later. Back in the pre-Qatar era, it used to be in November and December. Often, Paris Saint-Germain would implode at this time of the season. Since 2011 and the arrival of the petrodollars, it's typically happened in February or March, when the habitual Champions League exit occurs.

But to see a PSG team so poor, as we saw on Sunday in their 2-1 defeat in Rennes, so early in the season, is really rare. Yet, it is not surprising.

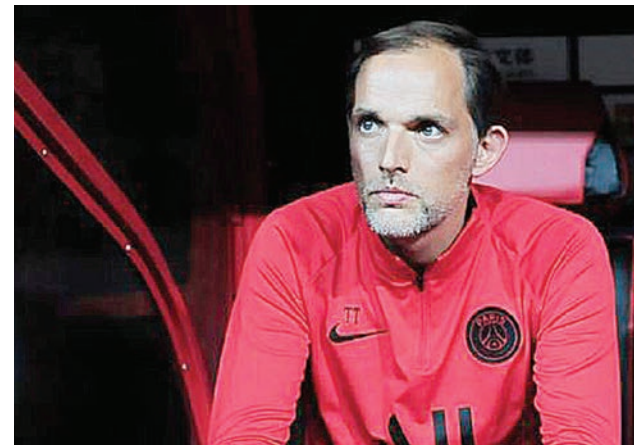
In Brittany, the team displayed all its weaknesses, all its issues and all its deficiencies in just one game.

The lack of cohesion and team spirit was perhaps the most striking. The Parisians didn't play as a team. They didn't play for each other. There were no patterns of play, no movement, no triangles. All PSG did was to rely once more on Kylian Mbappe, who can't do it all by himself - especially when he only has three shots on target in 90 minutes, as he did at the weekend.

The French prodigy is a victim of PSG not playing well as a team. He doesn't get the service he needs and deserves, and in return, PSG are not using him to the best of his ability.

In the first two matches of the Ligue 1 season - the opening-day victory against Nimes, and the defeat at Rennes - the level of football has been exceptionally poor. Sunday was probably one of the club's worst performances of the past few years; they committed more fouls, attempted fewer shots and registered fewer shots on target than Rennes. For Parisian fans and those inside the club, it's becoming a genuine worry to see their team playing this way.

The mistakes made by Thomas Tuchel have raised more questions - again. The German manager is losing more and more credit as time goes by. He played a back five in Rennes, despite not deploying such a tactic all pre-season. His team selection was



Thomas Tuchel's tactical approach at PSG this season has called his credentials into question. (Agencies)

poor - particularly Julian Draxler's place in midfield at the expense of Pablo Sarabia, and Marquinhos' directionless role in the middle of the park - his coaching was poor and even his postmatch news conference was poor.

It feels as though the bright young manager that he was a year ago has lost his touch, his instincts in all facets of management abandoning him. He seems

lost. And for a club that has averaged a new manager every two seasons since Qatari Sports Investments has taken over, there is precious little time for Tuchel to regain his bearings in his second campaign at the Parc des Princes.

The absence of Neymar seems to be a real burden for Tuchel. He talks a lot about his superstar, how he would lose sleep if the Brazilian left, how the

club's No. 10 would need to be replaced, how he would be able to solve problems if his talisman were able to play. You can't blame Tuchel for wanting the best team possible, and Neymar would clearly make his team better, but he has to stop focusing on the man who created this mess in the first place by asking to leave the club.

The irony is that, on the other hand, Tuchel tries to convince people that the Neymar saga has no impact on his players. This is a very disturbing situation for the whole club. First and foremost, for the dressing room that wants Neymar to stay. It's not the same for anyone without him.

