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Court frees former TBC boss Mhando

TIDO Mhando was charged with occasioning loss to the government amounting to over Sh887m contrary to the Economic and Organised Crime Control Act of 2002.

By Aisia Rweyamamu

FORMER Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation Director General Tido Mhando was yesterday set free by the Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court after being found not guilty of the charges leveled against him.

Mhando, who serves as the deputy chief executive officer (CEO) of the privately-owned Azam Media group, was charged with one count of "occasioning loss" to the government amounting to over Sh887m contrary to the Economic and Organised Crime Control Act of 2002.

The charges included four counts of abuse of position under the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act.

However, reading the judgment after hearing the five state witnesses and one defence witness, Senior Resident Magistrate Huruma Shaidi found him not guilty of the charges.

This court frees you after it found you with no guilt over the charges against you

The magistrate told the prosecution side that Mhando signed and entered into a contract to provide Channel 2 Group



Women classifying cashew nuts at Tuaminiane (AMCOS) warehouse in Masasi in Mtwara region yesterday, following allegations that some of the cashew nuts are poor in quality. Photo: Correspondent Hamisi Nasri.

Rights body, Law society blast registrar powers, Bill flaws

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TANZANIANS have asked to be given more time for a comprehensive review of the proposed amendments to the Political Parties Bill to ensure it upholds the country's democratic values.

This was disclosed at a Civil Society Organization meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday while deliberating the Political Parties Act.

Presenting a joint statement to reporters, Fulgence Massawe, an advocate at the Legal and Human

Rights Centre (LHRC) said the coalition has listed down several items that need to be revisited for the benefit of political parties and society in general.

"The proposed amendments grant sweeping discretionary powers to the registrar to regulate instead of nurturing political parties. The bill therefore does not allow for fair play in the political arena," he said.

The Bill gives the registrar power to suspend members, suspend and deregister parties, demand any information and demand changes in the parties' constitutions.

Similarly the minister is tasked



with formulating regulations regarding internal party issues of political parties, which are by definition in opposition.

The proposed amendments criminalise or regulate political activities and expressions, whereby under the law envisaged therein, the reg-

istrar is allowed to disapprove of organizations which seek to provide civic education and capacity building to any party.

"In addition, the amendments forbid parties from acting as pressure groups trying to mobilize public opinion or affect government action, whereas this is supposed to be the core purpose of political parties," the advocate underlined.

He made these observations at a meeting organised by Twaweza, the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the Centre for Strategic Liti

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(BVI) for changing the broadcasting system from analog to digital.

The charge said the accused entered such agreement without blessings from the TBC board and the Attorney General (AG).

However, in his defense, Tido claimed that the fourth phase President Jakaya Kikwete ordered him to convert the organisation into the national standard.

The magistrate said that Mhando told the

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Leprosy still a big burden in 20 districts

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA still has 20 districts with high leprosy prevalence rates, despite efforts to eliminate the disease, the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) researcher Dr Deus Kamara said this week.

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae (M. leprae) and mainly affects the skin, peripheral nerves, and mucous membranes.

It affects people of all races, all

ages, and both sexes, similar to Tuberculosis, leprosy bacilli are mainly transmitted through infectious droplets that are spread by an infectious individual through coughing and sneezing.

Dr Kamara said currently 62 per cent of all leprosy patients recorded annually in the country originate from Morogoro region.

"We have other ten districts out of 20 countrywide with high prevalence leprosy rates," he said.

He was speaking at a training aimed at building capacity to TB

and Leprosy coordinators at the Turtiani Authorised Hospital in Mvomero District, in the region.

The training was organised by the government in collaboration with the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA), being conducted on the eve of the Leprosy World Day marking by health stakeholders in the country.

Endemic districts with leprosy prevalence are in ten regions with Morogoro and Lindi having a bigger

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Fear, despair stalk streets of Harare

HARARE

EVERY morning this past week, Innocent Tinashi has set out very early from his small wood and tin home in Epworth, a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Harare, to walk the seven miles into the city centre in the hope of seeing his wife, Maria.

Epworth witnessed some of the fiercest violence during a protest "shutdown" that plunged Zimbabwe into a fresh crisis 12 days ago and some of the most brutal repression that followed.

There was violence outside our home and rioting and problems so we stayed inside all day

Across the country, 12 people have been shot dead, hundreds injured and more than 1,500 detained in the disorder and the subsequent crackdown, according to assessments by observers and diplomats in Harare. Every day brings reports of further beatings, assaults, abductions and arrests by the police and military.

Among those picked up was Maria: 25, unemployed and a mother to a five-year-old boy and an eight-year-old girl, she was an unlikely troublemaker. Like other detainees, she has been charged with public disorder offences that could mean a lengthy prison sentence.

"There was violence outside our home and rioting and problems so we stayed inside all day," said Tinashi, a thin 36-year-old who earns a bare living selling bananas.

"We are not political people. But the police came when we were sleeping. They smashed down our door. I hid in a wardrobe. They took Maria."

The immediate trigger for the shutdown a closure of all businesses and non-essential services to demonstrate anger was a sharp rise in fuel prices ordered by the government. Overnight, petrol went from \$1.50 a litre to well over three dollars.

The rise came against a back

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Leprosy still a big burden in 20 districts

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burden.

He named other districts as Liwale in Lindi Rural, Lindi, Nkinga and Muheza in Tanga, Chato in Geita, Kilombero and Ifakara in Morogoro region, as well as Nanyumbu in Mtwara.

A 2018 report from the Novartis Foundation, an organization that works with partners to implement strategies that help interrupt leprosy transmission in the country, 1 in 11 newly diagnosed leprosy patients are children, indicating continued transmission of the disease.

Dr Kamara said for 40 years, all district councils had notified cases of over 40,000 yearly, the number currently down to 1,000 or up to 2,000 cases annually.

"We are getting set to start scaling up contact tracing and screening to households caring leprosy patients and succeed in preventing new infections," he said.

Tanzania is ranked among 12 countries worldwide with more than 1,000 cases of leprosy annually.

Effort to eliminate leprosy in targeted areas and the Leprosy Post Exposure Prophylaxis (LPEP) are continuing, based on a strategy implemented in three districts of Nanyumbu, Liwale and Kilombero to demonstrate the impact of PEP, contact tracing activities that aim to interrupt transmission of leprosy.

The project involved identification of index case households and a corresponding health facility, contact tracing and leprosy screening and provision of a single dose of Rifampicin (SDR).

On his part, the NTLP Coordinator in Mvomero district, Dr Mayunga William admitted the district to have many leprosy cases.

"We intend to implement contact tracing and provision of single dose to the patients' households to prevent them being affected by the disease," he said.

The Tanga Region NTLP Coordinator, Dr Raphael Momba on his part said the leprosy prevalence rate in the region was high, noting that more efforts needed to be done to eliminate the disease.



Director of Dr.Ntuyabaliwe Foundation Jaquelin Mengi cuts a ribbon to inaugurate Tandale school library in Dar es Salaam built by her foundation yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Court frees former TBC boss Mhando

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court that he managed to make significant changes to the corporation and that if the project was to go into a second phase, TBC was going to provide dividends to the government instead of the corporation receiving subsidies from the state.

The magistrate said the court proves beyond reasonable doubt that the accused was not guilty of the charges.

"This court frees you after it found you with no guilt over the charges against you," the magistrate said.

Public prosecutor Leonard Swai claimed that the state was not satisfied

with the decision, requesting a copy of the judgment for appeal.

In the first count, Mhando was charged with "intentionally abusing his position" by signing a joint venture agreement for operating and broadcasting TV programmes between TBC and the Dubai-based Channel 2 Group Corporation (BVI) on 16 June 2008 "without invitation of tenders."

Prosecutors alleged that Mhando's decision to sign the deal without a transparent tender process was in direct violation of the Public Procurement Act of 2004 and allowed Channel

2 Group to "obtain undue advantage."

In the second count, the former TBC chief was charged with intentionally abusing his position by signing another agreement four days later (20 June 2008) with the same Dubai company for "digital terrestrial broadcasting" without invitation of tenders.

He was also charged in the third count with signing other deals on behalf of TBC with the Dubai company on 11th August 2008 and 4th September 2008 for the "purchase, supply and installation of transmission equipment and broadcast towers" contrary to public procurement procedures.

Mhando was further alleged to have flown to Dubai once again to unlawfully sign another agreement with Channel 2 Group Corp on 16 November 2008, this time for operation of a digital terrestrial television (DTT) infrastructure with TBC without following the public procurement law.

"On diverse dates between 16 June 2008 and 16 November 2008 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ... (Mhando) caused Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation to suffer pecuniary loss amounting to 887,122,219.19 Tanzanian shillings."

Mhando is a leading personality

among veteran radio and television broadcasters in Tanzania.

He started his distinguished broadcasting career with the state-run Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam (RTD) before working in neighboring Kenya and later joining the UK powerhouse, BBC.

He returned to Tanzania after the 2005 general elections and was appointed head of TBC where he was credited by some observers with transforming the state broadcaster. He ended his tenure at TBC and joined privately-owned media houses in Dar es Salaam.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L) with Deputy minister Foreign Affairs and East Africa Co operation Dr. Damas Ndumbaro and other dignitaries witness swears in of the newly elected President of Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa on Thursday. Photo: VPO

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ground of a deteriorating economic situation that has already hit people in places like Epworth very hard.

Fourteen months ago, Robert Mugabe, who had ruled Zimbabwe since 1980, was ousted by the army. The 94-year-old autocrat's rule left the country with a crumbling infrastructure, massive debts, no currency of its own and extreme levels of unemployment.

Mugabe's successor was 76-year-old Emmerson Mnangagwa, a ruling party stalwart who immediately pledged political and economic reform. Neither has come, or at least not rapidly enough to head off crisis.

In the centre of Epworth, where 160,000 people live in a sprawl of small huts, shelters and houses, lies a crossroads with a market and a row of bars where young men eat grilled offal, drink cheap beer and shoot

Fear, despair stalk streets of Harare

pool. Many still bear the scars of the battles with police and the beatings from the week before.

"A hungry man is an angry man," said Robert, 36, who has lived in Epworth all his life. "People wanted and expected a change but things are much tougher than under the previous president. The young people are not happy ... There are no schools, no jobs."

Prices of all commodities have soared in recent weeks, and a single cabbage on the battered stalls in Epworth's market now costs a dollar. Locals describe teenage girls forced into sex work, boys addicted to homemade narcotics.

Outside the small local health clinic, Mercy Mapeki, a mother of three whose husband is

ill and unable to work, said the family often went without food.

