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Five killed in Dar shootout

President Samia orders investigation

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday directed the relevant authorities to thoroughly investigate the incident in which three police officers and a private security guard were killed, while six other people were injured as an armed man shot randomly after grabbing a weapon from a police officer near the Selander Bridge.

A member of the SGA security firm died in the exchange of fire and the assailant moved from Selander Bridge up to the French Embassy gate, firing randomly and as police started to close in.

In a message posted on her official twitter handle, the president sent a message of condolences to the police force as and the family of the security guard.

"I direct the police to thoroughly investigate the matter," she said.

The drama began somewhere near Selander Bridge and continued along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, ending with the shooting of the gun-wielding assailant by police outside the embassy gate.

People on rooftops and vehicles captured images of the lone man with an assault rifle moving along the road but apparently not interested in attacking commuters and pedestrians.

Transport along the leafy major road was interrupted for much of the hour that followed as security officers headed to the area, dotted by embassies and commercial banks.

The man whose identity was not revealed by authorities though his name was picked on

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Police officers reinforce security after yesterday's incident near the French Embassy in Dar es Salaam in which a gunman shot randomly at security guards and battled police yesterday. The assailant gunned down three police officers and a private security firm guard before he was himself shot dead by police. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt reinstates 4,380 ex- Std VIIIs to old jobs

Fake secondary school certificate issue cast aside

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has reinstated a total of 4,380 public servants with Standard Seven qualifications who presented fake auxiliary certificates in a verification exercise leading to purging 'ghost workers' from government payrolls during the fifth phase government.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) made this declaration here yesterday when addressing delegates at the Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) annual general meeting, noting also that the government has paid arrears amounting to 176bn/- to retired teachers.

Civil servants who were doing their jobs well despite the credibility of school certificates seen in their employment documents have been returned to government payrolls," he declared, underlining that the government will continue paying arrears of the concerned



She urged fellow cabinet ministers to make sure their sectors' monthly contributions to social security funds are paid on time

public servants arrears in various cadres as directed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The president had earlier directed the payment of arrears to government employees plus seeking solutions to the challenges they face, the premier affirmed, noting that the government is determined to work on their challenges and requests presented by TALGWU leaders in the keynote address.

"I have heard your concerns which include payment of travelling allowances to retired employees," he specified, urging public servants to maintain solidarity and foster accountability by adhering to ethics governing service in the public sector.

The government has already worked on civil servants promotions whereas those employed between 2018 and 2021 have been promoted, urging those employed in the 2014 to 2017 period to exercise patience as the government works on the matter.

On 'pay as you earn' (PAYE) tax, the government has reduced it from nine to eight

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Experts to review revenue shortfalls

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has formed a team of experts to review Tanzania's tax system and establish why revenue collected is low despite high economic growth.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the 10-member team that includes economists and financial experts will look at technical issues that lead to the mismatch between revenue collection and expenditure.

Despite various measures including the purging of ghost workers from the public wage bill, expected positive impact in the



Within the study, the committee has been tasked with recommending how the TRA can do away with the use of muscled task forces in collecting govt revenue

economy has not been registered and the payroll remains massive, he said.

Similarly, Tanzania's informal sector remains the largest and most attractive in East Africa, with Tanzania just behind Burundi in relation to informal sector reliance, despite Tanzania being the second largest economy within the six-member East African Community (EAC), he said.

Completion of the work will strengthen tax administration and ensure there is a sustainable budget which will facilitate smooth budget delivery, the minister asserted.

"Our country has recorded stable economic growth with an average 6.4percent in the past 10 years which has enabled us to attain middle income status but it is not reflected in what is being collected," he said.

The minister said that revenue collection was supposed to match with

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'Get COVID-19 jabs, JKCI overwhelmed'

By Guardian Reporter

THE ability by the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) to attend to emergency cases has shrunk to minimal levels, managing director Prof Mohammed Janabi (pictured) declared yesterday.

Appealing to members of the public to take the COVID-19 vaccine urgently, he said that ICU beds at the facility are



overwhelmed by patients.

The director was providing awareness training on vaccination and effects of the disease to staff at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) in Upanga area of the city, after which voluntary COVID-19 vaccination was administered.

Responding to a question from a staff member who wanted to know the time to vaccinate a person suffering from blood pressure, Prof Janabi said the person can be vaccinated and continue with his blood pressure drugs, noting that a person with blood pressure may suffer a stroke if he stops using the drugs.

"Blood pressure drugs should not be missed even for a minute, as blood pressure destroys blood vessels, as does

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan shares a light moment with NMB Bank head of government business Vicky Bishubo and head of retail banking department Aikansia Muro shortly after opening working session for one year assessment 2020/21 for the Tanzania Police Force Chief Officers at Oyster bay in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Samia calls for amendments to legislation on police force

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has called for a review of laws governing the operations of the Police Force to protect the basic rights of citizens and reduce crime in the country.

Samia made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday when opening the working session of senior police officers, and regional police commanders.

She said the time has come for the Police Force to sit down with

other stakeholders to look into the possibility of amending the law, including the detention of detainees, as well as the detention period.

She said in other countries no one is arrested until the investigation is complete, but in Tanzania, many cases are stuck in court due to delays in the investigation or lack of sufficient evidence. Samia said statistics show that there are a large number of inmates in prisons who appear to be stuck due to delays in investigations, thus depriving people of their rights and that some

soldiers are accused of misconduct, misconduct, and misconduct.

In addition, President Samia commended the Police Force for its recent decision to set a six-month investigation limit for small cases and one year for major cases.

However, the President called on the Police Force to build capacity in ICT issues to address new forms of crime and encouraged them to strengthen ties with other Police Force and International Police Institutions.

He also called on the Police Force

to strengthen ties with the public so that they can easily get information because criminals are involved in citizenship.

In another development, President Samia has received the credentials of five envoys representing their countries in Tanzania including Hamisu Umar Takalmawa (Nigeria), Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (India), Wiebe Jakob De Boer (Netherlands); Madina Diaby Kassamba Ganou - (Burkina Faso) based in Nairobi, Kenya; Gaussou Toure (Guinea) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Experts to review revenue shortfalls

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the rate of economic growth to fund government expenditure needs which rise each year.

Average revenue collection for sub-Saharan African countries stands at 15.1 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) with developed countries collecting up to 40 percent of monetary GDP, permitting those countries to more adequately cater for their most important needs, he stated.

Tanzania's revenue collection levels remain below average Sub Saharan collections, where in the past financial year revenue

collection reached 13.3 percent of GDP, while tax revenue stood at 11.2 percent of GDP, he affirmed, noting that this trend shows the country can expand its tax base to meet sub Saharan averages.

Forming the committee was intended to implement directives issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in urging reforms in methods used in collecting government revenue and in expenditure.

Within the study, the committee has been tasked with recommending how the Tanzania Revenue Authority can do away with the use of muscled task forces in collecting government revenue, he added.

Five killed in Dar shootout

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social media—was seen handing the assault rifles effortlessly and it took some time and a heavy deployment of officers to subdue him.

Amateur videos captured from different angles posted on social media showed the well-built man walk along the road unbothered by road users and stunned residents peeping from windows and capturing videos of him on mobile phones.

Going by the multiple footages captured by those who were close to him, the result would have been catastrophic if he turned the weapons on civilians in buses, pedestrians or nearby homes.

The Selander Bridge area which connects with a Upanga, Oysterbay and Kinondoni road junctions is surrounded by residents of foreign missions such as the French Embassy, Japanese Embassy, Kenyan High Commission, Russian Embassy and in close proximity to financial institutions such as Stanbic Bank and KCB Commercial Bank.

Briefing reporters, head of police operations Liberatus Sabas said

that six others were injured in the incident, making efforts to discount the terrorism motive in the wake of social media reactions on the incident.

Commissioner of Police Sabas urged Dar es Salaam residents to remain calm as police continue with their investigation to identify the unknown assailant and his intentions.

"I call on the public to collaborate with the police, especially if anybody has information about him, to speed up investigations," he appealed.

The incident happened just hours after Inspector General of Police (IGP), Simon Sirro told the nation that criminal activities had dropped by 12 per cent the past calendar year

Opening one-day workshop for regional police commanders and other senior officers at the Oysterbay Police Officers' Mess, he said statistics show that crime is on the decline.

The IGP said from July 2020 to June 2021 the number of crime incidents reported in police stations reached 49,508 from 56,397 incidents reported in the 2019/2020 period.

'Get COVID-19 jobs, JKCI overwhelmed'

FROM PAGE 1

COVID-19. I would like you to come to our institute to witness how our ICU facilities are flooded with patients," he said.

"Come to see how patients get a hard time in all of our ICU rooms given the number of COVID-19 patients. I am telling you this today, the final decision is yours - to vaccinate or not to vaccinate," he insisted.

He appealed to IST staff to stop asking themselves whether to vaccinate if one already suffers from a chronic disease, or they should protect themselves against the pandemic.

"Which would be easier, to be infected with Covis-10 or blood pressure? Or you come (to JKCI) while suffering from both blood pressure and COVID-19?"

"There was the first wave, second wave and now third wave. I don't want to remind you of people who lost their lives. The lives of so many people have been lost; we have never witnessed such a great number of deaths within a short

time. It is therefore the decision of every one of us," the top medic intoned.

He also sought to allay fears of those loathing being vaccinated, giving the JKCI experience with treatment. "We perform major health operations; we stop the heart for up to four or six hours and then restart it by electric shock. Hence I want you to believe us that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe."

Glancing at vaccination statistics at the JKCI vaccination centre he said that up to Tuesday more than 3,500 had been vaccinated and no one reported back with any complaints.

For his part, IST director Mark Hardeman said the school decided to call the heart expert to provide education on COVID-19 vaccination to its staff after being satisfied with government efforts to fight the pandemic through mobilising the public to embrace the vaccination drive.

The school has 260 staff members who will now have a better understanding of the benefits of protecting themselves against the



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwi speaks at the opening of the Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (TALGWU) annual general meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

Government reinstates 4,380 ex- Std VII in old jobs

FROM PAGE 1

percent of earnings and increased the dependency age to 21 years from 18 years, he said, highlighting the need for civil servants to be trained on how to use point of sale (POS) equipment for taxes avoid queuing up inconveniences in revenue

collection.

On COVID-19, the premier urged people to go for the jobs as they have been assessed and approved by local and foreign experts. "Tanzanians should go for COVID-19

vaccines. They should stay away from misconceptions driven by fake experts in social networks," he emphasised.

Directing municipal councils to make sure they form workers

councils by September 30th this year, while Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Coordination, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities) hailed the

two top leaders for their supervision of trade unions.

She urged fellow cabinet ministers to make sure their sectors' monthly contributions to social security funds are paid on time.

TALGWU Secretary General Rashid Mtima hailed President Samia for taking deliberate steps to solve challenges faced by public servants and improving their welfare.



Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) southern highlands zone acting manager Anitha Mshighati shows the stamps to journalists in Mbeya yesterday that were used to change the expiry date of drugs shortly after a house search at Igawilo area. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

TMDA seizes expired medicines and medical devices in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) in Mbeya Region has seized a consignment of expired medicines and medical devices valued at 7.7m/-.

The swoop conducted yesterday at a house in Igawilo area of Mbeya City also saw the Authority impounding rubber stamps used to change expiry dates on the packages of the medicines and medical devices.

The operation leading to the seizure was led by the Acting TMDA manager for Southern Highlands Zone Anitha Mshighati in collaboration with the police.

Mshighati said they received tip from some good citizens on the existence of the items at the house that were being sold despite having been expired.

"The medicines and medical devices seized included those supplied by the government and which expired, but the expired dates were extended by printing new dates on the packages," said Mshighati.

She named the medicines and medical devices seized included antibiotics, syringes

and stitching threads, anti-malarial drugs and acids that were government supplied but whose labels had been erased.

She added that the court will decide on the punishment to be meted out to the offender, whose identity was not disclosed, and to where he will be referred after investigations were complete.

In regard to import and sale of expired drugs, she said they continue with the special crackdown in Songwe and Mbeya regions and that they often work together with some good citizens who provide them with tips on places these drugs are sold.

She added that they are still making patrols at Tunduma and Kasumulu border areas to control imports of expired drugs while at the same time educating people to be watchful of such drugs.

For his part, Mwanjanje Street Chairman, Nesy Shitambala expressed his dismay seeing one of his residents being found with expired drugs.

He said the suspect has been selling them medicines believing they were fit for human consumption.

CTI introduces members code of ethics and business conduct

By Getrude Mbago

THE Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) has developed codes of conduct to be complied with by member companies so as to enhance trust and promote ethical and sustainable business in the country.

Speaking at a stakeholders' sensitisation workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday, CTI chairman Paul Mkanza said the code of conduct will broadly create and promote self-regulation in the industry.

He said CTI has adopted this code of conduct to provide a set of guiding principles, practices and standards of behaviour which are to be observed by members.

"The Code of Conduct is a common framework for what is legitimate, just and fair conduct for businesses in Tanzania. The code relies on moral principles and values that have been shared by members and supported by common practical experience and accepted norms," he said.

He noted that doing business with integrity will more likely generate good returns, attract investors and retain motivated employees. In contrast companies that don't make efforts to do business responsibly can face long-lasting reputational and financial damage.

He urged CTI member companies to sign the code of conduct so as to enable and guide them to operate responsibly and record more benefits.

"We are currently educating stakeholders to understand the scope of the code of conduct so as to enable

them comply well with it once we commence implementation. There will be more workshops in various regions," he said.

Mkanza said CTI and its member companies have realized their key role in the development of business sector and the industrial sector in particular and have expressed willingness and readiness to play an active part in supporting sustainable economic development.

"With the code, a company's interaction with all stakeholders must be based on the highest

standards of disclosure. The company must strongly prohibit acts of bribery or any other form of corrupt," Mkanza added.

Khalid Swabili, facilitator of the workshop said the code of conduct will promote self-regulation in the industry.

"By strengthening self-regulation will eventually induce innovation by improving the quality not products and services. Self regulation include price controls, safety regulations and environment controls among others," he said.

The Confederation of Tanzania Industries is a Business Membership Organisation that was launched in July 1991. It is an independent, self-financed, legally constituted organisation that serves its members by speaking out on their behalf and generally representing their interests.

The main aim of CTI is to ensure that there is a conducive legal, financial and economic environment within which industry can operate effectively, prosper and contribute to national wealth and development.

FOR SALE



Embassy of the State of Qatar in Dar es Salaam would like to sale 2012 TOYOTA HILUX PICK-UP in a mint condition.

Interested buyers can view the vehicle between 0900-1500 at the Embassy located at 6 Msasani Road, Dar es salaam.

High Commission for Pakistan, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

Invitation to attend the "Pakistani Contemporary Art" exhibition at the National Museum of Tanzania on August 28-29, 2021 to commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan 2021 (August 14)

To commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan an special "Pakistani Contemporary Art" exhibition comprising painting and calligraphy works of 35 Pakistani renowned artists is being held in the National Museum of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam from 1000-1500 hours on August 28-29, 2021.

The exhibition would be open for art lovers, media persons and culture fans from 1000-1500 hours on August 28-29, 2021.

Dar es Salaam August 25, 2021



NOTICE OF THE HARADALI CAPITAL LIMITED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE 18th OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AT CORNERSTONE PARTNERS OFFICE UNIT 96J KILIMANI ROAD, ADA ESTATE KINONDONI

Notice is hereby given that the 8th Annual General Meeting of Haradali Capital Limited Shareholders will be held at Cornerstone partners Ltd Office's at Kinondoni Ada Estate Unit 96J and virtually by zoom on Saturday, 18th September 2021 at 10:00am.

The Agenda will be as follows:

1. Notice and Quorum.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. To Receive, Consider and Adopt the Director's Report and Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months ended 31st December, 2020.
4. To Receive and Adopt the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Operations for the 12 months ended 31st December 2020
5. To transact any other business appropriate to be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf in provisions of the Articles of the Company.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

D. Stephen
Secretary
26th August 2021

"With the code, a company's interaction with all stakeholders must be based on the highest standards of disclosure. The company must strongly prohibit acts of bribery or any other form of corrupt"



NOTICE OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mwanga Hakika Microfinance Bank Limited [MHB] is hereby giving a notice to all Shareholders of the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, 18th September 2021 at Baobab Retreat near Mwanga Viziwi Primary School [Kilimanjaro] starting at 9:00 AM and the following are the Agenda to be discussed:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Receive, discuss and approve Board of Directors' Reports for the year ended 31st Dec, 2020:
 - 3.1 Report of the Board of Directors
 - 3.2 Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2020
 - 3.3 Corporate Social Responsibility to the Community
 - 3.4 Capital position as required by the law
4. Statement of the External Auditors for the year ended 31st December, 2020
5. Appoint Members of the Board for the Year 2021/2022
6. Discuss questions/ suggestions from Shareholders
7. Any other business as per the approval of the Chairman
8. Closing of the Meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- ◆ All Shareholders are reminded to come with the identity card issued by bank or any other ID
 - ◆ A member who is eligible to attend and vote there at is entitled to appoint one proxy to attend the meeting and vote on behalf
- [Note: Proxy form is available at the bank, and duly filled form must be submitted at least a day prior to the meeting]

By order of the Board:

Mwanga Hakika Microfinance Bank Ltd
P.O.Box 11735,
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NGO launches special campaign against antimicrobial resistance

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 200 students from three schools and a section of teachers in Dodoma city have become champions of campaign against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), thanks to a local non-government organisation, Tanzania Roll Back Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative (RBA Initiative).

The NGO with special focus to contain AMR, has been taking efforts to increase awareness and promote positive behavioral change to reduce the failure of treatment of infections due to AMR.

The organisation covers both rural and urban communities focusing on promoting better understanding and awareness about antimicrobial resistance from an early age.

It recently convened a capacity building workshop to heads of schools, teachers and club leaders from several secondary schools in the city.

Speaking during a capacity building workshop for head of schools, teachers and club leaders, some students testified on how they have managed to provide public education about AMR, slowly changing people's mind set.

Nawwal Mohamed, a Form Four student at Meriwa secondary school noted that the knowledge she got about AMR has been very useful to her family since they no longer take drugs without doctor's prescription.

"Initially we used to buy drugs upon any slight headache without doctor's advice but this has changed since I learnt that this habit is deadly" she said.

Nawwal said she shared the information with her siblings and parents who at first did not take it serious but gradually understood.

She explained that every Friday, after religion lesson at school they go to RBA- Initiative AMR club where they debate about the problem.

According to her fellow students who are in boarding section and used to take painkiller drugs without advice have learnt that it is bad habit.

Alberto Mzawa, a Form Four student at K-Ndege secondary school said the campaign through school clubs has changed their minds and they are now extending the knowledge to the public.

"I never knew about the problem before this programme but I have shared the information at home and

neighbours and they are changing" he said, adding that they have become big ambassadors for change against AMR.

K-Ndege secondary school head teacher, Masembo Paul while speaking about the programme said, "Many of our students now understand the right use of drugs and effects of taking drugs without prescription".

He thanked the NGO for coming up with a programme that help save lives of people, adding that some parents have confirmed that their children spread the information back at home very well.

Dorice James, second mistress at Mkonze secondary school shared similar sentiments, saying many parents have joyfully testified that their children have educated them on the right use of drugs.

She said, "It is true even some of us teachers never had the knowledge but now have learnt about it and have stopped taking drugs without advice from health experts"

Health experts argue that antimicrobial resistance occurs when microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites resist the effects of medications.

The situation makes common infections harder to treat and increases the risk of diseases spreading, severe illness and death.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that antimicrobial resistance is one of the top ten global public health threats as drug resistant infections kill around 700,000 people worldwide each year and, according to a report by the United Nations (UN), the number could increase to ten million per year by 2050 resistant to the drugs.

Speaking about the workshop, RBA initiative project coordinator, Baritazar Stanley said teachers and club guardians should have the capacity to effectively run the RBA Initiative Clubs and have increased knowledge on AMR.

He said the key strategic objectives of the World Health Organisation's global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) action plan and Tanzania's AMR national action plan is to improve public awareness and understanding of this issue. RBA Initiative AMR school clubs help to empower young people to become agents of change and encourage them to bring that knowledge to their family and community.



Form Five students at Kamena secondary school in a science laboratory built jointly by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and Geita District Council under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Geita Region. Kamena is one of two schools that recently accepted the first intake of Form Five students for the 2021/2022 academic year. Both school campuses were built at the cost of 287.5m/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government urged to increase country's health care workers

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been challenged to increase the number of health care workers at its facilities in both rural and urban areas to ensure a strong health care system for accelerating the progress towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Currently, the number of health care workers in the country is 98,987, equivalent to 47.53 percent out of the required 208,282.

However, the 52 per cent gap needs to be filled to ensure provision of quality health care services at all health facilities.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the editor's breakfast meeting, Benjamin Mkapa Foundation (BMF) Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ellen Senkoro warned that the gap may continue to increase as the country's population

grows.

Dr Senkoro highlighted the need to have a national volunteering system which will enable graduates to be deployed at various health facilities especially the newly constructed dispensaries and health centres in rural areas.

"Investment in the health sector which includes construction of health facilities must go together with investment in human resources deployment of health workers. Human resources for the health sector is crucial in accelerating the national responses for existing diseases and pandemics such as COVID-19," said Dr Senkoro.

She said the foundation is also partnering with the government in efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 as well as social mobilization and public education on the importance of getting the jobs.

According to her, BMF has been working to strengthen health care systems in the country whereas it has so far deployed almost 9,000 health care workers at different cadres across the country. Among them, 5,000 are community health care workers (CHW).

Dr Senkoro added that they are working closely with the government especially the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and the Ministry of State, President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government in ensuring provision of quality health services.

Facilitator, Dr Isaac Maro said the national doctor to patient ratio is 1 doctor per 20,396 people, which is against the recommended World Health Organization (WHO) standard of 1 doctor per 1,000 people.

He said the situation is worse in

rural areas where a single doctor attends to 78,880 patients while in urban areas a doctor serves 9,095 patients.

Dr Maro insisted that Tanzania requires a good number of health care workers to be able to achieve the global UNAIDS 95-95-95 HIV goals by 2021. Tanzania has made progress towards two first 95s and lags behind the third 95s.

There are 1.5 million people living with HIV/Aids in the country but only 61 per cent of them aged between 15 and 64 years are aware of their HIV status, 94 per cent are on treatment and 87 per cent of those on treatment are virally suppressed.

Meanwhile, tuberculosis (TB) prevalence is still high as the WHO estimates that 528 per 100,000 of all types of TB with an incidence of 253 per 100,000 and a case detection rate of only 36 per cent.

EABC applauds Burundi govt for facilitating trade

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) CEO John Kalisa has commended the government of Burundi for facilitating trade for unlocking the country's economic potential.

