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Taking A New Look At The News ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Pangolin population risking extinction unless poaching, trafficking held back

PANGOLINS are threatened by poaching for their meat and scales, which are used in Chinese traditional medicine and heavy deforestation of their natural habitats, and are the most trafficked mammals in the world.

tin scales are believed to cure hangovers, treat liver ailments, and help new mothers breastfeed. In addition, pangolin meat is often eaten as a delicacy among corporate elites or the upper-middle class in Asia as a symbol of wealth and status.

Mkapa’s appeals to African leaders on role of human capital both relevant and timely

SIR William Arthur Lewis was an economist well known for his contributions in the field of economic development. In 1979 he was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences. He had dual Saint Lucian and British citizenships.

Benjamin Mkapa has called on African leaders to recognise human capital as one of Africa’s greatest treasures and therefore pursue development accordingly. Mkapa made the remarks when speaking to the 16 candidates of the CEO Apprenticeship Programme (CAP), an initiative being driven by the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt) and in partnership with Strathmore University Business School (SBS).

By Tshilidzi Marwala

HOW South Africa can use ‘nudges’ to improve the well-being of its people. Joseph Stalin was a man of steel. Faced with the principle of his party that stated that “from each according to their needs, and to each according to their ability”, he soon realised that his people did not readily embrace this. His people, like any other, were inherently greedy and did not want to work for free. His solution was to use violence to force them to work.



Traditionally, economics assumed that people make rational choices in pursuit of their self-interest. As many economic models will have you believe, markets work efficiently to allocate resources and set prices based on this. The concept of nudging has thrown a spanner in the works, and interestingly, it is frowned upon by many traditional economists.

Nudging ourselves out of the economic nightmare



interest rates, or you could be promoted faster and get better job offers, for instance, based on your social score. Following the outbreak of the coronavirus at the beginning of 2020, this proved a useful tool in tracking the spread of the virus and providing adequate treatment. By using voice robots and big data, it is possible to check information such as personal identity, location and health condition. It can then categorise information and produce daily reports.



# Hosni Mubarak: Nasserite politician swept away by Obama's Arab Spring

By Anil Kija

FORMER Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak died early yesterday at the age of 91, the fourth ruler in military republicanism in Egypt, where it has been impossible to create a stable civilian government since 1952. Mubarak ruled Egypt for 30 years until he was ousted following mass protests against his rule in 2011, perhaps the most notable of revolts under the Arab Spring mass uprisings. The wave started in Tunisia with immolation of an unemployed university graduate whose petty business was ruined by city militia, a spark that lit a prairie fire.

Mubarak, like the previous military heads of state since the overthrow of King Farouk in 1952, led a Westernised military and intelligentsia, combating the conservative backdrop of religious elders forming militia to bring about a theocracy.

This contention has underlined Middle East politics since the early part of last century with the fall of the Ottoman Turkish empire and creation of nation states after World War I, and then the creation of Israel in 1948.

There were two contending currents, one for Westernisation and modernity, and another for reassertion of cultural identity and opposition to the Jewish state as cardinal issue.

At the time of the death of Hosni Mubarak, pictures were repeated all over the world showing his sad itinerary since 2011, going in and out of prison, hospital and courts, at times with his son Gamal.

Some of the cases he continued battling as his life slumbered to a halt related to the suppression of the popular uprising that brought about his fall, while his immediate successor,



Islamist president Mohamed Morsi was himself removed by the military as he tried to lead an Islamist-dominated legislature to put up theocratic structures.

Like Mubarak lately, Morsi died in

prison after he was sentenced to long years in prison for militia attacks.

The fact that Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar el Sadat died in a hail of bullets from sympathizers of the Muslim Brotherhood while saluting a military march past in 1981 illustrates the chronic instability of Egyptian politics.

Even iconic Gamal Abdel Nasser who is synonymous with

radical Arab republican politics died a peaceful death in 1970, while his predecessor in the republican era, Mohammed Neguib, ruled for just over a year (June 1953 to November 1954) and replaced by the movement's iconic leader, Nasser. Neguib lived until 1984 when he died of liver cirrhosis, more or less completely forgotten, 30 years after leaving office.

Not many analysts have acknowledged that the Arab Spring was actually fomented by US President Barack Obama early in 2009, as his election was sensational to both the Pan-African world and the Muslim world in general.

Obama was the son of an African Muslim scholar doing doctorate at Harvard University, who married as a student with a white Jewish fellow student and had a son, named after his father's precise name - Barack Hussein Obama. Soon after taking office, Obama started pushing for Mid East peace and against the pressures of youths joining radical suicide groups like Al Qaeda in Saudi Arabia or the Muslim Brotherhood.

Visiting Egypt, he told a well attended audience at Al Azhar University, a citadel of Sunni learning, that 'the United States was not at war, and would never be at war, with Islam...' which the audience grasped.

The reason was that he was himself the son of a Muslim, and an African part-immigrant to the United States for that matter, hence the implication that if voters in the US were antipathetic to Islam, he would never be can-

didate of the Democratic Party, or become president. Obama was living proof that autocratic Arab regimes weren't protecting people against Israel and the United States but for their own benefit, a conviction which soon touched off the Arab Spring, as students communicated, took to the streets.

As president, Mubarak represented the face of compromise with Israel and close alliance with the United States, just like Jordan, where King Abdullah and his father King Hussein were both closely bred into American life. King Abdullah was a major in the US Army when he returned to Jordan to take over the royal chair, upon the death of his father in 1997.

When he died, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu cabled President Abdel Fatah al Sisi to express his "deep sorrow for the passing of my personal friend Hosni Mubarak." Still chroniclers credit the late Mubarak with having had the courage to refuse to leave the country even as his overthrow appeared imminent, more or less like his friend Omar el Bashir in Sudan who is going through the same paces as Mubarak, and unlike Tunisia's Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, who fled with his family to Saudi Arabia after being ousted in protests during the Arab Spring - and some would add, like ex-Ugandan dictator Idi Amin who lived in the desert kingdom for more than 10 years after he fell to Ugandan exile forces and a Tanzanian expedition late 1978-79.

## Global economy still slowing, dangerously vulnerable

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

IN an annual ritual early in the year, most major economic organizations have released forecasts for the global economy in 2020. Incredibly, almost as a reminder of where financial power resides in this day and age, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its forecasts at the World Economic Forum's 50th annual meeting in Davos.

Although the IMF revised its global economic growth prognosis slightly downwards from its October 2019 forecast, it still offers the most optimistic prospect of 3.3% growth in 2020. The World Bank's forecast of 2.5% - identical to the United Nations (UN) estimate - is the lowest, with the OECD's at 2.9%.

The IMF justified its optimism by improved market sentiments following the Phase One US-China Trade Deal and diminished fears of a 'no-deal Brexit'. Goldman Sachs describes these developments as 'A Break in the Clouds', forecasting global growth at 3.4% in 2020, while Morgan Stanley sees 'Calmer Waters Ahead', expecting 3.2% in 2020 and 3.5% in 2021.

### Perils of 'talking up'

It is not unusual for these organizations to be optimistic: after all, they do not want to be seen as naysayers, or prophets of doom, especially if their pronouncements are later denounced as self-fulfilling prophecies.

But 'talking up the economy' can have grave consequences, as with the 2008-2009 global financial crisis (GFC). Then, the IMF revised its forecast upward in July 2007, a month before the US 'sub-prime' mortgage crisis morphed into the worst global downturn since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Meanwhile, the OECD was confident that any US 'soft-landing' would be offset by robust European economic performance. Such forecasts fostered a false and ultimately dangerous sense of invulnerability and complacency before the storm broke.

Policy makers ignored warnings by the United Nations since 2005 about fundamental weaknesses, including growing global imbalances and the



debt-financed US housing bubble. As is now well known, the collapse of the US sub-prime mortgage market brought down world finance and, eventually, the global economy.

### Hazards of forecasting

Thankfully, it is customary to include some cautionary notes with these annual forecasts, even when optimistic. For example, the IMF now warns of more downside risks, including geopolitical tensions, social unrest, trade tensions,

and developing economies' financial turmoil.

Both the UN and the IMF fear that the climate crisis can trigger financial stress, further slowing economic growth. To make matters worse, ignoring fundamental weaknesses and focusing excessively on ephemeral short-term trends can be dangerously misleading.

To be sure, forecasting is extremely hazardous, and some-

times compared unfavourably to astrology. Forecasters factor in plausible developments, but completely unpredictable 'black swan' events, such as the novel coronavirus pandemic, can upset even the best of forecasts.

Meanwhile, the World Bank warns of ballooning debt, both public and private. The UN and the World Bank also note that the sharp productivity growth slowdown since the GFC has reduced

long-term growth and poverty reduction prospects; furthermore, high inequality will also delay such progress.

Both the UN and the IMF note that high and rising inequality also engenders greater social and political polarization, unrest and instability. Additionally, the UN also warns of deepening political polarization and growing scepticism about multilateralism as significant downside risks.

But none mention that the long-run effects of income inequality on both consumption and output can be quite large, delaying economic recovery by limiting aggregate demand and capacity utilization.

### Policy failure

Such fundamental weaknesses owe much to policy failures. Unlike the New Deal following the Great Depression of the 1930s, all too many contemporary policy-makers shy away from addressing core problems, such as financial excesses, rising household debt, exorbitant executive salaries vis-à-vis stagnant, if not declining real wages, that also contributed to the GFC.

Low (negative) interest rates, due to unconventional monetary policy, especially 'quantitative easing' (QE), have not promoted productive investments, and allowed less-productive firms to survive. Thus, QE failed to boost productivity.

'Easy money' has been used for share buy-backs, mergers, acquisitions and inflated executive remuneration. Thus, as before the GFC, 'fictitious capital' is being systemically generated once again, contributing to asset price bubbles and endangering financial stability.

'Easy money' from developed economies has also flowed to developing countries in search of better returns, making them more vulnerable, besides raising their indebtedness yet again.

QE has also contributed to rising inequality. Meanwhile, major central banks have exhausted much of their means for lending at very low or even negative interest rates as they have very limited room to cut interest rates further.

### No fiscal savior

Besides reducing overall revenue collection and marginal income tax rates, the longstanding trend from direct to indirect taxation has shifted tax incidence from incomes to consumption, largely at the expense of the middle class.

Pursuing fiscal austerity under various guises, governments have slashed social and infrastructure spending in favour of public-private partnerships skewed in favour of influential corporate interests. Fiscal austerity also slowed economic recovery and technology adoption to the detriment of productivity growth.

Such fiscal reforms have not only exacerbated inequality, but also kept countries and households in debt bondage. And as governments have less fiscal space with rising debt, their ability to respond to crises - financial, climate or pandemic - is severely compromised.

### Missed opportunity

Had national policymakers, led by the G20, embraced the UN recommendation for a Global Green New Deal to stimulate recovery, address the climate crisis and reverse growing inequality, the global economy could have been put on a more inclusive and sustainable path.

Such hopes remain even more elusive in an increasingly fractured world where multilateralism itself has been discredited and deliberately undermined by ethno-populism's legitimization of jingoism.

# Climate crisis an issue on which a united South Africa can address global audience

By Mmusi Maimane

**T**HE recently delivered State of the Nation Address covered many domestic issues facing South Africa, yet it was a great opportunity to also look globally.

We engage in this year with SA having taken the chairmanship of the African Union. I strongly believe this is Africa's decade for a much stronger contribution to global politics. Now is the time for us to lead the dialogue on climate change, and how we can develop in a sustainable manner.

We discuss Eskom, we discuss SAA, Prasa and Transnet. These are very important conversations, but we sometimes forget to have other conversations, about the region, about our role in the global political community. We can build a developmental curve that is economically strong with a sustainable future.

A conversation that should get more attention but is sometimes drowned out is the environmental crisis and how we are directly affected. Climate change is real and South Africa has a role to play in combatting it. The Northern Cape is in the midst of a drought and Johannesburg has been having flash floods. The climate in SA is changing and this has profound economic issues. While we are divided on so many issues, while we are living in the age of factionalism, we cannot afford to be factional about ending the biodiversity crisis.

Today the biodiversity crisis has never been higher on the global agenda, nations around the world are waking up to the reality that the way we are operating is fundamentally un-

sustainable.

Recent events have brought with them a realisation that the biodiversity and climate crisis is no longer something that we as Africans can kick into the long grass. Significant and irreversible biodiversity loss and dramatic climate change are happening now, before our eyes, and will cost us dearly. As teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg highlighted when discussing the bushfires that swept through Australia, "In case you haven't noticed, our world is on fire."

This crisis is a global one, and as such requires a global response. Scientists agree almost a third of the Earth will need to be protected by 2030 and pollution cut by half to save our remaining wildlife, as we enter the planet's sixth era of mass extinction, according to a United Nations agency.

International efforts such as the Campaign for Nature, a partnership between the Wyss Campaign and the National Geographic Society, have been pivotal in raising awareness about the challenges we face and how we can tackle them. Their campaign, backed by 100 environmental organisations and a growing number of African governments, aims to secure a global commitment to protect at least 30% of global land and sea. Perhaps most importantly, the campaign has a heightened focus on supporting indigenous peoples and increasing financial resources to manage protected areas in a way that is mindful of communities living in and around them.

Africa has a particularly important role to play. As our continent stares down the barrel of the most dramatic demographic change we have



ever seen, we are presented with huge challenges but also unique opportunities. With population levels in Africa expected to double to 1.9 billion by 2050, we can and should make an active decision to ensure we prepare for this development in an environmentally mindful and sustainable way.

As the former prime minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Desalegn, wrote, "There is a myth that political leaders must weigh up the importance of protecting our planet against the immediate short-term needs of our citizens. We must expel this idea that these two are mutually exclusive." The age-old retort that countries must first be allowed to develop is defunct. If countries are to develop, they must do so in a sustainable way, so future generations can also reap the rewards.

Perhaps nowhere has the

happy marriage between economic development and conservation been more clearly demonstrated than in Rwanda. Having recently undergone a revolution in its economic makeup, it has transformed itself from the dark days of 1994; rebranding the country as a gateway to Africa, improving the business environment, establishing sound institutions like the Rwanda Development Board, and building proper infrastructure.