This ordeal is a nuisance for the club, with the uncertainty over his future at the Parc des Princes having enormous repercussions in terms of marketing, financials and PSG's reputation. His exit would be a huge

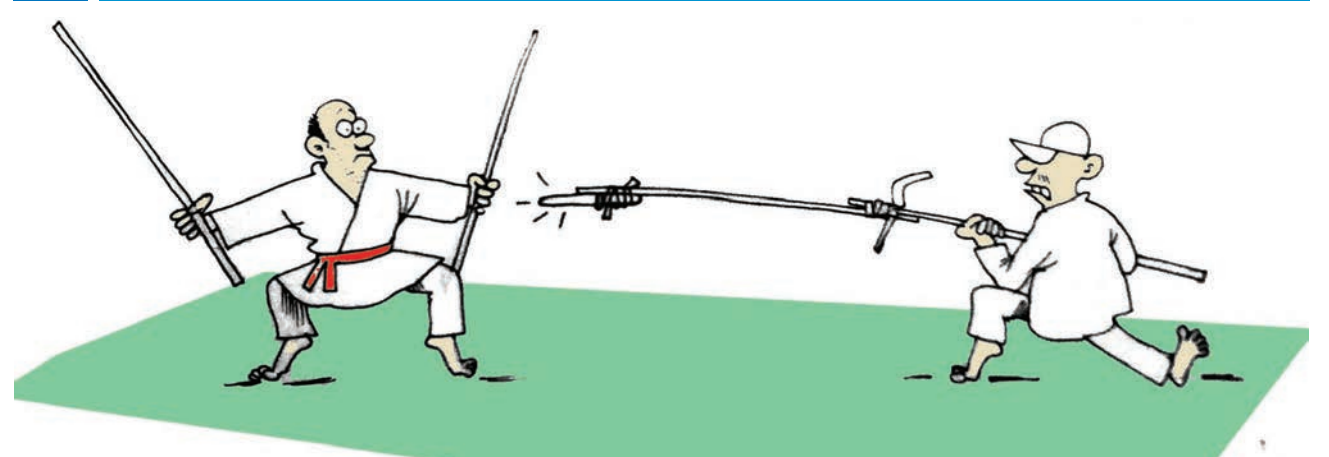
loss off the field, for sure.

On Sunday, the Parisians host Toulouse. The pressure on Tuchel and the players will be huge.

The last time PSG started a season so badly, they ended up not winning the league. In 2011-2012, they were defeated by Lorient at home in the opening game of the season. Montpellier won the title that year. In 2016-2017, Monaco beat them on Matchday 3 and also went on to win the league.

It might just be a coincidence, but a team like Lyon (perfect this season and atop the table with a plus-nine goal differential) are watching PSG destroy themselves with great pleasure, and suddenly it looks like the Ligue 1 title race is wide open - unless PSG can quickly resolve their issues, both on the field and in the board room, and return to their dominant ways.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



KMC FC crashes out of CAF Confederation Cup

SPORT

Arsenal out to close gap on Liverpool, Lampard seeks first win

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Roach resumes service with Pant wicket

NORTH SOUND

WEST Indies fought back late on the first day after two half-century stands had taken India to relative safety following a fiery opening spell that had left the visitors at 25 for 3 inside eight overs. Ajinkya Rahane and KL Rahul led the first fightback with a 68-run stand, and Rahane then put on 82 with Hanuma Vihari as India dominated briefly in the middle session. But Kumar Roach, the architect of the early collapse, returned to cause trouble with the old ball and, alongside opening partner Shannon Gabriel, kept India to 203 for 6 by close of play.

However, the delicious ebb and flow of the game was cut short by the weather. Intermittent rainfall meant a 15-minute delayed start, an early finish to the last two sessions, and, ultimately, only 68.5 overs of play. Left-handers Rishabh Pant (20*) and Ravindra Jadeja (3*), at the back end of India's elongated batting order for this Test, were unbeaten when the players went off.