"Sometimes I borrow some [maize] from the neighbours, but they have nothing either these days. If the children are sick, we pray," the 32-year-old said.

The early signs following Mugabe's fall were relatively positive. Mnangagwa's victory in an election held in July was contested but the campaign was considerably more free than any for decades. Senior ministers spoke of previous mistakes and how Zimbabwe was now returning to the right path. The former British colony was "open for business", they repeated. There were signs that the foreign investment desperately needed to create jobs and growth might come.

But widespread scepticism at home and abroad appeared vindicated when six civilians were shot by soldiers during protests in Harare two days after the polls.

Many suggested a hardline faction within the ruling party were responsible, unhappy with even the limited reforms that might have convinced investors and international multilateral institutions to provide the funds to resuscitate the economy.

Today, any remaining illusions have been shattered. The crackdown of the past fortnight has been the most extensive for a decade at least, and veteran campaigners in Harare worry that it is far from over.

"It could be the start of a concerted effort to destroy any opposition of any type that could last weeks, even months," said one old hand, recalling a campaign of regime violence in 2008 that led to 270 deaths.

Rights body, Law society blast registrar powers, Bill flays

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gation, the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and the Association of Zanzibar Journalists in Development Issues (Wahamaza).

The bill was tabled in Parliament for its first reading in November, and it has so far received negative reactions from the public and pressure groups with opposition parties opting to file a case at the High Court demanding it to be blocked for discussion in Parliament.

For her part, the president of the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) Fatma Karume said the proposed law criminalises any statements that are 'false in material particulars' without any qualification, ignoring the fact that in politics truth is contested.

TLS president said the amendments contain a set of penalties throughout for administrative offences that put fears, making it easy for political parties to be deemed to have committed significant 'crimes.'

"It is however clear that the penalties imposed are not proportional to the offences listed. Failing to provide information attracts fines of millions of shillings or jail term both to individuals and institutions," she pointed out.

The amendments lack any say on the allocation of marginalized groups including women, youth and elderly to ensure their voices are included in party deliberations and decision making.

"We as an independent civil society organization, who uphold democratic values, we seek to add our views and voices to the matter with a view to finding a constructive way forward, which both safeguards our young, hard-won democracy while allowing for appropriate regulation by registration of political parties," the statement intoned.

It further emphasized that there is little recourse for political parties and limited checks and balances on the work of the registrar in the amendments for recourse of parties aggrieved by decisions of the registrar.

"Under the Act, the registrar has wide power to deny parties the subvention grant, suspend them, deregister them and find them guilty of an array of offences," it specifies.

However, there are no details about what is considered acceptable grounds for suspension, how long parties have to respond to the registrar's concerns before he or she can suspend them or any protection against arbitrary suspension.

Under the bill, organization are required to seek approval from the registrar for them to provide capacity building or civic education to political parties. However, there is no reason for the registrar to have such discretion, the statement queried, noting that Tanzania's democracy is young and needs support across the board.

Employ Bandari College graduates, TPA ordered

By Mtpa Wilson

MINISTER of Works, Transport and Communications, Eng. Isack Kamwelwe has ordered the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to employ 196 Bandari College graduates.

The minister was speaking at the 17th graduation ceremony of the college where he directed the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Leonard Chamliho, the TPA board chairman Prof. Ignas Rubarutuka and TPA Director General Eng. Deusdedit Kakoko to ensure the graduates are employed at the port.

"The vacancies are already open. I also got direct employment when I finished my studies," the minister said, noting that already over 200 job vacancies have been advertised at the port.

The graduates need to make consultation with the office of the TPA Director General and the Minister in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), Captain George Mkuchika for processing their employment.

He said the country was relying much on the contribution given by competent professional graduates in various disciplines including all those disciplines that are offered by Bandari College so as to drive the country towards industrialisation.

He assured the college of continual support to ensure it provides competent graduates who can compete in the local and regional market.

Also present at the function was the Deputy Permanent Secretary for the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance), Dr. Francis Michael whom the minister said will join effort to ensure the college provides good products that can contribute to improvement of the port.

On his part, TPA Director General, Eng. Kakoko assured the minister that all the graduates in this year's college will be employed at the port.

"TPA will employ all the graduates by contracts in various projects implemented by the government for the time being," he said.

The DG said he will soon hold talks with Bandari College within to get all the important details of the 196 graduates including their qualifications in the particular positions available at the port.

"After this graduation ceremony, TPA is going to communicate with Bandari College to get all the information on you. Also we will contact you later to report at TPA on 1st February, 2019 for contract processes," the minister underlined.

After the contracts are finalized for employment, the graduates will be posted to various positions as per the minister's order.

Bandari College Principal, Joseph Kakeneo said the college has been providing training for port and maritime professionals in the country for 37 years to help the country to improve the transportation sector.



Natural Resources and Tourism Permanent Secretary Prof. Adolf Mkenda bids farewell to German Ambassador Dr Detlef Waechter after holding talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Sudan protests spread as death toll rises to 29

KHARTOUM

A 24-year-old man has died of his wounds during protests in Sudan as thousands of demonstrators continued their protests across several cities, calling on longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir, to step down.

Family members of the latest victim, Maawiya Bashir, told The Associated Press that he was shot in his home as he tried to shelter protesters being chased by government security forces.

With the man's death, the number of fatalities since protests broke out in Sudan in mid-December has now reached 29, according to the governmental investigatory committee spokesman, Amer Mohamed Ibra-

him.

According to the slain man's son, Yahya, his father had just returned home from prayers when several protesters ran through the front gate behind him.

He said his father agreed to shelter the protesters, and shut the door behind them, then tried to prevent armed members of government security forces from entering.

A shot was fired through the gate, hitting Bashir and knocking him to the ground. Seham Maawiya Bashir, daughter of Bashir, is demanding justice for her father.

"He didn't go out to the protests or do anything. He was in his home, how a bullet could come through the door and hit him, if he wasn't even a

protester. The bullet hole is still in the door," she said.

Al Jazeera's Mohamed Vall, reporting from Khartoum, said that there have been at least 10 areas confirmed by Al Jazeera to have held protests on Thursday.

The protests, he said, were "larger than ever before" in Khartoum and at least three major cities, including in Port Sudan.

There have also been reports of protests in smaller villages.

"By far, we can say that this is the biggest turnout of protesters across the country since the beginning of this movement."

Protests began in mid-December over price hikes, but have morphed into calls for President Bashir, who

has been in power for 29 years, to step down.

Since then, authorities in Sudan have used tear gas, rubber bullets, live ammunition and batons to quell the unrest.

Authorities have imposed emergency laws and night-time curfews in some cities and suspended classes in schools and universities in others.

They have also arrested opposition leaders, doctors, journalists, lawyers and students along with some 800 protesters.

Rights groups said as many as 40 people, including children, have been killed in the clashes, most by gunshot wounds. Al-Bashir's government has acknowledged only 24 deaths. Al Jazeera

“After this graduation ceremony, TPA is going to communicate with Bandari College to get all the information on you. Also we will contact you later to report at TPA on 1st February, 2019 for contract processes,” the minister underlined

IPP gearing for cashew nuts processing

By Abdallah Bakari, Mtwara

FIVE companies including IPP Ltd have shown interest to invest in cashewnut processing factories in the region, Mtwara Regional Commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa told reporters yesterday in his office.

He said that among those interested to invest in the processing of the nuts included Executive Chairman of IPP, Dr. Reginald

Mengi.

Tanzania is soon expected to increase the nut processing after it halted crop export for failure of business people to buy the crop from farmers at appropriate prices, compelling the government to intervene and set the price of Sh3,300 a kilo.

Available reports indicate that there are eight cashewnut processing factories currently operational in the country, with an

annual combined installed and operational capacities of 127,200 and 18,945 tonnes, respectively.

The eight factories are Micronix System Ltd (Newala II), Mtwara Cashew Company (MCC) 2005 (Mtwara), Export Trading Company Limited (Tunduru), Micronix System Ltd (Likombe) and Safa Petroleum and Mineral Company Limited (Kibaha).

The other three factories, which are also privately owned,

are Naliendele Agricultural Research Institute, AMAMA Farmers and Hawte Investment Ltd. The eight operational factories are among 23 cashew nut processing facilities whose annual combined installed and operational capacities are 42,200 and 11,142 tonnes, respectively.

The government however has already signed a memorandum of understanding with a number of processors to handle the pro-

duce, where those concerned include MBR International Trading Company, SAFI Group Company, SHAFI Investment and Food Source Company.

Currently, the RC said at least 209,398 tons of raw cashewnuts had already been collected from farmers from various warehouses countrywide.

The IPP Executive chairman paid a visit to the region at the Hi-yari Village where the factory is to

be built, he said.

"I personally accompanied Reginald Mengi to Hiyari village where we have allocated an area for industries. He was very happy to be here and to invest in the region," he said.

The RC said the region was now waiting for formal procedures before the project starts, so it was too early to know the capacity of the factories until the construction is commenced and completed.

"We are now working to ensure there is a conducive infrastructure in the area which will include water and reliable power so as to motivate and attract more investors," he said.

The government is still purchasing the cashewnut stocks from farmers at a flat rate of Sh3,300 per kilogram using the military vehicles and funds from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).



Tanzania Women's Parliamentary Group chairperson Margaret Sitta chairs a meeting with a UN Women delegation in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Parliament

TBS in essay contest to raise standards awareness

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

STUDENTS in higher learning institutions have been encouraged to participate in essay competitions to enable them acquire more knowledge and confidence of expressing themselves in public.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, a marketing officer at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Deborah Haule said they have been encouraging students in various campuses to participate in essay competitions. Essay competitions also enable student winners to get various prizes and hard cash, she said.

"TBS officials have already visited and encouraged over 300 students from four universities in Dar es Salaam to take part in essay competitions," she said.

The colleges are National Institute of Transport (NIT), Ardhi University (ARU), University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and St Joseph University in Tanzania.

In an effort to improve knowledge of standards related matters, the bureau has so far organised six continental essay competitions including one to be held later next month among Tanzanian universities and college students.

The theme for this year's essay is 'The Role of Standardisation in winning the Fight against Corruption for Africa's Sustainable Transformation.'

She said the objective is to raise awareness on the impact of corruption in the

sustainable development of Africa and how the implementation of standards through effective quality infrastructure can be used to create opportunities in fighting the vice.

The TBS official challenged students to be good ambassadors in promoting standards in order to enable Tanzania reach its target of a mid-sized economy by year 2025.