But crucially, Rwanda has led the way with green legislation. Not only did it become one of the first countries to ban plastic bags, along with Kenya and Tanzania, but every year Rwanda plants millions of trees, part of a massive reforestation plan that aims to increase the country's forest cover to 30% of its total land. The establishment of a Green Fund, a groundbreaking investment fund that supports the best private and public projects that contribute to a green economy, has mobilised more than \$100-million and generated almost 140,000 new jobs.

The care and attention Rwanda

has paid to its landscapes is paying off. In 2017 its tourism sector, largely fuelled by its national parks and the wildlife that inhabits them, generated \$438-million. The same year, visits alone to its national parks generated \$18.7-million in revenue.

Ecotourism is a booming industry, and one that should be capitalised on by those lucky enough to be endowed with the landscapes Africa is so fortunate to have. Namibia, for instance, is on track to generate 21.6% of its total GDP by 2025 from tourism alone, following the creation of the Namib-Skeleton Coast National Park. Covering more than 10 million hectares and stretching for 1,570km, the park goes from the Angolan border in the north right down to the South African border in the south.

But tourism is not the only industry that could benefit from greener policies. A report published by Kleos Advisory at the recent UK-Africa Investment Summit in London estimated that the pay-as-you-go solar power market, that could potentially give power to millions across Africa

who currently do not have access, could be worth \$24-billion.

Ethiopia, another African country with a promising green agenda, is hosting the AU Summit in Addis Ababa later this month, and while the theme is "Silencing the Guns", it also aims to create "Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development", of which the environment is an integral part. If we continue hurtling down this path of climate and biodiversity loss, Africa will only see greater instability, water scarcity, drought, famine, war, unemployment and disease.

Ahead of the African Union Summit, the Convention on Biological Diversity released its Zero Draft on the Global Deal for Nature in January. One of the first major steps towards the COP15 being held later this year in Kunming, China, the draft promisingly highlighted the need to protect 30% of global land and sea by 2030.

There are certainly encouraging signs that African governments are taking this seriously, with a number already committing to the 30 by 30 pledge. Rwanda, Uganda, Gabon, Senegal, Mozambique, Seychelles and Cameroon have already pledged their support, with a great many others soon to join the High Ambition Coalition calling for a global deal. Yet, there is one glaring omission: South Africa, among the world's 10 most biodiverse countries, home to nearly 10% of all bird, fish and plant species, and 6% of mammals and reptiles, has not.

For the sake of our citizens and natural resources, South Africa needs to support this Global Deal for Nature, and promote it at the AU, hand-in-hand with our friends and neighbours.

Africa needs a strong voice on the environment, it cannot afford not to. By joining calls for a 30 by 30 commitment, we can encourage others around the world to do so, bring in greater financial assistance, and ultimately protect our planet.

There are many divisions in South Africa that we desperately need to work through to prosper, but the one thing we can all agree on is that we have a responsibility to protect this land we call home. It's about time South Africa stood up and spoke not just for Africa, but the world.

Agencies

## South Sudan's peace deal reveals flaws in Pretoria's approach to mediation

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**W**HEN South Sudan President Salva Kiir announced on 15 February that he had backed down from his hitherto intransigent demand that South Sudan have 32 states, South African Deputy President David Mabuza praised him for his 'progressive' and 'revolutionary' decision.

Mabuza, President Cyril Ramaphosa's special envoy to South Sudan, said he'd 'always remained confident that the parties would make a breakthrough on this matter and that the people of South Sudan would find solutions to their challenges.'

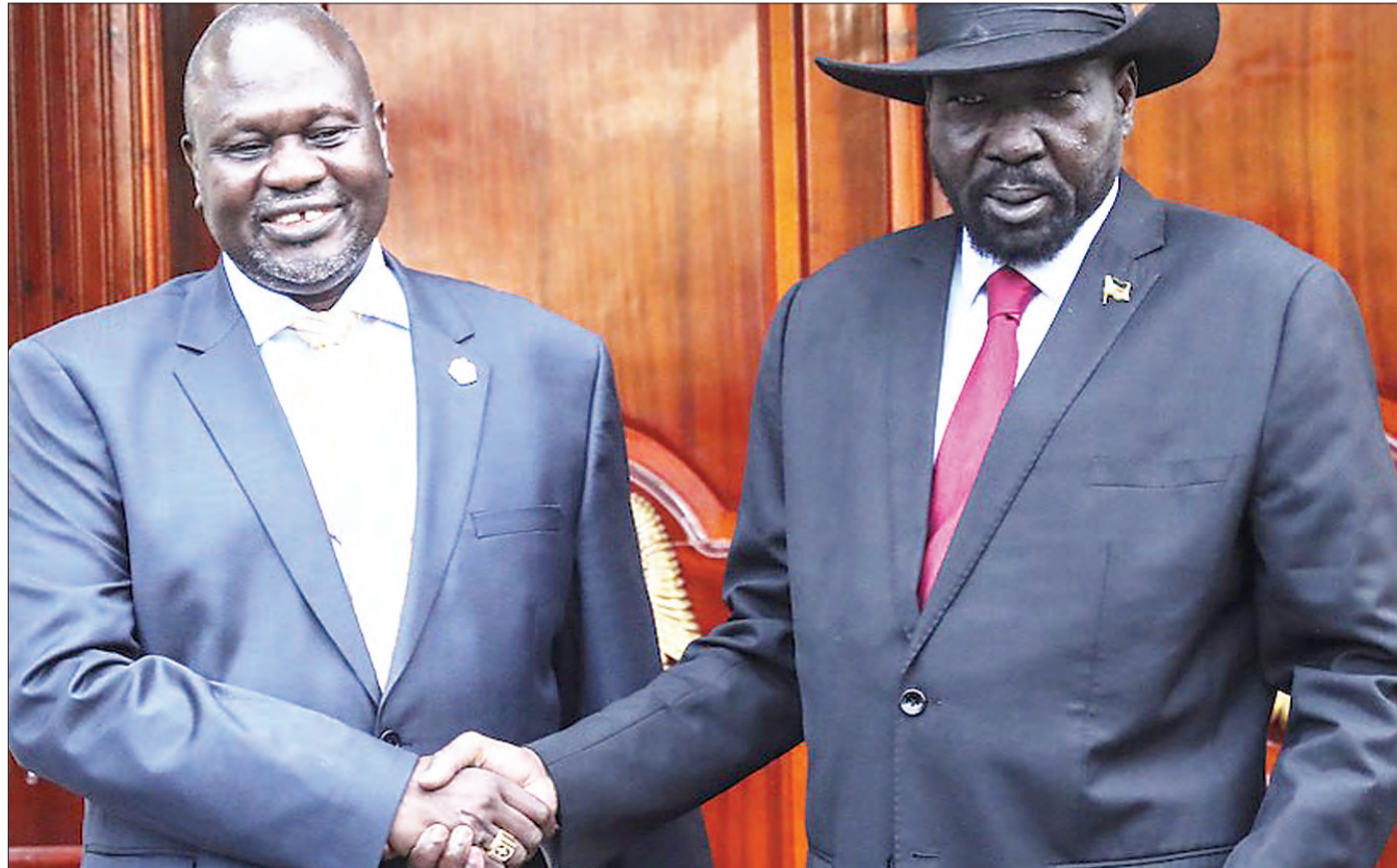
Kiir's backing down paved the way for him and his arch rival Riek Machar to enter into the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (R-TGNU) a week later - Saturday 22 February - right on deadline.

Speaking as African Union (AU) chair, Ramaphosa noted that 'this significant breakthrough' had followed Kiir's decision to concede on the number of states. He added that Kiir's move came almost two weeks after he met Kiir and Machar, separately, at the AU summit. Ramaphosa had encouraged them to 'redouble their efforts towards the speedy resolution of the outstanding issues in the implementation of the [September 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan].'

Reading these two statements, one might deduce that the two South Africans had played a major part in persuading Kiir to back off his insistence on 32 states. But this isn't so.

What should be made of South Africa's protracted mediation of the South Sudan crisis?

When Ramaphosa met Kiir and Machar at the AU summit, he reportedly urged them both to form the R-TGNU by the 22 February deadline - and only then to discuss the thorny question of how many states there



should be in the South Sudan federation.

Kiir agreed to this, unsurprisingly. Equally unsurprisingly, Machar rejected it. He saw this as just another ruse by Kiir to duck the issue. Machar was sure that once the government was formed, Kiir would forget about reducing the number of states to the 10 demanded by Machar - and the constitution.

Machar's people also saw Ramaphosa's demand as further evidence of Pretoria taking Kiir's side. They believed South Africa should have been putting pressure on Kiir from the start to do the right thing. Similar misgivings apply to Mabuza's mediation which peaked in December and January when he tried to persuade both sides to submit the issue of the number of states to ex-

**South Africa's government should relook at its mediation philosophy - especially in its position this year as AU chair. File photo**

ternal arbitration. This created a blur of contradictory South Sudanese reactions.

Some in the Machar camp felt that Mabuza was favouring Kiir by obfuscating what should have been a clear-cut issue. But even in the Kiir camp some said the September 2015 revitalised peace agreement - the framework for all these negotiations - made no provision for outside arbitration. Mabuza should simply have insisted on Kiir doing the right thing by giving up his unconstitutional position.

After Mabuza abandoned his mediation, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) leaders met Kiir and Machar to tackle the issue and step up pressure on Kiir to

back off. So did the special envoys of the South Sudan troika - the United States, United Kingdom and Norway.

The greater successes of IGAD only serve to underscore the limitations of South Africa's approach

Kiir at first resisted the pressure but then on 15 February announced he was ready to return to 10 states. But his 'compromise' had a sting in its tail: in addition to the original 10 states, there would be three 'administrative regions' - Abyei, Boma and Ruweng.

Machar at first rejected this apparent concession by Kiir, suspecting that the creation of administrative regions was just a way of reintroducing addition-

al states through the back door. But Machar then made his own concession, agreeing to defer that issue, and was duly sworn in once again on Saturday.

Whether or not the R-TGNU will stick this time around remains moot, given its discouraging precedents. When Machar returned to Juba in 2016 to take up the deputy presidency which Kiir had removed him from three years earlier, he fled for his life from Kiir's soldiers.

Nonetheless IGAD - and the international community - deserve credit for sustaining the pressure on Kiir to make the concession that led to the deal. Some observers are giving special credit to the new Sudanese government which currently chairs IGAD.

What should be made of South Africa's protracted mediation? Even in the international relations department itself, questions were asked about Mabuza's approach. Senior officials wondered who his foreign policy adviser was and whether, in the apparent absence of a strong mandate from his government, he may not have fallen under the influence of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, a Kiir ally.

Even in SA's international relations department, questions were asked about Mabuza's approach

Yet Ramaphosa's intervention urging Kiir and Machar to form a government first and resolve the states issue later suggested that Mabuza might not have been 'freelancing', and that the trouble lay deeper - in the Pretoria government's overall approach.

Pretoria's defence would probably be that it tried to re-

main even-handed - and that it had no real choice as Kiir would have rejected any pressure applied to him alone. But the IGAD leaders seem to have proven this wrong. The South Sudan case demonstrates that this is an approach that almost inevitably favours the incumbent, as it leaves him untouched in his power and positions.

The greater successes of the IGAD leaders - backed by the troika - on the face of it only serve to underscore the limitations of South Africa's approach. Some might argue that one cannot separate Pretoria's approach from IGAD's as Pretoria acted as part of the overall IGAD mediation. But that doesn't really explain the nature of South Africa's mediation.

One must assume that both Ramaphosa and Mabuza had considerable autonomy in their mediation efforts, within the broad IGAD framework, and weren't simply ferrying IGAD messages. And on the critical question of the number of states and their boundaries, the South African leaders didn't pressure Kiir to back off - which was the key to IGAD's success.

The South Sudan mediation should prompt Pretoria to take a long hard look at its mediation philosophy - especially since it ostensibly intends to deploy it more often this year in the AU chair. Yet with Ramaphosa absorbed by domestic priorities, one senses that Pretoria might be more inclined than ever to take the road more travelled - which may not deliver the desired results.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

# Zantel unveils service to enable customers to call all networks

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to foster reliable and affordable communications services to all customers in the country, Zantel yesterday unveiled its new product dubbed 'BongaMpakaBasi' to allow customers to call across all networks at the affordable prices.

The new product portfolio is set to offer customers with exclusive experience through its

improved voice packages that can be accessed easily with more value than before. With the new product, Zantel customers will now buy only one voice package and make calls across all networks in the country.

Speaking during the launch, Zantel's Head of Mobile Business Aneth Muga said the campaign is part of the Zantel's strategy of improving communications services in the country while

ensuring customers experience fair and affordable prices to stay connected with their loved ones across other networks.

"We understand that affordable communications services are one of the key pillars for economic and social development in any country as it gives people opportunity to unleash different potentials.

Through this product, we want to give our customers

freedom to call any network at the affordable and competitive price that will in turn impact their economic and social well-being," said Muga.

Prior to the launch, Zantel had two voice packages including the on-net named 'Bonga' and the off-net bundle called 'MpakaBasi' that are now unified to form BongaMpakaBasi, a new portfolio that offers more freedom to communicate across

other networks at the same price of calling Zantel to Zantel.

"With BongaMpakaBasi our customers will no longer need to buy more than one bundle to call all networks, with the new package you can enjoy unlimited access to call any network in the country.

All these are possible through our improved and simplified menu for all customers to easily access the services," added

Muga.

Speaking at the launch the Head of Zantel Zanzibar Mohammed Khamis Mussa said the company has made a huge investment mark in Zanzibar, its main business footprint, by deploying state-of-the-art communication structures through its undersea fibre optic cable that links Tanzania and other East African countries that enabled Zantel to provide wholesale in-

ternational voice and data connectivity to other operators.

"Advanced telecommunications is one of the key pillars for a developed society.

The Zantel 4G plus network has therefore, contributed to the development of various sectors including education, finance and health-care as well as bolstering economic and business growth", says Mussa.

## Bank brings SMEs on board as it launches business club in Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has launched a business club in Tanga region aimed at bringing together Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to share ideas and address challenges affecting their businesses.

NBC also hosted the SMEs on training to empower them on how to run their businesses as well as tap other opportunities along the way.

Speaking during the training earlier this week, the head of business at NBC Elvis Ndunguru said the bank is committed towards facilitating easy and smooth banking to all groups including SMEs who are key towards economic growth.