Kalisa joined the Chairman of the Association of Burundi Traders (ACOBU) Muzaneza Antoine to the Burundi -Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Katumba- Kavivira border to assess the free movement of goods, services and people.

Kalisa commended the government of Burundi for kick starting the industrial park set to attract more investors into Burundi.

He also visited the port of Burundi saying Lake Tanganyika has great potential to economically transform and interlink the EAC region to other regional economic communities and markets. He said the Lake is also an attractive tourist destination.

Kalisa urged for improvement of the Bujumbura airport and reduction of COVID-19 test charges from the current \$100 to \$50 to reduce waiting delays to passengers and attract more tourists from the EAC region and beyond to the country.

Antoine said that DRC has applied to join the East African Community (EAC) and the business community is committed to working together to realize the benefits availed by the EAC Common Market.

Antonie said that currently a container import from China takes up to 6 months to reach the port of Burundi due to global disruptions and COVID-19 related Non-Tariff

barriers that continue to affect business operations.

He urged for strengthening of regional value chains and improvement of infrastructure for business resilience and recovery.

Kitumaini Bagula Esperance, representing women cross-border traders of the Democratic Republic of Congo urged the EABC to advocate for harmonization and reduction of the high COVID-19 test charges at the borders to enable women, cross-border traders, to have enough capital to run their businesses.

Currently, the COVID-19 test charge is \$30 per day and for each time women, cross-border traders cross into Burundi and \$5 dollars for Burundi cross-border traders entering into DRC via the Katumba-Kavivira border.

She said other challenges facing traders include physical verification of goods which causes delay, thus increasing the cost of doing business.

The Katumba-Kavivira border is a vibrant trade route for small cross-border traders but has been highly impacted by COVID-19 and the floods of River Rusizi and Lake Tanganyika.

He noted that the COVID-19 has disrupted global and regional value chains impacting international trade and reducing warehouse receipts.

EABC in partnership with the ACOBU urged Burundi to champion reduction and harmonization of COVID-19 charges at the Katumba-Kavivira border and the airport, simplified trade regime for women cross border traders, strengthening regional value chains and improving transport infrastructure.



A resident of Maturi village-Mnadani Ward in Dodoma region Athuman Juma fetches water from unsafe well for domestic use yesterday. He claimed that due the scarcity of the precious liquid they have shared with livestock. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Vodacom Tanzania Plc head of sales and distribution George Lugata (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the firm's partnership launch with Samsung to introduce a new smartphone Samsung A22. He is flanked by the Samsung Tanzania manager Suleiman Mohammed. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Courts' ethics committees called upon to make sure magistrates mete out justice

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

REGIONAL and District Courts Ethics Committees have been required to oversee magistrates' ethics to ensure they mete out justice in their duties.

The remarks were made here yesterday by Senior High Court Judge, Dodoma Zone, Mustapher Siyani when opening a training seminar for empowering members of the Regional and District Courts Ethics Committees.

He said the committees were an eye of the judiciary in overseeing ethics of public servants to instill respect to the pillar of state.

He said there have been a problem on citizens having little understanding on the activities by the committees hence he called for more education to be given to the public.

"The true picture that emerges shows that magistrates are young people, the situation that compels them to amass wealth, hence both

the Judiciary Service Commission and the Judiciary should continue to provide training to court officials and the committees to avoid violations of the ethics," he added.

Judge Siyani said the committees have the responsibility to advise the Judiciary Service Commission on the adherence to ethics for court officials.

"Points to be raised include the structure of the Judiciary Service Commission and it is my belief that you will also discuss the issue of good governance," he added.

For his part, Chamwino District Commissioner, Gift Msuya said they will continue to implement and oversee all issues brought forward to the ethics committees to make sure all people are treated justly.

"Points to be raised include the structure of the Judiciary Service Commission and it is my belief that you will also discuss the issue of good governance"

By Guardian Reporter

Study establishes that no Covid-19 in EAC region prior to March 2020

THE coronavirus probably did not exist in the East African region before the first official cases were reported in March 2020, a study by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) indicates.

The study aimed at verifying if COVID-19 infections had already occurred in the region in 2019 and therefore way before the first cases in Africa were reported by WHO in February 2020, retested frozen swab samples taken from patients who presented with Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) between 01st November 2019 and 29th February 2020.

"Some East African countries experienced higher than usual numbers of severe respiratory

infections with persistent cough, fever and sometimes pneumonia during this period. The patients were not tested or diagnosed for COVID-19, as public attention to the new virus only started growing in January 2020," a report from the study said.

Test kits were also not yet available at the time. The symptoms might have been related to influenza, but it could not be disregarded that these SARI might have been caused by the COVID-19 causing virus, SARS-CoV-2, the report noted.

The EAC Secretariat through the East African Research Commission

and partner states' National Public Health Reference Laboratories implemented the study, to confirm whether these cases might have been caused by COVID-19. The study took samples from Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda. The German Government provided technical and financial support through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Robert Koch-Institute in Berlin, Germany.

"1,153 frozen nasal and oropharyngeal swab samples taken from various influenza

sentinel surveillance sites in the four participating EAC partner states were retested by RT-PCR in respective National Public Health Reference Laboratories in each country," said the report.

Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) is the standard method for detection of SARS-CoV-2, while swabs from the nose and throat are the most frequently used samples. RT-PCR is performed to detect genetic material from a specific organism, such as a virus. All samples tested negative for RT-PCR, according to the study.

Rungwe District to plant 1.6 million fruit and timber trees

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

RUNGWE District Council in Mbeya Region, in collaboration with various stakeholders plan to produce more than 1.6 million trees for timber, fruits and a shade aimed to fight climate change and preserve environment in the district.

This was revealed on Tuesday this week by Rungwe District Natural Resources Officer, Castor Makeula as he spoke to this paper during the planting exercise at a seedling block in Bulyaga ward, Tukuyu Town.

Makeula said the seedlings will be distributed for free to the people in both the public and private sectors

to enable them benefit from fruits and timber trade.

He added that as for now they continue to produce the seedlings and that by January 2022 they will start distributing them in collaboration with extension officers from each ward in the district.

Some of the people interviewed said it is a good thing to be involved in fighting climate change, the trees will also benefit future generations.

Mary Mwangupili from Iloilo village said they have been given seedlings for fruit and timber trees on several occasions including avocado seedlings which is now economically benefiting them.



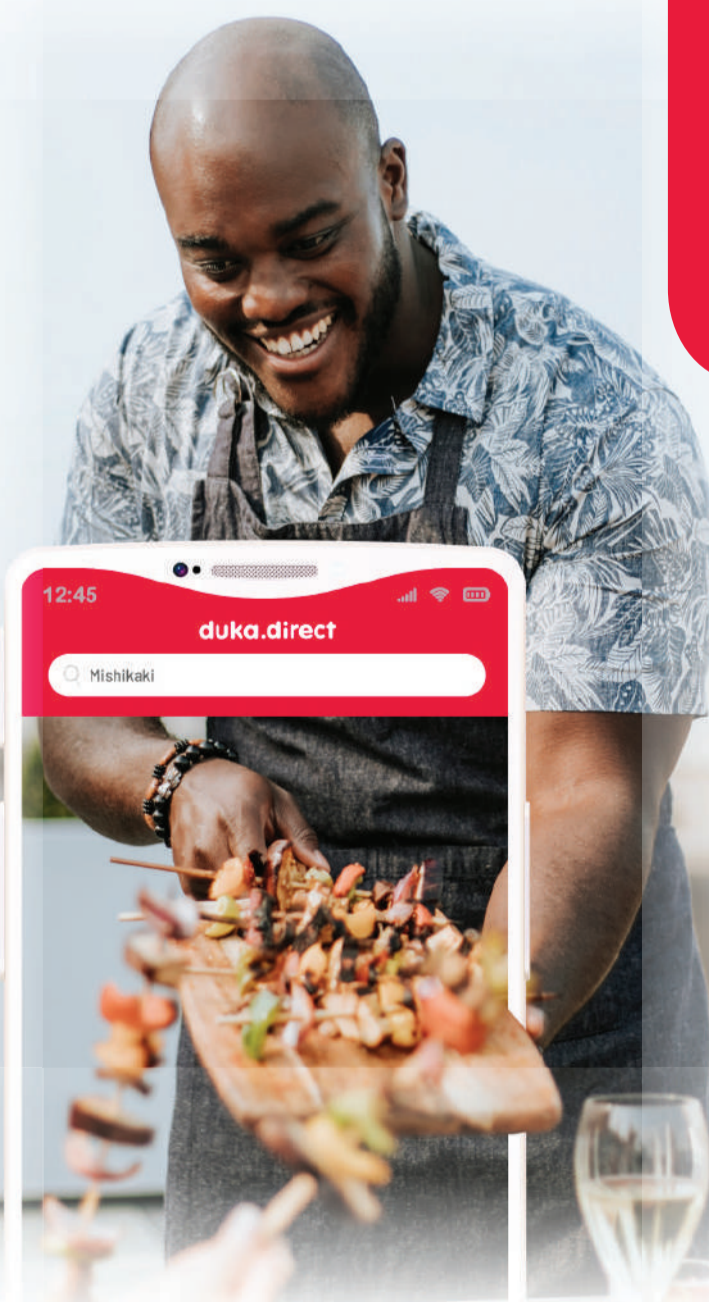
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By Guardian Reporter

IGP, LSF launches improved police general orders

THE Tanzania Police Force in collaboration with Legal Services Facility (LSF) yesterday launched the police general orders (PGO) after undergoing several reforms to increase efficiency in the force's operations in the country.

The LSF provided 400m/- to run the entire process of reviewing existing PGO and looking at areas that could be further improved to protect and defend the rights of women and children in the country.

For a long time, the Tanzania Police Force has been protecting and defending the rights and safety of citizens and their properties, where through gender and child desks were being used extensively within the body to resolve various cases involving violence against women and children as a special group in society.

Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro said that the reforms enable the police force to continue carrying out operations professionally and to increase accountability in dealing with various issues, including acts of sexual violence.

He said among other issues, the reforms include the formalization of gender and

child desks within the army as part of a comprehensive strategy to address acts of sexual violence against women and children.

Sirro commended LSF for completing the entire exercise of reviewing and revising the guidelines of the Police Force in the country, which will now help to further protect women and children as a special group in need of attention due to the fact that, the group is the most affected by acts of violence in the country.

"In fact, we as the police force have been working hard under our guidance to ensure that, we protect the safety of citizens who have their property. But due to the escalation of GBV in the country, we had to set up special gender and child desks within our force to address this problem," he said.

"The creation of these desks was a special thirist quest to protect women and children from various atrocities, although these desks were not officially incorporated into the General Force Orders," said IGP Sirro.

LSF's chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala said the completion of the review and improvement of the force's guidelines to establish or officially recognize existing efforts such as gender desks and a network of women soldiers within the army is part of LSF's special strategy to work with.

She said that the government and its institutions were in the process of making a difference, in order to bring about changes in the policy, laws, and various guidelines in the country, which will further improve the welfare and development of women and girls.

"This launch means a lot to us as a private organisation working to promote access to justice in Tanzania. This is part of our partnership with the Police Force through the agreement we signed to support the exercise of reviewing their guidelines to formalise gender desks, which have been working hard to protect and defend the rights of women and children in Tanzania.



Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro and Legal Services Facility (LSF) chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala launch Police General Orders (PGO) after various amendments. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



BRAC Tanzania Finance Ltd GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

PREQUALIFICATION (ENLISTMENT) OF VENDORS FOR PROVISION OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR BRAC TANZANIA FINANCE LTD FOR THE YEAR 2021/22

1. BACKGROUND

BRAC Tanzania Finance Limited founded in 2006, is a leading Microfinance institution in the country supporting people with small to medium size loans across 25 regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. Our mission is to provide a range of financial services responsibly to the people at the bottom of the pyramid with a focus on women living in poverty in rural Tanzania. We create self-employment opportunities, build financial resilience and harness women's entrepreneurial spirit by empowering them economically.

2. VENDORS FOR SUPPLY OF GOODS AND SERVICES

BRAC Tanzania Finance Ltd requires eligible, qualified and competent vendors for the supply and provision of various goods and services for the year 2021/22 as listed in the Lots below:-

• Lot A: Printings, Stationaries and Office General Supplies

This includes, but limited to, the supply of provision of Printing Services (program materials, fliers, posters, brochures, diaries/notebooks); designing and production of various promotional materials (T-shirts, caps, thermal mugs, executive pen, plastic pen, etc.); Stationeries, Office Equipment and Facilities; Catering services, kitchen appliances, cleanliness related materials, etc.;

• Lot B: IT Services, Equipment and Peripherals

This includes, but not limited to, the supply or provision of computers and related ICT equipment like printers and scanners etc and other peripheries like mouse, adapter, keyboards etc; Internet and connectivity services; Network active equipment's (Routers/Switches, Firewalls, LB, etc.); Data and voice services; and mobile phones, tablets, headphones and alike accessories;

• Lot C: Furniture and Fittings

This includes, but limited to, the supply or provision of office furniture such as office tables, chairs, cabinets, etc.;

• Lot D: Transportation, Logistics and Supply Chain

This includes, but limited to, the supply or provision of Vehicle Service and Maintenance; Fuel and Lubricants; Car tracking and fuel monitoring services; Transporters and Courier Services; Travel and air ticketing services; and Conference Services (venues and related services);

• Lot E: Communication Materials and Related Services

This includes, but not limited to, supply or provision of, Digital and social media services; Photography and Video Production Services; Branding and Signage for offices; Translation and Copyright Services; Newspapers and Magazines; Advertising and Publication Service; Radio Jingles and IVR Production; Creatives, Concepts and Designing for Campaigns; and Bulk SMS Services

• Lot F: Consultancy and related services

This includes, but not limited to, provision of HR Consulting services; Legal Services; Loan Recovery/Debt collection; Asset Valuation and Fixed Asset Management Solutions; and Trainings (in areas such as Microfinance Management, Credit Management, Leadership Development, Fraud and Risk Management & Controls, Team Building,

Conflict Resolution, Negotiation Skills and alike;

3. INVITATION TO APPLY AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

All interested, eligible, qualified and competent vendors are therefore hereby invited to submit their interest to provide such goods and services. All vendors so applying should have the following qualifications: -

- Experience of not less than three years in the relevant field and complexity in different organizations;
- Fulfilment of all regulatory requirements.

4. APPLICATIONS AND ATTACHMENTS

Interested companies, firms or individuals may submit their applications (properly enclosed in plain envelopes clearly marked "Prequalification for Provisions of (put a name of the selected goods or services)" together with the following:-

- About the Company: Physical address; Company Profile; Certificate of Incorporation; and a valid business license;
- About Tax: Certificate of Registration for Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN); Certificate of Registration for Value Added Tax (VAT); and latest Tax Clearance Certificate;
- Accreditations: certificates of accreditation by various authorities (where applicable) or specific industry licenses, if so required;
- List of key staff and their CVs, demonstrating their ability to carry out the applied services (this is only for consulting and related services);
- SSSF Registration (for registered companies); and
- Audited reports and financial statements of the latest three years.

5. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

Application documents should be submitted by hand or by post not later than 17:00 of Tuesday, 14 Sept. 2021 at the following address:

Head of Administration Procurement and Logistics,
BRAC Tanzania Finance Ltd,
Country Office,
Natai Plaza, Plot No. 17, Coca Cola Road,
Light Industrial Area, Mikocheni,
P.O. Box 105213,
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Please note that:-

- A company or individual need to clearly outline if they apply for the whole Lot or for only some goods or services of the Lot. Individuals or companies wish to apply more than one Lot then each Lot should be applied separately;
- Late applications, electronic applications and applications not received, opened and read out in public shall not be considered for evaluation irrespective of circumstances;
- Upon evaluation, only eligible applications with required qualifications, experience on similar assignments, and capacity to provide enlisted goods and services will be contacted for next steps;
- All companies, firms or individuals who are currently in contract with us to provide or supply goods or services in one or more of the categories mentioned in this notice are also invited to submit their proposals for consideration of renewal once their contracts come to an end.

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Bashe campaigns for use of drones in crops spraying

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

DEPUTY Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe has urged the private sector to grab investment opportunities via modern crops spraying technology using drones to simplify spraying work.

Bashe made the remarks yesterday during his visit to witness the ongoing work of spraying the crops by using drones technology at Nanenane Exhibition grounds here.

He said crops spraying technology using drones has great benefits because it takes little time to spray

a large area, different to ordinary spraying methods.

"The agriculture sector should grab this opportunity because it is of great importance in your day to day activities," he added.

He called on experts managing the technology to see how they can reach all farmers including those in rural areas.

He said there are many farmers in rural areas, hence it would be better to see how to take the technology to them.

He said they need to see how many farmers benefit from the technology

to make agriculture profitable to them.

For his part, Eng Elibari Nsenuka, the technology's expert said among challenges they face include permits to fly the drones from Tanzania Aviation Authority (TAA).

Nsenuka and experts from Gegro Company said the challenge was hindering their activities and asked the ministry to assist them from the authorities concerned.

He added that their aim is to make sure they take the technology to all areas to assist government efforts to develop the agricultural sector.

Rampaging buffaloes create mayhem among villagers in Kalambo District

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

A HERD of buffaloes invaded Ilimba Village in Kalambo District, Rukwa Region creating mayhem to the residents and failure to continue with their production activities.

The incident was reported early this week at Nkasi councillors meeting by Sunda Ward Councillor, Peter Simuyemba, saying the villagers were now locked inside their houses, and have asked the government for assistance to remove the beasts.

He further said the village has on several occasions been invaded by elephants, especially during rainy seasons that eat their crops causing

hunger among them.

The District Council chairman, Daud Sichone directed the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry to chase away the buffaloes into the nearby forest reserves.

Early this year, the government announced it had started deploying game rangers to the areas which suffer from raids by wild animals.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the game rangers, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, have already been deployed to villages in Ruvuma, Simiyu, and Mara regions.

"The game rangers will be deployed to all districts that are

prone to attacks by the wild animals, especially elephants," Majaliwa told the House.

At the same time, he urged people to stop encroaching on animal corridors to avoid further human-wildlife conflicts.

Majaliwa said the increasing attacks by wild animals to the human settlements were due to a spike in wildlife population in national parks and game reserves following successful anti-poaching campaigns.

Of late, there had been attacks by wild animals on human settlements that stray from national parks and game reserves causing devastating loss of life and property.

By Correspondent Nimi Mweta

City FM stations struggling, preachers take huge rentals

CITY area radio stations mostly having rebroadcasting frequencies in various municipal centres upcountry are struggling to stabilise amid acute promotional material and creativity in a number of areas, a quick glance indicates.

Tuning into city FM stations there is a frequent overlap of secular and preaching frequencies, where major independent churches hire long periods of time in underperforming FM stations, which is a lifeline for their efforts.

A number of radio stations appear to be doing well, mostly those with substantial background capital and notable clientele developed over the years, while others have less access to commercial advertising of an established sort.

This ability to advertise repeat programmes and call in engagements with listeners is noticeable for just two major independent churches, where the more prominent open church, Arise and Shine is heard on two frequencies in the city of Dar es Salaam, while the up and coming Fresh Spring Fellowship now based at Kimara Temboni is heard over a scatter of frequencies.

It is not heard all over the day and at times leaves original operators of that frequency, for instance at Praise

Power FM which is ordinarily used by Mikocheni "B" Assemblies of God, hitherto led by the late Bishop Dr Getrude Lwakatare, who died early last year.

Other cases of Fresh Springs periodic use of frequencies include Classic FM and Sibuka FM, which is in a way specialised in hosting various preachers heading independent churches, one lodged at Kinondoni Studio area, led by Prophet Elisha Muriithi and another at Kijitonyama, headed by Prophet Andrew Wagana.

Still, they are hosted in an intermittent manner, partly on account of using other channels, including You Tube which is handier for direct viewers but requires a lot of preliminary work and attachment, whereas with FM radio station it is easier for one to stumble on that station and become a frequent adherent.

Listening to leading preachers of independent churches on these frequencies, there are strident appeals for listeners to use their pages in social media to highlight what happens in those assemblies, not just engage in casual exchanges

of images of no faith inputs.

Mussa Richard Mwacha of Fresh Springs Fellowship castigated those using pages in facebook, twitter or instagram where they skirt clear of astonishing events in those assemblies, as they don't wish to draw the ire of those who don't subscribe to such assemblies.

Established churches like the Dar es Salaam Catholic Archdiocese with its Radio Tumaini and Radio Maria franchises scarcely need to obtain assistance from advertisers, but have frequently made efforts to raise funds from among worshippers.

The late Fr Paul Haule, in a memorial rebroadcasting of one of his sermons, was explaining that Radio Tumaini caters for a wider social clientele to build a sense of fellowship and sympathy for the church and its social engagements, while its sister radio is more intensely engaged in spiritual preoccupations.

In that case Radio Maria usually stages annual runs for fund raising as it brooks little advertising, save in house material that relates to church activities, and can't be a money spinner like commercial rentals.



Water Aid Tanzania technical services director Eng Gloria Kafuria (2nd L) speaks at the opening of a joint session between Matuli village officials and government water experts in Dodoma on Tuesday about water well project worth 231m/- to be drilled by the firm in the village. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

5-year programme set to improve lives of vulnerable children in Lutende ward

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Tabora

VULNERABLE children at Lutende ward in Uyui District, Tabora Region will benefit from a five-year programme implemented by World Vision Tanzania (WVT) targeting to improve health, education, dignity and insecurity.

Speaking with Uyui District council's heads of department at a one-day seminar, WVT senior programme officer (monitoring and evaluation), Fredrick Mkuchu said the programme will boost government efforts on community development issues.

He said WVT is dedicated to work with children, families and

communities in different areas especially those which contribute to poverty, lack of education, poor health, sanitation and injustice to children.

"We aim at helping the villagers to reach their potentials," said Mkuchu.

Elaborating, the officer noted that under the programme children in Lutende ward will be assisted to improve their reading, writing and arithmetic skills and to meet their basic needs which include shelter, food, clothing, medical care and protection from all forms of violence.

Children will be educated on the importance of loving one

another and to have fear for God, he said.

"This is a five years programme which intends to improve the livelihood of vulnerable children and the entire community at Lutende, will also provide help on environmental matters and facilitate access to clean and safe water," he added.

Mkuchu applauded the villagers for being in the forefront in exposing and finding solutions to challenges facing children and the entire community in the areas of health, education, water, economy and insecurity.

He said almost all their challenges fall within WVT programme

objectives.

World Vision monitoring and evaluation officer for the Nzege cluster, Leah Elisha said the organisation focuses to build a brighter future for children, sustain their life and ensure greater integration in strengthening communities' economic resilience.

Uyui District council community development officer, Clatus Mbawala applauded WVT for their remarkable support to needy people and vulnerable children in Tanzania.