Deborah said this year the bureau has decided to involve students in higher learning institutions to participate in the essay due to their pivotal importance.

"They are our ambassadors in standards-related issues, and there is no doubt they will help the government in promoting this sector," she said.

Winners in this year's contest will receive cash prizes and laptops that would be provided by the Bureau during commemorations to mark Africa's standards day on February 28. She said the day was taken seriously by TBS through creating awareness among students on matters related to adherence to standards.

"We mark the Africa Standards Day by organising various activities, including essay writing competitions among students from higher learning institutions as a way of creating awareness on the importance of standards," she explained.

The major aim of marking the day was to educate people on the importance of standards in improving their lives through the quality of their assets, health and safety, among others.

Salt nutrients students end Ireland visit

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TANZANIA girl students have received accolades from the Irish government after managing to come up with innovative projects of adding more salt nutrients to animal feeds.

The two students, Farida Mnyazi and Wilhelmina Msoma from Msalato Girls secondary school in Dodoma got recognition from Irish Education Minister during the BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition held recently in Dublin, Ireland.

Speaking after their return over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, Mnyazi said the exhibition was tough and competitive that gave every student a challenge to improve and develop their project to be more effective.

"The students in the exhibition exercised a high level of creativity and innovation in science projects, which focused on addressing challenges in the society," she said.

The exhibition involved students from primary and secondary schools, in an initiative to develop science skills to secondary school students to become future scientists.

"We also had the chance to meet with Ireland President Michael Higgins who encouraged us to develop our projects for commercial purposes," she said.

The students participated in the exhibition as part of the continued program run by Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) to encourage science among the younger generation, especially secondary school students.

Their visit to Dublin was sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland in Tanzania.

The two students were overall winners of last year's Young Scientists Exhibition (YST) after their project

that focused on exploring the content of salt in herbs 'Mbigiri' suitable for animal feeds was picked as the best out of more than 100 science projects.

Young Scientists Tanzania is a unique and innovative programme in Africa, delivering two integrated and complementary events in the Tanzanian secondary school academic year.

The first is a comprehensive Science Outreach Programme covering all regions and the second is an attractive high profile Annual YST Exhibition and competition in which secondary school students showcase their research.

The YST 2019 Science Outreach program kicks off end of January to April 2019 across all regions. The final showcase of the researched projects will be exhibited on 31st July and 1st of August. This would not be possible without support from its main sponsors Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation and Shell Tanzania Ltd, and support from various other sponsors.

For her part, Msoma shared her experience and said she learned a lot from the exhibition, noting that the exhibition was a foundation to nurture young generations in the field of science.

"We have seen how the Ireland government is in the forefront in investing in education by making available all essential materials for learning to students," she said.

In Ireland, students get academic support from their parents who inspire them to pursue science subjects, while school managements connect students with specialists and other experts in different fields of study, she added.



NMB Kambage Branch Customer Service Manager Susan Mkenda hands over an ATM card to Finance Minister Dr Philip Mpango after opening his account in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

NGO, rescuers, bodaboda in rapid first aid link

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

Tanzania Rural Health Movement (TRHM) in collaboration with the Fire and Rescue Force in Iringa, along with bodaboda operators have launched the Okoa project, the first aid service in fire, road accidents and pre-hospital care service.

The aid service was launched by Iringa District Commissioner Richard Kasesela in partnership with the Iringa Fire and Rescue Force Commander Ambwene Mwakibete.

The Community First Response Project relies on SMS from the emergency scene to respond to the community while enabling the nearest

available emergency care providers to quickly locate, treat and transport emergency victims to local hospitals.

TRHM Project Coordinator Aziz Hassan said the aim of the project was to increase access to first-aid service, fire and road accidents and pre-hospital care services.

He said the service will involve providing first aid and carrying patients and taking them to a nearby hospital through the Beacon communication system. "The system will help to provide information to our service providers when the person calls on 114 for emergency assistance," he said.

Callers have continued to receive support from Okoa Project and Trek

Medics International in transportation and communication needs.

The TRHM coordinator commended bodaboda operators for their dedicated work to ensure health security in the region.

"For the system to function well, we should be able to link it to a doctor's hospital in the district and regional hospitals to ensure the emergency department receives early notice of the phone message before the patient arrives," he said.

On his part, Iringa Fire and Rescue Commander Ambwene Mwakibete acknowledged the NGO's Tanzania Rural Health Movement for establishing Okoa project as it will increase

access to first aid to accident victims in the region. He said the project assists in simplifying access to first aid in fiery disasters and street accidents by calling 114 numbers for emergency assistance.

TRHM also operates in Mwanza and has for several years worked on projects such as the Open Access for All Project, and the Mwanza Community First Response Project. It focuses on free pre-hospital care services provision through fire fighters, motor taxi drivers and police traffic officers' partnership. TRHM is a non-governmental organization established in 2014 and registered as a non-profit community-based organization.

Tanzania sets the pace in regional immunization drive

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya,

Mbeya

THE government said yesterday that it has set disease immunization as its top priority as it lays the best health foundation in children's health and later in adulthood.

The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Umyu Mwalimu said here yesterday

while commenting on a recent report by the World Health Organisation which placed the country close to the top of the most immunized countries in Africa.

"Tanzania will do whatever it takes to sustain the progress attained in the immunization program and is determined to reach every child," she said.

Earlier on Wednesday, the WHO Regional Office for Africa Program Coordinator for Im-

munization and Vaccine Development, Richard Mihingo commended the country for having the strongest diseases immunization programme in the region.

He said only eleven out of 47 countries were able to reach the same performance as Tanzania.

He was speaking at a teleconference briefing on disease immunization in African countries on Wednesday, where he named other countries following Tanzania suit as Botswana, Burundi,

Cape Verde, Eritrea, Gambia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles.

"Tanzania has done a commendable job in terms of introducing new vaccines, like Rota, Pneumo, Rubella and HPV (Human Papilloma Virus vaccine)," he said

With such high vaccine coverage, the country does not record high numbers of vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) and

indicates no VPD related death in 2017 except two deaths of rotaviral enteritis.

"We note that the national coverage with the third dose of DPT vaccine has been maintained at 90 per cent plus since 2010," he said, elaborating that only eleven out of 47 countries were able to reach the same performance.

However, he said Tanzania needed to do more in the area of immunization financing to in-

crease national contribution in immunization financing, as total expenditure on routine immunization financed by government funds represented only 24 per cent in 2016.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Dr Mihingo warned that nearly 31 million children below the age of five suffer from vaccine-preventable diseases annually, with over half million of them dying due to lack of access to vaccines.

Meanwhile, global immuniza-

tion experts who attended the biannual Regional Immunization Technical Advisory Group (RITAG) meeting in Congo Brazzaville on Wednesday 23rd January urged African countries to strengthen their routine immunization. Over the past five years, immunization coverage in sub-Saharan Africa has stagnated at 72 per cent, thus exposing populations to vaccine-preventable diseases and outbreaks, they said.



Young Scientists Tanzania Co-Founder Joseph Clowry, President of Ireland Michael Higgins (2nd L) in a group photo with YST 2018 overall winners Wilhelmina Msoma (3rd L) and Farida Mnyazi (2nd R) who are Msalato Girls Secondary School students during the BT Young Scientists Exhibition (BT YSTE) held in Dublin, Ireland last week. Photo YST.

Afrikaans scrapped at South Africa's top University

PRETORIA

A TOP South African university has dropped Afrikaans as its official language in favour of English.

The University of Pretoria told the BBC it needed to "transform the culture" to make it "truly South African". English is the preferred language of instruction for many in South Africa.

Afrikaans language policy has historically been used to exclude black learners in a country where racism remains deeply embedded 25 years after white-minority rule ended.

The word apartheid, which has now been internationalised and is in the Oxford Dictionary, is in fact an Afrikaans word.

The language is still spoken by millions, but it is hoped that this move will make the many more millions who do not speak it feel welcomed in one of the best academic institutions in the country. Black and non-Afrikaans-speaking students on Twitter have been discussing the new policy, with many sharing the humiliating and alienating treatment they say they were subjected to at the University of Pretoria.

One said that black students were intentionally humiliated by Afrikaans-speaking lecturers.

Another remembers the language being a struggle for them as a black 17-year-old teenager from a township.

And another former student said lecturers refused to speak English, telling students: "If you don't understand that's not my problem."

When asked about these testi-

monies, the University of Pretoria's spokesman Rikus Delpont told the BBC: "I'm sure there are incidents of that happening."

"That's what led to the whole coming together, and saying 'let's decide how we go forward'. It flowed from that." South Africa has 11 official languages, Zulu, Xhosa, Afrikaans, Sepedi, Setswana, English, Sesotho, Xitsonga, Siswati, Tshivenda and Ndebele.

Their constitutional recognition came with the advent of democracy, in an attempt to help end institutional racism and heal South Africa's bitter historical divisions.

"In an ideal world we would like all languages to have equal status in teaching, but it's not practically possible or feasible, so not a lot happens in other languages," the University of Pretoria's spokesman told the BBC.

"The university will still encourage multilingualism. We'll offer support services to students in their enrolment where practically possible in their home language."

Graduations and other official ceremonies will continue to feature the three languages already in use for those occasions English, Afrikaans and Sepedi.

Demand for Afrikaans-language teaching is falling, according to the University of Pretoria, which says 85 per cent of its students came from Afrikaans-speaking households in 1992, dropping to 30 per cent in 2015. Only 18 per cent of students said they wanted classes in Afrikaans at the last count in 2016.



Arusha Rural district council director Dr. Wilson Mahera presents a certificate to A for Africa institution representative Marianne Rick Smith in recognition of their contribution in education development in the district. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack



A roast meat vendor prepares to serve customers at Sinza in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



Tabora residents demonstrate to support the plant trees campaign and environment conservation yesterday.



A broom vendor walks the streets of Dar es Salaam looking for customers yesterday. Correspondent Getrude Mpezya



Arusha Chini Ward Executive Officer in Moshi Rural district, Noel Massam (L) gives feedback on the women and children security committee formed by Tusonge Mbele organisation. Photo: Godfrey Mushi



A fruits vendor attends a customer at Tazara area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Getrude Mpezya



Prisons Commissioner General Phaustine Kasike inspects a maize farm at Songwe prison in Rukwa region yesterday.



Secretary General of United Nations Association of Tanzania, Reynald Maeda explains the objectives of the consultation process for the new youth development policy. Photo: File

Accidents: Traffic police put to school government drivers

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

TRAINING has been provided by the Kilimanjaro Regional Police Traffic Office to government drivers working in the region, a move seen as aiming at curbing accidents in the region.

Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Superintendent of Police (SP) Zauda Mohammed said this during training this week, that it entailed equipping drivers with modern driving skills, road safety and first aid skills.

"Most road accidents are caused by reckless driving which does not abide by road regulations, with 80 per cent of accidents being caused by reckless drivers," she asserted.

SP Mohammed said 12 per cent of road accidents are caused by mechanical problems of the vehicles with six per cent being caused weather problems while only two per cent of accidents result from bad infrastructures.

She demanded that drivers, particularly those working with the government, abide by road traffic rules to avoid unnecessary road accidents.

"People need not to be afraid of police traffic officers, and instead they should work together as a team to avoid unnecessary road accidents, crimes and criminals for sustainable safety of the public," she told participants.

She further explained that there are new road signs like Deaf Sign and Disabled signs,

among several others, thus appealed to the drivers to participate in various road safety and vehicle users' trainings to be more familiar with the signs.

"This is not the end. My office will continue providing various training stints on road safety, vehicles user's guide training for sustainable road safety in our region," she specified.

Apart from Kilimanjaro regional office drivers, the same training will be provided to drivers of other institutions.

Speaking with this paper, one of the drivers, Evarist Msaki said that the refresher course has opened his eyes particularly on new road regulations and new road signs for disabled people.



Ministry of minerals Doto Biteko witnesses the Barrick Exploration African Limited (BEAL), Janet Lekashingo shakes hands with Chairman of Megagems Tanzania Limited (MTL) following the settlement of their long outstanding agreement

Tanzania gears to review youth policy

As Tanzania gears to review policy on the youth, GERALD KITABU caught up with the Secretary General of United Nations Association of Tanzania (UNA Tanzania), Reynald Maeda. Their conversation:

Q: What does the National Youth Development Policy stand for?

A: The National Youth Policy is a government plan or guideline on how it deals with youth related issues. It focuses on the wellbeing of the youth as a whole in terms of their social, economic, political and cultural standing. The policy needs a separate strategy, law or some kind of framework to implement it. Without a strategy it's just a statement or wishes, or a mere desire of how we want things to be done.

Q: Why is there a need for a new National Youth Policy?

A: There is indeed a need for a new national youth policy. Common practice is that policies are reviewed every ten years or so but that's not always the case, and so the new policy is needed because many things have changed in the past 10 years in terms of development. For example we have moved from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were implemented from 2000 to 2015 and now we are implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is a totally different ballgame which calls for more youth participation. Their role has to be amplified in the new policy, from local to an international perspective. For example, in the last ten years, we were implementing MKU-KUTA and now we have the Five Year Development Plan (FYDP II). Furthermore, for the past ten years, much progress has happened in terms of science, technology and innovation (STI) entrepreneurship. We have new concepts such as social entrepreneurs and innovators and the youth are at the forefront, leading innovation spaces in the country.

Also due to the fact that the youth population has increased and it is set to increase even higher in the next 10 years, where youths between the ages of 15-35 contributes to around 38 per cent of the entire population and 60 per cent of the entire population is below the age of 35. This means that the nation is going to have the youth population booming in the coming years. All this calls for a new national policy that will better cater for youth basic needs and address challenges for a better future.

Q: So far, where has the reviewing of the youth national policy process reached?

A: The policy is now being drafted and the ministry responsible for the youth has more details on that. But I can assure the general public that the process has been inclusive and representative as much as possible. I really commend the Ministry of Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled for this good job. It is really living up to its vision and mission.

Q: What was the level of youth participation in this review process?

A: The United Nations Association of Tanzania has been actively participating in the process for the past two years. We organised the national consultation for a new Youth Development Policy towards the end of last year in collaboration with the ministry, with support from the Foundation for Civil Society, with at least five representatives of special groups from eight regions. The consultative meeting brought together youth from diverse backgrounds such as youth living with disabilities, university students, social innovators and entrepreneurs. There were also employed youth, and youth in the Diaspora who for the first time participated in the process through online consultation. We deliberately managed to get as many youths as possible from different backgrounds to comple-

ment previous consultations held by the ministry. We wanted their voices to be amplified. Recommendations of the youths have already been submitted to the ministry. We have also participated in the multi-stakeholders' workshop convened by the ministry to review the recommendations in the zero new draft policy. We also had a chance to present our recommendations on areas that needed improvement.

Q: How were you represented in the policy drafting committees?

A: We were involved, and were actually representing youth-led organisations. We are at the core of what is happening. We are really thankful to the ministry for the confidence and trust it has shown on us regarding this exercise, and we feel that this has opened doors of success to many youths in the country.

Q: What challenges did you face in drafting its implementation map?

A: There are always challenges when a process like this is taking place like having all youths participate fully in this process and give their views, but due to limited resources, many cannot be reached especially those living in remote areas. Lack of public awareness of the current National Youth Development Policy of 2007 especially among the youth was also a challenge when we were seeking their recommendations. Most of them lacked knowledge on the previous policy, thereby hindering them to figure out how to improve the new recommendations, and there is also a lack of awareness of the policy review process itself.

Q: So, what have you registered so far?

A: I believe the biggest achievement will be when we have the new Youth Development Policy in place and on time because we need it. But I would say we have had our quick wins, the fact that the process is really inclusive and the ministry is working with young people towards the new youth policy is really incredible. The ministry listens to our inputs and recommendations although not all inputs are taken on board. For example, there are many recommendations from the youth that have been reflected on the Zero Draft that was presented recently. This alone shows that the voices and contributions from the youth are valued and that doors are still open for more recommendations from the youth.

Q: What are the main concerns of the youth on the policy?

A: Youths are really concerned about health rights improvement which includes sexual and reproductive rights, coherent education system especially the curriculum which they consider as outdated, skills development, economic prosperity and inclusion in decision making processes. This is just the nutshell of what came out strongly when collecting recommendations from different youth groups.

Q: What advice do you have to the government and other stakeholders?

A: The government need to work with the youths and make consultations with them so that it understand their day to day challenges and find solution to their problems. It is through this process that youths' dreams, goals and development can be realised.

Youths also need to fully participate in development to make sure they give all concerns and inputs to be on board for a better future. Stakeholders' moral and material support for both the government and the youth is needed for a bright future.

Foundation hands renovated library

By Aisia Rweyemamu

A RENOVATED library was yesterday presented by the Dr. Ntuyabaliwe Foundation to Tandale West Primary school in an effort to motivate and create a reading culture for pupils.

The library was refurbished by the founder of Dr. Ntuyabaliwe Foundation, Jacqueline Mengi who also donated copies of a new textbook and other learning resources.

The library was also awarded as a gift to the school that succeeded to provide the first winner in the story writing competition dubbed 'Andika Challenge,' which was launched May last year at Kinondoni primary school.

The competition allows all primary, government students to participate sending their stories to Dr. Ntuyabaliwe Foundation where the story must be creative and realistic, not exceed 500 words, and can be in Swahili or English with good handwriting.

Speaking during the launching event, the director of the Foundation, Jacqueline Mengi said the goal behind is to encourage and enabling students love reading books at a tender age.

"We thank the President for providing free education. Therefore, the institution found that it important to support the president's efforts through library renovation, as this will also contribute in improving education in the country."

She said the role of parents has remained to encourage children to study hard so they can add new knowledge in their lives every day.

Jacqueline also challenged the pupils to keep the books well so that others can use them in future.

Speaking at the event, Grace Mtesigwa, an adult education officer in Kinondoni municipality, said the support provided by Dr. Ntuyabaliwe Foundation would not only benefit one school but even students from neighboring schools will benefit from it.

"We are very grateful for recognizing the importance of supporting the education sector as it is a key element of development. We ask for this support to continue in other

areas so that many can benefit," the education official noted.

"Through this library pupils will be able to build a reading habit and later implant it to their kids as you have inherited from your father."

On her part the school head teacher, Doris Misigaro said the library at the school will stimulate the reading culture on pupils and enable them reach positive academic results.

Dr Ntuyabaliwe Foundation is dedicated to supply up to 40,000 brand new, carefully selected books to libraries in primary schools in Tanzania each year, work hand in hand with teachers and students who tell them what kind of books they need, and by

what quantity.

The foundation is established in commemorating the late Dr. Wilbrod Ntuyabaliwe, the father of Jacqueline Mengi, who had a great passion in reading books. He understood that the world is rapidly changing and we are presented with new opportunities and technological advances every day.

He believed that books have a central role to play, not only in improving individual life chances but also in contributing to transform children's lives.

According to Jacqueline, the foundation is not only intended to celebrate her father but to pass on that culture to children and transform their lives so as to improve their future.

ALAF urges more action against counterfeits

By Francis Kajubi

A LEADING manufacturer of roofing materials in the country has commended the creation of a more conducive environment for doing business by the authorities by tracking down counterfeits and substandard products now overwhelming the local market.

Aluminum Africa Limited (ALAF) General Manager, Dipti Mohanty, said at an occasion to officiate a new showroom at Mwenge in Dar es Salaam that construction is becoming a leading sector in the country's economy and thus measures to protect manufacturers of construction materials should be put in place.

"Counterfeits and substandard products are a major problem and we have already told this to the parliamentary committee, the cabinet and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards."

"With this showroom we have come closer to our customers who can visit to see what we have, and obtain more information on our products," he said.

Showcasing ALAF products and services as a total building solution and providing technical solutions to customers are the key objectives for opening another roof gallery at Mwenge. Last year the company opened its first showroom at Kariakoo and has played major role in its business growth, said Mohanty.

The current production of roofing iron sheets from ALAF stands at 80,000 tons a year and thus enjoys a big stake of the annual demand that is estimated to be 150,000 tons a year.

"We are here to stay and serve Tanzanians with quality building materials. To put the record clear, last year we again received the first prize award in metal and metal products for the large industry category, our 9th successive win," he said.

ALAF, in which the government owns 24 per cent shares while 76 per cent is owned by the Safal Group Ltd, last year marked 58 years of its existence in Tanzania, manufacturing corrugated roofing iron sheets that are traded as Simba Dumu, and roofing tiles. Currently ALAF has branches in Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma and Arusha.

Kinondoni District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo, who was the guest of honor applauded ALAF for supplying the market with genuine construction materials since its inception in Tanzania back in 1961.



Kinondoni District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo (second left) cuts a ribbon to officially launch an ALAF Ltd Mwenge gallery at a function in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Next to him is ALAF General Manager Dipti Mohanty. Photo: Guardian Correspondence

Policy Forum breakfasts on political impact of social media

By Guardian Correspondent

Literature shows that the most obvious advantage social media brings to the table is its potential to rival mainstream media in giving voice to people on their own terms.