He said the launching of the club makes the number of bank's clubs nine country-wide with a strategy to unite them so they collectively discuss how to see and utilize opportunities. According to him the clubs have been a platform for finding markets as well as empowering them financially for business growth.

"NBC club is a unique platform for educating SMEs on various issues affecting their businesses, and since their establishment, members have benefiting from training including the use of accounts books, market knowledge and taxpayer education," he said.

Among the benefits according to Ndunguru includes members have lower interests loans as well as low foreign exchange rates.

He added that the training was being offered seeing that there was high demand from the SMEs to reduce losses and being cheated by dishonest workers.

In his remarks the Director for Tanga city council Daudi Maheji who officiated the opening of the club hailed the bank for the initiative saying it will go a long way into creating honest businesses.

He urged the SMEs to be very strict on record keeping to avoid conflicts with the tax man. One of the beneficiaries of the clubs who is also an NBC customer Haji Mambo said through the clubs he has been able to connected to various people globally giving an example of a trip to China in which he met various successful business men and women.



Zantel head of mobile business Aneth Muga (R) unveils a simplified menu meant to enable the firm's customers to buy a newly introduced 'multi-network' bundle dubbed 'BongaMpakaBasi'. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TTCL and TPRI agree on innovative digital verification of pesticide

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) and Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI) have signed an agreement for the launch of an innovative digital verification of a pesticide known as T-Hakiki.

T-Hakiki platform is using technology to reimagine agriculture in Tanzania by providing accessible, scalable solution for smallholder farmers whilst bundling verification

with the inputs farmers already use, in this case pesticides.

Speaking to the reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the occasion of signing the agreement, TTCL Acting Executive Director, Kezia Katamboi said that T-Hakiki will significantly impact digitization of agriculture and safeguard the lives of many farmers whilst driving financial inclusion efforts in Tanzania.

She said in an ongoing efforts to support government efforts on towards agriculture, TTCL Corpo-

ration in partnership with Quincewood Group Limited has come up with the solution to farmers know as T-Hakiki services

"Two-thirds of Tanzania's population work in agriculture making it the backbone of our economy, with small scale farmers dominating the food production. High demand for pesticides has attracted unscrupulous traders selling counterfeit pesticides. Counterfeiting in Africa's agricultural input sector takes multiple forms from imitation branding

and packaging to partially diluted or entirely fake products.

"There have been many incidences of fake/counterfeit pesticides in the country. About 40% of agro-inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) in Tanzania are reported to be counterfeits. (International Journal of Computer Applications: Combating Fake Agro-Inputs Products in Tanzania using Mobile Phones, July 2014)," she said.

The Director General of TPRI, Dr Margaret Mollel added that

method coupled with other good agronomic practices is expected to increase farmers' productivity and incomes, as they will be de-risked from fake/counterfeit seeds/inputs/fertilizers.

"Our goal is to provide farmers a choice of reliable, affordable high quality pesticides they can trust so through the sale of genuine pesticides using T-Hakiki e-verification system, farmers' interests are protected by safeguarding crop yields. "The sale of counterfeit agri-

cultural inputs has far-reaching socio-economic consequences. More and more children will now be able to complete their schooling because farmers whose sole source of income based on crop yields will be able to pay their children's school fees," she said.

However she added that the farmer will verify pesticide by dialling USSD code \*148\*52#.

"Enter verification serial number, dial Ok, then receive the verification notification. T-Hakiki is

available to ALL Mobile Network Operators and the service will be FREE of charge to farmers," she said. In addition, Quincewood's Director of Business which oversees the digital electronic pesticide system, Fatma Fernandes said that T-Hakiki will revolutionize agriculture sector and improve food security hence increase incomes of smallholder farmers and reduce the prevalence of counterfeit/adulterated agricultural inputs in Tanzania.

## Famous African disease scientist stresses need to ensure African innovations are safe from thefts

BALTIMORE, USA

AT the conference on sustaining African Healthcare Innovations held over the weekend at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health award-winning African infectious disease scientist Dr. Dougbeh Christopher Nyan has emphasized that "Africa governments need to strongly support African innovators and protect these innovations from intellectual property theft."

"Intellectual property protection of the many vibrant innovations from the African continent is key to sustainability and improvement of healthcare and life in other sectors. These ideas may have high economic values and economic benefit to the continent," Dr. Nyan added.

He said, "Africa cannot continue to allow its ideas to slip out, be reproduced and repackaged by others, and then sold back to Africa at higher cost or brought back to Africa as so-called donations. Africans need to build factories to manufacture for ourselves

and export to the world."

The conference which centered on Sustaining Healthcare Innovations in Africa was organized jointly by the African Public Health Network, Mzuzah Africa and the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The Johns Hopkins University is a major US higher institution of learning whose School of Public Health is fighting global health disparity.

Commenting further on the sidelines of the Mzuzah Convergence Africa Innovation Health conference, Dr. Nyan mentioned that "Africa has enormous talent, hence investing in producing our own ideas will yield economic benefits for the continent," adding that, "this was the vision of the late President William R. Tolbert of Liberia and is now the path of the dynamic President Paul Kagame of Rwanda."

Dougbeh Chris Nyan is the renowned inventor of the Multiplex Rapid Diagnostic Test for Infectious Diseases. The Nyan Test can simulta-



Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited's acting executive director, Kezia Katamboi (R), and Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (Tanzania) director Dr Margaret Mollel exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday after signing an agreement at the launch of innovative digital verification relating to a pesticide. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

neously detect and identify multiple infections in 10 to 40 minutes. The test is designed to be portable, less expensive, and simple to use.

It detects infections like Ebola, Zika, Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Coronaviruses, Hepatitis viruses, Dengue, West Nile virus, several neglected tropical infec-

tions, and many others.

Dr. Nyan is winner of the 2017 African Innovation Award Special Prize for Social Impact and was granted a US Patent for his invention by the United States Patent and Trademark Office for his multiplex diagnostic test.

He stressed that, as an entrepreneur who wants to make an impact, "innovation must be tailored primarily to the needs and services of the society, mainly the impoverished populations, but should not be solely focused on profit-making."



## BUSINESS



Rwanda Finance and Economic Planning minister Uzziel Ndagijimana.

## INVESTMENT

## Government increases public spending by Rwf140 billion

KIGALI

Parliament has approved the revised national budget of Rwf3.0171 trillion for the 2019/2020 fiscal year. The change represents an increase of Rwf140.1 billion or slightly over 4.8 per cent from the original Rwf2.8769 trillion budget.

While presenting to Parliament the draft 2019-2020 revised budget, the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Uzziel Ndagijimana, told Parliament that the budget review was informed by the economic and budget performance for the first six months of 2019/20 fiscal year.

He said that domestic funds are projected to increase from Rwf1,726.2 billion to Rwf1,801.9 billion, which is an increase of Rwf75.7 billion. The money, the minister said, is projected to come from tax revenues that are expected to rise thanks to the robust economic growth.

More spending on public sector salaries

Ndagijimana told lawmakers that the adjustment in the national spending is intended to cater for salaries for newly recruited health staff and promotion of medical staff, operationalization of the newly established embassies, community health-based insurance subsidies, and milk support programme under the National Early Childhood Development Program.

Rwanda's new embassies include the ones in Accra, Ghana; Rabat in Morocco, and Doha in Qatar. The revised spending also aims to finance new government institutions such as the new Ministry of Internal Security and the Rwanda Water Resources Board.

The budget increment also reflects more public financing for planned sports activities including preparations for African Nations Championship (CHAN) as well as the Basketball Africa League (BAL) 2020.

The development budget is set to receive an extra Rwf13 billion.

"I wonder what is behind the high rise of recurrent expenditure compared to the development budget which is invested in income-generating activities," MP Veneranda Nyirahirwa questioned, adding that: "Won't it continue to widen the already high

trade deficit?"

Ndagijimana said that increasing financing to the recurrent budget doesn't mean that the government was ignoring development projects. "The institutions such as embassies that the government established have to function. And, they play a critical role in attracting development projects for us," he said.

MP Theogene Munyangayo said that there was need to increase funding for the education sector by building more classrooms in order to decongest the schools. "It is not understandable how funding for secondary and primary schools accounts for 37 per cent of the funding allocated to higher learning institutions, yet the former are the foundation of education," he said.

Ndagijimana said that at least Rwf12.5 billion in the revised budget will be spent on the construction of new classrooms in both primary and secondary schools.

Volatility in the global commodities market

On the issue of trade deficit, Ndagijimana said, the country was grappling with the declining prices at international market, noting that prices for minerals, coffee, and tea went down by up to over 20 per cent.

"If such prices had not went down, the trade deficit would have narrowed satisfactorily because the volumes of our exports increased by 44.8 per cent, yet the revenues increased by 7.4 percent," he said.

The minister cited increasing production of goods and services locally, increasing exports both in terms of volumes and revenues through developing horticulture crops that do not depend on prices set and controlled at international markets as some of the strategies to deal with the volatility in the global market.

"We are putting efforts in new crops such as fruits, vegetables and flowers which are somehow independent and are not much affected at [international] markets," he said, observing that they can supplement ordinary export commodities such as coffee and tea. He added that under the Made-in-Rwanda programme, the country is engaged in producing more items domestically which can substitute some imports.

source of income for Crowd1 is the sale of membership packages to new members," the BON said - describing, without ever using the words a classic pyramid or Ponzi scheme.

The organisation's model is not sustainable, the BON said, "and will result in members of the public, especially those at the bottom of the scheme, losing their money." The BON ordered participants to immediately stop operations.

Crowd1 operates via mobile apps available in the Apple and Google Play Stores. Those solicit euro-denominated

## COMPETITIVENESS

## NIT in unique role to boost transport network and trade in Southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

In a rare move, National Institute of Transport has been given a role to promote intra-regional trade in southern Africa through implementation of a Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme in Eastern and Southern Africa (TTTFP).

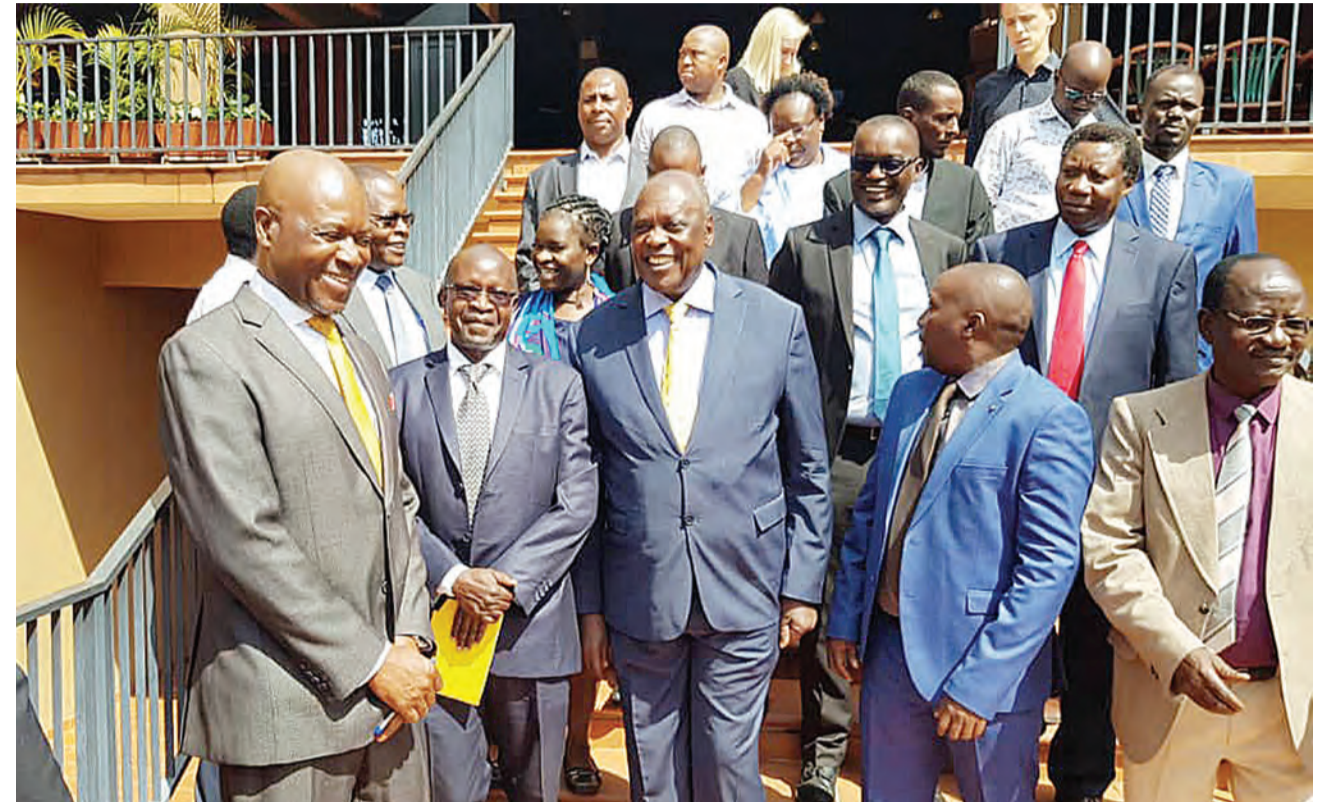
The project puts NIT at the centre of three major blocs: East African Community, Southern Africa Development Community and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

NIT's Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said in Dar es Salaam this week after presiding over a three-day TTTFP consultative workshop to validate standard design specifications for driver training school, driver testing centre, vehicle testing station and vehicle load management facilities held in Kampala, Uganda last week that the role is befitting of the new NIT.

"At the just ended meeting in Kampala, all members from SADC, COMESA and EAC agreed to have a uniform syllabus for driving schools and driver testing centres to ensure that we rely on the same standard," Prof Mganilwa said.

He added that the TTTFP's purpose is to develop and implement harmonised road transport policies, laws, regulations and standards for efficient cross-border road transport and transit networks, transport and logistics services, systems and procedures in the tripartite region.

He further said that members also validate the vehicle testing station and weigh station standards. "In this



National Institute of Transport Rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa (in red tie second line) with other participants of a three-day TTTFP consultative workshop held in Kampala last week. Photo courtesy of NIT.

agenda, participants wanted to see all member countries having vehicle overloading control harmonised regulations, standards and uniform management and control systems to support weigh-bridge developments and permit inter-state coordination," Prof Mganilwa added.