He said the programme will play a critical role in improving the well-being of Lutende residents and the entire Uyui District population.

Stakeholders stress need to have African passport, free movement within continent

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

TANZANIA Society of Travel Agents (TASOTA) has applauded one of the agenda of the African Union (AU) which is to introduce African passports and free movement of people within the continent.

Speaking in an interview, the Tasota Chairman Moustafa Khataw said that the idea by Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which is under the African Union body is good.

Khataw urged the Tanzania's government to be more careful in terms of national security once the idea is implemented by the AU.

"This is a good idea but the government must evaluate this in the context of national security as well as economic benefits in the near future".

He also said that the government should speed up visa processing for those coming within the "referral" category to enhance visit.

Khataw who is also the Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic to Tanzania praised the online visa portal services.

"Right now the online visa portal is operating well for tourists as well as those who are coming for short business trips," he said.

According to AU, the Agenda 2063 flagship project the African Passport and Free Movement of People aims to remove restrictions on Africans ability to travel, work and live within their own continent.

The initiative aims at transforming Africa's laws, which remain generally restrictive on movement of people despite political commitments to bring down borders with the view to promoting the issuance of visas by Member States to enhance free movement of all African citizens in all African countries.

The free movement of persons in Africa is expected to deliver several

key benefits including boosting intra-Africa trade, commerce and tourism, facilitating labour mobility, intra-Africa knowledge and skills transfer and promoting pan-African identity, social integration and tourism.

Other benefits are improving trans-border infrastructure and shared development, fostering a comprehensive approach to border management and promoting rule of law, human rights, and public health.

It was recently reported that Tanzania's parliament will ratify the AfCFTA during the September 2021 session.

The deputy minister for Industry and Trade, Exaud Kigahe, was quoted as saying that the cabinet had in last week approved the document, ready for taking the same to Parliament slated to kick off Tuesday next week.

It is expected that the question of the AfCFTA, the agreement which focuses on removing non-tariff trade barriers in the continent would be on top of the list of agenda in the parliament.

Ratifying the pact means opening doors for competition. That is why it has been taking long to prepare the private sector for that competition.

The African Union estimates AfCFTA will boost trade by 60 percent between the continent's 1.2 billion people by next year.



Right now the online visa portal is operating well for tourists as well as those who are coming for short business trips

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

CDC, IFRC ramp up Covid-19 response in Africa

THE Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) yesterday launched a new collaboration to strengthen community resilience and response to public health emergencies at community level.

The two institutions have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ramp up pandemic response—including testing support to countries; community mobilization; advocacy and scaling up of contact tracing. In addition to Covid-19, the

collaboration includes other areas of public health.

Africa CDC and IFRC will strengthen investments in locally-led action—for prevention and response purposes—while working with governments to ensure they intensify efforts to roll out the Covid-19 vaccination. Additionally, Africa CDC and IFRC will scale up advocacy against vaccine wastage.

This new initiative comes at a time Africa continues to face major vaccine shortages, amid a high level of community transmission

in countries such as Botswana, Burundi, Eswatini, Cabo Verde, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

John Nkengasong, Africa CDC Director, said: "Africa is facing a double-edged challenge of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, dealing with health response gaps, and also trying to ensure that the continent prepares efficiently for future pandemics, using lessons from current challenges".

Africa CDC has been implementing

various public health responses to control Covid-19. These include the engagement of community health workers in risk communication and community sensitization; surveillance activities for early case identification; contact tracing and in facilitating referrals for testing and continuum of care.

Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Secretary General, said: "What the IFRC and its network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies bring to this partnership with Africa CDC is our unparalleled access to local

communities. Our community-based volunteers have the access and trust that are needed to address vaccine hesitancy and sensitize communities about adherence to preventive measures".

The Africa CDC has been working to support African Union Member States to build a wide network of 2 million community health workers (CHWs) in line with the July 2017 African Union Assembly Decision. The collaboration with the IFRC network, which includes 1.2 million Red Cross and Red Crescent

volunteers across the continent is expected to strengthen community level interventions and consolidate gains in tackling the spread of the virus, while increasing awareness about vaccine benefits.

National Red Cross Red and Crescent Societies across Africa remain on the frontline of the response to COVID-19. They are providing ambulance services; conducting contact tracing and point of entry screening. They are also tackling stigma and the spread of misinformation and provide emotional comfort and psychological support to people in need.



Hanang' district commissioner in Manyara region Janeth Mayanja (L-seated) listens to a trader with disability Magreth Damas during her official visit at Ganana market on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

PRETORIA, South Africa

Teen pregnancies in South Africa jump 60pc during Covid-19 crisis

THE number of children born to teen mothers in South Africa's most populous province, Gauteng, has jumped 60 percent since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, with Save the Children concerned for the well-being of both mothers and babies.

New figures from the Gauteng Department of Health show that more than 23,000 girls aged under 18 gave birth between April 2020 and March 2021 - of which 934 were aged under 14 - compared to 14,577 girls aged 19 and under having babies in the same period

a year earlier. Gauteng is home to more than 15 million people, a quarter of South Africa's population, and includes the country's largest city, Johannesburg, and its administrative capital, Pretoria.

Early pregnancy and motherhood in South Africa forces many girls to drop out of school, traps many in a cycle of poverty dependant on public assistance, and leaves many

stigmatised by society for being teenage mothers or forced into early marriage.

It also creates a greater risk in terms of maternal complications resulting in low survival rates of babies and forces many girls to prematurely take on an adult role which they are not emotionally or physically prepared for. This has devastating social and economic costs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sitholizwe Mdlalose appointed as Managing Director of Vodacom Tanzania Plc

August 26th 2021, Dar es Salaam

Vodacom Tanzania Plc Chairman of the Board of Directors, Judge (Rtd) Thomas B. Mihayo is pleased to announce the appointment of Sitholizwe Mdlalose as the new Managing Director.

Sitholizwe joins the company from Vodacom South Africa (VSA) where he was the Finance Director since 2017. Sitholizwe has previously held various roles in the Vodacom Group including that of Interim Chief Finance Officer as well as Chief Finance Officer of Vodacom Group's International Business. Prior to joining Vodacom Group, he worked with Vodafone Group for more than 6 years holding senior roles within the Group. He has more than 19 years of finance, management and consulting experience, of which 13 have been in telecommunications across both emerging and developed markets. He holds a Bachelors of Accounting Science (BCompt) degree from the University of South Africa. Sitholizwe is a qualified accountant (ACCA) and has completed a Senior Executive Programme Africa at Harvard Business School.

Sitholizwe is an established business leader with strong personal presence and ability to lead in global organisations. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this important role, and has an exceptional track record of growing businesses and delivering strategic transformation. His appointment reflects the ambition of the Board of Vodacom Tanzania to grow our position in this important sector and to continue to deliver on Vodacom's purpose of connecting for a better future.



Together we can



Why has Africa failed to industrialise?

At no point in recent history have calls for Africa to industrialise been stronger than they have been lately. Across the continent, industrialisation is arguably the most talked about subject among policymakers. So why has action on the ground failed to move the needle on this important development marker?

Industrialisation has been a campaign promise across the African continent, with its acknowledged ability to bring prosperity, new jobs and better incomes for all. Yet the continent is less industrialised today than it was four decades ago.

As a nation we need to have policies in place to go with the fast pace of the fourth industrial revolution. Solutions for our problems will not come from the silicon valley but will come out of ourselves. Hence it is important we create a conducive environment that will harness development through the fourth industrialisation. It is about time Tanzania takes note of the fourth industrial revolution as other East African countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda have already commissioned task forces to guide them on implementation of the fourth industrialisation.

For more than 40 years Africa's industrial development has been disappointing. In 2013 the average share of manufacturing in GDP in sub-Saharan Africa was about 10 per cent - the same as in the 1970s. Africa's share of global manufacturing has fallen from about 3 per cent in 1970 to less than 2 per cent in 2013. Clearly, Africa needs more industry to create more good jobs.

Most of the heavy lifting in terms of public action will need to be done by African governments. To industrialise successfully, Africa

will need to revisit the policy orthodoxy and break new ground. The "investment climate reforms" of the World Bank, supported by some bilateral donors, have not and will not bring industry to Africa on their own. Industrialisation cannot succeed without the development "basics" that include infrastructure, skills and institutions. But these building blocks, while necessary, are not enough.

Three closely related drivers of firm-level productivity - exports, agglomeration and firm capabilities - have been largely responsible for East Asia's industrial success, and their absence also helps to explain Africa's lack of industrial dynamism. These three drivers of productivity and industrial location are fundamentally interrelated. Progress in one area cannot succeed in the absence of progress in the others. In short, a strategy for industrial development is needed, and an active and committed government to implement it is indispensable. To compete in the global market for manufacturers, African governments need to develop new policies to promote industrial exports, build the capabilities of domestic firms and foster industrial clusters. These policy initiatives need to be coordinated and contemporaneous.

The international community has a new set of development goals. They reflect Africa's aspirations much more closely than the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) they replaced. In addition to a maintained focus on the eradication of poverty, their single most important contribution is to recognise that sustainable development, especially in Africa, means creating good jobs - jobs that pay living wages and offer a chance to develop new skills.

Foundation of safe and sufficient blood supply is indeed necessary

Blood transfusion is an indispensable component of health care. It contributes to saving millions of lives each year in both routine and emergency situations, permits increasingly complex medical and surgical interventions and dramatically improves the life expectancy and quality of life of patients with a variety of acute and chronic conditions.

Patients who require transfusion as part of their clinical management have the right to expect that sufficient blood will be available to meet their needs and to receive the safest blood possible. However, many patients still die or suffer unnecessarily because they do not have access to safe blood transfusion. The timely availability of safe blood and blood products is essential in all health facilities in which transfusion is performed, but in many developing and transitional countries there is a widespread shortfall between blood requirements and blood supplies.

Many medical advances that have improved the treatment of serious illness and injuries have increased the need for blood transfusion for patients' survival, to support them through recovery or to maintain their health. Surgery, trauma and cancers, for all of which there is a high probability of the need for blood transfusion, are replacing communicable diseases as leading causes of death. About 234 million major operations are performed worldwide every year, with 63 million people undergoing surgery for traumatic injuries, 31 million more for treating cancers and another 10 million for pregnancy-related complications.

National requirements for blood are, in part, determined by the capacity of the country's health care system and its coverage of the

population. In developed countries with advanced health systems, the demand for blood continues to rise to support increasingly sophisticated medical and surgical procedures, trauma care and the management of blood disorders. An increase in ageing populations requiring more medical care has also led to increased requirements for blood.

In countries where diagnostic facilities and treatment options are more limited, the majority of transfusions are prescribed for the treatment of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, severe childhood anaemia, trauma and the management of congenital blood disorders. Access to safe blood could help to prevent up to one quarter of maternal deaths each year and blood transfusion has been identified as one of the eight life-saving functions that should be available in a first-referral level healthcare facility providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Children are particularly vulnerable to shortages of blood in malarious areas because of their high requirement for transfusion arising from severe life-threatening anaemia resulting from malaria, often exacerbated by malnutrition. In 2008, 109 countries were endemic for malaria, 45 within the WHO African region. In 2006, there were an estimated 247 million malaria cases among 3.3 billion people at risk, causing nearly a million deaths; 91 per cent of malaria deaths were in Africa and 85 per cent were of children under five years of age.

Road traffic accidents kill 1.2 million people and injure or disable more than 20 million and 50 million more a year; a large proportion of whom require transfusion during the first 24 hours of treatment; 90 per cent of deaths occur in developing and transitional countries.

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Let us all hope Hichilema succeeds with dual goals

By Special Correspondent

ZAMBIA and Zimbabwe are not just neighbours, but share so much common history that nothing that takes place on one side of the Zambezi can fail to affect the other side, and if that mutual interdependency is to work positively it is best if the countries work together closely.

President Mnangagwa pushes this close relationship, something he finds easier than most since he spent so much time as a young man in Zambia and likes the country and its people. Fortunately for Zimbabwe this is reciprocated; as he noted in reports yesterday he has been on good terms with most Zambian Presidents, starting with Founder President Kenneth Kaunda who sadly died so recently.

His enthusiastic acceptance of the invitation by President Hakainde Hichilema to attend his inauguration yesterday will help cement the modern close relationship between the two sister states and ensure that they continue working together closely as both press to improve the lives of their peoples.

In a sense this is reciprocating Zambia's assistance at a difficult time in Zimbabwean recent history when President Mnangagwa assumed office to serve out a term before winning his own mandate the following year.

Former president Edgar Lungu

By Marianne Merten

IN a curious political tick, upbeatness often accompanies new leadership. Even in the absence of evidence that a new appointee would do anything qualitatively better than the previous holder of the position.

Such optimism unfolds even in controversy such as the formal, tick-box election of former defence minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula to lead the 400 lawmakers of 14 political parties in the National Assembly.

Governing ANC numbers in the House, 230 MPs, mean it can push through its choice, never mind concerns or contest. And governing ANC tradition means it will circle its wagons for Mapisa-Nqakula.

By all accounts, she was accepted without question or comment after being named for the Speaker's post by ANC National Chairperson Gwede Mantashe in last week's special caucus. That's how deployment works.

That the ANC parliamentary caucus views its role as following the marching orders delivered from Luthuli House may benefit some political careers - but it doesn't do much for Parliament's constitutional

responsibilities of oversight and holding ministers, officials and public office holders to account.

The State Capture commission hearings highlighted a slow approach, at best contradictory and at worst derelict, to overseeing executive exercise of power. But as ANC witnesses such as Mantashe told the commission: governing party MPs were elected on an ANC ticket to carry out party decisions.

Mapisa-Nqakula's deployment to the National Assembly done and dusted, questions must be asked. Will she hit the ground running? Which side will she align herself with in the parliamentary corridor factional politicking? Who will she depend on for counsel?

Will her deployment ratified by the required election in the House on the back of ANC numbers lead to, for example, the appointment of a permanent Secretary to Parliament - Baby Tyawa has been acting since June 2017? Or to the settling of the legal action that 69 Parliament Protection Services started in January 2017 over the better pay and employment

conditions of the so-called bouncers hired in 2015? Those are pressing institutional demands. But pressing demands for sharp and decisive parliamentary oversight have emerged in South Africa's 17 months of a State of Disaster, renewed every month since June 2020 after the initial three-month declaration.

The Covid-19 restrictions - Saturday marks Lockdown Day 513 - have further undermined already dithering state services. Never mind all the talk about a capable, developmental state.

The long queues at labour offices and at the SA Social Security Agency (Sassa) testify to sustained unemployment as over a million jobs lost in hard lockdown in March 2020 remain lost, and to deepening poverty and hunger.

Queues form outside home affairs offices - no ID, no official support - and at the Masters of the High Court offices, where deceased estates are left crawling towards finalisation; and at the deeds office, where the snail's pace of property transactions is affecting the urban

dishonest.

Zambia's economic resurrection and growth largely came with the third incumbent, president Levi Mwanawasa and with his programmes continued after his death in office by president Rupiah Banda. The two stressed investment, working with the international community, and building the economy. And Zambia's economy did grow, despite the over reliance on a single commodity, copper.

But many Zambians believed too many people were being left behind, the other pillar, and so switched to president Michael Sata, who also died in office but his successor, president Lungu, was from the same party and followed his basic stress.

What President Hichilema now has to do is somehow combine the two goals, rapid growth but the growth spread and inclusive so that no one is left behind. He starts off with a lot of goodwill from Zambians, having won by a very large majority. Founder President Kaunda certainly thought he was the best person to pull off the double, consistently endorsing him in his presidential attempts against both pro-business and pro-equality opponents.

Politically Zambia is a three-party system and in a sense the Zambians have returned to the modern equivalent of the original party that led them to independence in the hope that it can do that double.

In South Africa's National Assembly, a new broom does not guarantee a clean house

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economy. Queues snake along at traffic departments and municipal offices.

Queues start in the very early hours of the morning because word's out that only 50 people a day are helped because only 50% of officials can be in the office due to Covid-19 protocols. Everyone knows: if not early in the queue, no assistance; forcing another outlay for transport to return some other day.

Officials get paid their full salaries whether they put in a full day's work or not, entrenching a new labour aristocracy.

Parliament's committees have yet to scratch the surface of such service delivery failures, and to do the necessary oversight in sufficiently forceful tones to get officialdom to change its ways.

New leadership at the National Assembly doesn't change lackadaisicalness. Only commitment to being an elected public representative rather than a party hack will do that, alongside honouring the oath of office to "obey, respect and uphold the Constitution".

SPECIAL INTERVIEW - WITH BILL GATES

‘An energy miracle is coming, and it’s going to change the world’

THE most remarkable thing about meeting Bill Gates in person is beholding his mental map of the world – how advances in technology, the well-being of humanity, and the fate of our world are all intertwined.

Tech Insider’s Drake Baer met with him to talk about his 2016 annual letter, in which he discusses the balance of bringing electricity to the billion people who don’t have it and finding power sources that don’t kill the earth.

The head of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation spoke about how to make an energy miracle happen, the stakes of climate change, and what the role of the world’s billionaires is in all of this. Excerpts from the interview, which is edited for clarity and length:

Drake Baer: What are the most exciting things happening right now in clean energy?

Bill Gates: A lot of it is pretty early stage. The most straightforward path would be if we could bring the cost of solar electric and wind down by another factor of say, three, and then have some miraculous storage solution, so that not only over the 24-hour day but over long periods of time where the wind doesn’t blow, you have reliable energy. That’s a path. But energy storage is hard. That’s not a guaranteed path.

In fact, batteries haven’t improved over the last 100 years as much as they would need to in order to make that happen. So I’m invested in a lot of battery companies – and there’s a lot that exists I’m not in. They’re all having a tough time achieving it. We need to look at less obvious paths, things like the wind in the jet stream, which is very high up. The material science of what type of kite string you would need to connect up to that. That’s still at the basic research level.

That’s the part where the governments have a unique role, and then when it progresses well enough, then existing companies or new startup companies should take it. In the US\$3 trillion a year energy market, the rewards will be quite fantastic.

At some point, that risk-taking private capital can take over, and have patents and trade secrets and things that let them lead the way, which happened with the steam engine and some other things, although with energy, the time of adoption is a lot longer than it is with, say, IT products or even medical advances, like drugs and vaccines.

Other paths would include making nuclear fission cheap enough and safe enough that people broadly embrace it, so that could be scaled up. Or, if you really could take the carbon dioxide, when you burn hydrocarbons – coal, for example – if you could really capture the carbon and sequester it – they call it CCS (carbon capture and storage) – if the extra capital cost, energy cost, and storage costs over time didn’t make it super expensive, then that’s another path that you could go down.

I could name about a dozen paths, and you’d like to have a whole bunch of research on all those paths, and then, eventually, at least four to five companies with really significant financing try and get to big scale, going down and really trying to prove it out.

It’s the same way that when the car got going, people thought it would be an electric car, people thought it would be a steam car.

Actually, the dark horse in that race was internal combustion, but because of the energy density of gasoline and discovery of oil in large amounts at that point in first Pennsylvania and then Texas, it won out over those other two, to the point that those other two are actually viewed as obscure footnotes in history.

Q: Was there a moment for you when the light bulb went off, and you realized how important energy was to the world?

Gates: When I was trying to figure out why lives have improved so much in the last 300 years, where we’ve gone from one-third of children dying before 5 to – by 1990 it was down to 10 per cent – now it’s down to 5 per cent. And saying why, over all history, there were smart people, but that number didn’t change. Average life span didn’t change. What’s magical about what’s been deemed the Industrial Revolution? It’s really energy intensity.

What’s magical about what’s been deemed the Industrial Revolution? It’s really energy intensity. When I was high school I had a vague sense of it. When I was in college I had a vague sense of it. I’d say that I didn’t really start to understand it fully until I started reading Vaclav Smil, who has written a lot about this. David Christian, in “Big History”, writes about this. It’s energy intensification, where we essentially have, through our light bulbs and cars, the input of hundreds of people working on our behalf, helping our food being created, helping our materials like steel and plastic and wood and paper being created. Our lifestyles are incredibly energy intense.

Recently I’ve been studying how quickly we can get energy out to the poor countries – a lot of which are in Africa – and how little progress we’ve made there. There’s no more electricity today in sub-Saharan Africa per person than there was 20 years ago.

The world is very disparate, in terms of the US using the most energy per person, and then the other rich countries – Europe, Japan, New Zealand – using about half of what we do, and then the world average being about one-fifth of what we use, with China just now surpassing the world average.

My broad sense of this is that authors like Smil really paint the clear picture, and once you see that, it’s kind of Oh, of course. That’s such a primal thing to all these physical services that we take for granted.

Q: In your letter you say you expect an energy miracle in the next 15 years. When I read that, I was



like, Wow, that’s bold. What are you expecting?

A: When I say “miracle” I mean a kind of thing like a computer on a chip, or the internet, or the cellphone, that are really quite miraculous. Most people would not have predicted them, and their effect has been very, very dramatic. In medicine, we’ve had a lot of miracles, and I think all of us expect and count on more.

In the next 30 years, I really do think cancer will largely be a solved problem. I think most of the infectious diseases like malaria – our foundation is very involved – once we’re finishing polio eradication, then starting up this malaria eradication, and getting that done as fast as we can.

So on the demand side for energy, there have been a variety of policies that globally have been way over US\$50 billion a year of tax credits, raising the price of electricity through things like renewable portfolio standards, so the total amount of money that’s gone into sending a price signal to push up demand versus what would happen without it has been gigantic.

On the supply side, for innovation, you’d say, go look at those Research-&Development budgets, and they haven’t moved in the last 20 years. In the case of the US – which is the majority of R&D funding across every category you can name: health, energy, whatever – it’s been about US\$5 billion a year from the Department of Energy.

It was kind of a milestone to get this commitment from Paris to get 20 countries, including all of the big ones – the US, India, China, France, Germany, the UK, Japan – to double their energy R&D budgets over a five-year period.

Finally, assuming that many of those are fulfilled, which won’t be easy in tight budget times, we’re taking the supply side at the basic research level, because that’s where government is absolutely fundamental.

How much further beyond basic research the role of the government should be, you could have a really good debate about it. Almost nobody would say it’s zero. But that’s where at least we need the private sector to play a big role. That’s why we paired this announcement of the R&D commitment with the so-called Breakthrough Energy Coalition, which is 27 major investors saying: “Hey, we’ll put significant money into energy innovations when they’re ready to spin out probably into startup companies.”

When I say “an energy miracle”, I mean that there will be some form of energy whose 24-hour cost really is competitive with hydrocarbons given, say, 20 years of learning curve. You invent it, then you look at how much its costs go down over the next 20 years, that it really beats hydrocarbons. You might say, well, aren’t people saying that about wind and solar today? Not really. Only in the super-narrow sense that the capital costs per output, when the wind is blowing, is slightly lower.