It can grant visibility to their experiences, provide a venue for discussion and offer a platform for direct participation, even enabling people to speak directly to the powerful.

And because of its built-in multiplier effect, social media can vastly speed up the diffusion of information, ideas, practices, values and social norms that support positive changes.

It's also worth emphasising that social media needn't just reinforce echo chambers...it can also be used to cut across existing societal divisions and expose fabrications and hearsay.

Social media can also serve as a tool for organising and taking action. This is critical for achieving what many see as its most transformative potential: enabling people to coalesce around solutions to problems set out elsewhere in the media.

Yet despite the optimism about what social media can achieve, evidence appears limited and sometimes contradictory.

A recent World Bank report simply states that there isn't much evidence of the impact of social media in developing countries.

Contributing his views during Policy Forum's monthly debate, themed "Is social media an alternative forum under the context of shrinking space in Tanzania?", held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Policy Forum's board chairman Japhet Makongo highlighted the need for creating an active social media that could change the narrative into content that metamorphoses into constructive space where leaders and citizens discuss issues that have positive impacts to their lives.

He further revealed that the changes happening in social media space was normal, in comparison to what was happening in the previous political culture, that of the one party system.

"While we are talking about the challenges facing social media, let us look at their positive opportunities, upon which we need to capitalise more," he appealed.

For his part, the breakfast debate discussant Dr



In the society today, harnessing the power of social media is imperative for one to grow in business and brand. Photo: Web

Muhidin Shangwe, a political science lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, said that there was a need to ensure social media become relevant and discuss constructive issues that impact their day to day lives.

"Citizens have the right to constructively demand communicational space from the government of the day, which they think is lacking - without using violence," he told the gathering.

Dr. Shangwe said the social media are a global phenomenon and a platform for knowledge, information and person to group communication. "The social media have come to shape our lives in very

fascinating and remarkable ways," he observed.

The social media in particular have come to represent the perfect example of the democratisation of information and technology, with a demonstrable capacity to migrate communication to interactive dialogue and social activation, he further stated.

This is greatly evident all around the world with regard to its use for campaigns and enlightenment, by political parties.

The most intensive scrutiny of the relationship between social media and politics is found in the analysis of the Arab uprisings.

Social media was instrumental to the uprisings because it provided a means to transform individualised, localised and community-specific dissent into collective consciousness and shared opportunity for action.

Socially, we are all witnesses to the volume of information shared on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Blackberry Messenger and Instagram, the principal programs across several social media networks through which Tanzanians like other people interact, obtain information to meet their social needs to shape their attitudes and enrich the quality of life.

On the economic front, social media has become a market place of ideas and creativity. Products and services are sold online, thus providing opportunities for start-ups to commence businesses on a wider level.

Social media play a huge role in the lives of many people. While not everyone is fond of the phenomena, society and various strata of society recognize the impact that social media have on people's everyday lives.

More and more, people are using Facebook as a means to connect with old friends, stay up to date with people's lives, find out about upcoming events, and even as a way to shop online.

The younger generations are exploring various social media platforms such as Instagram and twitter, facebook, blogs and whatsapp. Whatever the platform may be, it can be used as an effective way to update the public with positive and correct information as well as promote, attract and recognize businesses.

The main presenter at the breakfast debate, a consultant with Business Management Consulting Co. (BUMACO) Ltd, Dr. Aikande Kwayu, said that it was easy to get massive support/cheerleading within social media but beyond social media that support can be insignificant. Effectiveness of social media activities is debatable, as it depends on how you measure success.

She was of the view that in Tanzania, social media have enabled people, among other things, to express themselves, broadcast their views, get feedback, build their audience, and reach out to the community.

Dr Kwayu further noted that civic

space is not given but created. Thus, "There's a need to create more and expand spaces by linking digital and physical space because they are interdependent."

She also recommended for the expansion of existing spaces, like faith-based spaces into digital spaces. "Social mobilization and collective efforts should not be replaced by digital space but supplemented."

Literature shows that social media enhance political accountability, empower agency and resistance, constitute a critical juncture in political participation. The "voiceless" can speak up, as such media provide global currency by global outreach. They provide a facility for larger community interactions and participation, possess an organizing potential, network citizen-centered perspectives, and enable citizens to be drivers of democratic innovation, with ability to shape social relations of power.

They make participants active consumers, those who can challenge back as opposed to passive recipient of propaganda, and provide a disruptive capacity in relation to the work of traditional political practices

She also mentioned the limitations of social media among others, underlining that many lead to focus on individual agency, while unmediated interactivity of individuals may challenge collective efforts, apart from suffocation of information. Almost a quarter of the world's population is now on Facebook. In the USA nearly 80 per cent of all internet users are on this platform. Because social networks feed off interactions among people, they become more powerful as they grow.

Thanks to the internet, each person with marginal views can see that he's not alone. And when these people find one another via social media, they can do things like creating memes to organize action, issue publications and create entire online worlds that bolster their worldview, and then break into the mainstream.

"Without social media, social, ethical, environmental and political ills would have minimal visibility. Increased visibility of issues has shifted the balance of power from the hands of a few to the masses," the discussant underlined.

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As strategic reality changes, terror threat will rise

A MASSIVE terrorist attack in Nairobi last week had all the three elements of urban terror operations, namely a car bomb to cause damage and confusion, then gunmen using grenades and heavy rifles, and finally suicide bombing by a self-detonating suicide vest to cause maximum damage in the principally targeted area.

The terror attack claimed the lives of 21 people according to Kenyan authorities, who took several days to put the area totally under control and account for the dead and missing.

It is a sad episode that the Kenyan capital has had to live with over the past decade, not just for its anti-terror operations in Somalia but its key US, Israeli links.

As if in response to the Nairobi raid, the US Marine corps stationed in Somalia launched aerial bombardment of suspected Al Shabaab facilities, and the US command said 56 militants were killed.

News agencies covering Somalia and Kenya said however that it wasn't possible to make an independent verification of numbers of those who died, in which case the US report just creates an impression of the scale of that raid, not precisions about Al Shabaab losses. Both that attack and the US response show that terror groups are organizing afresh.

One apparent reason for launching the Nairobi DusitD2 Hotel strike is the precipitated departure of US troops from Syria, which boosted terror groups' morale the way the US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital at about the same time the previous year sapped the morale of Mid East peace

negotiators.

It was as if President Donald Trump was reaching a 'peace of the brave' with them, that he intends to keep his Jerusalem vow and for that matter act in solidarity with Israel, but otherwise he is leaving the Middle East to the designs of the warlords in the region. The US is tiring of fighting alongside a plethora of undemocratic regimes, for decades on end...

Back on the continent, the US Africa Command which has been blasted by so many radicals has actually helped to douse the fires of uprisings following the Al Shabaab and Boko Haram models, though it must be admitted that the French have been more than active in the Francophone sphere.

It will be remembered that periodic raids of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda diminished and the rag tag band disappeared into the triangular forest zone linking Uganda, DRC, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic after the US sent a 100-man commando unit to hunt down LRA leader Joseph Kony. He remains in hiding.

Back home there was a report of Tanzanian 'militants' (which usually mean terror suspects, linked to groups planning attacks) being caught or noticed in hideouts in northern parts of Mozambique, a low density area.

The population is also kindred so they can even pose as locals, except if it comes to speaking Portuguese. With the US retreating from Syria and Afghanistan, terror groups shall expect that if they make strenuous attacks the US will depart from overseas wars and camp at home. The threat of more frequent terror attacks therefore looms.



Trends in 2019: How world order is shaped by the war for deposits

By Miki Tasseni

MAPPING out the future for countries and world economy, or regional economic prospects in 2019 or medium term is turning into a war of faith, as to which economic model one is endeared to, and how it will survive the turbulence in world trade at the moment.

While the trade war or trade spat between the United States and China is an overall big story, how Africa comes in is a close second, and here the weight of the evidence is that Africa is unobtrusively on the Chinese side, meanwhile as fears have already started growing on what China expects to do with debt repayment. Africa is sharply divided now as to future of Chinese loans.

Parts of this contention had already been played out during 2018 and what is being seen now is midway between difference and repetition, in the sense of new thematic areas amidst psychological continuity of what should happen - or what to expect.

Earlier there was what African analysts broadly qualify as a Sinophobic narrative on Chinese links with African countries, and whether Africa is captive to China or it is a reliable development partner.

The change came towards the end of the year when it was heard that China was pushing for property swaps underlined in infrastructure loans, including taking over a port, get a profit to recover loans.

This possibility turned a portion of the erstwhile Sinophilic academic community to start underlining dangers of a debt trap, mirrored in the likeness of the Bretton Woods institutions, for surrendering a port or airport, or railway system, is akin to privatisation, structural adjustment.

While China has itself been pushed to deny that it is contemplating or pushing for such outcomes, it is in a fix as to what it can do to recover loans, no longer really interested in African empty garlands of a true friend, who won't insist on loans being repaid.

China is offering fewer loans and is far more selective, which means it shall direct its cash to its private sector, not give state loans.

While the future scenario for China is that it shall be investing like other Western countries or those from emerging markets (those building Tanzania's standard gauge railway line, from Turkey and Portugal), it is not clear how it sorts out massive debts offered during



During 2017 and 2018, restructuring has been brisk in commercial banks as deposits shift to large foreign commercial banks for security

the 'non-interference' phase.

At the same time analysts in the United States and Europe see Africa as China's big hope as it restructures its global trade outlook with the US market shrinking, and Europe being incapable of replacing the US role.

Even if the rate of Africa's growth and ability to help boost Chinese growth is a bit on the higher side, it means China doesn't wish to sow antagonism.

Still, plenty of what can be expected in world order shall depend on the outcome of the US strategy on China, Russia and Iran to which Turkey is increasingly coming into orbit, as a potential foe of the US in the Middle East despite its nominal belonging to the NATO fold.

While academic analysts and newsmakers lament the way in which the US is losing global leadership, especially with its decision to pull out of Syria and slash its presence in Afghanistan by a half, the real battle is located elsewhere.

The singular feature is that the world hardly ever developed a proper 'narrative' as to how the Soviet Union fell, to grasp the essence of what is happening now.

The whole point is that the world order is being fashioned out by who wins the war on deposits, that conditions are created in these antagonistic countries which detest the US model of society and seek to remove its presence from around the world, to lose their surplus funds to the US.