The NIT Rector noted that the TTTFP is relevant for the Agenda 2030 as it contributes primarily to the

progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goal number 9 which advocated the building of resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation but also promotes progress towards quality.

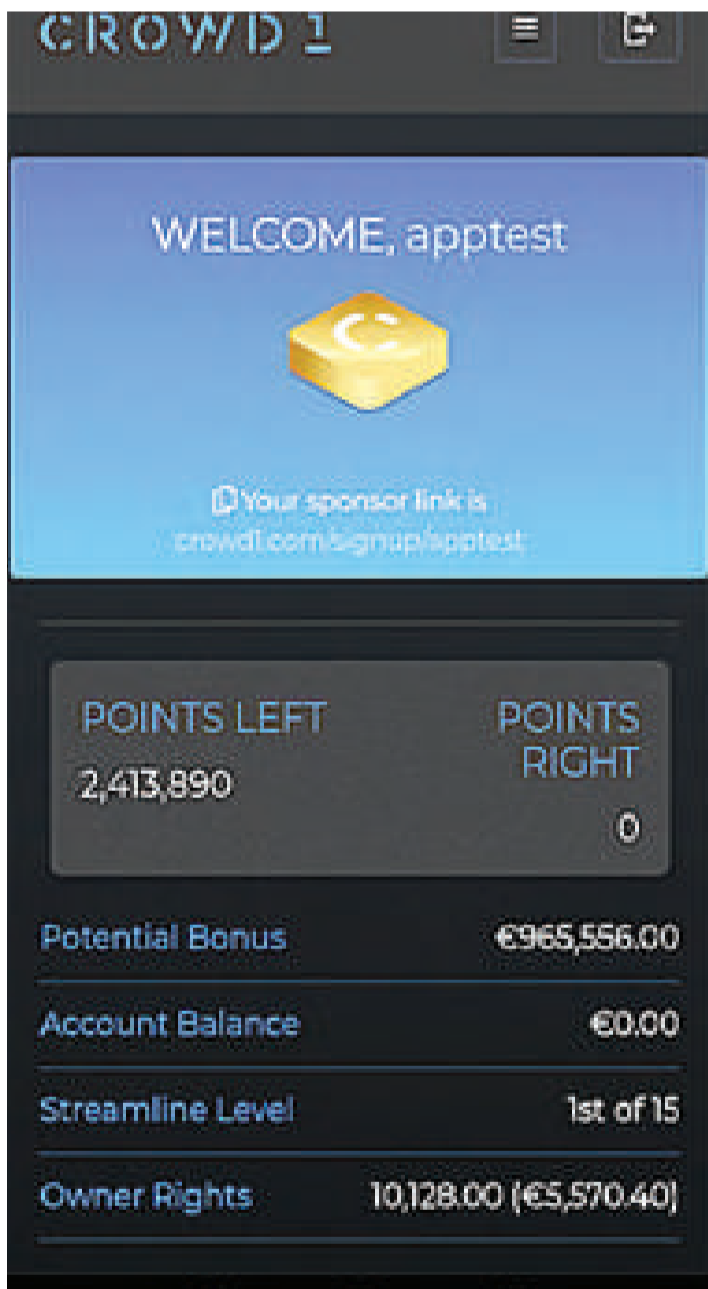
"The program will also support economic development and human well-being, as well as facilitate the development of a more competitive, integrated and liberalised re-

gional road transport market in the East and Southern African region," he pointed out.

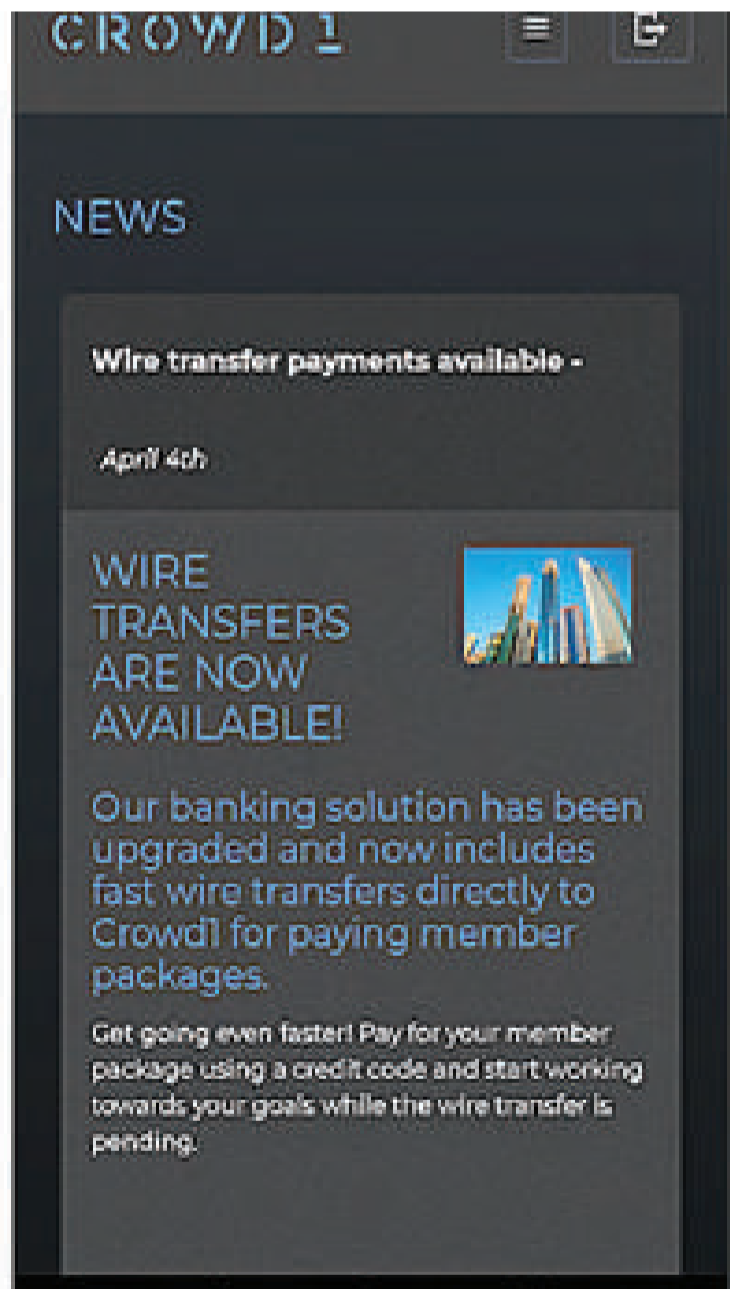
The NIT chief disclosed that the TTTFP will further provide interventions toward addressing trade and transport challenges as well as improving regional competitiveness and industrialisation on the continent.

The TTTFP will assist all the continental countries of the tripartite (COMESA, EAC

and SADC) to become integrated through similar transport and logistics in movement of cargo and people. In addition, the Djibouti, Northern, Central, Dar es Salaam, Nacala, Beira, Maputo, North South and Lobito corridors which serve the 12 semi- or fully landlocked countries amongst the 21 participating countries in the Tripartite region, have also been included.



The Crowd1 app, as advertised on the Google Play Store.



## ILLEGITIMATE

## Namibia imposes ban on Crowd1 get-rich-quick pyramid

WINDHOEK

Crowd1, a get-rich-quick operation that appears to be hugely successful in South Africa, has been banned from Namibia.

On Friday the Bank of Namibia (BON) declared Crowd1's operations to be an undesirable practice, which in terms of that country's laws could mean a R1 million fine or 10 years in prison for anyone who continues to promote it.

"Crowd1 does not sell tangible products or render any service of essential value, but the primary

payments ranging from the equivalent of R1,600 up to more than R40,000 for top-end "packages", which then apparently makes members eligible to receive part of the sign-up payments of new members they recruit. (In one of many possible complex scenarios, anyone who signs up four more people for the cheapest package within 14 days of joining is promised an immediate R2,000 bonus.)

What, exactly, Crowd1 supposedly does to earn money changes from explanation to explanation. It has claimed to sell software created by

foreign developers, so cutting out Google and Facebook as advertisers, but there is no sign that it does so at any significant scale. It has also both claimed to be involved in sports betting - with visual references to sport in South Africa and Kenya, while insisting it is not a gambling company.

Crowd1 sports betting In South Africa Crowd1 representatives have said that it offers "a business everyone will understand" and described that as a business model tailored for the network economy and

crowd thinking" - seemingly without any further detail or explanation.

On its website, the organisation seems to suggest that it is building an audience for future, undefined crowdfunding opportunities, and will act only as an education provider and filter for cases where "opportunity knocks."

Crowd1 advertised a head office in Spain and has a registered corporate presence in Cyprus, but much of its publicity is first created in Russia. It is not clear how much money South Africans have at stake in Crowd1, but the scale of its operations - and the source

of its web traffic - suggest very large amounts.

Crowd1 recently launched operations in the Philippines and in Turkey, and has sought to establish itself in other parts of Africa as well as South America. But according to an estimate from Alexa, a unit of Amazon, its website drew nearly 30% of its traffic from South Africa over the last 30 days. The second biggest source of visitors was Russia, at 8.5% of the total. According to a Crowd1 video it drew 10,000 people to its South African launch in November.

## DIGITIZATION

# Airtel Money-Mastercard partnership expected to enhance digital payments



Airtel Money director, Isaack Nchunda (C) congratulates Mastercard director and country manager for East Africa, Frank Molla, after unveiling the partnership in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Selcom development manager, Benjamin Mpamo. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

By Guardian Reporter

**A**IRTEL Money subscribers in the markets can now use Mastercard QR Code to make payments through their mobile phones thanks to an agreement made between the two companies yesterday.

In a statement, Airtel Tanzania Limited said its partnership which also involves Selcom, will allow customers to scan and pay through Mastercard QR Code from the newly updated Airtel Money application dubbed, 'My Airtel Africa App.'

The mobile phone services company said the partnership is aimed at transforming digital payments in the domestic market by enabling customers to make safe and secure mobile money payments online, and in shops.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch, Airtel Money Director, Isaack Nchunda said their platform is not only a payment solution, but also a vehicle with a range of digital financial op-

tions where customers have access to easier and faster transactions on their mobile phones.

"Airtel has been developing innovative and unique products and services that are in line with the current and fast developing lifestyle of our customers. We have been working extra hard to enhance and promote financial inclusion in our country, which is also one of the main economic drivers advocated the government," Nchunda said.

"With the launch of the Mastercard QR and virtual card digital payment solutions, we are strengthening our offerings to ensure customers have safe, quick and convenient payment options on their mobile phones," Nchunda added.

Commenting on the partnership, Mastercard's Director and Country Manager for East Africa, Frank Molla said the deal will continue strengthening the digital partnership strategy with Airtel in Tanzania.

"Our aim is to offer easy,

convenient and secure payment solutions that accelerate Tanzania's digital transformation and advance financial inclusion. Airtel's mobile money application now provides access to Mastercard's global network of merchants, and customers without a bank account will also be able to make online payments globally with their Airtel Money Mastercard virtual card," Molla added.

Selcom's Executive Director, Sameer Hirji said Airtel Money has contributed greatly towards financial inclusion and Selcom is pleased to have been a part of the process enabling almost 50,000 merchants to receive payments digitally without the customer incurring any costs.

"Selcom looks to further this initiative through the financial empowerment of the merchant by creating access to finance to make it possible for the merchant to borrow to grow - whether it is through the provision of much-needed cash injections or setting up mechanisms to mitigate against shocks," Hirji noted.

## WARNING

## Tax increases would spell gloom for SA retail stocks

JOHANNESBURG

Retail stocks will likely bear the brunt of tax increases, should South African Finance Minister Tito Mboweni target consumers with revenue-raising measures in his Budget Wednesday.

Consumer spending power in South Africa is under severe strain, with confidence at a two-year low against a backdrop of a 30% unemployment rate and an economy that hasn't achieved a 2% annual growth rate since 2013. Economists see an outside chance that Mboweni will increase the value-added tax rate, with such a move predicted by five out of 19 surveyed by Bloomberg.

The blow from a higher VAT rate would be felt more by clothing retailers than by food stores as consumers adjust, said Henne Herselman, a derivatives trader at Anchor Private Clients.

Increasing taxes could further reduce consumer spending and perpetuate the economic malaise, said Sandy McGregor, a money manager at Allan Gray. Raising the VAT rate is politically unpalatable, while increasing personal tax rates may accelerate emigration.

The market hasn't priced in a VAT increase and a decision to do that

could see retailers take a knock, said Investec Wealth & Investment Chief Investment Strategist Chris Holdsworth. Higher taxes would translate to lower disposable income, which would filter through to stocks, said Casparus Treurnicht, a money manager at Gryphon Asset Management. If this happens, "expect depressed valuation levels for longer."

More broadly, investors will be looking to Mboweni for signs of a plan to rein in debt and stave off the loss of South Africa's last investment-grade credit rating in a review by Moody's Investors Service due next month. Bailouts for power utility Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. and other state-owned companies, plus a wage bill that accounts for 35% of spending have contributed to pressure on government finances. "The key objective of this budget should be to table a plausible plan to manage the wage bill and interim funding for Eskom," McGregor said by email.

For Investec's Holdsworth, the primary concern for investors is the outlook for debt as a ratio of gross domestic product. He cited Treasury projections showing debt surging to 81% of GDP in the 2028 fiscal year unless urgent action is taken. "The first thing

## CHARITY

## Bank donates desks, medical equipment worth 20m/- to Morogoro, Simiyu

By Guardian Reporter

SEVERAL public schools and health facilities received a donation of desks, tables, chairs and medical equipment all valued at 20m/- in Morogoro and Simiyu regions.

Meatu District Commissioner, Dr Joseph Chilongani and his Kilomboer peer, James Ihunyo thanked NMB Bank Plc's management for the donation which will help improve both education and health services in public facilities.

"I urge the public and those responsible to make sure this donation is utilised as intended to benefit majority of the people who are served by public facilities," said Dr Chilongani who also called on the public to support NMB commercially because it ploughs back part of its profit to benefit the public.

Seconding his Meatu peer, Ihunyo said NMB's continued support of government efforts to invest in education and health, needs recognition and appreciation. "Your support has come at the right time when our health and education facilities are overwhelmed with increasing numbers of people seeking services," Ihunyo noted.