But the reason it still needs subsidies, and it can’t go above a certain percentage, is this intermittency in availability for wind and solar – it changes the economics, particularly this requirement that the power company at all times be able to require power. That’s large. At the end of the day, natural-gas peakers sit back there and get financed so that the Midwest corridor can have a huge period of four to five days of no wind. The peakers are running big time to make that up, because that is the swing piece that can always be turned on. (Editor’s note: Natural gas peakers are power plants that run when there’s a big, or “peak”, demand for energy.)

Q: You’ve said that it will be the world’s poorest who are most affected by climate change. Can you paint a picture of what that will be like?

A: We need to get a broader awareness. People say climate change is really bad, but painting that picture of what you’re putting at risk.

First of all, there are ecosystems like coral reefs at risk through ocean acidification. Those are valuable things that we should protect. But humans – the first big effects will be farmers that live on the edge. Today’s weather, they barely get by. Their children, a high percentage are malnourished, and so if you impose more variable weather and more heat, you’re getting more floods, more droughts, and during the germination time, the high heat, most crops...do poorly when there’s more heat.

Maize, rice, wheat – all have heat sensitivity. Sorghum is kind of unusual. It can go to very high heats, but it’s not as productive in most environments as maize is. So we need to help those poor farmers out.

Over 80 per cent of the poor are people who have small plots of land and grow their own food and they don’t grow enough to sell much into the marketplace. So they will be hit hard by the worst in climate. They really get hit hard starting in the 20-year timeframe and thereafter.

Then, depending on how quickly you get ocean rise, you have people who live in river deltas at risk. Bangladesh is largely a river delta, and the rising sea level means that when storms come in, the human sanitation is backing up, the ability to farm, it’s destructive-type situations like you saw in New Orleans with Hurricane Katrina. You’re increasing the frequency of that stuff in low-lying areas fairly dramatically.

Now, if you’re rich, you can spend a lot of money, Netherlands-style, and reduce that. But Bangladesh or parts of India, like Calcutta, they just simply won’t be able to afford that kind of protection.

Q: Can billionaires save us in this situation?

A: Billionaires should never be responsible for solving problems, because they’re not the government. The government is there day in and day out, if you want all children to have education, if you want to run courts, if you want to have an army, if you want to have roads, you’ve got to have the taxation system that funds everything that you expect.

The only role other than paying their taxes, whatever those are, the only role for philanthropy broadly – of which the rich should give disproportionately – the more, the better – and I think there is a positive trend in that direction – there are certain risk-taking things, like trying out a new type of charter school or funding a new kind of medicine. The government’s ability to select scientists and pick things that are fairly strange, because politicians don’t like failures. They’re only in office for a short term, and many of these things take a long time.

For philanthropy, although it’s tiny compared to the government, it’s 2 per cent of the US economy, which is the largest percentage, other than the Middle East. There are economies like China’s economy where it’s less than one-tenth of a percent today, although it is growing, is quite small, because of the notion that the government takes care of everything, and Europe and China, philanthropy has not been nearly of the same scale.

But if you think of global public goods like polio eradication, that kind of risk-taking new approach, philanthropy really does have a role to play there, because government doesn’t do R&D about new things naturally as much as it probably should, and so philanthropy is there. That doesn’t mean with the day in, day out things that you want to make sure get delivered to everyone that you should create a dependency. It’s not big enough and it’s not reliable enough.

Q: To bring it back to the US, does the US have the right political priorities to deal with energy?

A: The US spends more on energy R&D than all other countries put together, and I personally consider it quite inadequate. In fact, I would have said that we should more than double it, if I thought the absorptive capacity could scale up and if it was actually possible to get to that level. I think given all the different imperatives – getting energy to Africa, security of energy, climate change, that we should be spending half as much as we spend on health, which will get you all the way up to US\$15 billion – the health people don’t like it when things get compared to their number.

The US in some ways has been the best. Who figured out shale gas? Although that wasn’t a good thing for carbon dioxide levels, it was very innovative. It has led to low-cost energy. Who figured out nuclear power? Largely, the United States. Once you get past the steam engine, which is mostly British, then the US has been at the centre of most of the energy things that have happened.

You say, what are the top 20 universities in the world that do good materials research that might create carbon fibres to do jet stream kites or new magnets that will allow energy generation to be done up there and you just bring the electricity down. You either have to bring down rotational energy, which is hard, or you have to have the generator up there and bring down the electricity. Well, putting the generator up there is hard to do because it is too heavy.

Anyway, the US, as in most issues, is the best, has the best capability to lead, and really needs to lead. It doesn’t mean that other countries won’t pick different tacks and emphasize different things. In aggregate, they’re almost half of the energy R&D. Europe, China, Japan – it’s very important that they come along and contribute to these things.

The US really has to get out in front. We are the biggest per person, by a substantial amount, greenhouse emitters, and we give the most foreign aid, not per person but in absolute. This is another issue where hopefully we will take a long-term approach which, even though we sometimes have a hard time doing that, it’s easier for us, as a rich country with this kind of scientific depth than it is for the poor countries that will suffer the problems.

A February 22, 2016 interview, reprinted owing to its relevance.



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The tragedy of Afghanistan: Is there a way forward?

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

THE desperate scenes at Kabul airport of Afghans trying to flee and the image of the US Airforce flight taxiing down the runway with people scrambling to climb on, is an image that will be etched on our minds forever.

The tragedy of Afghanistan is that the same saga of desperation and suffering has been repeatedly endured by ordinary Afghans who have been at the receiving end of war, and suffered unspeakable horrors, for over four decades.

At a human level, the Afghans feel betrayed by the Western Alliance and the US. This is not the first time but the second. In the war to defeat the Russians, waged by Mujahideen and funded by the CIA, via ISI, the Afghans paid a heavy price.

An estimated 2 million deaths, 2 million disabled, approximately 800,000 widows and the annihilation of infrastructure.

Once the Russians left, the US turned its back on Afghanistan paying no heed to reconstruction and recovery. This was the first experience of betrayal and it was when Osama Bin Laden, an ally of the US became its enemy.

The second episode took place after 9/11. To capture Osama Bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, the US invaded Afghanistan. Although Osama Bin Laden had already left Afghanistan, many bombs were dropped, and drone attacks followed.

Large numbers of civilians including women and children were killed as a result. Now in August 2021, with no proper system in place to ensure peace and stability, the US forces simply left. Even General David Petraeus, former Commander of the US forces in Afghanistan, expressed his shock when interviewed on TV.

For the Afghans, in their hour of need, the sudden and inexplicable departure of their President, Ashraf Ghani, is an even greater disappointment.

It is inconceivable that President Ghani left to save his own skin. It is possible that this was part of a hasty deal worked out with the Taliban to avoid a blood bath and destruction of the infrastructure of Kabul. In turn, it is possible that the Taliban agreed to the concessions they announced during their press conference in Kabul, on August 17.

The Taliban spokesman declared an amnesty to all opposing combatants, protection for all citizens, the assurance that Afghanistan would not become a base for terrorists to attack other countries, and a stoppage of the sale and production of opium.

The Taliban stated that women's right to education and work would be allowed, within Sharia Law, the interpretation of which was not stated. The formation of an inclusive government under their leadership was mentioned.

That the Taliban would be back, was evident right from the start. There is a popular Taliban saying "You have the watches, we have the time. We were born here and will die here. We are not going anywhere".

Thus, the takeover of Kabul on 16th August 2021, was just the last lap of the race and was a parting gift offered on a platter by the US, when it hurriedly withdrew, with no apparent handover and no declared plan for governance.

The Western misadventure is but a repetition of history. No foreign invader has ever been able to hold Afghanistan. The 13th Century saw Genghis Khan's army massacred. In the 19th century, the British sent a garrison to Kabul and every soldier except one, was slaughtered. In the 20th Century, the mighty USSR suffered a humiliating defeat.

There is a saying that those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. The US did not learn from what happened to the Russians or from their own experience in Viet Nam.

At a time when the TV footage is showing the desperation of the Afghans, the efforts made by the US government to justify their hasty departure and declare to the world that their mission in Afghanistan was a success, rings hollow and indicates a cynical disregard for the plight of Afghans.

Subsequently the US announced that it would help Afghans who worked for them, to seek refuge in the US. This process is going on now.

Whatever brand of "inclusive" government is worked out, the reality is that the Taliban is back in power and seems determined to recreate their "Emirate."



I served with UNICEF in Afghanistan, in the years 1997 to 2001, both in Jalalabad and Kabul and am therefore very familiar with the draconian regulations of the Taliban.

The Taliban brand of Sharia Law imposed during their time in office, 1996 to 2001, was particularly geared towards the ruthless limitation of women's freedom and rights. Women were debarred from working and girls' education was banned. They were forced to wear a "burka" that covered them from head to foot.

At the time I was there, they passed the Maharam Edict, which dictated that women could not walk alone on the streets. A woman had to be accompanied by a "Maharam" meaning a close male relative. The Beard Law, dictated that all men should grow beards.

Both men and women were beaten in public if they flouted these regulations. The Taliban brand of "justice" was meted out on the streets, by vice squads, who beat you first and asked questions later.

Music was banned. TV, films, entertainment and gatherings involving both sexes, prohibited.

Afghans were forced to pray five times a day. Transgression meant getting beaten, even on the road-side. The penalty for theft was the amputation of limbs and the punishment for adultery was stoning to death.

The football stadium in Kabul was an arena where these horrific acts were performed in front of an unsuspecting audience. There was no judicial system and no due process.

Card games which they deemed to be gambling was banned. Iconography, art, photographs and images were destroyed. Priceless artefacts in the Kabul Museum were smashed to smithereens and we are all too aware of what happened to the Bamiyan Buddha statues, which were priceless treasures and a wonder of the ancient world.

When I first went to Afghanistan in 1997, as the UNICEF Resident Project Officer in Jalalabad, the Taliban refused to look at me, as I happened to be a woman. At meetings, which were all male events, they would look away from me with an expression of total disgust and would keep their heads turned away from me, when speaking to me.

After a couple of months of this icy reception, which I considered to be a farcical comedy, they gradually thawed and even shook my hand, spoke in English and became friendly. I said to my staff that I thought that perhaps the Taliban thought that I had turned into a man!

After the closure of girls' schools when female teachers lost their jobs, Home Schools were started by them in their own compounds, which UNICEF supported.

As the Home Schools progressed, I began to think that even the Taliban sent their daughters to those schools.

The educated Taliban valued education. However, their Madrassa educated foot soldiers only studied the Quran, Arabic and the art of guerrilla warfare.

In the office, I worked closely as a team with my all-male Afghan staff, who were highly educated and were perfect gentlemen. I regarded the Taliban as fellow citizens of the world and our UNICEF team followed the principle of "give respect to get respect".

This formula was effective and we received the co-operation needed to implement our programmes for women and children.

When the Bamiyan Buddha statues were blown up, and I was devastated, one Taliban minister apologised to me, as he knew that I was a Buddhist. He said to me that many in the Taliban government opposed this action, implying that the Bamiyan Buddhas were a part of their own heritage.

The Afghans reported that the Buddha statues were not destroyed by the Taliban, but by the Al Qaeda, who were Arabs. They cried and said to me, "the Taliban has destroyed our future and now they have destroyed our past, we have nothing left".

In the present context, following the fall of Kabul, the only hope for the future is that the Taliban will form a truly inclusive government and take a more enlightened approach to governance. This will be important for them, in gaining international recognition and much-needed aid.

In my opinion it would be a mistake on the part of the international community to impose sanctions as that would only hurt the poor and vulnerable. To regard the Taliban regime as a pariah state would also not be fruitful as that will only make them even more adamant in pursuing inhuman practices.

It is only through engagement and genuine dialogue that the international community will be able to help Afghanistan and influence the Taliban to be more responsible and mature.

At present, all indications are that the Taliban wish to form an inclusive government and that they have softened their stance on the rights of women. The spokesman repeated that everything will be done within Sharia Law. I hope that since they were last in power, they have changed their interpretation of Sharia Law.

It is imperative upon the international community to now step up on their humanitarian assistance and ensure that starvation, destitution and a colossal human tragedy is averted and that the displaced are assisted to return to their homes.

Already more than 50% of Afghans are in need of food aid, on account of the severe drought that has hit the country. Childhood malnutrition has increased and Covid is on the rise. UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR and the other UN humanitarian agencies are in place and are working round the clock.

The UN Secretary General has already made an appeal to donor countries to increase their assistance. The US and its allies who spent billions in weaponry and military hardware, need to now genuinely engage with the Taliban and support a workable plan for the development of Afghanistan, under the auspices of the UN, so that a sincere attempt is made at long last, to improve the lives of all Afghans.

This is the best safeguard against the country descending once again into civil war and becoming a breeding ground for terrorism.

On reflection, the famous saying that "In wars there are no winners, there are only losers" is indeed true. The Taliban has lost thousands of fighters: no statistics are available. There would be hundreds with severe wounds and injuries.

In fact, some of the Taliban leaders during the time I was there had serious war injuries and resulting disabilities. In the Western Alliance, large numbers of soldiers have died and some are left with lifelong injuries and disabilities.

American and British soldiers who served in Afghanistan experienced severe forms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders [PTSD], that led to a staggering number of suicides, after their return home.

The BBC quoted in a Panorama programme that in 2012, more British soldiers took their own lives after their return from combat duty in Afghanistan, than the number killed on the battle field. Taliban soldiers who are the poorest of the poor, too would have suffered similarly.

It is up to the world to now help Afghanistan, and not turn its back on it. The formation of the inclusive government needs to be accelerated to avoid a civil war. The Afghans need maximum help and support to recover from this prolonged tragedy.

The Islamic countries in particular, that helped the Taliban to wage war, need to come to their aid, to build peace.

'Islam' in Arabic means peace. Therefore, the Islamic world needs to exert influence on the Taliban and support them to evolve from ruthless fighters into a group of leaders, who can govern with compassion and wisdom and bring about long-lasting peace and stability to that beautiful country - Afghanistan.

IPS

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

E. Africa sees telehealth boom amid COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

THE pandemic has accelerated the pace of technological advances in health care, from video consultations to artificial intelligence-powered triage, and medically underserved East Africa is catching on fast.

With some of the worst doctor-patient ratios in the world, Africa is proving fertile ground for telehealth providers. Babyl, the Rwandan arm of UK-based Babylon Healthcare Services, said daily consultations went from about 3,000 in March 2020 to more than 5,000 now. Rocket Health, a Ugandan provider, saw a 500 per cent increase in phone and video consultations in the year to December 2020, and a quadrupling so far this year.

While the demand has been driven by COVID-19, with testing needs and reduced access to health professionals, the companies expect the growth to continue even when the virus has been tamed. Many African countries can't train enough medical personnel and have to grapple with a persistent brain drain to richer nations. More than a third of UK physicians were trained abroad, including in Africa.

"We've definitely seen a telehealth explosion," said Mason Marks, a law professor at the University of New Hampshire and senior fellow at Harvard Law School's Petrie-Flom Centre. The world was already "on the cusp of seeing a breakthrough in telehealth but I do think it's been accelerated probably by at least a few years," including in places like Africa, he said.

Much of the growth will be fuelled by rising smartphone penetration. Only about a quarter of

Sub-Saharan Africans had access to smartphones before the pandemic, according to the GSM Association, which represents mobile providers.

Babyl, an adaptation of the Babylon name because of its negative biblical connotations locally, has been in Rwanda since 2015 and says about 20 per cent of the population is registered to use its service.

Smartphone penetration was around 10 per cent when Babylon first entered the country, so its service was adapted to make it available to anyone with a basic handset - about 80 per cent of Rwandans - using the same technology that powers mobile money platforms in many developing countries, according to local managing director Shivon Byamukama.

"Our vision is to provide affordable and accessible health care to everyone on earth and you wouldn't want to go to a country to benefit 10 per cent," most of whom are probably wealthy, said Mr Byamukama.

Patients dial a numerical code to access the service, which can also be used to arrange prescriptions and lab tests, and pay through the near-universal health insurance coverage in the region.

Not all African countries have such coverage though. Non-governmental organisation PharmAccess helped create a digital wallet system that allows low-income Kenyans to save up for medical expenses, including contributions from other parties, such as relatives, NGOs, or the government.

Babyl signed a 10-year contract with Rwanda in 2020 and plans to launch a health centre-based tool powered by artificial intelligence in the coming months that will fun-



nel patients to an in-person consultation or its own digital and phone service. The aim is to relieve some of the in-person burden and speed up processes like validating insurance.

Germany-based Ada Health has been working in Tanzania since 2017, partnering with Swiss philanthropic organisation Fondation Botnar. The company launched a localised version of its app in Swahili in 2019 in a bid to respond more directly to the region's needs.

Hila Azadzozy, managing director of Ada's global health initiative, describes its AI tool as an "agnostic" platform that can be tailored and integrated into existing health systems. About a third of the company's user base for its main app is in low and middle-income countries, she said.

Ada makes its AI tools available to partners such as Uganda's Rocket Health, which

has extended its call-based offering through a pilot with Ada's symptom checker. The AI integration aided pandemic efforts over the past year and allowed nurses to resolve more than three-quarters of consultations in the pilot programme without escalation, freeing up doctors, Rocket chief executive Davis Musinguzi said.

The use of AI in health care can be complex and has faced criticism. Babylon's symptom checker has come under particular scrutiny in the UK. The company's website notably describes its chatbot as offering "potential causes and possible next steps," rather than being a diagnostic tool.

UK oncologist and vocal Babylon critic David Watkins has called the company's symptom checker "dangerously flawed" and published examples of instances where the app

has interpreted heart attack symptoms as a panic attack. Babylon said the app is constantly under surveillance and updated.

Data privacy and sovereignty protections also remain in their infancy in some African countries, raising concerns that companies can use the data for their own gain. Rwanda is introducing a data protection law, while Uganda did so in 2019. While Tanzania has no specific data privacy law, Ada applies GDPR principles in all its markets, Azadzozy said.

"This is a real concern in Africa," said Marks, the law professor. "It can be a form of data colonialism."

Medical needs will fuel growth regardless. Babylon is keen to expand further in sub-Saharan Africa, where new health providers keep cropping up.

"Currently there's four billion people that lack even access to basic primary health-care services" globally, Ada's Azadzozy said. "We cannot fill that gap" without technology.

SA aims to bring pilot carbon capture project online in 2023

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa has started geological mapping at the country's first carbon capture and storage (CCS) site, where it plans to inject vast quantities of CO2 deep underground from 2023, a senior Council for Geoscience official said.

The project will be based around the town of Leandra, Mpumalanga province, in South Africa's north east,

a carbon emissions hotspot and home to several coal-fired power stations as well as Sasol's Secunda coal-to-liquids fuel plant, the world's largest.

Releasing around 470 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) a year, South Africa is the continent's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, and coal provides the bulk of its electricity. CCS is controversial, with environmentalists saying it risks becoming an excuse to

continue burning fossil fuels, and could lead to neglect of nature's own carbon capture system, forests, which also sustain biodiversity and rainfall.

Others however see it as essential to meeting the goal of a net carbon zero world economy by 2050. Its most enthusiastic backer is the global coal industry.

The South African government has repeatedly defended its right to tap into abundant

coal deposits even as the country increases its use of renewable energy.

"South Africa will still be using coal for a very long time, so... we need to try and use it responsibly to limit CO2 emissions," David Khoza, the CGS executive manager running the project, said.

The deadline for tapping a \$23 million World Bank grant to fund the CCS project was originally set for December this

year, but has now been pushed out to June 2023, a bank spokesperson told Reuters.

Khoza said the project will link a pipeline transporting compressed CO2 from major emitting sources such as Secunda directly to the identified injection site that is overlain with an "impermeable rock cap". This live session will focus on addressing the existing hurdles in developing a strong domestic supply chain for the

solar sector, along with developer outlook for the sector, post-Covid, and the investment plans that follow.

"We will test the feasibility of injecting between 10,000 to 50,000 metric tons of CO2 (a year) to a depth of at least 1 km, with the first injection seen late in 2023," Khoza said.

South Africa has approximately 150 gigatonnes of potential storage capacity, mainly in offshore basins on the east

and west coast, researchers said. Sasol said it was working with the CGS, although it said previous assessments showed the associated cost was very high and sequestration may not be economically viable.

"Sasol remains intent to collaborate with a view to learn more about the success factors for CO2 sequestration and explore partnerships for larger scale opportunities," a spokesperson said.

Local chicken species to produce more - report

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

FARMERS located in regions where breeding of local chicken species is ongoing are set to benefit from improved local breeds in a bid to increase their production rate. In a study carried out by agricultural scientists at Makerere College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences discovered that indigenous hens tend to lay between 10 and 15 eggs each during laying period. This is because in a year they may lay eggs three times or less totalling to between 35-40 eggs and the rest of the time is spent in incubating the eggs to hatch.

"One of the main challenges of producing local chickens generally is that, a hen lays 10-15 eggs and it takes a period of three weeks to incubate before hatching the eggs. Thereafter the hen spends another six weeks looking after the chicks and this retards its egg reproduction ability," says Dr Donald Kugonza Rugasira from CAES.

However the scientists are altering this trend by breeding hens purposely to lay eggs which are incubated using artificial incubator for purposes of increasing the production of local chicken across the country.

The technology

Speaking to Seeds of Gold, Dr Kugonza who is the key innovator explained that the purpose of this initiative is to breed local chicken which are able to grow in a shorter period of time in order to eliminate the possibility of the species getting extinct.

The exercise began as a project to be carried out by scientists in Uganda in collaboration with their counterparts in Mozambique funded by African Union.

This was meant to purchase local eggs from farmers across all the regions in the country for purposes of acquisition of different species of local chicken reared by farmers in Uganda. The team managed to purchase 2,000 eggs across the country each costing between Shs500 and Shs1,000.

"We have collected 2,000 eggs from 40 districts which we incubated at Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute (MUARIK) in Kabanyolo. We hatched them and we have evaluated the growth and egg production of the chick," said Kugonza.

Feeding mechanism
Prof Maurice Agaba explained that one of the tasks is to under-



stand and improve on what feed meals to enable adequate growth and egg production. The team is studying the available feed resources which include the grass species that can be consumed by local chicken and the usual feed which include mixture of maize bran, soybean cake and dry ratio such as millet, sorghum, simsim seed among others.

This is because a mix of all the feed available will lead to faster growth of the chicken leading to quality chicken meat and increased egg production.

The scientists were able to purchase a locally made incubator by a company called Butenga Framers located in Mukono at a fee of Shs4.5m.

Genetic makeup

The experts contend that in Uganda there are various species of local chicken that are not doc-

umented.