All these countries have authoritarian forms of government where dissent can be punished by long imprisonment or death, in which case those who have large surplus funds and some private views seek safer zones to invest.

Among major Western economies, none has the profit levels of the United States, as it is in tax terms an offshore territory, and diminishing taxes further.

Such an atmosphere is being played out in Tanzania as a mi-

croscopic illustration of what is happening in world economy and why the foes of broad democracy aren't going to win.

During 2017 and 2018, restructuring has been brisk in commercial banks as deposits shift to large foreign commercial banks for security, as investment climate became unstable, unassured.

The result was a \$1.46 billion loan offer from Standard Chartered Bank to the Tanzania government for standard gauge railway construction, after it failed to obtain loans from several other quarters as even China was hesitating.

The global equivalent of the SCB here is the US economy and its banking system, and so long as Russia, China and Iran lose billions of dollars each year to US banks, one can be sure they will eventually fall on their swords. That is how the Soviet Union fell, bankrupted from the inside.

ZECO power purchase VAT removal long overdue

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has added a brick in the work to consolidate the Union in the week following the 55th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution by ordering the removal of value added tax on power that TANESCO sells to its Zanzibar alter ego, ZECO.

The VAT debt was a third of the total power bill that TANESCO was demanding from ZECO in the past year, which means that the payment burden has been lifted to a considerable extent. The question is why there was VAT in power wholesale transaction, firstly.

Unless otherwise stated, VAT is collected from end users, in which case it is ZECO that ought to collect the VAT from power it sells to customers, and TANESCO more or less wanted it to collect the VAT on its behalf.

That is why it would charge VAT on ZECO and then the Isles power firm would recover the VAT it has paid or been billed by charging it on customers, which leaves a question as to how it would finance its operations.

It would have to charge an extra VAT so as to obtain a profit from wholesale price shifting to retail power sale.

This business practice on the part of TANESCO was one of habits and privileges of executive authorities charging terms that are tailored to suit their business interests instead of the common good, which in routine business terms is known as fair play.

As the president noted, there were no grounds in the first place to charge VAT but this matter kept being ignored

for decades, just because TANESCO like other state business entities privileges its revenue interest first.

Similar disputes have arisen with independent power producers selling to TANESCO, as the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has once padlocked Aggreko (T) for unpaid taxes.

Owing to this threat from TRA to charge VAT on a company that does not conduct retail business on the power but releases it in totality to TANESCO - which thus ought to pay VAT if TANESCO pays any taxes - the power price quoted by independent producers has often been quite high.

When the state eventually went back to beg Aggreko (T) for renewed supply of power to TANESCO, the terms the state firm had to accept were on the higher side, noticeably if not a rip off, but it had no option. Aggreko (T) wasn't taking any chances this time.

Some of these habits have been institutionalised, though being denied once in a while, for instance charging taxes at the port of Dar es Salaam or Bagamoyo for goods purchased in Zanzibar as if it was a foreign state.

The reason is that taxes are lower in Zanzibar as it has a slightly stronger business culture while the Mainland has a culture of putting the thumb on businesses.

Protection of Mainland firms against competition from goods bought in the Isles becomes a preoccupation in order to protect uncompetitive industries, harming the Union.

By Ani Jozeni

Why crop technology awaits decline of the peasantry to take off

ONE question that has taken long for it to be resolved and even now there are just signs rather than concrete measures except in a few countries, is when African countries shall adopt crop technology in a generalised manner.

To answer that question is it important to phrase it in like manner as Russian revolutionary leader Vladimir Lenin in 1902, in his tactical and strategic political tract, on 'who are the friends and enemies of the revolution,' that is, identifying foes of crop technology.

The key adversary isn't government as in more than one instance it came close to grasping the point but non-governmental activist groups, the global anti-GM NGOs.

The big problem is why NGOs have had such clout on African governments when it comes to adopting crop technology, obtain seeds cured of cobs being harvested by fall armyworms instead of peasants as the seeds retain a high sugar content.

Such a situation can scarcely be corrected by hybrids as they are similar in that aspect of content, as design by nature favors sugar as it is likeable for insects and all sorts of pests, so its seed will be spread far and wide, unlike a rather tasteless variety, at least for those pests.

Similarly, why is the United States the country with the most direct and unfettered use of crop technology, while Europe has long dithered?

The latter issue links up with the previous issue, in the sense that while the US is in large measure a continent of NGOs, they singularly have no influence on crop technology legislation, in which case the power of NGOs does not result from their numbers but the sort of population (and politicians) they address.

The fact that anti-GM NGOs have literally no presence in the US political system but combating



The Demeter Seed maize hybrid Mphangala MH26 is growing well under winter conditions in a farm in Africa

GM foods outside the US is based on the fact that US agriculture is comprehensively commercial, so populist appeals to the soil, native varieties do not work there. In that case NGOs are powerful or persuasive in Africa due to traditionalism, tribal agriculture.

When one talks of biodiversity,

in global terms there is supposed number of major variants identifiable with continents or major countries, but in Africa the tribal landscape is a world in itself, a tribal planet where its seeds, plants, foods, their tastes and modes of preparation exist from time immemorial.

And since GM seeds must be

purchased each year, a minor element of cost is added to what is basically a resistance against the hold or domination of a few seed companies in the world agro-produce market, an issue which makes sense to rural political leaders facing resistance to purchasing seeds, etc. The argument is sketchy but it has a wide audience.

This resistance has taken a new turn in East Africa where countries were broadly preparing for adoption of biotech cotton as local variants have poor quality levels and test to cost higher on account of inputs, etc.

Voices are now being raised that BT cotton is no aid to the textile sector but a trapdoor for unsafe food which

was a lumpsum, to say the least.

Higher yield cotton and lint is the key to global changes in the garments industry for the whole of the past century, and industries in Rwanda and Kenya are geared to taking up BT cotton, a step that had already been communicated to sellers in the region. It also appeared to be tied to rising trade tensions.

This slant of the issue, which might not deter Kenya and Rwanda from adopting BT cotton but have a pivotal role in checking against taking that same course in Tanzania especially, is an illustration of the fact that NGOs prey on non-business agro-sector affinities.

It is another version of the 'alienation of commodities,' where they now lose their commodity character and become symbols of a national culture, or rather the variety of cultures that make up a nation.

NGO popularisers talk about unsafe GMO food while DNA change isn't chemical input but modification of growth and make up potential, and ignore pesticides or other poisons making food unsafe.

That is why it is a plausible proposition that crop technology shall follow in the wake of agriculture in Africa taking a fully fledged commercial character, such that tribal communities and their 'rich' varieties of foods in grains, fruits or vegetables will not cloud the picture about crop technology.

Secondly, activist anti-GM NGOs prey substantially on an anti-colonial 'them' and 'us' mentality, where the idea of purchasing a 300/- kilogram of seeds from a US company is abhorrent, a frame of mind targeting a rural constituency politician open to attack, not a calculating farmer.

When Africa has calculating farmers using bank credit to produce cheap grains for regional and foreign markets, not food for a whole country untainted with GM seeds, biotechnology shall work.

BY FRANCIS SEMWAZA

Raise female voice, help rural African girl-child

THE voice of girls, particularly in the developing world remains largely unheard, and most girls are no experiencing the suffering they should not be getting in, especially in this gender awakening 21st century.

The ensuing efforts at gender, especially the mainstreaming of women affairs, though has and continues to help, faces numerous challenges halting progress that should have been attained given the lengthy journey travelled so far.

Both the urban and in the rural settings, women and girls collectively continue to be maltreated under a system that favors masculinity while undermining femininity, and most of the time the women themselves consider and subject themselves under the mercy of male-dominated system socially and economically.

The totality of this practice as a subculture is what makes up the infamous patriarchy system that has for long enough been debated and presented as an enemy of women's rights worldwide.

The consequences of this otherwise embedded culture of the denial of women's rights, though normalised and less pronounced, include early pregnancies, early marriages, denying girls of their right to education, increased number of children living under difficult circumstances, all of which lead to continued poverty at the individual, household and national levels.

To a large extent, women and girls have their lives decided upon by men even on issues such as pregnancy that require their active presence and participation.

It was for such reasons that some critics would hold accountable the male-dominated US Congress and other law-making bodies all-over the world for discussing women's rights, including abortion and birth control, for instance, while ignoring the voice of the very women who form the core of both the discourse and the actions, and bear the consequences.

The relationship between the abuse of women and poverty, then, is not a hidden matter anymore, but a conspicuous one which, if sufficiently addressed, progress shall be witnessed both instantly and eventually in the long run.

Doing so would resonate with the



Women and girls have their lives decided upon by men even on issues such as pregnancy that require their active presence and participation. Photo: File

discourse on women's empowerment; it would amount to translating the words into action. Such sayings as 'educating a woman is educating the whole family' would make more sense as it would now have moved onto actualizing it.

The denial of women's rights, therefore, would equal the denial of a country's development, and worse, a deliberately inflicting of pain onto a country's people since one suffering leads to another resulting in dual causation between poverty and the many challenges dragging women behind no matter their position and determination in liberating themselves: lack of access to healthcare, lack of education, early marriages and early pregnancy, among others, all lead to and are caused by poverty and consequently result into increased maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates.

It thus becomes a prerequisite that the idea of women's empowerment should not be built around necessarily

around their perceived weaknesses, but because they have continuously been victims of the male imposed weakness at varying levels and magnitudes across the globe.

In fighting the ensuing patriarchal mentality, it important to remind ourselves of the words of Dr. G.D Anderson who says that the whole idea around feminism and gendered approaches to social analysis is not about making women stronger: women are already strong. Feminism, then, is "...about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

In other words, feminism focuses on challenging the global patriarchy-informed perspective that looks down on women as powerless creatures, and thus considering them as such no matter the achievements they would attain individually or in groups.

Therefore, the discourse of and actions toward women's empowerment should not be construed or considered as a 'mercy' or an undue privilege, but delayed

freedom and guarantee of rights that women have been denied and continue to be denied them in numerous ways and on various levels.

This applies to all the ongoing awareness on the gender mainstreaming efforts (the prioritization of women's needs) from the top to the lower levels through which women and girls get their forgotten and ignored issues brought to the table for deliberation and action despite the moral questions and whatever consequence surrounding them; such issues may include their right to education after pregnancy and the quest for gender sensitive budgeting from the national, institutional to the local government levels.

The little-yet-ongoing achievements have however been selective with majority of rural women and girls being left out systematically for numerous reasons some of which, including poor communication infrastructure to past the message

along, being beyond the reach of the gender activists.