Mwandoya Health Centre medical officer in charge, Dr Julius Matongo



NMB Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magesse.

also paid tribute to NMB's leadership saying the donation will save lives of vulnerable children who frequent the facility. "Our health centre had groups such as women and

only two labour ward beds which meant that pregnant women coming to deliver had to wait in a queue for their turn," said Dr Matongo who pointed out that the two labour ward beds donated will reduce the shortage.

NMB Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magesse pledged continued support to education, health and disaster relief by the bank because management allocates resources to meet such demands annually.

"In fact our investment here is simply to return part of our profits earned commercially to public services which cater for the majority of the people," Magesse said while urging the public to continue supporting NMB's commercial activities which results into profits. He said the donation is one percent of net profit made by the bank last year which actually comes from the public which does business with NMB. The donated items included desks, tables, chairs, beds, mattresses and bed-sheets.

## EXPANSION

## Safaricom to bid for Ethiopia telco licence come this April

NAIROBI

Kenya's dominant telecom operator Safaricom plans to officially make an offer to the Ethiopian government for one of two available telecommunications operating licenses in April 2020.

In November 2019, ITWeb Africa reported that Safaricom and Vodacom planned to submit a joint bid to enter Ethiopia. At the presentation of Safaricom's financial performance for the six months ended 30 September 2019, interim chief executive officer Michael Joseph said Ethiopia has a market entry fee capped at US\$1-billion and the company will require an additional US\$1-billion investment in project

infrastructure.

More recently Joseph reiterated that the company remains in search of partnerships and has not yet finalised its list of prospective allies. "We do know the investment to build the network in Ethiopia will be big, so all of us will have to borrow to invest. The composition of the consortium will be on your capability of taking on debt and your willingness to take a risk," he said.

Joseph added that members of the consortium will have to be finalised before Safaricom can reach a decision on the source of funding for its bid, and it could take up to ten years before the investment in the East African country will become profitable.

## CSR

## Total supports business support and orientation centre in Mozambique

MAPUTO

The Total-led Mozambique LNG Project disbursed around US \$ 200 thousand to support the rehabilitation and resourcing of Centro de Apoio e Orientação ao Empresário de Pemba (Business Support and Orientation Centre of Pemba) with computer equipment and office supplies.

The support for the Centro de Apoio e Orientação ao Empresário de Pemba (CoRE) results from the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Project and the Institute for the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (IPEME) that foresees the use of CoREs in Maputo and in Pemba for information, training and assistance to small and medium-sized Mozambican companies.

The now rehabilitated CoRE was inaugurated on Monday by the Governor of Cabo Delgado, Valige Tauabo, who declared: "we inaugurate this space thinking in a structural and long-term transformation in our production system, led by our creative and resilient SMEs, with the support of all Cabo Delgado partners and friends towards mass certification. We re-



Valige Tauabo, Governor of Cabo Delgado Province.

iterate our trust in the attention of Total and partners in realising opportunities for local SMEs". According to

Tauabo, Total has been demonstrating "a firm commitment to the SMEs in Cabo Delgado."

In his turn, the Deputy Director of IPEME, José Libombo, said that CoRE is "a platform for providing information, training and assistance to small and medium-sized Mozambican enterprises". Libombo also stated that the rehabilitation and modernisation of CoRE is part of the joint work that IPEME and Total have carried out and that includes other activities, such as the pilot certification program, which currently covers 40 Mozambican SMEs, 20 in Maputo and 20 in Cabo Delgado, as well as seminars on health, safety and environment at work and on business opportunities.

In his turn, the Total's Country Chair and vice President for Mozambique LNG Project, Ronan Bescond, stated: "As a major energy operator, it is our responsibility to contribute to the development of our host countries, particularly in the regions where our sites are located. We have made shared develop-

ment an integral part of our business model. It is a principle that reinforces our local integration, contributing in a sustainable way to the socio-economic development of our host regions."

Bescond added that "maximising the participation of local content in our project is of crucial importance. It is part of our economic model and responds to the priorities stated by the Government of Mozambique and other stakeholders. We hope, through CoRE and other ongoing actions, to contribute to the development of Mozambican companies in order to increase their competitiveness to access the opportunities offered by our project."

The Project expects to award contracts of up to \$2.5 billion to Mozambican owned or registered companies over construction period. This represents more than one third of the total onshore contract, with the bulk of the rest being spent on highly specialised, technical goods and services that cannot currently be sourced in Mozambique.

PESSIMISM

Apple's warning on coronavirus expected to benefit Samsung

NEW YORK

Samsung Electronics stands to be a major beneficiary of the China production problems announced by rival Apple Inc on Monday, reaping the rewards of a decade-long bet on low-cost smartphone manufacturing in Vietnam.

its biggest facilities and even diverted production to start making face-masks and medical clothing. Manufacturing facilities have begun to reopen, but they are ramping up more slowly than expected, Apple said on Monday.

in demand that is hitting Apple and others. "Samsung is better positioned to weather the virus fallout than its formidable rivals such as Huawei and Apple," a person with knowledge of Samsung's supply chain told Reuters.



The new Galaxy S20 phones – all three of them.

border controls, according to Hong Sun, vice chairman of Korea Chamber of Business in Vietnam. The issues have since been resolved, Sun said, but risks remain if Chinese parts suppliers cannot get back to work.

PARTNERSHIP

Mubadala will invest €1bn in French investment fund, French finance minister says

ABU DHABI

Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's strategic investment arm, will invest 1 billion euros (Dh3.98bn) in the French investment fund that will be managed by the country's national investment bank, Bpifrance.

The LAC I fund aims to raise €10bn that will be earmarked for investments in about 15 listed companies taken from a large pool of France's leading corporations over the next decade. "Mubadala has a strong track record of performance in France and we continue to see significant investment opportunities in the market," said Waleed Al Mokarrab Al Muhairi, chief executive of Mubadala's alternative investments and infrastructure platform and Mubadala's deputy group chief executive.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM. Includes a grid of TV listings for various channels like ITV and Capital.

CAPITAL. Thursday 20 Feb, Friday 21 Feb, Saturday 22 Feb, Sunday 23 Feb. Includes a grid of TV listings for the Capital channel.

CONCERN

Huawei downplaying coronavirus impact on sales of its smartphones

BEIJING

The outbreak of the coronavirus has dented the smartphone industry, with Apple warning that it expected a hit to revenues thanks to factory shutdowns and store closures.

re-opened. He added: "But still, some of the factories in Wuhan have not resumed their work yet. So according to the current situation we can say that our assessment is that in the short term future there will not be much impact on our supply chain capability and manufacturing."





WORLD NEWS

# Trump says US, India clinch US\$3-billion defence deal

NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that India will buy US\$3 billion worth of military equipment, including attack helicopters, as the two countries deepen defense and commercial ties.

India and the United States were also making progress on a big trade deal, Trump said. Negotiators from the two sides have wrangled for months to narrow differences on farm goods, medical devices, digital trade and new tariffs.

Trump was accorded a massive reception in Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state on Monday, with more than 100,000 people filling into a cricket stadium for a "Namaste Trump" rally.

Yesterday, Trump sat down for one-on-one talks with Modi followed by delegation-level meetings to try and move forward on issues that have divided them, mainly the festering trade dispute.

After those meetings, Trump said his visit had been productive with the conclusion of deals to buy helicopters for the Indian military. India is buying 24 SeaHawk helicopters from Lockheed Martin equipped with Hellfire missiles worth US\$2.6 billion and also

plans a follow-on order for six Apache helicopters.

India is modernizing its military and has increasingly turned to the United States over traditional supplier, Russia.

Trump said the two countries were also making progress on a trade deal, which had been an area of growing friction between them.

"Our teams have made tremendous progress on a comprehensive trade agreement and I'm optimistic we can reach a deal that will be of great importance to both countries," said Trump in remarks made alongside Modi.

The two countries had initially planned to produce a "mini deal", but that proved elusive.

Instead both sides are now aiming for a bigger package, including possibly a free trade agreement.

Trump said he also discussed with Modi, whom he called his "dear friend", the importance of a secure 5G telecoms network in India, ahead of a planned airwaves auction by the country.

Trump described Monday's rally in Ahmedabad and again praised Modi and spoke of the size of the crowd, claiming there were "thousands of people outside trying to get in."



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) shakes hands with US President Donald Trump before a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday. (AFP)

"I would even imagine they were there more for you than for me. I would hope so," he told Modi. "The people love you...every time I mentioned your name, they would cheer."

In New Delhi, Trump was given a formal state welcome on Tuesday at the red sandstone presidential palace with a 21-cannon gun salute and a red coated honor guard on horseback on

a smoggy day. HUG GETS TIGHTER

India is one of the few big countries in the world where Trump's personal approval rating is above 50 percent and Trump's trip has got wall-to-wall coverage with commentators saying he had hit all the right notes on his first official visit to the world's biggest democracy.

They were also effusive in their

praise for Modi for pulling off a spectacular reception for Trump.

"Modi-Trump hug gets tighter," ran a headline in the Times of India.

But in a sign of the underlying political tensions in India, violent protests broke out in Delhi on Monday over a new citizenship law that critics say discriminates against Muslims and is a further attempt to undermine the secular foundations of India's democracy. They say the law is part of a pattern of divisiveness being followed by Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

At least 7 people were killed and about 150 injured in the clashes that took place in another part of the capital, away from the center of the city where Modi is hosting Trump.

In his speech on Monday, Trump extolled India's rise as a stable and prosperous democracy as one of the achievements of the century. "You have done it as a tolerant country. And you have done it as a great, free country," he said.

Delhi has also been struggling with high air pollution and on Tuesday the air quality was moderately poor at 193 on a government index that measures pollution up to a scale of 500. The WHO considers anything above 60 as unhealthy. **Agencies**

## Netanyahu to press ahead with E-1 settlement project in West Bank

JERUSALEM



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he was moving forward with a plan to build some 3,500 homes for Jewish settlers in one of the most sensitive areas of the occupied West Bank, a project frozen after international criticism.

Palestinian and foreign opponents of the construction plan for the E-1 area in the West Bank had cautioned that Israeli housing in the corridor's barren hills could bisect the West Bank, cut off Palestinians from Jerusalem and further dim their hopes for a contiguous state.

"I have given instructions to immediately publish for deposit the plan to build 3,500 housing units in E-1," Netanyahu said, using an administrative term for the first phase of a planning process.

"This had been delayed for six and a half years," he said in a speech, six days before a national election in which the right-wing Likud party leader is seeking to shore up backing from settlers and their supporters.

The E-1 plan would expand the large Jewish settlement of Maale Adumim, effectively connecting it to Jerusalem, about a 15-minute drive away.

On Feb. 20, Netanyahu announced he was reviving a project to build 3,000 new settler homes at Givat Hamatos in the West Bank, on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Palestinians and much of the world view Israel's settlements in the West Bank, captured in the 1967 Middle East war, as illegal under international law. The United States and Israel dispute this. **Agencies**

## African campaigners root for inclusion of older persons in sustainability agenda

NAIROBI

The rapidly growing population of older persons in Africa should be engaged in the formulation of policies and programs aimed at advancing the continent's socio-economic development, campaigners said on Monday.

Roseline Kihumba, acting head of Network Development and Coordination at the global charity HelpAge International,

said that African governments should prioritize affirmative action as a means to promote the involvement of older people in the sustainability agenda.

"The implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063 must meet the needs and rights of older persons," Kihumba said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

She said that realignment of policy and legal frameworks is required to promote the well-

fare of Africa's aging population that has borne the brunt of poverty, exclusion, neglect and limited access to basic services like health.

The plight of older persons is expected to dominate panel discussions at the Sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development slated for this week in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Delegates including policy-makers and grassroots cam-

paginers will review progress African countries have made in the implementation of treaties aimed at advancing the social and economic rights of older persons.

Kihumba said that Africa's senior citizens, estimated at 6.3 percent of the continent's population, continue to receive minimal attention during the formulation of national development programs.

"This has left majority of older

persons living in abject poverty, experience unabated abuse, violence and barriers in accessing services due to ageism and discrimination at family, community and societal levels," said Kihumba.

African leaders in 2016 adopted a continental charter on the rights of older persons whose ratification is expected to end abuse and discrimination against this demographic.

Kihumba said the African Union Charter on the rights of older persons if implemented in full, will revitalize policy, legal, funding and infrastructural tools required to improve the well-being of senior citizens. **Xinhua**

**This has left majority of older persons living in abject poverty**

## Recovery rate of novel coronavirus pneumonia on sharp rise

BRUSSELS

By People's Daily

The recovery rate from the novel coronavirus infection in China rose from 1.3 percent on Jan. 27 to 10.6 percent this Tuesday Feb. 11. As of Feb. 12, nearly 5,000 patients had been discharged from hospitals across the country.

"The number of discharged patients has been kept above 500 and rising each day since Feb. 7, which is a very positive signal," said Guo Yanhong, an official with the Medical Administration Bureau, National Health Commission (NHC) of China on Thursday-Feb. 13. The prevention and control of the epidemic started taking effect, she added.

Experts analyzed 597 discharged cases and found that 90 percent of the patients had mild symptoms, while the rest of them were once in severe and critical conditions. Guo introduced, adding that the average number of days they spent in hospitals stood at around 10.

Guo noted that 92 percent of them received antiviral therapy or the combination of antiviral therapy and symptomatic treatment in the early phase, and the active respiratory and circulatory support also achieved very favorable results.

A 59-year-old woman named Wu was one of the discharged patients who had received treatment



A woman is discharged from the "Fang Cang" Hospital at a cultural building complex dubbed "Wuhan Livingroom" on Feb. 11. She is among the first group of patients discharged from the hospital. Photo by Zhang Wujun, People's Daily

at Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University for 12 days and left on Feb. 11. When leaving the hospital, the woman wished an early discharge for all the patients there.

Wu had a fever in late January, and her body temperature reached 39 degree Celsius. "I'm lucky, because the doctor said I could have lost my life if I were not sent to the hospital timely," she told People's Daily, adding that she felt like she had a rebirth.

According to Chen Liqin, head nurse of the infectious disease department of the Renmin Hospital of Wuhan University, the CT scanning images of Wu showed viral pneumonia in both of her lungs, and the patient suffered typical symptoms of the novel coronavirus pneumonia (NCP) such as

fever, coughs, chest distress and anhelation.