The resultant moisture from the rain was what had prompted Jason Holder to elect to bowl, and his bowlers delivered immediately with a superb opening spell. In a largely cloudy first hour, Roach bowled the fullest length and was rewarded for it. With steep climb from a length, he pinned the openers to the crease, and it didn't take him long to get one of them to poke with hard hands, Mayank Agarwal left with little choice against a ball holding its line after coming in. He got a thin outside edge, as did Cheteshwar Pujara four balls later. India's No. 3 was rooted to his leg stump guard and pushing away from the body, although based on the off stump line, he too had little choice. Both nicks went to Shai Hope, stand-in wicketkeeper for the injured Shane Dowrich.

While nagging in the corridor did the job for those two, West Indies needed a little more brute force with Virat Kohli. Gabriel had been spliced through point and then driven down the ground by India's captain, who, as is often the case, had looked the most confident batsman within minutes of arriving. That was until Gabriel's burst of three consecutive short balls. One had him hopping, one snuck under an early pull to hit him on his right elbow, and against the third, Kohli jabbed away from the body, lobbing one harmlessly for debutant Shamarh Brooks at gully.

Walking in at 25 for 3, Rahane showed immense restraint against a red-hot West Indies pace attack that greeted him with a short one into his midriff. At one point early in the day, Holder even bowled four consecutive maidens to him.

He hung in with Rahul, another Indian batsman with a point to prove, and the pair made it past the opening hour. The two batsmen seemed to have made a concerted effort not to drive away from the body, a decision backing their many straight drives through the day. While not all of these drives produced runs or boundaries on a two-paced pitch, both seemed content to wait it out.

They only gave themselves permission to expand their games in the second session, when the sun was out and there was no swing on offer. The first cover-driven boundaries came during this period.

But, just as he looked like he had set himself up for a big one, Rahul was caught sharply down the leg side by Hope off Roston Chase. Rahul's disappointment was visible as he walked off. With the chance to make a substantial overseas score gone in somewhat unfortunate circumstances, it wasn't surprising.

One of the most stirring passages of the day came after tea. After an afternoon of figuring out the pace of the wicket, Rahane and Vihari began aggressively. Off the second over of the session, Rahane dismissed a Chase short ball and set off a ripple that carried into the next 30 minutes, with the two batsmen one would typecast into anchor roles scoring briskly. At one point, the session run rate was over seven per over.

Inside this phase was an over where Miguel Cummins had Vihari edge past second slip, beaten him on the straight drive next ball, and drew an edge that flew over slip off the next one as the batsman looked to cut a short ball. They were possibly the best few minutes of Cummins' day. The fast bowler struggled to hit consistent lengths and after being too short most of the day, was removed from the attack after his next over when Vihari drilled him down the ground.

AGENCIES

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S KMC FC has crashed out of this season's CAF Confederation Cup's preliminary stage, losing 2-1 to Rwanda's AS Kigali at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

In the first match the teams were locked to a 0-0 draw and for that matter KMC were in need of victory in the yesterday duel, if they were to book a place in the first round.

The hosts snuffed out the visitors' first move shortly after the kick off when the former's defenders closed down Ugandan forward Farouq Ssentongo a few meters from the penalty area.



Abdul Hillary, KMC FC midfielder (C), challenges AS Kigali player during the second match of the CAF Confederation Cup preliminary round that took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Juma Kaseja, KMC FC keeper, was forced to come out of his area to frustrate AS Kigali strikers that had sped into the area three minutes later.

The hosts managed their first attempt on the 11th minute in which a header by striker Salim Aiyee from outside the visitors' box went way wide.

The hosts later on made two moves, which though ended with left fullback Amos Kadikilo floating in poor crosses which were easily dealt with by the visitors.

KMC FC midfielders looked disorganized for most of the first stanza, given they, on several occasions, carelessly lost

possession and also struggled to set up the forwards.

Defender Yusuf Ndikumana came to KMC FC rescue on the 19th minute, blocking AS Kigali forward's attempt from within the former's box.

The hosts made a few forays into the visitors' box, a situation which left the latter's keeper Shamiru Bate with little to do.