Because of the social entanglement, some of the few successful women have unconsciously or else succumbed into patriarchy: their emancipation could then be viewed using the lenses of either the deceit of social colonization to allow a small room to accommodate women who would work as collaborators in oppressing other women, or an appeasement that they also form part of the system and thus should not rise up against it.

The deceit and appeasement of women, especially in the developing world, have been happening in the midst of increasing unwanted child pregnancies and several other vices largely affecting the rural population owing to the difficulty access to health, educational and other services whose impact would have contributed to a growing consciousness about gender and women's rights.

Coupled with the challenges of

rural livelihoods in a larger part of the developing world, some of these few liberated women would find themselves trapped and unable to split themselves between fighting for their daily bread on the one hand and caring and speaking toward the emancipation of the forgotten women and girls who continue to face hardships in accessing education, healthcare, and other crucial services, as well as those who get abused by their husbands or their leaders be them in the formal or traditional administration systems on the other.

It happens to be the case that most of the gender empowerment efforts happen to be intermittent and event-informed, thus lacking long-term sustainability, the characteristics that make it difficult for the society to feel the impact and change for the better by treating women and girls as equal human beings who deserve freedom and respect.

Moreover, the society is characterized by hypocrisy whereby most people would portray themselves as supporting women's rights on the outside while rejecting or selectively applying them on in the inside: no wonder to hear both men and women saying that they love their mothers the most yet ignore other women who equal their mothers, and girls who would eventually become other people's mothers by treating them inhumanly.

The not-far-reaching women's rights and empowerment campaigns have resulted in the pretense by some social and political cadres in acknowledging the rights only for self-serving reasons while most women continue enduring the same sufferings.

The challenges surrounding the empowering of the highly disadvantaged African girl-child, then, could be countered by trickling the efforts down enough to eventually create strong foundations from down-up and win the true ingrained support even from the hard-wired supporters and perpetrators of patriarchy whether institutions or individual men or women irrespective of the positions they hold.

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Critics say police should have acted earlier on reports of forceful mutilation of more than 400 women in a month by armed groups

By Samuel Okiror in Kampala

SIXTEEN men and three women have been arrested for allegedly aiding and abetting female genital mutilation (FGM) in eastern Uganda after reports of gangs attacking women in the region.

The suspects were taken into custody earlier this week after joint police and military operations in Kween district. The arrests followed local media reports of more than 400 women, some as young as 12, being mutilated by force by local gangs in the past month.

FGM was outlawed in Uganda in 2010, but campaigners say too little is being done to persuade people, especially in rural areas, to stamp out the practice.

The reported groups of up to about 100 people are led by elderly women, accompanied by men armed with machetes.

"We carried out an operation," said Polly Namaye, Uganda's deputy police spokesperson. "Some of the people we arrested include those who participate in the process, the people who cut, those who prepare the girls for circumcision, the ones who sing during the celebrations and all that.

Police arrest 19 people over FGM gang attacks on women in Uganda



A woman in north-east Uganda shows a homemade tool used for female genital mutilation. Photo: Yasuyoshi Chiba/AFP/Getty Images

"It (FGM) hurts the girls [and women], it makes them uncomfortable and fear for themselves. It's torture in itself.

"We encourage that this [practice] is not carried on. We encourage the women to stand

up for themselves and refuse to take part in this ritual, which was made criminal by law."

Mercy Munduru, programme officer with the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers, said the police should have taken action

earlier.

"FGM has no place in our society and should not be happening in 2019 under the watch of our security personnel. FGM violates the rights of women and girls to sexual and physical integrity,"

said Munduru.

"We strongly condemn the forceful and continued prevalence of FGM in eastern Uganda, which in essence is washing away the relevance of the FGM Act, a law we fought so hard for to

avert such a gross violation of women's rights."

Livingstone Sewanyana, executive director of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiatives, said: "The biggest weakness with our legal system is inability to implement laws that have a bearing on individual dignity and integrity.

The FGM Act is one such piece of legislation that has hardly been enforced, yet FGM is both dehumanising and degrading to those who are subjected to this inhuman act.

"What needs to be done to eradicate such a practice on a more sustainable basis, besides prosecution under the law, is to carry out intensive sensitisation of communities about the dangers of such an archaic practice to a person's health, bodily integrity and wellbeing.

"A collective public education campaign by state institutions and civil society organisations, alongside local society organisations, alongside local leaders, would offer a more effective and deterrent solution to this problem."

Traditional beliefs in the Kween, Bukwo and Kapchorwa districts, in Sebei region, and Amudat and Moroto in semi-arid Karamoja region, make it hard to combat FGM.

Munduru said: "No single approach can eliminate FGM. Criminalising the practice only will not change people's behaviour. We recommend greater government involvement in the protection of women's rights. Tackle the secrecy that allows cutting to continue.

"It is time for advocates to invoke human rights standards and hold governments accountable for their inaction in response to FGM. So that girls and women no longer have to suffer in silence."

BY THALIF DEEN

Electronic devices outnumber humans, trigger a surge in e-waste

THE widespread innovations in modern digital technology have a devastating downside to it: the accumulation of over 50 million tonnes of electronic waste (e-waste) globally every year.

And that's greater in weight than all of the world's commercial airliners ever made, or enough Eiffel Towers to fill the borough of Manhattan in New York city, warns a new report released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, January 24.

Currently only 20 per cent of e-waste including desktop computers, cell phones, laptops, television sets, printers and a wide variety of household electrical appliances, is formally recycled.

If nothing changes, the United Nations University (UNU), one of the authors of the report, predicts e-waste could nearly triple to nearly 120 million tonnes by 2050.

The study says it is difficult to gauge how many electrical goods are produced annually, but just taking account of devices connected to the internet, they now number many more than humans, whose total world population now stands at over 7.7 billion.

The joint report, titled "A New Circular Vision for Electronics, Time for a Global Reboot", and backed by seven UN agencies, points out that rapid innovation and lowering costs have dramatically increased access to electronic products and digital technology, with many benefits.

This has led to an increase in the use of electronic devices and equipment. And the unintended consequence of this is a ballooning of electronic and electrical waste.

The study says e-waste is now the fastest-growing waste stream in the world. Some forms of it have been growing exponentially.

Asked how feasible it is for countries to have mandatory legislation on recycling e-waste, Dr Ruediger Kuehr, co-author of the report and Director, UNU-ViE SCYCLE, Sustainable Cycles Programme, told IPS mandatory e-waste recycling legislations are in place, for example, in the European Union (EU).

As per such, 85 per cent all e-waste generated in the EU must be recycled in 2019. However, this target is not going to be reached at all, he noted.

Collection is the biggest challenge and recent attempts to substantially increase it by forcing, for example, retailers to accept obsolete e-products have not substantially increased collections.

Hence, he said, e-waste recycling legislations must come together with innovative and rewarding collection systems; consumer awareness (for ex-



ample, not for storing obsolete equipment at home, but returning it early on) but also new systems to consume electronics such as dematerialization purchasing the service instead of the product.

This will ease collection, because the ownership of the product would remain with the producer, he added.

He also said such systems are necessary in the long-run, because extended collection systems by returning equipment with retailers; recycling points or collection bins have proved to be key, but do not provide the necessary

breakthrough.

"In consequence, the pure e-waste legislation will not change things, especially also because in many countries their enforcement is lacking," Dr Kuehr warned.

In terms of material value, says the study, e-waste presents an opportunity worth over 62.5 billion dollars per year, more than the GDP of most countries and three times the output of the world's silver mines.

There is 100 times more gold in a tonne of e-waste than a tonne of gold ore, according to the report.

The study calls for a new vision for electronics based on the circular economy and the need for collaboration with major brands, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), academia, trade unions, civil society and associations, in a deliberative process to change the system.

The joint report supports the work of the E-waste Coalition, which includes: the International Labour Organization (ILO); the International Telecommunication Union (ITU); the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment); the UN Industrial Development Or-

ganization (UNIDO); the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); the UN University (UNU), and the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

The Coalition is supported by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Economic Forum and coordinated by the Secretariat of the Environment Management Group (EMG).

Asked if the issue of e-waste should be on the agenda of the UN General Assembly in order to motivate firm commitments from the 193 member states,

Dr Kuehr told IPS that some stakeholders in politics and industry are of the standpoint that the e-waste issue is sustainably solved, though all numbers speak a different language and are alarming.

And though e-waste has moved up on the political agenda, also within the UN, it is still regarded as a niche issue. International and globally harmonized attempts, partly revolutionary, are required for sustainable solutions, he argued.

"And the UN General Assembly could play an important role in taking the discussion to the next level, also illustrating the urgency for regional and national action."

"But we must also take further attempts in greening the blue, by also re-considering our UN internal consumption of electrical and electronic equipment".

Seeing the UN as a large consumer, he said, "we can have a say in what products and services we want from the producer. But so far, it is hardly reflected."

However, national governments, companies and other stakeholders must do substantially better in researching the e-waste challenge and coming up with sustainable solutions, declared Dr Kuehr.

Meanwhile the study cites several concrete examples in the battle against e-waste in a "circular economy".

The Nigerian government, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP have jointly announced a \$2.0 million dollar investment to kick off the formal e-waste recycling industry in Nigeria. The new investment will leverage over \$13 million dollars in additional financing from the private sector.

According to the ILO, upto 100,000 people in Nigeria work in the informal e-waste sector.

This investment is expected to help create a system which formalizes these workers, giving them safe and decent employment while capturing the latent value in Nigeria's 500,000 tonnes of e-waste.

UNIDO is collaborating with a large number of organizations on e-waste projects, including UNU, ILO, ITU, and WHO, as well as various other partners, such as Dell and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA).

In Latin America and the Caribbean, a UNIDO e-waste project, co-funded by GEF, seeks to support sustainable economic and social growth in 13 countries.

From upgrading e-waste recycling facilities, to helping to establish national e-waste management strategies, the initiative adopts a circular economy approach, whilst enhancing regional cooperation. **IPS**

Africa told to work together to slow the rising power of credit rating agencies

BY MISHECK MUTIZE

THE rising gap between developmental needs and available financial resources including poor revenue collection has pushed sub-Saharan African governments to consider different options to support their budgets.

One route to raise capital has been the issuing of sovereign bonds on international financial markets. But to do this successfully, governments need a sovereign credit rating from at least one of the three dominant international credit rating agencies.

These are Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch. The number of African countries seeking a sovereign credit rating has increased from one in 1994 to 31 in 2018.

There's been growing dissatisfaction with the three agencies. A number of rated countries on the continent, such as Nigeria, are unhappy, joining a chorus of dissatisfied voices around the world.