After the medical staff took antiviral and anti-infective therapies and adopted comprehensive treatment plans to help Wu increase immunity and nutrition intake, the woman gradually turned in stable condition and showed signs of recovery.

After treatment, Wu had another CT scan and her nucleic acid test showed a negative result twice. She was later discharged from the hospital by the doctors.

"I'm very thankful for the doctors who saved me," Wu expressed her gratitude on her way home from the hospital on Feb. 11. The patients in the hospital all sent their congratulations after learning Wu's recovery, and en-

couraged each other to keep fighting against the novel coronavirus.

On the afternoon of the same day, Zhang Fengling, a woman who received treatment at the "Fang Cang" makeshift hospital in Wuhan's Hongshan Gymnasium, was also discharged. She was picked up by her husband Li Jun and 9-year-old son who waited eagerly at the gate of the gymnasium.

Zhang was diagnosed with the NCP on the first day of the Chinese New Year and sent to the freshly built "Fang Cang" makeshift hospital on Feb. 6. After days of quarantined treatment and rest, she was cured.

Another 27 patients were discharged from the hospital together with Zhang that day. The earliest hospitalized one of them was sent to the hospital on Feb. 6, and the latest on Feb. 9. The youngest one of them was 25 years old while the oldest 69.

When leaving the hospital, Zhang took the patients to shout slogans - "Go, Wuhan! Go, China! Thank the medical staff and our country!" That's what she wanted to say the most for days.

Wan Jun, the director of the makeshift hospital would send his congratulations to every discharged patient when the latter leaves the hospital. Zhang was the first to step out of the facility, and immediately saw her husband and son among the crowds outside waiting. **People's Daily**

## Lavrov censures Europe for turning blind eye to war against monuments

GENEVA

THE European nations are turning a blind eye to a blasphemous war against the monuments honoring heroes in the fight against Nazism, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a session of the UN Human Rights Council yesterday.

"A campaign to falsify history is taking increasingly cynical shapes. Civilized Europe is shyly silent in witnessing a blasphemous war against monuments and memorials in honor of those, who sacrificed their lives to save the peoples of the continent from extermination.

They also stay mum on the moves to memorialize murderers and criminals involved in putting the theory of racial superiority into life," the foreign minister said.

Lavrov (pictured) also pointed to a tendency growing across the globe "to revise not only the decision of the Nuremberg trials, but the internationally recognized results of WWII in general," stating that these attempts are made for the sake of mercenary interests.

"It is necessary to stop this orgy of forgetfulness. Victory in World War II must be declared the historical heritage of humankind," Lavrov emphasized. **Spread of Nazi ideology**



Western countries are green-lighting the spread of Nazi ideology, namely, by refusing to combat the rise of extremist groups propagating the ideas of Nazism, racial intolerance and xenophobia in the Baltic states, Sergey Lavrov claimed.

"We have been calling on the West to influence their proteges [the Baltic states]. In response, we hear bashful statements on the protection of freedom of speech and peaceful assemblies," Lavrov said.

"In this way, Western democracies actually greenlight the spread of Nazi ideology, the glorification of Nazi collaborators

and the torchlight processions under the flag of Waffen-SS. Such 'political correctness' essentially justifies misanthropic ideology."

The Russian foreign minister pointed out that cases of restriction of media freedom, repression of dissent and violation of the rights of minorities are a normal occurrence in the Baltic states.

"Extremist parties, movements and groups that spread Nazi ideology, the ideas of racial superiority, discrimination and xenophobia, are feeling more at ease," the minister concluded. **Agencies**

## Research and Innovation Forum on novel coronavirus held in Geneva

THE Research and Innovation Forum on novel coronavirus was convened in Geneva, Switzerland on Feb. 11 and 12.

Co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness, the forum was convened in line with the WHO R&D Blueprint - a strategy that coordinates global R&D forces to discover the research focus of the novel coronavirus, discuss therapeutic schemes and promote development of vaccines.

Over 400 experts and deputies from relevant organizations attended the forum, both in person

and virtually. They believe that the focus of the short-term research should be developing easier means of diagnosis, providing the best treatment plans for patients, and the study on epidemiology. The development of vaccines and drugs shall be the focus of the mid-term research, they said.

Attendants to the forum praised China's measures and responsibility in containing the epidemic, saying the international society should join hands to curb and eliminate the epidemic as early as possible.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus extended his greeting to Chinese scientists

participating in the event through Internet in his opening remarks at the forum. He said the WHO stands with the Chinese people in solidarity, and wishes them courage, patience, success and good health in these extremely trying circumstances.

Multiple consensus were achieved at the forum, including naming the novel coronavirus pneumonia the "COVID-19". Tedros noted that naming the disease can avoid inaccuracy or stigma, and offer a standard format for other coronavirus epidemics that will possibly occur.

Facing the challenge posed by the COVID-2019, the WHO and

attendants to the forum called on the international society to work with solidarity and collaboration, and shift major focus on R&D and epidemic prevention.

The director-general noted that the international society should use the window of opportunity and try its best to contain the COVID-2019, as there are still not many infections outside China. He called on the public to enhance protection and stressed to avoid overreaction.

Attendants to the forum agreed to cope with the epidemic with solidarity. Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme Michael Ryan said

that the WHO doesn't recommend measures to restrict travel or trade. Risks exist everywhere, and the key to cope with them is to match strategies with the level of them.

It is learnt that the first batch of experts organized by WHO have arrived in China to assist with controlling the epidemic. They are specialized in multiple areas such as clinic management, virology, vaccine and drug development, ecological investigation, epidemiology, public health and risk communication.

At the forum, the WHO recognized the decisive and forceful measures taken by China which

helped avoid massive spread of the epidemic in other parts of the world. It believes that it is because of China's quick identification of the pathogen and sharing of the sequence that larger spread was avoided.

Meanwhile, the WHO called on national leaders to demonstrate strong leadership and political will when dealing with public health challenges, stressing that China's performance was worth learning from.

Director Carlos Morel of the Center for Technological Development in Health under Brazil's Ministry of Health told People's Daily that the Chinese government and

Chinese people have made huge sacrifices in and contribution to combating the epidemic. He said that China has earned a valuable window of opportunity for the international society, adding that the world would have faced more pressure were it not for China's decisive measures.

China's quick response to the epidemic left a deep impression on Marion Koopmans, head of the Viroscience department of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. She appreciated the efforts made by Chinese scientists who isolated and sequenced the virus in two weeks and shared it with the world. **People's Daily**

## SPORT



A woman removes her mask before taking pictures with the mascots of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo, Feb. 18, 2020. (AP Photo)

## IOC senior member: 3 months to decide fate of Tokyo Olympics

TKOYO

DICK Pound, the longest-serving member of the IOC, estimates there's a three-month window to decide the fate of the Tokyo Olympics, which are being threatened by the fast-spreading virus from China.

Pound, in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, did not sound alarmist. But he did speak frankly about the risks facing the Olympics, which open July 24.

Pound has been an International Olympic Committee member since 1978, 13 years longer than current President Thomas Bach.

"You could certainly go to two months out if you had to," Pound said, which would mean putting off a decision until late May and hoping the virus is under control. "A lot of things have to start happening. You've got to start ramping up your security, your food, the Olympic Village, the hotels. The media folks will be in there building their studios."

And if it got to the point of not going ahead, Pound speculated "you're probably looking at a cancellation."

"This is the new war and you have to face it. In and around that time, I'd say folks are going to have to ask: 'Is this under sufficient control that we can be confident about going to Tokyo, or not?'"

China on Tuesday reported 508 new cases and another 71 deaths, 68 of them in the central city of Wuhan, where the epidemic was first detected in December. The updates bring mainland China's totals to 77,658 cases and 2,663 deaths. South Korea now has the second-most cases in the world with 977, including 10 deaths. Clusters of the illness are now appearing in the Middle East and Europe. This could signal a new stage in the spread of the virus with four deaths reported in Japan.

Pound encouraged athletes to keep training. About 11,000 are expected for the Olympics, and another 4,400 for the Paralympics, which open on Aug. 25.

"As far as we all know you're going to be in Tokyo," Pound said. "All indications are at this stage that it will be business as usual. So keep focused on your sport and be sure that the IOC is not going to send you into a pandemic situation."

The modern Olympics dating from 1896 have only been cancelled during wartime, and faced boycotts in 1976 in Montreal, in 1980 in Moscow and 1984 in Los Angeles – all in Pound's memory.

The Olympics in 1940 were to be in Tokyo, but were called off because of Japan's war with China and World War II.

Pound called uncertainty a major problem and repeated the IOC's stance – that it's depending on consultations with the World Health Organization, a United Nations body, to make any move. So far, the games are on.

"It's a big, big, big decision and you just can't take it until you have reliable facts on which to base it," Pound said. He said whatever advice the IOC is now getting, "it doesn't call for cancellation or postponement of the Olympics. You just don't postpone something on the size and scale of the Olympics. There's so many moving parts, so many countries and different seasons, and competitive seasons, and television seasons. You can't just say, we'll do it in October."

## Public memorial service in Los Angeles remembers the private Kobe Bryant

LOS ANGELES

KOBE Bryant's wife remembered him as a devoted father and husband who arrived early for school pickups and wrote heartfelt cards and letters.

Rob Pelinka, Bryant's longtime agent and close friend, recalled his final texts from the NBA superstar minutes before he was killed last month in a helicopter crash. Bryant was attempting to secure an internship for the daughter of another friend who was sitting with him in the chopper.

Michael Jordan called Bryant "a little brother" and said that when he died, "a piece of me died."

Bryant's athletic achievements were only part of the reason roughly 20,000 people gathered Monday for a public memorial service honoring him at Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. The event offered another chance to celebrate Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, and the other seven victims of the crash with tears, memories and laughs.

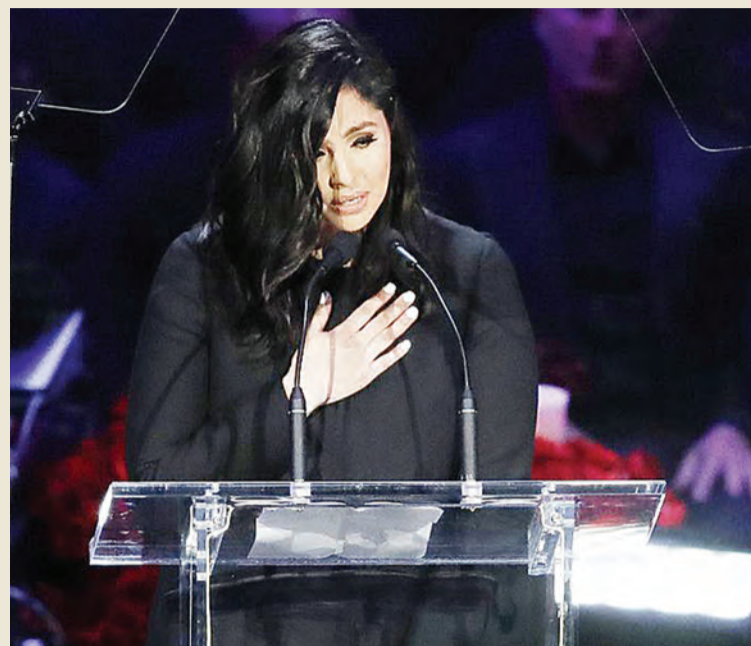
Los Angeles already knew Bryant was much more than a basketball icon. His friends and family told the world.

"I couldn't see him as a celebrity, nor just an incredible basketball player," Vanessa Bryant said. "He was my sweet husband and the beautiful father of my children. He was mine. He was my everything."

The ceremony included musical numbers by Beyoncé, Alicia Keys and Christina Aguilera. The event concluded with a screening of "Dear Basketball," Bryant's Academy Award-winning short film about reluctantly saying goodbye to his passion upon his retirement from the Lakers in 2016.

Fans, many wearing Bryant's jersey or team colors, filled the seats at the arena where Bryant played for the final 17 seasons of a two-decade NBA career spent entirely with Los Angeles' most popular sports franchise.

The mourners included Lakers legends Jerry West, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson and Pau Gasol. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver joined Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Phil Jackson, Dwyane Wade and dozens of current NBA players. Celebrities such as



Vanessa Bryant speaks during a celebration of life for her husband Kobe Bryant and daughter Gianna Monday, Feb. 24, 2020, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

Kanye West, Kim Kardashian, Jennifer Lopez and Alex Rodriguez also attended.

After Jimmy Kimmel welcomed the crowd, Vanessa Bryant provided a poignant window into the family's life with Gianna and her three sisters – Natalia, Bianka and Capri. She emphasized Kobe Bryant's paternal devotion, which had only grown after his retirement from the Lakers.

"God knew they couldn't be on this Earth without each other," said Vanessa Bryant, who had been with Kobe since 1999. "He had to bring them home to have them together. Babe, you take care of our Gigi. And I got Nati, Bibi and Coco. We're still the best team."

Vanessa Bryant was followed on the podium by basketball stars Diana Taurasi and Sabrina Ionescu and University of Connecticut women's coach Geno Auriemma. Kobe Bryant was a passionate advocate for women's basketball, and Gigi Bryant was a promising young player who aspired to play at UConn.

"If I represented the present of the women's game, Gigi represented the future, and Kobe knew it," said Ionescu, the Oregon star who was mentored by Bryant.

Pelinka referred to the day of the crash as "when the axis of the world seemed to shift forever, for all of us." Pelinka was also Gigi Bryant's godfather, and the families were close.

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er, for all of us." Pelinka was also Gigi Bryant's godfather, and the families were close.

There are few places in the world that could think of gearing up facilities in that short time to put something on," Pound said.

London mayoral candidate Shaun Bailey has suggested the British capital as an alternative. Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike suggested that was an inappropriate offer, using the virus as political campaign fodder.

Pound said he would not favor a dispersal of events over various venues because that wouldn't "constitute an Olympic Games. You'd end up with a series of world championships." He said it would be very difficult to spread around all these sports in a 17-day period with only a few month's notice.

Staying in Tokyo but moving it back a few months would be unlikely to satisfy North American broadcasters, whose schedules are full in the fall with American football, college football, European soccer, basketball, baseball, and ice hockey. Of course, other world broadcasters also have jammed schedules.