KMC FC were pegged back on the 28th minute when forward Rashid Kalisa notched the opener for AS Kigali, slamming in from outside the penalty area with a low effort.

AS Kigali had earlier been more likely to notch a goal given they made several good moves

which were nevertheless foiled by KMC FC defenders.

The hosts wasted a chance on the 34th minute as they won a free kick almost 30 meters out, Kadikilo ended unleashing a weak effort which went straight into Bate's hands.

The hosts went close a few minutes before half time after forward Hassan Kabunda had outmuscled the visitors' defenders inside the latter's half, made his way into the area and set up fellow striker James Msuva, whose effort was blocked by the visitors' defender.

Kabunda came close to levelling matters for KMC later on after he had been released

by fellow player, the former's left foot effort was blocked by AS Kigali defender.

The first 45 minutes ended with the visitors boasting of the lone goal lead.

KMC FC coaching panel opted to wring changes after the restart in which it brought in midfielder Mohamed Samatta and forward Mayanga that replaced Ally Yusuf and Msuva.

AS Kigali striker Ibrahim Nshimiyimana piled misery on KMC given he registered a second goal for the Rwanda outfit on the 63rd minute.

He raced to a well threaded pass by team mate from the center circle made his way into KMC FC box and calmly slid the ball under keeper Kaseja that had come out of his area to clear the attack.

Ndikumana reduced the arrears for KMC FC on the 86th minute when he converted a spot the squad won following a defensive blunder by one of AS Kigali defenders.

The defender had blocked an attempt by a KMC FC forward with his hand within the penalty area.

The remaining minutes saw KMC FC attack their opponents relentlessly in an effort to notch more goals, only to be by the opponents' solid defending.

Tanzania's other representatives in the continental competitions, Azam FC and Yanga, will be in action in Dar es Salaam and Botswana today.

Azam FC will entertain Ethiopia's Fasil Kenema in the second match of the preliminary round of the CAF Confederation Cup, Yanga come up against Township Rollers in the preliminary round of the CAF Champions League.

Patel Samaj seek revival in GP Gymkhana Shield competition

By Guardian Reporter

PATEL Samaj cricketers have an opportunity to stay within reach of a place in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's last eight given they will lock horns with Tarangini in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The Dar es Salaam Afro Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I & M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance,

the DGC venue hosting all duels.

Much as Tarangini have already missed out on qualification for the knockout stage, they are hardly expected to let Patel Samaj walk all over them and that means Patel

have to give their all if they are to register victory.

Tarangini have not posted victory in this year's competition and they are therefore expected to come out with all guns blazing in tomorrow's game against Patel Samaj and notch their first win.

Tarangini had stretched their losing streak with a two-wicket loss to Jain Sangh at the same venue last weekend.

Patel Samaj had a frustrating start to their campaign in the competition, given they conceded five-wicket defeat to Union Sports Club a few weeks ago.

With Jaat Blasters, the Group B's other competitors, also battling for qualification for the knockout stage, Patel Samaj must come out victorious in their clash with Tarangini, should there be any hopes for them to progress to the next stage.

The tournament's defending champions Caravans, placed in Group D, will be in action in the first game of the day as they lock horns with MCC.

Caravans also need

victory over MCC to make certain of their qualification for the last eight and boost hopes of successful title defense.

Caravans opened their title defense with victory over Surat Stars, inflicting the first defeat on the latter in the process.

A group A duel pitting TNCC against Kanbis will wind up the day.

The tournament's last eight has been slated to start on September 14 and climax on September 21. The last four stage has been slated to take place on September 22 while the final will be played on September 29.

Teams which are participating in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

Dar es Salaam Cricket Club (DCC), Kutchi Leva, Punjabi Kings and Annadil Burhani make Group C, MCC, Caravans, Surat Stars and Sandy's Super Strikers are in Group D.



Shree Kutchi Leva players celebrate a wicket they took in the last season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's match which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