The team collected blood samples of chicken from the various regions in the country to ascertain their genetic makeup for documentation purposes.

According to the team some local chicken grow faster and others may take about nine months and end up weighing less. Some grow shorter and others are giants.

However the scientists are now selecting the best breeds which are able to weigh between one and two kilograms and capable of laying 40-45 eggs per annum per chicken.

The target is for each hen to produce 100 eggs per annum.

The idea is that, when you have a better bird you do not have to keep them completely under free range. You can brood them for a period and release them.

Process of hen selection

Out of the total 1000 hens bred, Kugonza and team selected 40 as the best breed with potential of producing 100 eggs per year.

The team has also selected 40 cocks with good growth rate which are kept in a confined breeding place but eventually will be released to be reared as free range. The experts contend that once a cock has fertilised the hen over a period of time they are made to live together, the hen is capable of laying fertile eggs after withdrawal of the cock from its peripheries.

Farmers will be expected to adopt husbandry practices of the farmers in terms of vaccination, disease control, feeding and housing so that the birds are in a better environment to replicate the production that has been achieved on station.

Moses Kahwa, an agricultural at CAES explains that what is important to note is that local hens can still lay fertile eggs after two weeks' withdrawal of the cocks and the eggs can be hatched in an incubator.

"I am looking at the longevity of fertility with the hens especially after they have mated with the cock. The ratio is 1 cock to 10 hens which are left to free range for at least two weeks. After removing those cocks, we keep collecting those eggs, take them to the incubator. We have proved that the eggs can hatch appropriately."

As climate disaster migration rises, girls get married off

BHUBANESWAR, INDIA

WHEN 11-year-old Mitali Padhi hugged her childhood friends to say goodbye, she felt a deep-seated foreboding.

Around her, the mud walls of their home had collapsed, wrecking their meagre belongings. All were mired in mud. The straw roof lay splayed 100 metres away from the house - blown away by tropical storm Phailin.

The tropical storm made landfall at 136 mph wind speeds near Mitali's village in India's eastern coastal Odisha State. The storm left 3.7 million houses damaged in its wake.

However pitiable this mud hut, it was the only secure place the girl had ever known, and it was a place where, since birth, a larger community supported her.

Rice paddies had turned into seawater pools. Mitali's father, a farm labourer, would have no work for a year until monsoons washed away the salt from farmlands.

Her family of five, her parents and two elder brothers, took a high-interest local loan and migrated to the nearest urban centre Bhubaneswar. This was 2013.

When IPS met Mitali Padhi, she had a 3-month-old baby boy in her arms. The frail 19-year-old says she is breastfeeding but feels extremely weak.

"We got a protein drink for her (Mitali), but she dislikes it," her Mitali's mother, Pravat Padhi, 50, interjects.

We stand between two parallel rows of one-room brick and asbestos hutments that the Padhi family built and moved into after super cyclone Fani in 2019. This cyclone, described as the worst since 1999, decimated their tiny mud-walled, plastic-sheet covered hut that squatted illegally against a university's compound wall - displacing the family for a second time.

Mitali's father runs a 3-wheeler

tuk-tuk but is "lazy, moody, and his earnings are erratic," according to his wife, Pravati. After leaving their village in 2013, the burden of providing for her three children was on her, she tells IPS. Since then, she sells spicy snacks on roadsides earning \$10 a day.

After migrating to the city, the 11-year Mitali looked after the cooking for the family. After lunch, she helped her mother roll out tiny puffed poori (bread) and fry them crisp while her mother prepared the boiled potato filling and spicy, tangy water for the popular snacks.

In a dire financial state once again after the 2019 cyclone, Pravat decided to marry off Mitali. It would mean one less mouth to feed, "and the young man was earning well."

"We were eating out our savings after the storm. My daughter was already 'mature,' (reached puberty), she was not in school, and when I was away from home vending, and she was alone, young boys from our slum tried to chat her up, come into the house," Mitali's mother told IPS, justifying the marriage of her teenage daughter.

Soon Mitali was pregnant - at barely 18.

"I would have liked to learn sewing, earn and get married only when I was 22," she tells IPS.

The family are an example of increasingly vulnerable people affected by climate change disasters.

"As (the number of) climate disasters rise in Odisha, drought (is experienced) in its western part, cyclones in the coastal region, floods in over half of its 30 provinces," Ghasiram Panda, Programme Manager for ActionAid, told IPS. "Because of poverty, because of their vulnerability, there are concerns for the safety (of vulnerable communities). We are seeing an increasing trend of girls being married off before the age of 18."

This is not only in the rural areas. "In Bhubaneswar city slums, pop-



Mitali Padhi (19) cradles her 3-month-old son in front of her parents' new brick-asbestos one-room home. With her is her mother, Pravat Padhi. Credit: Manipadma Jena/IPS

ulated by rural migrants in search of livelihoods, child marriages are (also) on the rise," Ghasiram Panda says. "While rural families migrate to cities to better their income, girl children more particularly are unable to access education, they do poorly in school or drop out, and parents think marriage is the best way out."

Umil Daniel, Director, Migration & Education, Aide et Action, South Asia, says children are adversely affected because "a quarter of all migrating population (from Odisha to brick kilns) are children."

According to the UN, in India, internal migrants accounted for around 20 percent of the country's workforce in 2017, which currently equals 100 million people.

Around the world, approximately 1 in 45 children are on the move. Nearly 50 million boys and girls have migrated across borders or forcibly displaced within their own countries, UNICEF estimated in 2017.

Climate-related events and their impacts are already contributing sig-

nificantly to these staggering numbers, with 14.7 million people facing internal displacement due to weather-related disasters in 2015 alone.

The annual average since 2008 is increasing and now at 21.5 million is equivalent to almost 2 500 people being displaced every day.

Owing to climate change, 27 of the 37 Indian states are now disaster-prone. Some 68 percent of the cultivated land is vulnerable to drought, 58.6 percent landmass is prone to earthquakes, 12 percent to floods, 5,700 km of the coastline is prone to cyclones, and 15 percent of the area is susceptible to landslides, according to India's National Disaster Management Authority.

"Mitali still is fortunate," Gitanjali Panda, community mobiliser of local non-profit Centre for Child and Women Development, tells IPS.

Another internal migrant girl, 'fell in love' and eloped with a boy when she was 15. Gitanjali Panda says. The infatuation wore off within a year, and the family got her back

but hastily married her off to another man.

Gitanjali Panda frequently visits the slum and says the young woman, a mother of a 5-year child at 21, had complained of excruciating stomach pain. She miscarried her second child. The doctor then diagnosed a 'cracked uterus' - the result of a fall during her first pregnancy at aged 16.

In Daniel's experience, children are 'invisible entities' - they don't even count. Always migration in India is seen as male-dominated. The government doesn't even (acknowledge) families are migrating, let alone formulating pro-child migration policies."

Daniel has worked on migration and child rights for three decades, heading the Aide et Action's Migration Information and Resource Centre (MIRC) in Bhubaneswar.

Internally displaced families live in rows of temporary tin huts next to brick kilns in the suburban areas where they congregate. In these tin boxes, without doors and with just

a torn sari hanging at the door for privacy, boys may get beaten and made to work inhumanly as bonded labour, but girls are "several times more vulnerable," Daniel says.

Girls and women face "disproportionate threats to their safety and most basic human rights," Action Aid's Ghasiram Panda agrees. They are, too often, "the silent victims of climate disasters."

Governments rarely consider their specific needs and vulnerabilities, he says. "Rape is frequent," Daniel told IPS. MIRC took up a case where three minor girls were raped in front of their parents in a brick kiln by the drunk kiln owner and his friends. They were from Karimnagar in Telangana State, which is a climate migrants' destination. It took MIRC five to six years in a fast-tracked court to bring the wealthier culprits to justice.

As climate displacement and internal migration increases with more intense natural disasters impacting the poorest, Umi says solutions are being implemented by the non-profit organisations but "urgently need scaling-up by governments."

Among the hopelessness, there are stories of success. A decade ago, Aide et Action's Migration Information and Resource Centre started sourcing youth volunteers from India's migrants' origin provinces to go to destination locations and teach migrant children in their local dialect at the kiln sites.

Initially, the kiln owners refused to allow these informal learning centres. "Now owners are putting in money themselves because they see women's outputs increase when their children, adolescents to infants, are taken care of," Umi says.

Government schools often agree to allow two rooms for these informal teaching classes. When migrants' children return home for the four paddy-sowing months of August to November, they can seamlessly continue their schooling. **IPS**

China and Arab states to advance strategic partnership to higher level

By He Yin

THE fifth China-Arab States Expo, which concluded in Yinchuan, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on August 22, has witnessed plenty of fruits, fully demonstrating the vigorous efforts of China and Arab states to jointly promote peace, cooperation and development for mutual benefits and win-win results, build the Belt and Road with high-quality, and advance China-Arab strategic partnership to a higher level.

The China-Arab States Expo serves as an important platform for the two sides to advance the construction of the Belt and Road. The previous four China-Arab States Expos attracted more than 5,000 enterprises from 112 countries and regions and witnessed the signing of agreements for 936 cooperation projects.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent congratulatory letter to each of the expos since 2013, which reflects the great importance China attaches to developing ties with Arab countries.

In his letters, Xi stressed that China and Arab states are good friends with mutual trust and good partners walking hand in hand on the path to realize common development.

During the construction of the Belt and Road, China is willing to promote shared opportunities with other countries, including Arab states, and jointly promote peaceful development with them, said Xi.

Xi has expressed great expectations of China-Arab cooperation in his congratulatory letters, which infused confidence and impetus into the two sides' efforts to jointly create a bright future.

The China-Arab States Expo is the epitome of the two sides' vision of seeking common de-

velopment that conforms to the trend of the times.

China and Arab states are natural partners in Belt and Road cooperation. China has signed BRI cooperation documents with 19 Arab states and the League of Arab States.

As China and Arab states push forward high-quality construction of the Belt and Road in recent years, cooperation between the two sides in various fields have been continuously deepened. Even when faced with global challenges posed by profound changes unseen in a century and the havoc wreaked by the COVID-19 epidemic, China-Arab cooperation and BRI construction haven't stalled, but showed strong resilience and vitality.

In 2020, the trade volume between China and Arab states totaled nearly \$240 billion, which made China the largest trading partner of Arab states. In the first half of this year, volume of

the bilateral trade between the two sides reached \$144.27 billion, up 25.7 percent year on year.

China and Arab states have jointly completed the construction of the tallest skyscraper in Africa, or the Iconic Tower, the world's largest solar-thermal power station and the cleanest coal-fired power plant in the Middle East.

Through integration of their development strategies, China and Arab states have made their dreams of national rejuvenation closely connected.

The fifth China-Arab States Expo, which set up six offline exhibition areas for such fields as digital economy, clean energy, new materials, green food, health care and cross-border e-commerce, demonstrated the two sides' determination to take the lead in expanding cooperation in emerging fields.

According to a report on the development of China-Arab

states economic and trade relations released at the expo, China and Arab states speeded up cooperation in exploring digital transformation last year.

Besides cooperation in traditional energy, they have made clean energy and technology new growth points in bilateral cooperation. Renewable energy development, energy-driven poverty reduction and governance will become new highlights of their cooperation, said the report.

China and Middle Eastern countries are jointly tackling climate change and facilitating energy transition. For the purpose, they have actively carried out cooperation in clean energy such as solar and nuclear energy, promoted the diversification of energy structure, improved environmental protection and governance capabilities, and jointly created a "Green Silk Road" in the Middle East.

By promoting exchanges, en-

hancing mutual understanding and carrying out cooperation, China and Arab states have set an example of international economic and trade cooperation and infused confidence into world's economic recovery, said Nasser Bouchiba, president of the Africa-China Cooperation Association for Development in Morocco.

The China-Arab States Expo represents a step that the two sides have taken toward pursuing solidarity and cooperation and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

China and Arab countries have worked together in the battle against the COVID-19, providing an example of surmounting the crisis through solidarity, Xi pointed out.

Participants of the fifth China-Arab States Expo spoke highly of the two sides' collaboration and mutual assistance amid the epidemic.

People's Daily



RATIBAYA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Thursday 26 August 2021

Akiba Bank foresees heavy digital investment by Malawi's NBM following acquisition

By Francis Kajubi

FOLLOWING acquisition by National Bank of Malawi earlier this year, Akiba Commercial Bank Plc will heavily invest in digital banking channels as the future of the industry heads tech savvy.

ACB Plc's General Manager for Commerce, Webster Kaunga said in Dar es Salaam mid this week that the acquisition by NBM is an important milestone in the development of the bank which is facing cut throat competition in the crowded local market.

"The bank has found a strategic investor in National Bank of Malawi hence we are confident that the acquisition will help expand our business scope bearing in mind that NBM is one of the largest banks in the southern African region," Kaunga said.

"This partnership with NBM has brought a great sense of rejuvenation and motivation among staff who not only want to ensure that banking services are available nationwide but also through digital platform," he added.

He said the process of transforming the bank into a digital one is progressing well and that ACB will become one of big banks in the market with services extended to rural areas through digital platforms such as mobile phones and AkibaWakalas.

Currently, ACB provides mobile money services which enable customers to make transact online, pay bills buy airtime as well as pay taxes and

fees to the government and its agencies through Treasury's digital payment system.

Mobile money services are also offered through the unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) system which enables clients to conduct banking transactions through AkibaWakalas located throughout the country. In addition, the bank also offers other services such as deposits, loans, selling and buying of foreign currency and Western Union services.

He asserted that AkibaWakala services are available for the past three weeks now and already being preferred by clients who want easy and efficient access to banking services. "We believe that, through this service the bank becomes a good participant in supporting the government's efforts to ensure financial inclusion for all Tanzanians," the ACB GM noted.

"We have entered the market with a total of about 200 agents and our goal is to continue increasing them with the aim of covering the whole country," he stated while stressing that heavy investment in digital channels is efficient and less costly compared to physical branches which are also prone to insecurity.

The bank has found a strategic investor in National Bank of Malawi hence we are confident that the acquisition will help expand our business scope



ACB general manager for commerce, Webster Kaunga speaks at a past event.

Global FinTech funding climbs to record \$98bn in first half of 2021

ABU DHABI

FUNDING of financial technology companies globally rose to a record \$98 billion in the first half of this year, driven by portfolio diversification needs of investors with cash reserves, according to a report.

Financing across mergers and acquisitions, private equity and venture capital deals in the first six months to the end of June climbed 12 per cent from \$87.1bn recorded in the second half of 2020, global consultancy KPMG said in its report titled Pulse of FinTech. Strong growth and performance of the FinTech sector also drove valuation of companies higher, with 163 companies achieving the so-called unicorn status of \$1bn in valuation in the first half.

FinTechs in the Europe Middle East and Africa region received \$39.1bn in investment, including a record \$15.1bn in venture capital financing. Corporate venture capital-affiliated investments for the EMEA region also rose to all-time high of \$5bn, according to the report.

"Under pressure to increase the velocity of their digital transformation and to enhance their digital capabilities, corporates were particularly active in venture deals," KPMG said. Corporations accounted for \$21bn in investment in nearly 600 deals globally.

The value of cross-border mergers



Goncalo Traquina, a partner at KPMG Lower Gulf.

and acquisitions deals rose from \$10.3bn during the whole of 2020 to \$27.7bn in only the first half of 2021. Private equity companies made investments worth \$5bn, surpassing the previous annual high

of \$4.7bn in 2018. FinTech investment is expected to remain "robust in most regions of the world" in the second half of this year, KPMG said. "While the payments space is expected to remain a dominant

driver of FinTech investment, revenue-based financing solutions, banking-as-a-service models and B2B [business-to-business] services are expected to attract increasing levels of investment." Global

investment in cyber security also hit a record during the first half of 2021, reaching \$3.7bn from \$2.2bn recorded in the first six months of 2020.

"Given the rise in digital transactions, and the subsequent increase in cyber attacks and ransomware, cyber security solutions will likely also be high on the radar of investors [in the second half]," according to KPMG. In the digital banking space, the UAE's first independent online bank, Zand - which is expected to launch later this year - got some attention in the first half.

International interest in the UAE continued to grow, with Ireland-based regulatory technology company DX Compliance39 and US payments company Stripe40 launching operations in the Emirates during the first six months.

The Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Abu Dhabi Global Market also introduced a framework to regulate open banking platforms in the first half that will enhance consumer data protection, KPMG said.

Investor interest in payments and contactless technologies is expected to remain strong in the UAE, while Islamic finance-focused start-ups are also likely to garner attention over the next few quarters. "Accelerators and events are an important part of building up the FinTech ecosystem in the UAE," Goncalo Traquina, a partner at KPMG Lower Gulf, said. "First half saw some interesting developments in this area."

WorldRemit Holding Company, WorldRemit Group rebrands to Zepz

LONDON

THE holding company of WorldRemit, WorldRemit Group, has been rebranded to Zepz after raising \$292 million in new primary financing, achieving a valuation of \$5 billion.

Zepz is a digital cross-border payments platform operating two market-leading brands (WorldRemit and Sendwave, acquired in 2021), with over 11 million users across 150 countries. The round includes new equity investors Farallon Capital among others, as well as backing from existing investors Leapfrog, TCV and Accel. Zepz is revolutionizing the P2P cross-border payments market, an estimated \$1tn market opportunity that continues to be predominantly offline and is characterised by high prices and poor customer experience.

Zepz reaches over 5,000 money transfer corridors, including emerging markets with high barriers to entry, establishing digital connectivity into geographies that had previously been underserved. WorldRemit and Sendwave brands offer a faster (85% of transactions settled in minutes) and more flexible (digital offering with multiple pay-in and pay-out options) user experience at fairer prices.

This superior value proposition has enabled multi-year customer engagement on its platform - most users transact in a frequent, habitual manner - with Zepz' average customer transacting c.4x per month on the platform.

The funding round will allow Zepz to continue to invest in its technology, platform, and customer proposition. Zepz sees significant growth opportunities both in its existing markets by driving engagement and deeper market penetration, as well as expanding into new markets and further extending its platform to offer additional value-added services to its users.

Breon Corcoran, CEO of Zepz said: "Today's announced raise is another important step in the execution of our strategy. Following the acquisition of Sendwave we have made significant progress with the integration of the different businesses and are retaining both the Sendwave and WorldRemit brands."

Mastercard faces UK's first mass consumer class action in £10bn claim

LONDON

MASTERCARD is facing the UK's first mass consumer class action after the Competition Appeal Tribunal approved a £10 billion-plus (\$14 billion-plus) claim against the global payments processor. If successful, about 46 million people from Britain could be in line for a £300 payday.

The decision to authorise former financial ombudsman Walter Merricks' five-year case as a collective action came after the UK Supreme Court overruled Mastercard's objections to it in December. It also sets a precedent for a string of other proposed class actions that have been stalled in its wake.

"Mastercard has thrown everything at trying to prevent this claim going forward, but today its efforts have failed," Mr Merricks said in a statement. "The tribunal's ruling heralds the start of an era of consumer-focused class actions which will help to hold big business to account in areas that really matter." Mastercard said the claim was



being driven by lawyers and backed by organisations "primarily focused on making money for

themselves." Mr Merricks alleges Mastercard charged ex-

cessive interchange fees - the fees retailers pay credit card companies when consumers use a card to shop - between May 1992 and June 2008, and that those fees were passed on to consumers when retailers raised prices.

His attempt to expand the scope of the case by adding the estates of the deceased and compound interest to the claim failed, however. Mastercard said this reduced the size of the claim to about £10 billion, at odds with the claimants who value it at £15 billion. "The decision today reduces the value of this spurious claim by more than 35 per cent," Mastercard said.

"[We are] confident that over the coming months a review of key facts will further significantly reduce [its] size and viability." Despite Mastercard's pugnacity, the CAT's ruling completes a forgettable few weeks for the payments provider. Last month, it was banned from issuing new credit and debit cards in India for not complying with the country's data storage rules.

Cigarettes manufacturer posts solid first half results as it clocks 60 years

By The Banker Reporter

As it marks 60 years of operations in the country, Tanzania Cigarettes Public Limited Company generated 43.2bn/- in operating cash flow as of June 2021.

TCC Plc was officially launched by the late Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere in December 1961, paid 12.7bn/- to Treasury as corporate tax.

Commenting on the half year unaudited results, TCC Plc's Board Chairman, Paul Makanza, they are more solid compared to the first half of 2020. "Operating costs remained flat, reflecting operational efficiencies in all business areas and the need to preserve cash in uncertain times," Makanza said adding that the cigarettes manufacturer also paid the final gross dividend of 30bn/- for the year ended December 31, 2020.

According to the statement, gross revenue grew by 11 percent to 263.8bn/- up from 237.5bn/- on June 30, 2020 while gross profit increased by 15.2 percent to 84.4bn/- from 73.3bn/- during the same period. The results also indicate that net profit increased by 10.5 percent to 23.9bn/- from 21.6bn/- during the period. "This was driven by volume growth and cost efficiencies," the TCC Plc Board Chair added.

On domestic and export volumes, the market's largest cigarettes manufacturer saw an increase of 16.5 and 3.7 percentages respectively while overall volume increased by 12.5 percent, reflecting the strength of the revised domestic distribution model and a return to normal trading conditions after demand and supply chain disruptions in the first half of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As a result of the good performance, the board of directors approved an interim ordinary gross dividend of 250/- per share as well as a special dividend of 250/- per share to be paid starting mid October. Shares will trade cum-dividend until the first week of September this year.

The TCC Plc General Manager, Michal Bachan said the company has achieved strong results and is optimistic about the second half-results up to December, 2021. "Sustainability of these great results will depend on continued relentless drive of



TCC Plc board chairman, Paul Makanza. Photo courtesy of TCC.

the team to push the business forward as well as various factors including continued improvements in the business environment, effectiveness of recently announced measures to spur economic growth and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic effectively," Bachan said.

He said TCC Plc will continue to be a responsible and business partner of choice while contributing to growth of the country's economy as well as give back to the community through impactful and sustainable community investment

projects. "Our community investment programs focus on people, arts and culture and the natural environment. We have in the past year donated wheelchairs, white canes, crutches and tricycles worth over 130m/- to various groups of people with disabilities," the TCC Plc's GM added.

He further noted that in supporting government efforts in reducing poverty, the company donated over 100 sewing machines to women groups in various regions. "Beginning next

year, TCC Plc in partnership with Embassy of Japan, will support a master's scholarship program to qualified Tanzanian students who wish to pursue courses at Japanese universities," he noted.

"As TCC celebrates 60 years with such outstanding results and achievements, the company will continue to invest in its people through high standards employee welfare, wellness and benefits that will motivate them and continue to stimulate good results for the company," Bachan promised.

Zimbabwe to use more than half of IMF funds to prop up currency

HARARE

ZIMBABWE will use more than half of the \$961 million it has been allocated by the International Monetary Fund in the form of special drawing rights to support its beleaguered currency.