"It would be tough to get the kind of blanket coverage that people expect around the Olympic Games," Pound said. "It's certainly tougher than it would have been in 1964 in Tokyo when you didn't have the saturation sports schedule on television."

How about delaying for a year, but staying in Tokyo? Japan is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, although a national audit board says the country is spending twice that much.

"Then you have to ask if you can hold the bubble together for an extra year," Pound said. "Then of course you have to fit all of this into the entire international sports schedule."

Pound said the IOC has been building up an "emergency fund" for such circumstances, reported to be about \$1 billion. That could fund international sports federations who depend on income from the IOC to operate – and the IOC itself.

"This would be what you normally call a force majeure," said Pound, a Canadian lawyer by training, using the legal phrase for "unforeseeable circumstances."

"It's not an insurable risk and it's not one that can be attributed to one or the other of the parties. So everybody takes their lumps. There would be a lack of revenue on the Olympic Movement side."

He said broadcasters may have their own insurance that would "mitigate some of the losses."

About 73% of the IOC's \$5.7 billion income in a four-year Olympic cycle is from broadcast rights.

Pound said the future of the Tokyo Games was largely out of the IOC's hands, depending on the virus and if it abets.

"If it gets to be something like the Spanish Flu," Pound said, referring to a deadly pandemic early in the 20th century that killed millions. "At that level of lethality, then everybody's got to take their medicine."

AP

## 'A new day': Harvey Weinstein convicted, led away in cuffs

NEW YORK

FORMER Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein was convicted of rape and sexual assault against two women and led off to prison in handcuffs Monday in what his foes hailed as a landmark moment for the legal system and a long-overdue reckoning for the man vilified as the biggest monster of the #MeToo era.

The 67-year-old Weinstein had a look of resignation on his face as he heard the verdict: guilty on two charges, not guilty on a set of more serious ones.

While it was not the across-the-board victory prosecutors and his accusers had hoped for, it could put the stooped and feeble-looking Weinstein behind bars for the rest of his life. The charges carry up to 29 years in prison.

District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. saluted the women who came forward against the once-feared studio boss, saying they "changed the course of history in the fight against sexual violence" and "pulled our justice system into the 21st century."

"This is the new landscape for survivors of sexual assault in America. I believe, and it is a new day. It is a new day because Harvey Weinstein has finally been held accountable for crimes he committed," Vance said.

Weinstein's lawyers said they will appeal.

"Harvey is unbelievably strong.



In this courtroom sketch, Harvey Weinstein, center, is led out of Manhattan Supreme Court by court officers after a jury convicted him of rape and sexual assault. Monday, Feb. 24, 2020 in New York. The jury found him not guilty of the most serious charge, predatory sexual assault, which could have resulted in a life sentence in New York. (AP)

He took it like a man," defense attorney Donna Rotunno said. "He knows that we will continue to fight for him, and we know that this is not over." Another of his lawyers, Arthur Aidala, quoted Weinstein as telling as his legal team: "I'm innocent. I'm innocent. I'm innocent. How could this happen in America?"

The jury of seven men and five women took five days to find Weinstein guilty of raping an aspiring actress in a New York City hotel room in 2013 and sexually assaulting production assistant Mimi Halesy at his apartment in 2006 by forcibly performing oral sex on her.

He was acquitted on the most serious charges, two counts of predatory sexual assault, each

carrying up to life in prison. Both of those counts hinged on the testimony of "Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra, who said Weinstein barged into her apartment, raped her and forcibly performed oral sex on her in the mid-1990s.

Judge James Burke ordered Weinstein taken to jail immediately. Court officers handcuffed Weinstein and put their arms under his, leading him unsteadily out of the courtroom via a side door without the use of the walker he relied on for much of the trial. He was later taken from the courthouse in an ambulance, strapped to a stretcher in his suit, and taken to a locked unit at Bellevue Hospital.

ant responded by noting that there is an "M-E."

The ceremony began with Beyoncé performing her songs "XO" and "Halo" with dozens of backup musicians. Keys performed Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" later in the program, and Aguilera sang "Ave Maria."

The five-time NBA champion's two retired jersey numbers – 8 and 24 – hang high above the arena where he became the third-leading scorer in league history. Lakers star LeBron James surpassed him on the night before Bryant's death.

Hours before the service, Vanessa Bryant sued the owner of the helicopter that crashed in the fog. The wrongful-death lawsuit claimed that the pilot, Ara Zobayan, was careless and negligent by flying in cloudy conditions.

The National Transportation Safety Board has not concluded what caused the crash on the outskirts of Los Angeles County but said there was no sign of mechanical failure. A final report is not expected for a year or so.

Money from ticket sales at the sold-out memorial will be given to the Mamba and Mambacita Sports Foundation, which supports youth sports programs in underserved communities and teaches sports to girls and women.

Samantha DeJesus, 32, and her brother George Galano, 31, paid \$448 for their two seats. DeJesus said she got notified late that she had received tickets in a lottery and wasn't sure if she wanted to pay that much.

But the siblings, who saw their first Lakers game at the Forum against the Utah Jazz in the 1990s, said they couldn't miss it.

DeJesus called the ceremony "very emotional" and cried throughout.

"I loved every single eulogy that was given," she said. "You knew it was meant from the heart."

Galano said he's struggled to accept the tragedy since Jan. 26 and the memorial brought him closure.

"Now it's just reality," he said. "I'm glad they did this so we could move on and heal." AP

The judge said he would ask that Weinstein, who had been free on bail since his arrest nearly two years ago, be held in the infirmary at the city's Rikers Island jail complex after his lawyers said he needs medical attention following unsuccessful back surgery.

Rotunno said in an appearance on Fox News that Weinstein was initially headed to the jail, but was diverted to Bellevue to be checked out for heart palpitations and high blood pressure. "He's O.K.," she added.

Sentencing was set for March 11. The sexual assault charge carries up to 25 years in prison, while the third-degree rape count is punishable by up to four years. (The jury acquitted Weinstein of first-degree rape, which requires the use of force or the threat of it, and found him guilty of third-degree rape, which involves a lack of consent.)

The verdict followed weeks of often harrowing and excruciatingly graphic testimony from a string of accusers who told of rapes, forced oral sex, groping, masturbation, lewd propositions and excuses from Weinstein about how the Hollywood casting couch works. In addition to the three women he was charged with attacking, three more who said they were assaulted by Weinstein testified in an effort by prosecutors to show a pattern of brutish behavior.

AP

## Liverpool make extraordinary record-breaking exploits look ordinary

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

THERE is something remarkable about the Liverpool team that is now just four victories away from claiming the Premier League title: Even the extraordinary is beginning to seem routine for Jurgen Klopp and his players.

For 13 second-half minutes against West Ham at Anfield, Liverpool's historic season appeared to be heading straight for an unexpected road block, with David Moyes' relegation-threatened team taking a 2-1 lead after goals from Issa Diop and Pablo Fornals cancelled out Georginio Wijnaldum's eighth-minute opener. No big deal, perhaps. Liverpool are so far ahead of the rest in the Premier League that one defeat was hardly going to knock them off their stride and put the title in jeopardy.

But losing would have denied Liverpool the chance to emulate Arsenal Wenger's Arsenal Invincibles by going through a season without suffering a league defeat. A defeat, or a draw, would also have stopped Liverpool from equalling Manchester City's record of 18 successive Premier League wins. Klopp's men would have fallen one short of equalling Liverpool's own record of 21 consecutive top-flight home wins, set in 1972, as well.

But a goal from Sadio Mane in the final 10 minutes turned defeat into victory, making it 109 points from the last 111 available, and all of those records and achievements were back on the table. Liverpool have equalled City's run of 18 straight league wins -- they can set a new mark by beating Watford on Saturday at Vicarage Road -- and they will break their home record with a 22nd consecutive win against Bournemouth on March 7 at Anfield. Both of the above will be incredible feats, but they are likely to be nothing more than footnotes when the full story of Liverpool's 2019-20 season is finally told.

"I never thought [City's record] would be broken or equalled," Klopp said. "We did it, and I cannot believe it happened, to be honest." In any other season, those two records would be heralded as hallmarks of a truly great team, but there are so many bigger and more historic achievements in Liverpool's path that these will pale into insignificance.

If Liverpool win their next four games and seal the title -- the club's first since 1990 -- against Crystal Palace on March 21 at Anfield, they will have done so in record time. But they are also unbeaten in 44 Premier League games -- five more will match Arsenal's record of 49

top-flight games without defeat -- and they are just 11 games away from joining the 2004 Invincibles in the pantheon of great teams if they avoid defeat for the remainder of the campaign. City's record tally of 100 points is also likely to be obliterated.

Let's not forget, Liverpool are still alive in the FA Cup and Champions League, too, so Manchester United's 1999 Treble is also there to be matched. Having already won the UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup this season, a haul of five major trophies would surely end any debate as to whether this is the greatest club side that English football has ever seen.

One statistic that might not create too many headlines, however, is the one that tells you that the 3-2 win against West Ham marked the 13th time this season that Liverpool won a league game by a one-goal margin. It's not a number that should be dismissed as a footnote. In many ways, it emphasises the many qualities of Klopp's team.

It demonstrates that Liverpool have discovered the crucial knack of finding a way to win. They have not blown teams away this season, but they have overcome all of them, with the exception of Manchester United at Old Trafford, but even on that occasion, they dug out a late equaliser because they are prepared to take risks to get something from games.

"Sometimes you have to squeeze it and force it," Klopp said. "And that is what we did tonight."

It is an approach that has taken Liverpool to the brink of history, even if, on this occasion, a couple of costly mistakes by West Ham goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski helped them on their way to victory.

The record books are waiting to be rewritten. They might as well pulp the ones that have gone before because there are so many new highs that Liverpool are preparing to hit. The only question is how many trophies Liverpool will win along the way, but for now, Klopp just wants his players to keep their foot on the pedal until the title is confirmed.

"You see City playing, and this is the team in world football that are able to win all their other games," he said. "We have to keep winning. We need to be ready, and it is a home game for Watford [next]. It is not about shining but the hardest work. As long as the boys are ready to work hard, I am not concerned, but it is still a job to do."

Klopp need not be worried. It is now a case of when Liverpool win the league, not if.

(Agencies)

## Pogba: I don't want Liverpool to win title

LONDON

PAUL Pogba has said that although he doesn't want Manchester United's fierce rivals Liverpool to lift the Premier League title, the French star admits Jurgen Klopp's team will be deserving winners.

Liverpool could become the first side to win the Premier League in March and are contenders to finish the season unbeaten.

"They are so way ahead of everyone else," said Pogba, who was speaking to ESPN in conjunction with the launch of a new Pepsi commercial that also features Lionel Messi, Mohamed Salah and Raheem Sterling.

"They have not lost a single game yet this season in the league. They already have one hand on the Premier League trophy.

"As a Manchester United player and with the rivalry between us, we don't want them to win the title. We don't want anyone else to win apart from us, but as a football lover and a respectful player to opposition team, I have to say that they deserve to be where they are today.

"They have been even better than last season when they won the Champions League and the season

before when they [lost the final to Real Madrid]."

Pogba, who has not played for Manchester United since Dec. 26 because of injury, also paid tribute to Kobe Bryant on the day of memorial service at the Staples Center celebrating the lives of the Los Angeles Lakers' legend, his daughter Gianna, and seven others passengers after they died on Jan. 26 in a helicopter accident.

"It was a shock for me, for the world, for everyone," Pogba said. "For all the athletes and non-athletes, seeing what happened to a legend like him, a father, a human being, it gave everyone a knock on the head.

"He was an icon. His words, his advice and his determination were inspiring for me and for everyone. He was a hard worker and he influenced me and the world. He influenced everyone to work hard and to believe in their dreams. He showed that you can achieve your dreams.

"It showed that you could leave this world at any time. It can happen to any one of us, whether you are a superstar or working in the market. It is a reminder to everyone to enjoy life as much as possible."

(Agencies)

# Man City take fight to UEFA on and off the field

LONDON

MANCHESTER City may be set to go to war with UEFA, but time is of the essence for the English champions to satisfy their quest to win the Champions League.

City head to the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday, knowing failure to beat 13-time winners Real Madrid over two legs could be their final European adventure for two years.

UEFA slapped a stunning two-season ban on City earlier this month for overstating sponsorship income between 2012 and 2016 to breach Financial Fair Play rules and failing to cooperate once an investigation was re-opened following the leak of internal emails to German magazine Der Spiegel.

City remain belligerent and insist they will beat UEFA off the field. An appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport will decide their fate for the next two years.

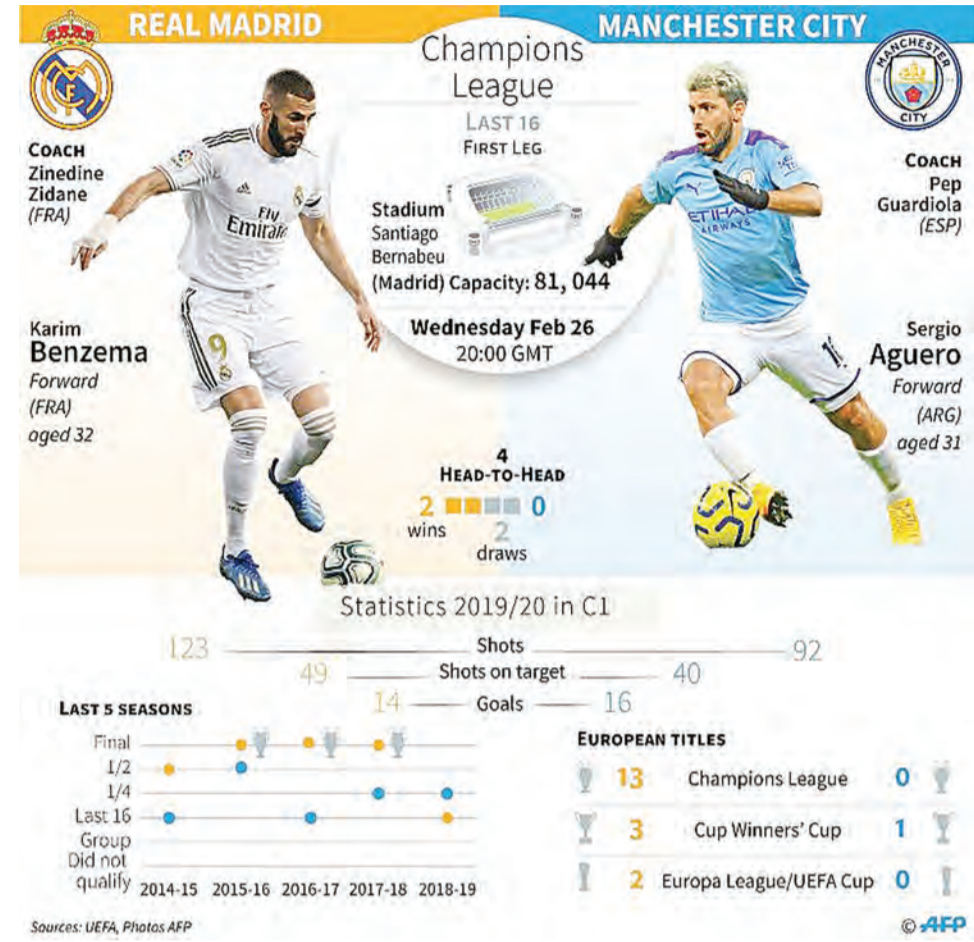
In the meantime, Pep Guardiola's men have to finally get it right on the field to satisfy City's long-wait to conquer Europe.