The government abandoned a 1:1 peg between a precursor of the reintroduced Zimbabwe dollar and the greenback in February 2019. The currency now trades at 85.82 to the US dollar and even lower on the black market, a plunge that's made it difficult for the government to get it accepted locally, and it's generally not tradable outside the country. "For the support of the currency we want to hold back about \$500 million," Mthuli Ncube, Zimbabwe's finance minister, said in an interview on Tuesday.

The southern African nation abandoned the Zimbabwe dollar in 2009 after inflation rose to 500 billion percent, according to the IMF, and legalised trade in a range of currencies including the US dollar and South African rand. The economy had tanked after a failed land reform program began in 2000 that saw the seizure of White-owned commercial farms and the subsequent collapse of export earnings.

The rest of the SDRS will be used to support the acquisition of Covid-19 vaccines, investments in schools, hospitals and roads and other priorities, Ncube said. Revolving funds will also be set up to help manufacturers and mining companies buy new equipment, and to revive the horticulture industry by encouraging the cultivation of roses, macadamia nuts and



Mthuli Ncube, Zimbabwe's finance minister.

blueberries, he said.

The resources won't be used to pay down any of the more than \$8 billion in external debt the country owes even though its arrears have effectively blocked it from borrowing more money from multilateral lenders.

Ncube also confirmed the government was considering borrowing money from private creditors to compensate the White farmers. Bloomberg first reported on the funding option on August 16. Zimbabwe has agreed to pay the farmers \$3.5 billion, half of which is due in

July next year, to settle the two-decade old dispute that's soured relations with Western countries, including the US and the UK.

"The idea is a special-purpose vehicle out of which we can then raise resources on the back of some escrowed tax revenues from specific sources that are ring-fenced," Ncube said, adding that the tax could be in the form of mining royalties. Zimbabwe exports platinum, gold, nickel and chrome. Another proposal under consideration is the local sale of a US dollar bond, the minister said.



Land and Agricultural Development Bank CEO, Ayanda-Kanana.

Land Bank seeks support for split to repay debt

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's largest lender to farmers is asking creditors to approve a split of its operations in two to help repay debt over the next five years and claw its way out of a default position.

The state-owned Land & Agricultural Development Bank is proposing a reorganisation into a corporate and commercial business and a separate one focused on development projects, it said in a presentation to lawmakers Tuesday. Cash proceeds from the former will go toward commercial borrowings before the unit is eventually wound down, it said.

The plan represents a way "to restart the rebuilding process," Land Bank said. The Pretoria-based company has been struggling to find a way forward since missing a loan repayment in April last year that triggered a cross-default in notes issued under a R50 billion (\$3.3 billion) bond program. It reported a loss last year after a drought caused many of its customers to default on their loans.

An independent review is planned as a condition for lenders to participate, Land Bank said. "In envisioning the split we would need to be assured that we are not in a worse position," Olga Constantatos, head of credit at Futuregrowth Asset Management

Pty Ltd., said by phone. "We are hopeful that once the independent review is complete we will have all the information we need to be better assess our position."

"Unworkable solutions" The Land Bank's turnaround plan is positive but depends on the fast-tracking of a pledged 7 billion rand government bailout, said Peter Attard Montalto, director at research firm Intellidex. Until that's confirmed it's unlikely to win unqualified support from creditors, he said. "Creditors have been deeply frustrated by the whole process in being offered unworkable solutions at every step," Montalto said. "We should have been here a year ago already."

Land Bank is just one of several state-owned South African companies to have run into financial trouble in recent years, triggering a need for costly bailout packages the country can ill afford. The government has this year turned to the private sector for help, selling a majority stake in South African Airways and looking for investment in two underperforming ports owned by Transnet SOC Ltd. "Part of the reform of state-owned enterprises must be to look hard at how defaults and workouts occur because it sends a very bad signal," Montalto said. Land Bank intends to pay a further R3 billion to lenders by September, the company said.

Bahrain's Bank ABC buys 99.5pc of Blom Bank Egypt

CAIRO

BAHRAIN'S Arab Banking Corporation has acquired a 99.5 per cent stake in Blom Bank Egypt in a mandatory tender offer. Bank ABC bought 298.62 million of Blom Bank Egypt's 300 million shares for \$424.05 million, the Egyptian Exchange said on Monday.

The Gulf lender had offered to acquire the local branch of the Lebanese lender for 22.33 Egyptian pounds (\$1.42) per share, valuing the business at \$427m. The deal was announced in January and approved by Egypt's Financial Regulatory Authority last month.

Bank ABC chief executive Khaled Kawan said at the time that the acquisition would give Bahrain's second-largest lender "a significantly enhanced platform for future growth in one of the most attractive markets in the region."

The bank already had a presence in Egypt through its subsidiary Bank ABC Egypt. It will now add Blom's 41 locations to its 27-branch network. The purchase includes Blom's physical and non-physical assets as well as customer accounts.

HSBC Bank Middle East acted as the financial adviser to Bank ABC, while Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Zulficar & Partners acted as legal advisers. Blom Bank Lebanon was advised by CI Capital and Baker McKenzie acted as legal counsel on the deal.

Lebanese lenders have chosen to exit foreign markets as a political and economic crisis continues to damage the banking sector in their home country. Following Blom, Bank Audi will be the second Lebanese lender to exit Egypt. Lebanon's central bank had set a requirement for lenders to raise their capital defences by 20 per cent by the end of February, a struggle for many of the country's institutions.

Money is never enough therefore there is need to inculcate a savings culture

By Godwin Semunyu

I just finished reading a memoir by former President Ally Hassan Mwinyi, 'Mzee Rukasa, Safari ya Maisha Yangu,' which is probably the best narrated Kiswahili biography of all time. In the book, Mzee Mwinyi discloses how he learned a saving culture from an early age through his late grandfather, Mzee Nzasa.

He says, during harvest season, when everyone was busy partying and plummeting the harvests, Mzee Nzasa would carefully stock the family harvest, ready to sell at higher prices during drought or in exchange for labour. That mentality, he says, has guided him through his entire life (he just turned 96), so much so that he has never borrowed money from anyone, thanks to self-discipline in savings and avoiding unnecessary expenditures.

In Tanzania, we are slowly becoming a nation of spenders rather than savers. The savings

to income ratio is lower as the social norm is spending to achieve a particular lifestyle or status, regardless of income level. The price tags and brands are essentials, irrespective of income.

Most people will place their lack of savings on not earning enough or because prices continue to rise. Frankly, the real reasons why people don't save are seldom economic - they're more psychological. That's because, to most people, savings is considered as what's left over after paying for all essentials, rather than one of the essentials after earning. For most people, their savings get squeezed to allow consumption, while realistically, consumption is compressed to enable savings.

People tend to cling to the illusion that things will somehow improve - that, regardless of their efforts, things will get better, they'll get lucky, their talents will suddenly be recognized, or 'Dili' or 'Mchongo' will come out of the blues, and all their finan-



cial worries will disappear. False optimism or what is known as 'Peter Pan syndrome.'

Psychologically, spending is funnier than saving. It can be hard to save, especially during tough economic times. But saving is no longer an option. The coronavirus outbreak has given us all the chance to rethink our spending habits, and if you're lucky enough to have a job still, it can be a brilliant time to make some positive changes to your financial habits.

For instance, in Dar es Salaam, local hospitals charge as high as 1m/- for one-night admission for COVID-19 patients, which medical insurers do not cover. We are soon going to see families making life or death choices. Save.

Where do we go from here?

An orthodox piece of advice is to automatically save at least 15-20 percent of your income every month for future expenses, including emergencies and future life plans. Banks can help you set a particular standing order that will automatically transfer funds to this special account after each instructed income. You can also instruct limited withdrawals.

Another renowned method is starting what is known as an emergency fund, where

one can start saving for the future. It might feel like emergency savings money is 'just sitting there,' but that's the point. Your emergency cash reserves should be easily accessible if your income is adversely affected or a significant unexpected expense arises. If you become ill, the last thing you want to worry about is how you'll pay medical bills.

Yet still, since savings is a habit, it is imperative to inculcate it early. Savings should start at home and schools at an early age. One can be taught to start small with achievable targets, short-term goals, and identifying fundamental lifestyle changes. Once savings habits are established, they tend to be maintained, and among 'rainy-day savers,' the savings developed during childhood continue into adulthood and become self-reinforcing.

Godwin Semunyu (pictured) is Head of Marketing and Communication at Equity Bank Tanzania Limited. The views expressed in the article are personal and do not represent his employer. He can be reached through: HYPERLINK "mailto:godwin.semunyu@equitybank.co.tz" godwin.semunyu@equitybank.co.tz.

How can more micro-enterprises adopt e-commerce platforms?



Consolata Nakure, the E-commerce projects lead at ICT Chamber.

KIGALI

THERE is a need to subsidize the cost required for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to be on e-marketplace, players in the ICT sector have made the case.

According to an assessment by the ministry of ICT, currently, there are 186,396 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) registered in Rwanda, but less than one per cent of them are running their business through e-commerce platforms due to some challenges crossing the e-commerce value

chain.

The assessment shows that some of these challenges range from the high cost for Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), high cost of delivery, the low level of digital and financial literacy, and many other issues. The merchant discount rate is the rate charged to a merchant for payment processing services on debit and credit card transactions.

In a bid to increase adoption of e-commerce among the small enterprises, the government is subsidizing the cost for some MSMEs to help them get access to a wider market, and reduce the negative impact of Covid-19 on their businesses.

Consolata Nakure, the E-commerce projects lead at ICT Chamber said that there is a pilot project that has been going on for six months to stimulate e-commerce adoption. "Subsidies have been injected in stimulating MSMEs to onboard on the selected e-commerce platforms and thus propelling online sales," she said.

She said that the traditional way of doing business should change considering that the world is now connected and that the Covid-19 pandemic has reminded the world of the importance of digital technologies and e-commerce to sustain economic activities and trade, especially of essential goods.

"The businesses should now adopt digital options and that is why campaigns are needed to show businesses the benefits of e-commerce, e-payment," she said. She said that they are working with all people with digital solutions to businesses.

"There are e-commerce platforms but they are used by few vendors. We have to connect vendors and platform owners. But because some vendors do not have enough money, we tried to subsidize onboarding fees to the

platforms," she noted.

Cost related to the transaction, she said, has been identified as one of the primary barriers for MSMEs to sell through e-commerce platforms. Nakure said that depending on each e-commerce players' business model, there is a fee required for the SMEs to be on the platforms. This fee can go up to Rwf35,000 depending on the platform, and it is a one-time fee.

The cost required to unroll MSMEs on the e-commerce platforms has been subsidized by 50 per cent. "The project to reduce the cost required for MSMEs to go on e-commerce platforms will help them increase their revenues, and leverage the IT tools," she said.

At least 1,000 micro and small enterprises are being supported to deal with the cost under the programme in a six-month period in a partnership with the ministry of ICT and The UN Capital Development Fund.

Under the supporting package, there is a waiver of a certain percentage of the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) cost ranging from 2 per cent to 3.5 per cent of the cost of the products to all new and existing MSMEs.

"By reducing the MDR cost, we are also reducing the burden that deters MSMEs from generating revenue in the digital era," she noted adding there is need for strengthening the adoption of e-Commerce by enhancing digital and marketing skills, access to finance, improved business management skills, and more investment.

"The opportunities for leveraging digital technologies are immense. They allow people to connect and trade online and businesses to access large markets and global value chains while overcoming costly intermediaries," she added.

"There are so many digital options for e-payment. We have been testing how small businesses we supported are using them and we will reevaluate the experience to decide the way forward and see if there are challenges we should address and probably repackaging," she added.

She said that another programme dubbed "Ihuzo" funded by Mastercard Foundation to enhance onboarding businesses to digital payment options. "Ihuzo is a convening platform that connects businesses to digital solutions providers," she said. According to businesses the main challenge is lack of digital skills.

"You might be aware of the digital options, but the big problem is having the skills to use e-commerce platforms. In addition the transaction costs must be revisited because many fear the cost can increase," said Diane Ingabire, a vendor of children's clothes in Kigali city. Ismael Byaruhanga is a Research Fellow at IPAR-Rwanda says that there should be a review of transaction fees to take place.

BANKING & FINANCE

Standard Bank to cut space by as much a quarter, targets 15m SA clients

JOHANNESBURG

IN a virtual strategic update event on Friday, Standard Bank Group revealed that it plans to cut head office and branch space by as much as a quarter by 2025.

Chief finance and value management officer Arno Daehnke says head office and branch square meterage will reduce by 20% to 25% as one of the critical levers to maintain cost growth lower than inflation. This will see the banking group's cost-to-income ratio "approaching 50%" from the 58.2% last year (and 58.3% in the first half of this year).

In 2019, the bank shut around 100 branches across the country. While that was the main driver in cutting its branch floor space from around 360 000m² to 294 000m² by end-June 2021, it has continued to reduce space since those closures.

These efforts at reshaping its estate "in line with client and employee behaviours" have already resulted in savings of R400 million per year. The bank speaks about a "distribution reset" where 80% of transactions in branch have been digitised, allowing it to shift the focus of staff from service to sales.

It has lowered distribution costs by over R1 billion. In her presentation, chief executive officer for consumer and high

net worth clients, Funeka Montjane reiterated that the bank would "continue to optimise distribution in South Africa."

Branch experience remains 'key' Compared to the first half of last year, South Africa branch volumes have declined 39% in line with the group's "strategy to drive our clients to our digital channels and de-cash our branches, where possible." It admitted in Thursday's financial results that its "branch experience is lagging and remains a key area of focus."

It will leverage retail distribution partnerships, like the just-announced deal to open mini branches in select Pick n Pay stores, which bring lower set-up and running costs and will give it access to a new client base. The banking group also uses Pep and Spar for its Instant Money cash-send product. It has 9.7 million active clients in South Africa and 5.26 million retail clients in its African Regions businesses.

It sees the South African number increasing by 1.6 times, in other words to 15.5 million. It does not see growth coming from the affluent or high-net-worth segments - it will defend its share in this space. Rather, the growth will all come from so-called "main market" clients. Key to this ambitious target of adding more than five million customers



Standard Bank CEO, Sim Tshabalala.

will be its low-cost MyMo digital bank account as well as its Instant Money remittance product. It currently has 21 million unique Instant Money senders and in excess of one million MyMo account clients. Its insurance and investments businesses will have CAGR of 8% to 11% over the same period and it sees between R3 billion and R4 billion in non-interest revenue from initiatives labelled "beyond financial services."

This represents CAGR of between 48% and 58% over the period, admittedly off a low base. It sees new revenues from strategic distribution partnerships of between R5.5 billion and R6.5 billion. It is this push, towards becoming a platform, that the bank says will ensure it doesn't become "disintermediated from clients and become a utility", resulting in a deterioration in efficiency and decline in returns.

WORLD

Joe Biden rebuffs G7 call for more time to finish Afghan airlift

BY BLOOMBERG

PRESIDENT Joe Biden rebuffed calls from international allies and members of Congress to keep US troops in Afghanistan past his Aug 31 deadline, saying the US is confident it will complete evacuations by then.

During a virtual Group of Seven meeting on Tuesday, Biden said that the US is "on pace to finish by August 31st," said White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki in a Tuesday statement.

The White House expressed confidence it could evacuate an unknown number of Americans and Afghan allies from the country in the coming days -- an aspiration that has faced withering criticism from G7 allies and members of Congress from both parties.

During the G7 meeting, Biden "also made clear that with each day of operations on the ground, we have added risk to our troops with increasing threats from ISIS-K, and that completion of the mission by August 31st depends on continued coordination with the Taliban, including continued access for evacuees to the airport."

Biden asked his administration for contingency plans to adjust the timeline "should that become necessary," Psaki said.

The G7 meeting, convened Tuesday by

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, was likely the last chance to press Biden to push back the US withdrawal date. It effectively means that civilian evacuations at the Kabul airport must end within the next few days to allow enough time to get remaining US and other troops out.

Earlier in the day, a Taliban spokesman said at a news conference that "the airport is now closed and Afghans are not allowed to go there now. Only foreigners are allowed to go." It only served to underline the obstacles on the ground, with a new regime in charge.

Biden disappointed some of his closest allies abroad -- and US lawmakers of both parties. Instead, he took the advice of the Pentagon, sticking to an Aug 31 deadline given the security risk facing the US military from potential terrorist attacks by ISIS-K or other Islamic militant groups. He asked for backup plans and stressed his commitment to getting every American out who wants to leave now.

The degree of discord was apparent in the final G7 statement that had little in terms of concrete steps yet warned that "we will judge the Afghan parties by their actions, not words."

"In particular, we reaffirm that the Taliban will be held accountable for their actions



In this image provided by the US Air Force, US Air Force Airmen guides evacuees aboard a US Air Force C-17 Globemaster III at Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. (AP)

on preventing terrorism, on human rights -- in particular those of women, girls and minorities -- and on pursuing an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan."

The fate of foreigners and Afghans whose ties to outside powers leave them vulnerable to Taliban reprisals dominated the buildup to the meeting. Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron were among those expected to urge Biden to shift his position -- though the British government also warned that was unlikely due to the deteriorating security situation in Kabul.

Johnson said the G7 agreed Tuesday on a road map for how to deal with the Taliban, and that the "number one condition that we are insisting upon is safe passage" beyond Aug 31 for those who want to leave Afghanistan.

There has been growing tension in the G7 over the US decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, which precipitated the rapid collapse of the government that took Western nations by surprise.

According to a British diplomatic memo, Biden told the G7 bloc in June he'd maintain enough of a security presence in Afghanistan to ensure they could

continue to operate in Kabul following the main US withdrawal.

The Taliban takeover left the US and other governments facing a race against time to evacuate nationals and Afghans they had pledged to help, while facing stinging criticism over their failure to anticipate events in Afghanistan.

Lawmakers' Criticism

In Washington, Biden's determination to stick to the evacuation deadline drew criticism from lawmakers.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who opposed the US withdrawal from Afghanistan from the start, told Fox News that "the president needs to forget about the Aug 31 deadline."

"We need to send in enough American personnel -- military personnel -- to rescue our people," the Kentucky Republican said Tuesday. "there are more American soldiers there now than before the president made the decision to leave. Extend the deadline, get outside the perimeter, make sure that every single American who wants to leave is able to get out with our assistance and our Afghan allies."

Agencies

China envoy demands probe into US labs for virus origin tracing

GENEVA/HONG KONG

A senior Chinese diplomat said on Tuesday that the labs at Fort Detrick and the University of North Carolina in the United States should be subjected to "transparent investigation with full access" for the origins tracing of COVID-19.

Ambassador Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the United Nations (UN) Office in Geneva, said

in his letter to World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that the hypothesis that the introduction of SARS-CoV-2 - the virus that causes COVID-19 - into the human population was caused by lab leak in the Wuhan Institute of Virology is "extremely unlikely".

This is the definite conclusion made in the WHO-convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China



Ambassador Chen Xu, permanent representative of China to the United Nations

Part, Joint WHO-China Study Team Report, he said.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region reiterated on Wednesday China's position on the COVID-19 origin tracing.

China supports science-based origin study and opposes politicization of origin tracing by citing so-called "intelligence", a spokes-

person said, stressing that origin tracing is a matter of science. It should be and can only be left to scientists to identify, through scientific research, the virus' source and transmission routes to humans.

China supports the global fight against COVID-19 and opposes politicizing the pandemic by using the virus for stigmatization and using origin tracing as a tool, the spokesperson said. **Xinhua**

Duterte eyes vice-presidency, but will yield to daughter

By Bloomberg

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said he will run for vice-president in the 2022 elections, but his spokesman said there's a chance the leader would stand down if his daughter seeks the presidency.

"I will continue the crusade. I'm worried about the drugs, insurgency," Duterte said in a briefing aired late Tuesday. "I may not have the power to give the direction or guidance, but I can always express my views in public."

The ruling party PDP-Laban, which will convene in September, earlier Tuesday said Duterte has accepted its vice-presidential endorsement due to "popular calls" among its members.

However, his spokesman Har-

ry Roque said in a separate message Wednesday, the Philippine leader could still drop his vice-presidential bid if his daughter, Mayor Sara Duterte, runs for the top post.

Duterte has been sending mixed messages about his post-presidency plans for months, saying once that he's keen to retire, but later describing a vice-presidential bid as "a good idea." He also said running for the second-highest post would help him retain political leverage, although he's also willing to give way to allies.

Opposition coalition ISambayan, in a Facebook post Tuesday, said Duterte's intention to run for vice-president is "driven by fear of accountability" from the International Criminal Court, which seeks



Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines' president, addresses officials during a vaccine arrival ceremony at Vilamor Airbase in Pasay City, Manila, the Philippines. File photo

to probe the leader's war on drugs which has killed thousands. His possible candidacy has also raised legal questions about how it could circumvent

the constitution's intended limits to a president's term.

Under Philippine law, a president can only be elected for one six-year term.

Duterte is employing the same tactics as he did during the 2016 race, which he entered as a substitute candidate, opposition Senator Risa Hontiveros said. "Duterte started his presidential run with a whole lot of drama, and it looks like he will be leaving us the same way -- trying to confuse us," she said.

Duterte's former aide, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go, in early August said he's open to run for president next year if the leader will be his running mate. Vice President and opposition leader Leni Robredo, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, boxer-turned-Senator Manny Pacquiao and former Senator Bongbong Marcos are also potential presidential contenders.

India may be entering endemic stage - WHO chief scientist

NEW DELHI

COVID-19 in India may be entering some kind of stage of endemicity with a low or moderate level of transmission going on, Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO) Soumya Swaminathan said.



Dr Soumya Swaminathan

Swaminathan (pictured) made the comments in an interview with a local news portal The Wire on Tuesday.

"We may be entering some kind of stage of endemicity where there is low-level transmission or moderate level transmission going on but we are not seeing the kinds of exponential growth and peaks that we saw a few months ago," Swaminathan said.

The endemic stage is when a population learns to live with a virus. It's very different to the epidemic stage when the virus overwhelms a population.

"As far as India is concerned that seems to be what is happening and because of the size of India and heterogeneity of population and immunity status in different parts of the country in different pockets. It is very feasible that the situation may continue like this with ups and downs in different parts of the country, particularly where there are more susceptible population," she said.

During April-May this year, India witnessed a devastating second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

Swaminathan hoped that by the end of 2022, "we would be in that position that we have achieved vaccine coverage, say 70 percent, and then countries can get back to normal."

India's COVID-19 tally rose to 32,512,366 on Wednesday, as 37,593 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the federal health ministry's latest data.

Besides, 648 deaths were recorded since Tuesday morning, taking the death toll to 435,758.

Agencies

Syria refutes US accusation of chemical attack in 2013

DAMASCUS

SYRIA'S Foreign Ministry on Tuesday slammed the US State Department's recent statement accusing the Syrian government of carrying out a chemical attack in a former rebel-held area in 2013, according to the Syrian state news agency SANA.

The ministry dismissed the US statement as "baseless allegations... through which the US tried to distort facts and spread lies" about the alleged chemical attack in the Eastern Ghouta countryside of the capital Damascus in 2013.

The US State Department made the accusation in a recent statement alleging that the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad used "nerve agent sarin" in the Ghouta district of Damascus to kill more than 1,400 people.

The Syrian foreign ministry, in its response Wednesday, said that the statement clearly reflects "the US continued hostile method against Syria which comes to cover its failure in Afghanistan and its support to terrorism that Syria encounters."

"The government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms once again that it stands against the use of that kind of weapons in any place, at any time and under any circumstance and by any side as it is an issue that opposes Syria's principles and moral," said the ministry.

Meanwhile, Syrian Parliament Speaker Hammouda Sabbagh on Tuesday slammed the Western sanctions imposed on Syria as a violation of international law, calling for lifting such measures completely, according to the state news agency SANA.

Sabbagh, during his meeting with a visiting delegation from the European Parliament headed by French politician Thierry Mariani, voiced appreciation for Mariani's stances in supporting Syria, affirming the importance of conveying what Syrians have been suffering to the public in France and Europe.

He said that the sanctions have affected the medical sector since the imports of medical materials and equipment to hospitals in Syria have been restricted.

For his part, Mariani said his visit to Syria aims to figure out the reality on the ground as well as the repercussions of the sanctions.

Mariani also stressed the necessity of changing the European stance and points of view toward Syria, according to SANA.



The government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms once again that it stands against the use of that kind of weapons in any place, at any time

China's first global carbon flux dataset produced through CO2 monitoring satellite

CHINESE scientists recently created the country's first global carbon flux dataset based on data collected by the country's first carbon dioxide (CO2) monitoring satellite TanSat. The achievement means that China is capable of conducting the quantitative spatial monitoring of the global carbon budget and helping take an inventory of the carbon budgets around the world.

More importantly, the capability bears great significance for the country's goal to peak carbon dioxide emissions before

2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

Relevant findings about the breakthrough have been published by a research group led by Liu Yi, a researcher from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, in the science journal *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* in collaboration with many scientists from China and the UK.

While ground observation enables researchers to obtain accurate and comprehensive information, the method of calculating carbon emissions and

absorption based on measurement of the concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide offers a broad and clear view of the situations, which can effectively complement ground observation, noted Liu.

Researchers used an advanced data assimilation system to simulate the transmitting process of CO2 in the atmosphere and the amounts of CO2 in the atmosphere at every moment in every place in consistent with the observation data gathered from TanSat, and finally got the closest approximation of the

true value of carbon flux, Liu said.

China's first CO2 monitoring satellite TanSat was launched on Dec. 22, 2016, which is the world's third carbon-sniffing satellite, following Japan's Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite (GOSAT) launched in 2009 and the Orbiting Carbon Observatory-2 (OCO-2) sent into space by the U.S. in 2014. On Dec. 22, 2015, NASA released the first global CO2 map, which indicated that the atmospheric CO2 levels in some of the middle and low

latitudes surpassed 400 ppm.

China developed and launched the satellite TanSat to conduct dynamic monitoring of the atmospheric CO2 concentration and provide global carbon distribution data, which not only represents the country's active efforts to cope with global climate change, but also shows the country's sense of responsibility as a major country, said Li Jiahong, chief engineer of China's National Remote Sensing Center.

The monitoring of greenhouse gases through satellite is

based on the atmospheric absorption pool theory. Gases like CO2 and oxygen absorb relatively more light waves whose lengths are between the near-infrared band and shortwave-infrared band and form characteristic atmospheric absorption spectra.

While taking account of auxiliary information including atmospheric pressure and temperature and eliminating interference factors like atmospheric particulate matter, researchers can get the atmospheric CO2 column con-

centrations in the observation paths of CO2 monitoring satellite through inverse algorithm based on strict quantitative measurement of the intensity of the absorption spectra.

Changes in global CO2 flux (the amount of CO2 that passes a unit area per unit time), the core data base of research into carbon cycle, can be deduced with the help of sequential analysis of global atmospheric CO2 column concentrations and a series of models in the data assimilation system.

People's Daily

National delegation introduces 14th Five-Year Plan opportunities for Hong Kong

HONG KONG

THE first of a series of activities on the introduction of the outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for national socio-economic development was held here Monday, with participants discussing fresh opportunities from the national development scheme for Hong Kong to better integrate into the overall development of the country.

Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam said at the event that two chapters (61 and 31) of the 14th Five-Year Plan relate specifically to Hong Kong, which fully demonstrate the central authorities' support for the HKSAR and the importance it attaches to the well-being of the Hong Kong people.

Lam said the HKSAR government is deeply encouraged by these statements in support of Hong Kong's efforts to consolidate and enhance its competitive advantage, which will bring vitality and once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for Hong Kong.

The chief executive emphasized the importance of the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan. "I have full confidence in the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan by the HKSAR," she said.

"The national delegation started today a special tour here to introduce the 14th Five-Year Plan to various sectors in Hong Kong, which reflects the central authorities' warm care and strong support for Hong Kong," Luo Huining, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HK

SAR, said during his speech. Luo shared three points of his views.

First, he said, it's important for the city to understand the requirements of the national planning and fully seize the direction of Hong Kong's development.

Second, Hong Kong needs to integrate into the overall national development and continuously enhance its competitive advantages, Luo said.

Third, Hong Kong should make good use of the policy support granted by the central authorities to open up a new future for Hong Kong's development, Luo pointed out.

"The 14th Five-Year Plan has once again defined the orientation of Hong Kong's development and provided more policy support, and it is necessary for the Hong Kong society to take further actions," he said, adding that the competition is fierce in a market economy.

"If you don't advance, you will stay behind, and even slow progress means being left behind. The only way to win tomorrow is to do a good job today," Luo stressed.

With even stronger national support, Hong Kong will gain more opportunities and achieve greater development in areas of financial services, digital transformation, trade, innovation and technology, and green development, Ning Jizhe, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said when delivering a video speech.

He in particular emphasized opportunities in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative.



Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Carrie Lam

Hong Kong should play a more active role as a participant in the country's domestic circulation and a facilitator of the "dual circulation" that allows domestic and overseas markets to reinforce each other, Ning said.

Also speaking at the event, Huang Liqun, deputy head of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, stressed that the outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan for national socio-economic development contains special chapters to support Hong Kong in strengthening its advantages and encour-

age its integration into the national development landscape.

More favorable policies are in the pipeline to benefit Hong Kong and its residents, Huang said, citing the Qianhai and Hengqin cooperation platforms under the Greater Bay Area development program, Huang said.

The policies aim to ensure that Hong Kong, like the entire country, enjoy a brighter future and that Hong Kong compatriots can lead a happier and better life, he said.

The delegation is composed of officials from central government

departments including the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, the NDRC, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the People's Bank of China.

In the next couple of days, the delegation will visit the HKSAR Legislative Council, the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center, the Open University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Science Park to discuss Hong Kong's development with lawmakers, HKSAR government officials, business people, and youth and student representatives.

Xinhua

AU, Somalia hold talks on mission assistance beyond 2021

MOGADISHU

THE African Union (AU) and Somalia have held talks on the likely configuration and proposed mandate of the AU's support to the country beyond December 2021, officials said on Tuesday.

Fiona Lortan, AU's Acting Director of Conflict Management Directorate, Political Affairs, Peace and Security said talks between the two parties would continue into the future with a focus on consolidating the security gains made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) over the years.

"We will continue our discussions, but for now we have got at least some broad understanding of what we need to do and how we need to work together and partner with each other," she said in a statement issued in Mogadishu.

Lortan said they have been discussing what will replace AMISOM come January 2022 since the mandate of the AU mission will end this year. "We know that there is still a need for some sort of security presence from the African Union to assist the Somalia government in the next few years while it builds up its forces.

And so, we have been discussing what the new mission should look like, and what the mandate of the new mission will be," Lortan added.

The United Nations Security Council in March adopted a resolution reauthorizing the AMISOM until Dec. 31 and maintaining its overall 19,626 uniformed personnel level ahead of the phased handover of responsibilities to Somali security forces, planned for later in 2021. Xinhua

Challenges remain in delivery of aids to quake-hit southern Haiti

LES CAYES

A week after the powerful earthquake rattled Haiti, humanitarian aids from international organizations and countries poured in but their delivery to remote areas were hindered by complex situations.

On Aug. 14, Haiti was hit by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake, one of the strongest ever to hit the country, leaving at least 2,189 dead and over 12,000 injured, according to the country's Civil Protection Directorate.

The situation in Haiti is tragic, said Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Amina Mohammed, who arrived at the site on Friday, referring to the huge damage and loss of life.

Over the past week, various international organizations and countries have expressed condolences to the victims of the devastating quake and offered humanitarian assistance to support Haiti.

The United Nations released 8 million U.S. dollars emergency funds on Aug. 15 to help kick-start relief efforts in health care, clean water, emergency shelter and sanitation.

The Mexican government on Friday sent a second shipment of aid to Haiti with 20 tons of food and medicine to help with recovery, in addition to the 19 tons of relief aid Mexico sent at the beginning of the week.

Outside the Les Cayes airport, Haiti, the noise of morning traffic was interrupted by helicopters landing and taking off, unloading humanitarian aid.



A representative of an organization that have sent aids told Xinhua that most of the donations are medical supplies, probably the most necessary assistance at the moment, as many hospitals have been damaged or destroyed, while those still operating are completely overwhelmed, lacking sufficient personnel and medical supplies.

However, it is challenging to deliver aids to the remote quake-hit communities as the roads leading to those areas were often flooded or covered by debris from the landslides left by the earthquake.

Hector Mendez, a member of Mexico's famed Topos Azteca Rescuers Association, said he was surprised that so far few of the quake-hit areas have received international support from groups like his, especially since dozens of global organizations and foundations are supposedly already in Haiti.

The terrain and limited means of transport has rendered delivery of already scarce aid difficult.

In addition, Haiti's hardest-hit southern peninsula is a "hotspot for gang-related violence," where humanitarian workers have been attacked, further complicating aid efforts, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said. "Access is very complex due to the gangs that control the road and vast parts of the country," said the office.

Rescue and aid work has been further complicated by Tropical Storm Grace, which threatened to dump more than 25 cm of rainfall over the areas hardest hit by the earthquake and is likely to trigger flash floods and mudslides.

Fortunately, some of those places that became difficult to access have received supports to alleviate the situation.

In Les Anglais, south of Les Cayes, 80 km from the epicenter, the Immaculate Conception Church collapsed during the earthquake, killing at least 19 people.

Personnel from Wenling Hongyan Traffic Engineering Haiti

S.A., a Chinese company, arrived at the site with construction vehicles, rescuing a survivor and recovering the remains of 13 victims.

After cleaning up the rubbles from the church, they also helped remove debris from the area where a landslide had occurred on the road to Les Cayes.

A group of local residents, who traveled to the capital city of Port-au-Prince to gather aids, found difficulty on their way back to the Les Cayes region, since the vehicle in which they are traveling may not be able to take them safely across the river.

A vehicle of a non-governmental organization appeared and offered to take the group, helping them reach their destination safely. Encouraged by the support, local residents expressed their appreciation to those who come to assist.

A local man drenched by the sudden rain said that they understood that it took great efforts to reach such a remote place, and they feel enormous gratitude for all who are supporting them.

Humanitarian needs are still urgent, with many Haitians in dire need of health care, clean water and shelter, said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on Sunday.

"And this disaster coincides with political instability, rising gang violence, alarmingly high rates of malnutrition among children, and the COVID-19 pandemic," Fore said.

Agencies

Trudeau vows two-year ban on foreign home buyers if re-elected

BY BLOOMBERG

PRIME Minister Justin Trudeau promised to introduce a two-year ban on foreign home buyers to tackle housing affordability in Canada if he's re-elected.

The proposed restriction is an attempt to cool a housing market that has soared during the COVID-19 pandemic. Surging prices have become a central issue in the campaign for the Sept 20 vote, in which Trudeau (pictured) hopes to regain a majority in parliament, with all three major parties promising crackdowns.

"You shouldn't lose a bidding war on your home to speculators. It's time for things to change," Trudeau said at a campaign event in Hamilton, Ontario, about 40 miles southwest of Toronto. "No more foreign wealth being parked in homes that people should be living in."

Outrage over housing affordability is increasingly directed at foreign buyers, especially in Vancouver, whose real estate has become increasingly popular among non-resident buyers.

While the number of houses changing hands has declined in recent months after a pandemic-driven boom in activity, prices remain near record levels. The average cost of a home was C\$669,200 (US\$529,840) in July, according to the Canadian Real Estate Association - up 16 percent from a year ago.



The Liberals are also proposing a ban on blind bidding, tax-free savings accounts for first-time buyers and more oversight of the real estate industry to fight money laundering. They're also vowing to add or repair 1.4 million homes over the next four years.

"It's not OK that the communities you grew up in aren't in places where you can build a life, raise a family or grow old. It's because the deck is stacked against you," Trudeau said at the campaign event.

Erin O'Toole, leader of the Conservatives and Trudeau's biggest rival in the election, put forward a similar plan last week. His party's platform would ban homebuying for foreign investors living outside Canada for at least two years and refurbish 15 percent of federal buildings into housing.

"Mr. Trudeau's had six years and has failed," O'Toole told reporters in Ottawa. "We have a housing crisis that's exploded in the last three to

four years under his leadership."

The left-leaning New Democratic Party, meanwhile, is proposing a 20 percent tax on homes bought by people who aren't Canadian citizens or permanent residents and a reintroduction of a 30-year mortgage.

Recent polls show the race between the governing Liberals and their Conservative challengers is narrowing, dimming Trudeau's prospects for regaining a majority. Some economists say the next government should, indeed, adopt policies to reduce foreign enthusiasm for the Canadian housing market, though any permanent solutions would take time.

"I think the way everyone, political parties and Canadians, should think about housing is there is no short term solution," Benjamin Reitzes, rates and macro strategist at BMO Capital Markets, said by phone. "It's a long term issue. They aren't going to fix it in one year or with one policy."

Agencies

Merkel bloc will undershoot election goals, key leader warns

BY BLOOMBERG

BAVARIAN Premier Markus Soeder, who heads a key faction in Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative bloc, conceded that the alliance may fail to hit a goal of comfortably winning next month's election as a poll put the Social Democrats in the lead for the first time.

The Forsa survey showed SPD support climbing to 23 percent, inching ahead of Merkel's CDU/CSU bloc, which is on 22 percent, down

from more than 30 percent as recently as March.

The SPD hasn't led in that poll since October 2006, and it suggests Merkel's alliance may be in danger of losing its grip on power for the first time since she won her debut election in 2005.

Merkel, who is stepping down as chancellor, tried to downplay the poll, and said the bloc will keep fighting for support ahead of the Sept 26 vote.

"We will work every day

for a good result, and we are not looking at polls every day," she said Tuesday.

Soeder (pictured) said that the campaign would be a "head-to-head" race right up until polling day.

"I admit that a few weeks ago, I would have had higher goals," Soeder, who leads the Bavaria-based Christian Social Union, said in a Bloomberg webinar. "That's becoming more and more difficult - and, one has to admit, not entirely realis-



tic."

The election will now be about who will succeed Merkel to lead a new government, Soeder said. He

lost an internal contest to become chancellery candidate to Armin Laschet, whose gaffe-prone campaign so far has failed to convince voters.

With Greens candidate Annalena Baerbock also on the defensive after mistakes in her campaign, Olaf Scholz, Merkel's low-key SPD finance minister, has enjoyed a surge in momentum.

That's prompted Soeder, 54, to go on the attack, of-

fering a taste of the tactics the CDU and its CSU sister party will deploy on the campaign trail. He raised the specter of an SPD-led government that would impose "brutal indebtedness," abandon balanced budgets and back "massive" tax hikes.

In fact, the Social Democrats have called for a looser fiscal policy and new taxes on the rich, including a wealth tax, though they support tax relief for the

less wealthy. The SPD has stopped short of calling for changes to Germany's constitutional debt brake, which imposes limits on borrowing.

"I think we can remain number one," Soeder said, adding that current polls don't reflect the bloc's full campaign effort.

The Social Democrats were briefly ahead of Merkel's bloc in some polls in early 2017, but Merkel went on to win the election later that year by more than 10 points, securing a fourth term.

Agencies

SPORT



Michael Mlingwa hosts a TV show, known as 'Salama Na'.

Dar TV show has plenty to offer, says host

By Guardian Reporter

THE executive producer for a popular TV show in East Africa, known as 'Salama Na', Michael Mlingwa, has disclosed youths should learn and emulate positive issues from the interviewees' stories in the show.

Mlingwa, who is popularly known as 'MxCarter', made the remarks in Dar es Salaam recently.

He emphasized that since the show offers famous people a platform to share their lifetime issues, there are different success stories from the interviewees which may change the life of Tanzania youths.

He said via the interview youths may get answers for their problems, they can be counseled, they may be comforted, they can learn and even decide to emulate best practices from the interviewees' stories.

He said: In this show, different successful people in Tanzania are interviewed, including politicians, artists, athletes, business people, and other influential people in the country, they get a chance to share different life stories including struggles, successes, and hustles."

The show host added: "It is an educating and entertaining show. I believe youths have a lot to explore in

this show, let me ask them to follow it up, learn and take into practice positive skills they acquire."

Mlingwa mentioned the former President, Jakaya Kikwete, as one of the few famous people interviewed in the 'Salama Na' show.

The TV show pointed out the social media feedback on lessons learned from the interview was awesome.

He said: "In that interview, Kikwete had a chance to share his struggle from a child that went to school without shoes to a university student, a minister and a Fourth Phase President of Tanzania, so his journey became a lesson to many, some are encouraged and some have even decided to emulate the way Kikwete solved his challenges in politics and even life in general, that's why I am calling on them to keep on watch the show in social media and keep on learning."

The Salama Na show is the number one TV show that offers people a platform to talk and share their life stories, the show is shared on social media to give viewers opportunities to comment.

The show is owned by Mlingwa and another prominent TV show host and journalist, Salama Jabir, under their company known as Yah Stone Town Company.

The duo came up with the idea in 2014 and the idea was implemented last year.

Some of the popular local musicians and personalities interviewed in the show are, Ambwene Yesaya, popularly known as 'AY', Fareed Kubanda popularly known as 'Fid Q', Joseph Haule popularly known as 'Professor Jay', Charles Hillary, Zuena Mohamed popularly known as 'Shilole', Kajala Masanja, and Faustina Mfinanga popularly known as 'Nandy'.

Poem: Grateful

By Pauline Julius, SJMC

ALWAYS be grateful for all, whether poor or rich, whether happy or sad

The world has many people, all of the different kinds

Be grateful for all situations. In that way, it helps you not to be in trouble

To say a lot of necessary words and prevent fights

Do not complain about the occurrence of any situation

A complaining heart never achieves

Everything happens for a reason, the reason that was made to teach us a lesson

A grateful heart rejoices always

Note that; there is always someone who has a worse situation than yours

The Almighty is always there for you and listens to your cry

At the right timing, your prayers will be answered

Be patient!

The best things come to those who wait

Gratitude is also obedience. It is the core

source of achievement

Because when you win or lose, and give thanks, blessings follow you as well as a high risk of achieving more

Achievement is gradual

The secret of success is constancy to purpose, accompanied by gratitude

There are people, who have no food to eat today

No place to sleep, no people to talk to

And cannot even read this. As long as you get a chance to do something, do it with all your heart

In that way, you feel relieved inside upon completion of a task

A completed task can make you achieve greatness or fail you

But always be grateful!

It will pay off one day. Don't lose hope

Don't give up!

When you achieve something especially what you prayed for

don't forget to raise your hands and say thank you!

SPORTS

Haji Manara now scores big in city rivals' mediatic war

By Correspondent John Kimbute

WHAT could easily have passed for a fable and daydreaming, surprisingly, comes to reality as former Simba Sports Club colourful mobilizer Haji Manara is back in town - in the opposite camp.

That could scarcely have been imagined even at the height of the squabble with his former employers, as pundits were ruling out that he can be roped in by the rivals he was always at pains to demean and whittle their spirits.

They were all wrong, or better say we were all wrong, as it is hard to pick who was the wiser in these developments.

One particular dimension of this impression was that he had personally attacked Simba SC's chief sponsor and Mohamed Enterprise's mogul, Mo Dewji, and Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, sort of pitting the MeTL with the Bakhresa Group, now backing Young Africans SC in a business deal.

The link is quite short of being sponsorship of the club as it is patterned on the GSM Group model, that they pick an aspect of club goodwill- the latter have jerseys to trade upon, and Bakhresa has events to cover.

That is how the maverick extrovert hit the town with a bang, starting a speaking career with the Jangwani Street club rank and file.

What we thus learn from the new developments is that the problem wasn't exactly with Manara, as to which employer he had his loyalties, if it is MeTL-cum-Simba SC or it was Bakhresa, whose products were featured on his social media page, sparking a conflict of interests issue.

The staunch majordomo appeared unrealistic to see the management as excessively concerned on his commercial links with the Bakhresa group and by implication, while at that time the commercial deal with Yanga was just getting in shape

It however did not appear that this would make a difference, that is, endear him to their archrivals.

That is precisely what happened, and pundits and other watchers were at a loss to find the magnitudes of the sea change in sympathies for Haji Manara.

The move from being a sort of outcast not just in Simba ranks but in the soccer environment as a whole for disloyalty and sour ending of his Simba links instead of quiet departure and seeking greener pastures, to succeed finding new pastures just next door, was astonishing, to say the least.

It all looks a bit irrational that someone who broke all the rules of civility in employment via dual loyalties, inviting disciplinary measures against him before the whole city crowd and well beyond, would in a month or so be the toast of the day as a morale-boosting machine for Yanga.

What wasn't lacking in the wake of



New Yanga spokesman, Haji Manara, dons the outfit's away jersey for the 2021/22 season once the team unveiled its new season's jerseys in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

these developments were appealed for precautions and observation if indeed the media pundit and showman is the right fellow to take Yanga to another stage in club cohesion and spirit for the team.

It however appeared to fit into a pattern, if one recalls how people were surprised to hear that "Mainland Tanzania Premier League giants Young Africans SC (Yanga SC) have confirmed Senzo Mbatha Mazingiza as their new Chief Executive Officer," moments after he broke with the Msimbazi Street clubhouse.

Each of the parameters is guarded, what is the difference with picking up Haji Manara?