Now in their ninth season of Champions League football since Sheikh Mansour's takeover transformed the club's fortunes, City are still waiting for a landmark knockout win in the competition.

Even before the latest body blow of a European ban, the City support have not been enamoured by their new status as Champions League regulars.

The club have had to turn to social media influencers to try and sell tickets for group matches and the competition's anthem is routinely jeered.

"UEFA Cartel" and "UEFA Mafia" were among the banners that greet-



ed their first home outing since the ban was handed down against West Ham last week.

A run to the semi-finals before being beaten by Madrid in 2015/16 is their best ever showing in the competition.

Despite re-writing the history books domestically, Guardiola's star-studded squad have fallen at the quarter-finals to English opposition in each of the

past two seasons.

The contrast with Madrid could not be starker. For generations, Real have risen to the occasion on the Champions League stage, while City have crumbled under the pressure.

A former Barcelona coach and player, Guardiola hailed his old foes the "kings of Europe."

And in an interview with Spanish newspaper AS last week, City's Raheem Ster-

ling insisted: "There is no better challenge than Real Madrid."

Guardiola's legacy on the line

However, a meeting with Madrid also offers City an opportunity to change the narrative.

The sort of ferocious atmosphere Guardiola has long pleaded for at the Etihad for Champions League games seems guaranteed when the Spanish giants

travel to Manchester on March 17th.

With Liverpool streaking clear at the top of the Premier League, City's season and arguably Guardiola's legacy at the club comes down to what happens in this tie.

"If we don't win it everybody is going to say we are failures like the last five years," said midfielder Kevin De Bruyne. "It's something we've not won yet."

The only two Champions League winners in City's squad are back-up goalkeepers Claudio Bravo and Scott Carson.

Motivation could not be greater for a host of world class players like De Bruyne, David Silva and Sergio Aguero to cap their careers with Champions League success.

Moreover, doing so this season would have the added benefit of sticking it to UEFA by capturing their flagship competition.

"I can't believe they're in the competition now. What would happen if City win this season?" Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher told Sky Sports.

"UEFA will be desperate for Man City to be beaten by Madrid."

All the more reason for City to not give European football's governing body the satisfaction.

AFP

# Man City target role reversal against Champions League kings Real Madrid

MADRID

MANCHESTER City will be up against both Real Madrid and their reputation on Wednesday as the Champions League's biggest winners play one of its biggest underachievers at the Santiago Bernabeu.

After City's win over Leicester on Saturday, Pep Guardiola said: "We will try to be ourselves. We can win and we can lose but we must try to be ourselves."

Yet in some ways, City will seek a role reversal too. Madrid's record is the envy of Europe but in particular by teams like City, whose financial might and technical talent has translated only into disappointment outside domestic competition.

In the time City have won three Premier League titles and five domestic cups, they have gone past the Champions League's quarter-finals only once, reaching the last four in 2016, only to be beaten by Madrid.

Zinedine Zidane's side, meanwhile, have surrendered dominance in La Liga to Barcelona but made amends for one Spanish league title in seven years by winning an four Champions Leagues out of the last six.

Few would argue that quality explains the difference. Madrid's success has certainly been due in part to the brilliance of Cristiano Ronaldo but City have perhaps boasted an even better all-round collection of players and their excellence in England points to a club well-equipped to excel in Europe.

Guardiola has been accused of overthinking against elite opposition too yet City's lethargy encompasses nine seasons in the Champions League and Guardiola has only been in charge for three.

Instead, Madrid's habit for coming through the kind of crunch games that have so often proved City's undoing suggests each club's identification with the Champions League has become something of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Madrid believe this tournament is their tournament, a conviction based on historic success that makes them assured under pressure and ruthless in the decisive moments.

"When you have a history of the (Alfredo) Di Stefano period, winning five or six European Cups at that time, it



Pep Guardiola



Zinedine Zidane

means a new player that comes to Real Madrid and puts on that shirt knows 'we have to defend our history'," said Guardiola. "That gives them a boost because they live that history."

When Madrid last won the Champions League by beating Liverpool in the final in 2018, their advance to the trophy seemed to rely on a number of crucial interventions falling their way.

In the semi-final against

Bayern Munich, they progressed after an error from Bayern's goalkeeper Sven Ulreich. In the quarters, they were awarded a fortuitous 97th-minute penalty to beat Juventus. Even in the last 16, they faced a Paris Saint-Germain side without the injured Neymar.

Yet where some saw luck, Madrid's coach and their players saw a refusal to give in.

"The point is Madrid never give up," said Zidane after their last-gasp tri-

umph over Juventus. "We came up against a number of obstacles but we believe in the goals we want to achieve and we achieve them because we fight."

For City, that refusal to accept defeat is still to be established and with every year that victory evades them, doubts grow too.

"It's a real, real test," said Guardiola. "The king of this competition against a team who are not used to playing this kind of game much, because our best

performance was one semi-final in our history.

"So, in a marvellous stadium we have to show our personality."

Personality to Guardiola means a certain style as well as attitude but to Madrid, the objective is more straight-forward.

"At Real Madrid, every season, you have to go for everything and win everything," said Zidane last summer. "And more importantly, we believe we can do it." AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Man City take fight to UEFA on and off the field

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**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV WEDNESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguko  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA-1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**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**

## Yanga in pursuit of Federation Cup last eight



Yanga

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**Y**OUNG Africans SC (Yanga) have said they are treading cautiously on their approach to this evening's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) round of 16 clash with Mwanza-based side, Gwambina FC, to be held at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga, through the side's information officer Hassan Bumbuli, said they are well prepared for the encounter, which he described as a must win for his side.

He said although they are regarded as favourites in the duel, they are

treading carefully knowing that in football anything can happen.

Yanga reached the round of 16 of this season's ASFC after beating Tanzania Prisons 2-0 in the round of 32.

Bumbuli said his side's technical panel headed by Belgian tactician Luc Eymael has told the players the importance of winning today's match.

"They are a new team playing in the First Division League (FDL), but looking at their recent performance and the players they have they have proved to be a tough side," he noted.

"Our coach and his backroom

staff have told the players the importance of winning this game, the players also know well that this assignment is tougher than an encounter against fellow Premier League side," he said.

Yanga are coming from playing four Premier League games without a win but Bumbuli said the head coach has worked on the challenges which the team has been facing.

He pointed out Yanga supporters should today expect nothing short of a win for the outfit.

"Yanga are a big team on the

land and in the whole East Africa region, we can not allow to lose our game against Gwambina FC, that does not mean we don't respect them, no, we respect them, but we are looking for good results in tomorrow (today's) game," he said.

In today's game Yanga are expected to have a full-squad, which consists of Metacha Mnata, Kelvin Yodani, Juma Abdul, Lamine Moro, Mrisho Ngassa, Feisal Salum, Papy Tshishimbi, Abdul-aziz Makame, David Moringa, Ditram Nchimbi, Mapinduzi Balama, Yikpe Gislain, and Bernard Morrison.

Gwambina FC head coach Fulgence Novatus said they have left no stone unturned in an effort to make the quarterfinal grade.

He said they may appear underdogs but his charges are in Dar es Salaam for a mission to reach the final of this season's ASFC.

Novatus said he has told his players they should not be intimidated by famous players in Yanga squad as in football team uses 11 players on the pitch.

"We are not here in Dar es Salaam as tourists, we have come for a mission and that mission is to win our game against Yanga and book a place in quarterfinals," he noted.

"After that we will fight to reach the final, in today's game we are geared to take them head-on so that they don't spoil our ASFC dreams," he said.

The coach said his side banks their hopes on individual skills of such players like Jacob Massawe, Anuar Jabir, Rajab Nyika, Malika Ndeule, Bruno John and others.

To reach the round of 16, Gwambina FC, one of few football clubs in the country which own stadium, beat Premier League team Ruvo Shooting 7-6 in post match penalties of round of 32 clash.

In other ASFC round of 16 games slated for today, Kagera Sugar will take on KMC FC at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera, Ihefu FC will host the event's defending champions Azam FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, JKT Tanzania will lock horns with Alliance FC at Isamuhyo venue in Dar es Salaam.

## Lions Castilla cricketers wallop Annadil Saifee in Paul Manyanda Memorial tournament

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Castilla cricketers have improved their pursuit of a better position in the maiden Paul Manyanda Memorial (PMM) tournament's Division C, cruising to a comfortable six-wicket victory over Annadil Saifee in a duel, which took place at Anadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

It was a second victory to have been registered by Lions Castilla that are currently placed at the bottom of the Division C table with winning percentage of 25.00 and net run rate of -1.0692.

The squad has recorded a total of 245 runs and conceded a total of 274 runs.

Annadil Saifee elected to bat once they won the toss, posting 70 runs and losing six wickets in 10 overs.

Openers Taher Vejlani and Khuzeima Burhanpur scored 16 runs and 13 runs respectively to improve their squad's quest for an imposing total.

They were though pegged back by quick dismissal of Taher Abbas, who was caught by Lions Castilla's Atif Salim from a delivery by Abubakar Selemani.

Mufaddal Moiz chipped in with 11 runs, which consisted of a four, to see to it his outfit end with a much better score.

Lions Castilla's Shabbir Gaiwala had an impressive spell with the ball, as he took two wickets and leaked 16 runs in two overs.

It was not plain sailing for Lions Castilla in the chase, considering they were dealt a blow early on after their dependable batsmen had faced early dismissal

Openers Atif Salim and Abubakar Altaf, as well as Chetan Borkhataria, were sent back to the pavilion whilst failing to register double digit figure.

Mubbin Hassan thereafter steadied the ship, nailing unbeaten 37 runs, which included five fours and a six.

Hassan's impressive showing eventually helped his team get down to successful chase. He as a result deservedly won the man of the match prize.

Lions Castilla experienced a brief scare after the early dismissal of Selemani, who was trapped for leg before wicket by Annadil Saifee's Mufaddal Moiz with only a run to the batsman's name.

Ramadhan Mbunde nevertheless kept Lions Castilla's chase alive with his unbeaten 10 runs, which included a boundary, and he solidly partnered with Hassan to see to it Castilla grab victory.

Annadil Saifee's Moiz had two wickets and leaked two runs in his team's turn with the ball.

Annadil Saifee are currently positioned fourth in the Division B table with two victories, three defeats, winning percentage of 40.00 and net run rate of -0.0005.

Saifee have posted a total of 383 runs and conceded a total of 387 runs in five matches they have taken part in.

The 10-over formatted competition has been organized by Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) in memory of Paul Manyanda, a veteran cricket coach and umpire, who passed away in the city recently.

## Dar club holds sway in National Chess League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM'S Alliance Insurance chess team is still enjoying the driver's seat in the ongoing National Chess League which is taking place at the Russian Cultural Center in the city.

The league has brought together 11 teams and, after round 3 and 4 games, Alliance Insurance have 48 points, they are followed by Don Bosco Rising Star who have six points.

Ahead Africa and HS Computers teams have five points apiece, whereas Barketilly, Flashnet, Specialized Engineering and My World Pre-School teams have four points each.

Pawn Pushers, Kamal Steel and Unique teams, which are placed ninth to 11th, have recorded three points each.

National Chess League's organizing committee's secretary FIDE Master Hemed Mlawa said he is happy with the level of competition shown by the players in rounds three and four.

"The League is going on very well and I'm delighted with the competition



Chess players, who are taking part in the National Chess League, in action during rounds three and four matches at the Russian Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

which teams are showing," he disclosed.

"You see, the league's standing has now changed and I'm sure rounds 5 and 6 will see more changes on the standing," he said.

Mlawa said each winning team got two points and round three saw Alliance Insurance team beat My World Pre-School 3.5 - 1.5, Pawn Pushers lost 4-1 to Ahead Africa.

In the round's other matches HS Computers won 3-2 over Bakeritilly, Don Bosco Rising Star won 4-1 over Kamal Steel.

He said the round three last game pitted Flashnet against Specialized Engineering, with the match ending with the latter cruising to 3-2 victory.

The official said round four started with a game between Ahead Africa versus Alliance Insurance and league leaders Alliance Insurance won 3-2.

In the other games My World Pre-School lost 3-2 to Don Bosco Rising Star, Specialized Engineering lost 3-2 to HS Computers.

The round four moreover saw Bakeritilly beat Pawn Pushers 3-2, Ahead Africa and My World Pre-School shared a point apiece after ending with

2.5 points each.

The league games are set to resume on March 29 at the same venue.

The FIDE recognized league will come to an end on April 17 and the top three teams and best performing individuals will be awarded.

Nurdin Hassuji is the tournament director, while Mustafa Ebrahim is the chief arbiter.

The league will resume on Sunday, with rounds three and four matches taking place.

On March 29 there will be rounds five and six matches and on the final day, April 19, there will be rounds seven and eight matches.

Clubs, which will finish in the top two positions, will get trophy, medals and cash prize.

The league's champions will receive 500,000/- in cash prize, second-placed outfit will be presented with 250,000/-.

The third-placed squad will only get trophy and medals. The league's best performers on board 1-5 will each get 100,000/-.

This is the second year in a row that Tanzania Chess Association is hosting the league.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