To focus on the game pattern in the psychological warfare between the two clubs, it was only the previous day - or rather an

early morning on Tuesday, the day of the Manara news hit - that pundits were discussing the score of sorts by Yanga at the international sports tribunal on the fabled case of Bernard Morrison.

The tribunal said in a ruling that the player has a case to answer concerning the club's complaints of breach of contract, lack of trust, and dishonesty in what he - and the archrivals - said about his contract with Jangwani Street club officials.

Even without a formal settlement as to what Yanga gets from the issue, this was already a healthy bit of news for the beleaguered rank and file - and now this astonishing shift.

In his remarks at the welcoming ceremony as 'son of the soil,' whose father is a Yanga legend and thus a stalwart despite the wayward sentiments of his son - whose loyalties are with his grandfather Haji, a club leader at Msimbazi Street club - the maverick extrovert struck a professional tone.

He compared his case with how professional players often change clubs and cited the case of a deceased professional coach, Syllersaid Mziray, that at one period he coached Simba SC and at another period he worked for Young Africans SC, thus there was nothing strange about his switching sides.

He had a point but most observers will take it with a pinch of salt, as mobilization includes a passion for a club while coaching is strictly technical.

Haji is simply saying that such assertions are naïve, as in both spheres one uses skills to earn a living, ok?

Lions Cricket Club outplays Dar Black Panthers in Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club has bounced back in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML)'s Division B 30 Overs after cruising to a 36-run win over Dar Black Panthers early this week.

Scintillating all-around displays by youthful cricketer, Abubakar Selemani, were instrumental in giving Lions Cricket Club the audacity to solidly defend its total.

Lions Cricket Club scored 139 runs all out in 29.4 overs after they were put in to bat first.

Abdulsamad Ahmed, slotted in as middle-order batsman emerged as the cricketer with the most runs, when they took the crease.

The experienced Ahmed notched 28 runs, which consisted of three fours. There were earlier displays worth noting, as Gulraiz Haideri ended with 22 runs consisting of three fours, Selemani and Shyam Kumar recorded 15 runs and 12 runs respectively.

There was a late surge put to show by skipper, Yasser Abdulhamid, in which the cricketer posted 26 runs not out.

An up-and-coming cricketer, Ramadhani Mbunde, chipped in with 10 runs.

Dar Black Panthers' Viraj Shukla and Ayush Shrivastava made their presence felt at the time the squad fielded, given they recorded three



Lions Cricket Club's Abubakar Selemani poses with man of the match prize he got after displaying impressive performance in his club's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial League (MNML)'s Division B 30 Overs' tie against Dar Black Panthers, played recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

wickets apiece.

Gurvinder Singh as well had a good day, as he notched two wickets in his five over-spell which had one maiden over.

With the modest target of 140 runs in their sight, it was highly expected Dar Black Panthers will get down to a smooth chase, the outfit though failed to live up to expectations.

Dar Black Panthers ended being skittled for 103 runs in 23.4 overs.

They were dealt a blow early on, in

which key performers were dismissed within a few overs.

Shahzad Ali, Imrankhan Pathan were Lions Cricket Club's Selemani's victims, getting back to the pavilion in the first two overs.

Aayush Shrivastava sought to steady the ship with his 28 runs consisting of three fours.

Ashish Chopda got his hands on the bat after skipper Chirayush Barot's short spell, Chopda chipped in with 15 runs.

Dar Black Panthers' pursuit of a win was once again pegged back with other early exits, Masood Khan and Viraj Shukla could not end with two-digit

Low order cricketer, Gurvinder Singh, had several good knocks to register 11 runs later on.

Youngster Selemani led Lions Cricket Club's bowling onslaught, notching three wickets and ending with a 5.00 economy rate.

Medium pace bowler, Rijali Fentu, Ahmed, Gulraiz Haideri chipped in handsomely after taking two wickets each.

The resounding victory was a momentous boost for Lions Cricket Club, which was reeling from a 14-run loss to Aga Khan SC B in the previous fixture.

Dar Black Panthers had, ultimately, faced a second loss in a row. In their previous fixture, Dar Black Panthers lost to Estim A team by eight wickets.

Premier League won't release players to 'red-listed' countries

LONDON

PREMIER League clubs will not release players called up for international duty if they are playing matches in a country on the UK's coronavirus "red list" to prevent them from having to quarantine on their return to England, the league said on Tuesday after a unanimous vote by member clubs.

"Extensive discussions have taken place with both the FA and the government to find a solution, but due to ongoing public health concerns relating to incoming travellers from red-list countries, no exemption has been granted," the league said in a statement.

Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Peru are all on the British government's "red list" of countries that trigger a 10-day hotel quarantine on return.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said: "Premier League clubs have always supported their players' desires to represent their countries -- this is a matter of pride for all concerned. However, clubs have reluctantly but rightly come to the conclusion that it would be entirely unreasonable to release players under these new circumstances.

"Quarantine requirements mean that players' welfare and fitness will be significantly impacted. We understand the challenges that exist in the international match calendar and remain open to workable solutions."

Later on Tuesday, LaLiga released a statement saying it too would support any Spanish club that did not want to release players to join national teams in areas that were seeing increased cases of the coronavirus.

European clubs have accused world body FIFA of abusing its regulatory function in this row over the extended release of players for the September and October qualifiers.

Premier League sides would be particularly hard hit by FIFA's decision to extend a mandatory release period from nine to 11 days to enable tripleheaders in South America and also by strict England's quarantine rules.

Liverpool have already refused

to allow Mohamed Salah to travel to Africa for World Cup qualifiers with Egypt next month because he would be forced to quarantine on his return to England.

England's quarantine requirements could affect Liverpool's Brazilian trio of Roberto Firmino, Alisson Becker and Fabinho, who have been called up for next month's qualifiers, and Tottenham's Giovani Lo Celso and Cristian Romero, who are part of Argentina's squad.

FIFA not only organizes the World Cup, which generates most of the governing body's revenue of \$6 billion in the four-year cycle, but it also regulates the game globally and oversees the international calendar.

FIFA declined comment after Tuesday's statements from the FA and LaLiga but in a letter dated Aug. 23 and sent to the South American federation, FIFA president Gianni Infantino states the leagues and clubs could face sanctions if they don't allow the players to travel for the World Cup qualifiers.

"FIFA will proceed to reiterate to the member associations and affected clubs the regulations they are subject to comply and the consequences in case of any breach of the rules," reads the letter sent by Infantino to Conmebol president Alejandro Dominguez.

The European Club Association (ECA) wrote to members, in a Q&A document reported by The Times newspaper and also seen by Reuters, saying FIFA had taken decisions unilaterally and "against the explicit objection of ECA and the rest of the stakeholders."

"ECA has firmly expressed its objection to FIFA's decision and has urged FIFA to review its position," it said.

"ECA will not accept that a governing body like FIFA abuses its regulatory function in order to place its commercial interests and those of its member associations above the physical wellbeing of players and legitimate sporting interests of clubs."

Information from Reuters and The Associated Press was used in this story.

FIFA to receive over \$201 million in forfeited funds from corruption probe

LONDON

FIFA will receive over \$201 million in forfeited funds seized during a global football corruption probe, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), said on Tuesday.

In the years since the DOJ unveiled the corruption probe in 2015, more than 50 defendants have been criminally charged. A total of 27 people and four corporate entities have pleaded guilty, and two people were convicted at trial.

"Today's announcement confirms that money stolen by corrupt soccer officials and sports marketing executives through fraud and greed will be returned to where it belongs and used to benefit the sport," Acting U.S. Attorney Jacquelyn M. Kasulis for the Eastern District of New York said in a statement.

"From the start, this investigation and prosecution have been focused on bringing wrongdoers to justice and restoring ill-gotten gains to those who work for the benefit of the beautiful game."

The DOJ said \$32.3 million in forfeited funds have been approved for an initial distribution to FIFA; CONCACAF, the confederation responsible for football in North and Central America; CONMEBOL, which represents soccer in South America; and various constituent national soccer federations.

The funds will go into a new World Football Remission Fund to help finance football-related projects across the globe.

(Agencies)

USWNT star Carli Lloyd did it her own way, retiring with complicated and dominant legacy



Perhaps Lloyd's most memorable moment was her hat-trick in the 2015 Women's World Cup final to clinch it vs. Japan. Having begun the tournament as a midfielder, she ended it as the tournament's MVP and joint-top scorer. (agencies)

ESPN

ANYONE who's been to a U.S. national team game before has probably seen it: The team has dispersed and the field is empty, except for one player. Carli Lloyd, by her lonesome, is still out there, doing push-ups or running sprints. But pretty soon, that ritual will be gone and the field will stay empty. Carli Lloyd, at age 39, is retiring and will appear in her final U.S. national team matches this fall.

Lloyd walks away as undoubtedly one of the most important players in the history of American soccer. With 312 appearances -- second only to Kristine Lilly -- and 128 goals, the fourth-most in U.S. national team history, chances are that if the U.S. played a game in the last decade-and-a-half, Lloyd was a key part of it, leaving behind a legacy that is more complex than it seems at first glance.

It's almost surprising to see Lloyd call it quits -- it's not something she's ever done, so much so that such tenacity has become her personal brand. She loves sharing inspirational quotes about hard work on her social media accounts, and she has seemed to relish in defying people's expectations just so she could say "I told you so." There is perhaps no better example of it than the 2015 World Cup, the tournament that made her a household name and earned her the title as FIFA's Player of the Year.

The U.S. started the tournament poorly, and Lloyd especially struggled with the two-way midfield role she had been given. She openly lamented feeling restricted by the tactics of coach Jill Ellis and being unable to, as she put it, express herself.

After Ellis gave in and handed Lloyd the keys to the attack, Lloyd scored the goal against Japan that has become the piece de resistance of her career: a shot from half-field to seal a hat-trick (scored in the opening 16 minutes) in a World Cup final. In the post-game press conference of the U.S. team's 5-2 win, she told reporters she expected it. During a "burning" training session, she said, she envisioned scoring four goals in a World Cup final, one greater than her real-life tally.

Lloyd will be remembered as a winner, pure and simple. As record books become the primary point of reference, all that will be left is her sensational career, which saw her win two World Cup titles and two Olympic gold medals. Look a bit closer, though, and Lloyd's legacy is that of a complicated and sometimes contradictory hero. A 2011 headline from her hometown newspaper -- "Lloyd an exciting, if inconsistent, U.S. star" -- could have been written at almost any point in her career.

For all her magic in major tournaments, pundits often derided her non-peak performances, where

she was labeled "a turnover machine" and "below average." Fans wondered, based on her non-tournament appearances, why she was even in the U.S. team at all. She didn't look like the same player in friendlies, and she never led any of her club teams to tangible success -- her 2013 season with the Western New York Flash the lone exception.

Coach Pia Sundhage famously benched Lloyd because of her propensity to lose possession, telling reporters before the 2012 Olympics: "It's too big of a difference between when she's really good and when she's bad." When starting midfielder Shannon Boxx was injured in the opening game of the 2012 Olympics, Sundhage's only choice was to put Lloyd in. Suddenly, after being told she wasn't good enough, Lloyd had a chance to defy expectations on the biggest stage and she did that, scoring in that first game against France and again to win the gold medal over Japan.

At the time, Lloyd was as defiant as always, telling reporters of Sundhage's lack of faith: "When someone tells me I can't do something, I'm going to always prove them wrong. That's what champions do."

Lloyd has earned a reputation as a big-game player, someone who will win trophies for the U.S. on her own. She did it in 2008, when she scored the game-winner in the Olympic gold medal match against Brazil. She also did it in the gold medal match of the 2012 Olympics against Japan, darting in front of Abby Wambach's foot at one point to score, and then finding the game-winner with a rocket strike.

But she also choked in the shootout of the 2011 World Cup final, skying her shot over the bar and allowing Japan to win; it's a moment often forgotten when discussing her clutch credentials.

She has claimed the critics fuel her, but the criticism clearly never sat well with her, prompting her to see criticism where there was none. In a press conference earlier this year, she called out the journalist from her local newspaper who has covered her longest, labeling him "the hometown dude that can never support me" because he dared to see it as an open question as to whether Vlatko Andonovski would bring Lloyd to the Tokyo Olympics.

When other journalists wrote something she didn't like, they found themselves blocked by her on Twitter even if they'd never tagged her.

She named her memoir "When Nobody Was Watching," yet she has always made sure everyone was watching, sharing curated clips of her workouts on social media. After the U.S. lost to Canada in the Olympic semifinal earlier this month, she ran sprints after the game to make sure she was conditioned for the bronze medal game. But just in case anyone missed it, she took a photo from a journalist in Japan and shared it on her own Twitter account.

Such contradictions and inconsistencies in how Lloyd wants to be remembered vs. who Lloyd was as a player may have been necessary for her to reach the heights of her greatness, though.

Soccer has been a relentless act of self-improvement for Lloyd, a pursuit that requires constant effort and evolution. If success always came easy to Lloyd, how would she ever find that next level? It's the failures and

setbacks that have made Lloyd better the next time around. Sometimes, she seemingly needed to remind herself of her own greatness, too, just so she knew it was ready to be deployed. Indeed, Lloyd has not been the same player over the course of her career, and not just because of the ups and downs of her performances. She has had to adapt and find new ways to elevate her game -- an approach that is responsible for Lloyd's rare and remarkable longevity.

In her late 30s, Lloyd transformed into a striker, which she said forced her to improve her off-the-ball movement and finishing. Earlier in her career, she played pretty much every role in the central midfield, where she was tasked with different duties from defending and controlling possession to playmaking. It wasn't always a perfect match, but she almost always found a way to make it work.

Lloyd's ability to redefine herself as a player is undeniable, which may be why some fans have been left wanting more from her off the field. As other U.S. national team players have grown into their own voices, Lloyd has refused to engage in any of the causes some of her teammates have taken up. During the Olympics when most teams (not just the U.S.) took a knee before games (not during the national anthems) in an anti-racism gesture, Lloyd stood. It seemed that Lloyd felt anything not related to winning was merely a distraction, but some fans have labeled her selfish or an unfeeling robot.

Such stubbornness is all part of the Carli Lloyd mystique, though. While she may chalk up her success to hard work and determination, her most powerful tools have always been a large chip on her shoulder and a single-minded defiance. Her drive to win was so strong that ultimately she broke ties with her immediate family over it, not patching that rift until before the Tokyo Olympics.

Back in 2013, Lloyd told me she wanted to be named FIFA's Player of the Year -- at the time, a seemingly ludicrous notion that she knew would earn her ridicule.

"The end goal is I want to become FIFA Women's Player of the Year," she said back in April 2013. "Some may laugh and think, 'Wow, she's crazy,' but there's no sense in dreaming to get to the top if you don't think you can get there. There's no point in putting a limit on yourself."

Indeed, Lloyd has believed she could achieve the impossible, and she has. At 39 years old, she became the oldest goalscorer in Olympic history and netted the game-winner in the bronze medal match against Australia, sealing a remarkable career since 2005 in which, as long as a trophy was on the line, she was never merely a participant for the U.S. national team, but a key figure.

Before that bronze medal match, Lloyd admitted the bus ride to the stadium felt different. Knowing it was the last game of the last major tournament of her career, she reflected on everything she had done to reach that moment. She was proud, she said, of the player she became.

"Never wavering, just being me," she said. "Unapologetically me. It's been hard at times, but I've trusted the process."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

USWNT star Carli Lloyd did it her own way, retiring with complicated and dominant legacy



Senior national women's football team 'Twiga Stars' players take part in training with their teammates in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's COSAFA Women's Championship, which has been slated for September 28 to October 9 in South Africa's Nelson Mandela Bay. PHOTO: TFF

Revised fixtures for 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship released

PORT ELIZABETH

THE revised fixture list for the 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship is out with the tournament in Nelson Mandela Bay to start two weeks later than originally scheduled and run from September 28 to October 9.

There are no further changes to the logistics, with the same number of teams to take part, but the competition will now kick off with a Group A meeting between Angola and Mozambique on September 28.

That will be followed later in the day with a crunch clash between hosts South Africa and Malawi as Banyana Banyana seek a fifth successive title in the regional showpiece competition.

Group B starts on September 29 as Botswana takes on South Sudan, while another guest nation, Tanzania, will take on Zimbabwe later in the day.

Namibia and guests Uganda open Group C on September 30, before Zambia clash with Eswatini.

The group stages will conclude on October 5, with only the top team in each pool advancing to the semifinals along with the best-placed runner-up.

The semifinals will be played on October 7 and see the winner of Group B take on the top team in Group C, while the winner of Group A meets the best runner-up.

The final and third-place play-off will be played on October 9.

The competition will be perfect preparation for the start of the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers that are scheduled to be played in the FIFA international window that runs from Oct. 18-26.

South Africa has won the last four COSAFA Women's Championships, beating Botswana 2-1 in last year's final.

Nelson Mandela Bay will also be hosting the competition for the fourth year in a row.

Meanwhile, history will be made today when the first ball is kicked in the inaugural TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League, COSAFA Qualifier, heralding in a new era for women's football in the region.

The seven-team competition in Durban will serve as the preliminary tournament for the first-ever TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League that is scheduled to be staged in Egypt later this year, with only the tournament winner advancing to the continental finals.

But over and above that, it is the culmination of the long-held dream of COSAFA to stage a Women's Champions League in which the best clubs sides in Southern Africa will battle it out for the right to be crowned Queens.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the field for this year, with seven of the 14 COSAFA member associations represented, but that will change in the coming seasons as the region gets to grips with the pandemic.

The first-ever match will be played at the King Zwelithini Stadium on Thursday when Botswana's Double Action Ladies clash with Manzini Wanderers Ladies at 11h00 (09h00 GMT).

The top two teams will advance to the semifinals, so victory in the opening game would be a massive boost to either side.

Double Action captain Bonang Othlagile says they are eager to repay the faith that has been shown in them by the Botswana Football Association.

"Thank you, BFA, for giving us this opportunity to represent not only the association but our nation at large. We promise to fight with all that we have to make all of you proud," she said.

The second match on Thursday is between home club Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies and Lesotho Defence Force (14h00 CAT; 12h00 GMT).

Sundowns will be among the pre-tournament favourites and hoping to emulate the CAF Champions League success of their men's side in 2016.

South African Football Association (SAFA) president, Danny

Enoch Nkwe resigns as South Africa's assistant coach

CAPE TOWN

ENOCH Nkwe has resigned as assistant coach of the South African men's team despite Cricket South Africa's (CSA's) board making what they called "every effort" to retain his services.

Nkwe informed the board that he intended to resign at the weekend with the news made public on Monday, when CSA held emergency talks with him to persuade him to stay on.

The further dialogue was had on Tuesday, ending with Nkwe stepping down.

"It is deeply disappointing to lose someone of Enoch's caliber at this time, but we fully understand and respect his decision," Lawson Naidoo, CSA's chair said.

While part of the reason for Nkwe's stepping down was put down to personal ambitions, CSA also cited "concerns about the functioning and culture of the team environment."

ESPNcricinfo has learned Nkwe's decision to step down resulted from a disillusionment with the job of assistant coach and differences of opinion with head coach Mark Boucher, but the issues were not related to race.

Several sources close to both Nkwe and Boucher confirmed that the pair's personalities were incompatible and Boucher's strong presence as a coach left Nkwe feeling sidelined.

At the same time, Nkwe also wanted to have less of a role at training sessions and more input into the technical aspects of the game.

"The Board will be taking the necessary steps to investigate and address the issues raised by Enoch.

We will not be commenting further on this until the process has been completed," CSA said.

Although CSA left the door open for Nkwe's return at a future stage, it is also unclear whether he will remain part of the succession plan to take over from Boucher after the 2023 World Cup.

Sources have also confirmed that Boucher's position after he apologized for creating and maintaining an exclusionary team culture during his playing days, remains safe.

CSA's board chair and acting CEO visited the team's training camp, where they held what sources called "productive" meetings with team management.

The support staff for the Sri Lanka tour includes Northern coach Mandla Mashimbyi, who will accompany Boucher, Justin Ontong (fielding), and Justin Sammons (new batting consultant), but is without regular bowling coach Charl Langeveldt, who cannot travel because of Covid-19 protocols.

The South Africa contingent is expected to leave for Sri Lanka on Wednesday, and captain, Temba Bavuma, will lead a slightly depleted ODI side, without Quinton de Kock (rested), David Miller (injured), and Lungi Ngidi (personal reasons).

AGENCIES

Government all out to protect royalties for clubs



Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Yusuf Singo (2nd L), and a section of Yanga officials hold jerseys to be worn by the club in the 2021/22 season during the kits' launch at a function, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

THE government has stated it is closing in on setting up a rule that will protect royalties for sports outfits, particularly soccer outfits, from people who exploit the outfits.

Yusuf Singo, Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, issued the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday as he was representing the ministry's head, Innocent Bashungwa, in the launch of Yanga jerseys for 2021/22 season.

Singo noted Premier League outfits have lately been creative when it comes to finding sources of income by selling their kits to their fans.

The official pointed out the government has felt there is a need for helping the outfits make the most of their logos.

Singo disclosed: "The government is in the process of setting up a rule which will deal with people, who rip the outfits off and help the outfits enjoy the benefits accrued from selling jerseys, the outfits are using a lot of cash in designing and manufacturing

the kits."

The official stated the initiative seeks to get the outfits to benefit from their jerseys and logo.

Yanga yesterday introduced 10 types of jerseys to be used by the outfit in the 2021/22 season.

The kits include home, away, third and jerseys to be used by the outfit in the 2021/22 CAF Champions League home and away fixtures.

Yanga's other kits for the new season introduced the same day include special kits worn by players, technical bench members, and officials when they are traveling outside Dar es Salaam, and replica kits for the outfit's followers.

Hersi Said, GSM Group's Director of Investment and Yanga's Competition Committee's vice-chairman, revealed they have this season resorted to present popular fashion designer n Africa, Tanzanian Sheria Ngowi, with the chance to design the outfit's 2021/22 jerseys.

Said stated: "Some people stated our outfit's 2020/21 season's jerseys were great therefore we should not come up with new jerseys, but we

had trusted Ngowi will design the best jerseys and he has certainly done so."

The official disclosed: "These are quality kits and there will not be better kits than these."

Said revealed the jerseys will be sold to the club's fans located across Tanzania at a cheap price the followers can afford.

Yanga's home kits will constitute green shirts, black shorts, and green socks with yellow stripes on the upper part, to be worn by the outfit in the 2021/22 Premier League.

The Jangwani Street-based squad's away kits will be made up of yellow shirts, black shorts, and yellow socks with green stripes on the upper part.

The away jerseys which will be used in the next season's CAF Champions League will consist of green shirts with yellow stripes on the lower part and shoulders.

The home kits for the premier continental competition at the club level will consist of yellow shirts with green stripes on the lower part and shoulders.

EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA !
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