Their unhappiness stems from the fact that, outside the US and the European Union (EU), the agencies don't subscribe to any international regime or governance body.

This means that their misconduct remains largely unchecked. The international rating agencies have operated unregulated even though the need for them to be regulated has become apparent.

The EU and US provide examples of how it can be done. After the 2008 crisis the EU introduced regulations and several directives to manage the agencies more tightly.

In the US, the Dodd-Frank and Consumer Protection Act of 2010



Dar es Salaam downtown

expanded the regulatory power of the Securities and Exchanges Commission to enforce full disclosure about the rating agencies' methodologies.

The only country in Africa that has comparable laws is South Africa -although there is still very weak to no civil liability of rating agencies.

These laws were passed partly to make it easier for European countries and the US to litigate against rating agencies in cases of misinformation, as well as controlling their influence.

There are no laws elsewhere in Africa to hold the rating agencies' operations on the continent to account. And there's no central coordination of their activities

within individual African countries.

This is because no single institution is responsible for administering their regulations or managing them.

Either the ministry of finance, or sometimes the central bank, works hand in hand with rating agencies and liaises on issues relating to a sovereign's rating

profile. So what can African countries do? The problem is that, as the influence of international rating agencies continues to expand, individual African countries have limited power to act against them.

One possibility is that the continent establishes collective and well defined ways to ensure they

present a common front to the rating agencies.

Countries that have complaints

In 2015, the Zambian government urged investors to ignore unsolicited credit downgrade from the rating agencies. It challenged the correctness of its rating, which it said hadn't been discussed with the country's rep-

resentatives.

In 2017, Namibia rejected Moody's decision to downgrade the country's credit rating to junk status. It said the downgrade was contrary to its generally stable economic outlook.

The government of Nigeria also strongly disagreed with its downgrading. It questioned both the general rating premises as well as the agency's conclusions.

The government believed the economy had successfully emerged from a recession and recorded important improvements across a broad range of sectors.

In 2018, Tanzania criticized Moody's decision to assign a low credit rating with a negative outlook on the country's first international credit rating. Tanzania rejected the rating. It argued that it hadn't been thoroughly consulted.

There are more general complaints too. Judging from the way in which African countries are rated, an argument could be made that rating agencies view the African continent as a homogeneous entity. They appear to consider all African economies as unstable.

Only three, Mauritius, Morocco and South Africa out of 31 rated countries have a rating just above "junk status".

Only one, Botswana has an A-class rating. Compared to other regions, 87per cent of African countries are rated "junk status".

That's compared to approximately 19 per cent in Western Europe, 27 per cent in the Middle East, 38per cent in Central and Eastern Europe, 54 per cent in Asia Pacific and 55 per cent in Latin America and The Caribbean.

QUARTZ FRICA

BY PETER FABRICIUS

South African 'jihadist' dies in prison; family suspects 'poison'

ANDRE Mayer Hanekom, the South African professional hunter and fisherman accused by Mozambique of complicity in a jihadist insurgency, died in a prison hospital in Pemba in the far north of the country on Wednesday.

A person close to his family told Daily Maverick that his family suspected that Andre Hanekom might have been poisoned.

The South African government confirmed Hanekom's death. Ndivhuwo Mabaya, a spokesperson for International Relations and Co-operation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, said the department had heard of his death from his wife Francis but not yet from Mozambican authorities.

He said Sisulu had directed South Africa's High Commissioner to Mozambique, Mandisi Mphahla, to engage the Mozambican authorities on the circumstances of his death.

"We are shocked as you are," Mabaya said, saying that Mphahla had travelled from Maputo to Pemba in the country's northernmost province Cabo Delgado last Thursday to see Hanekom in prison and that he seemed well.

But Hanekom suddenly fell ill the very next day, on Friday, according to a knowledgeable source. Hanekom's wife had reported that Andre had started having convulsions early on Friday evening and had been taken from his prison cell to the prison hospital.

On Friday night he had fallen into a coma which lasted until Sunday when he had opened his eyes but could not speak. "This morning (Wed) he started bleeding and he died of organ failure at about 4 am."

This source said the family suspected he had been poisoned and that Francis Hanekom was talking to Mphahla to try to ensure that an independent autopsy would be done either before or after his body was brought back to South Africa.

On Sunday Francis Hanekom posted this poignant message on her Facebook page: The High Commissioner paid us a visit with his delegation.

I am so grateful for their wonderful support and assistance. I am sure their physical presence here will have plenty of positive effects in our battle against the injustices committed against Andre. Now I am not alone anymore.

The watchful eye of our SA Government in his case, will ensure



Andre Hanekom

that the few corrupt men against Andre will have to answer to "big brother" as well, when Andre is not treated fairly and humanely. Thank you to these very supportive people whom I have had the privilege to meet.

Mabaya dismissed any suggestions that the South African government had not done enough to keep Hanekom safe.

"When someone is detained in a foreign country, we have limited powers," he said.

But he recalled that when Hanekom was first arrested in 2018, Mphahla had travelled to Cabo Delgado to find him and inform his wife of where he was.

Mabaya also noted that Sisulu had called for South Africa's Hawks to investigate the arrest of Hanekom.

This apparently referred to a statement which Sisulu had issued on 1 January after Hanekom had been arrested a second and last time late in 2018.

Sisulu said then that she had received a report from Mphahla about the charges facing Hanekom, "related to his supporting and aiding an extreme jihadist group that is destabilising the northern part of Mozambique."

These jihadists' activities are also linked to the deaths of over 100 people in that area. "The Minister views the charges in a very serious light and has requested South African law enforcement agencies to also investigate the charges with

the aim of ensuring that no South African citizen become involved in activities that destabilise other countries, in particular, our good neighbour and friend," the statement said. "The people of South Africa and Mozambique share a very deep political history and very strong economic relations," Sisulu said.

"It is not acceptable that a South African citizen is in court for alleged involvement (sic) in extreme jihadists activities that resulted in the loss of life.

South African citizens should spread love and peace across the SADC area, continent and the world."

Her statement appeared to be more sympathetic to the Mozambican authorities than to Hanekom. It gave no impression that Pretoria was concerned that Hanekom might have been wrongfully arrested.

Yet Francis Hanekom and other members of the family and friends have insisted that Hanekom was entirely innocent of any jihadist activities.

They have indicated that they believe he was either framed by business rivals, probably trying to grab his well-placed property on the seashore at Pemba Marine, or was arrested because of mistaken identity or a misunderstanding of objects found during a search of his property by the police.

"The High Commissioner paid us a visit with his delegation. I am so grateful for their wonderful support and assistance. I am sure their physical presence here will have plenty of positive effects in our battle against the injustices committed against Andre."

Now I am not alone anymore. The watchful eye of our SA Government in his case will ensure that the few corrupt men against Andre will have to answer to 'big brother' as well, when Andre is not treated fairly and humanely. Thank you to these very supportive people whom I have had the privilege to meet."

A source has said Hanekom might have been confused with a geologist who had been working in the mineral-rich area at the time of his first arrest.

And the source added that police had found objects such as a few machetes, a small quantity of gunpowder and some marine flares, in his property which might have aroused suspicion.

Yet these were not unusual objects to find in the home of a professional hunter who lived in the bush, refilled his own bullets and used to take fishermen out to sea in his boat on charter trips.

One person who knew him described him as "an old seadog, not a jihadist".

The suspected jihadist insurgency erupted in Cabo Delgado province in October 2017, with co-ordinated attacks on police stations.

Since then well over 100 people, mainly civilians, have been killed in scores of attacks. Many of the victims have been beheaded or maimed, reinforcing the impression that the assailants are jihadists.

The group suspected to be behind the attacks has been variously named, including al-Shabaab or Ansar al-Sunnah, but has never publicly claimed any responsibility for the attacks, leaving some doubt about the true motives for them.

DM

Zimbabwe crackdown: 'We are angry, we are desperate'

Brutal beatings and rising inflation are proving a noxious mix in Zimbabwe

By Andrew Harding

In a long queue for rationed bread, on the pavement outside a supermarket, two women watched an approaching foreign journalist with trepidation.

"Please don't show our faces," said the taller woman. "We're afraid. We're living in 'scare-ity'."

Just ahead of them in the queue, a man who also didn't want to give his name, spoke of the humiliation of being forced to wait in the rain, for more than an hour, to feed his family.

"There is scarcity of bread," he complained. "Scare-ity" and scarcity are two words that seem to sum up Zimbabwe's current predicament.

This is the aftermath of last week's violent protests against the rising cost of living, triggered by a more than doubling in the price of fuel.

A brutal and ongoing security clampdown by the police and army has left many here fearful that the country is quickly sliding back to the worst authoritarianism of the era of former President Robert Mugabe, who was ousted in November 2017 after 37 years in power.

"I need vegetables, salt, flour, cooking oil... no luxuries," said primary school teacher Charles Chinosengwa, who was adding up his monthly budget on a spreadsheet, explaining that his salary no longer covers even a third of what his family needs.

The government pays salaries in an electronic currency - bond notes - which is supposedly pegged, one-to-one, to the US dollar. But in the real economy its value has plummeted as confidence in the Zanu-PF-led government's economic reform programme collapses.

"Let's not even talk about the fact that people are angry - people are desperate," said David Dzatsunga, who



Protests erupted over a steep increase in fuel prices. Photo: File

heads an association representing Zimbabwe's college lecturers.

"They are supposed to continue to come to work, but the money they are earning is not enough for transport. They can't pay school fees. Their children are sitting at home.

"Really, it's more about desperation than anything else."

In hiding

But what's unclear is whether that desperation will inevitably lead to more public protests - and perhaps more violence - or whether Zimbabweans may now be too scared to challenge the authorities again.

On the impoverished, crowded outskirts of Harare, in suburbs like Epworth, the anger is still palpable.

Most people here support the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and believe last year's presidential

election was stolen by Zanu-PF.

Among those who joined last week's protests was a 53-year-old nursery school headmistress, Thandiwe Ncube. She was hit and killed by an army truck.

A dozen children were playing outside the Cheer-up School - a dilapidated building with a tin roof - when I visited.

Ncube's daughter, Ellen Ngenya, said most of the children's parents could no longer afford to pay the fees.

"I blame the government [for my mother's death] because if the economy was OK she wouldn't protest. We'll continue protesting until things settle," she said.

"I'm not afraid to protest, because we are hungry."

But many of the protest leaders, activists and union representatives have now been detained and denied bail. Others are in hiding.

'Co-ordinated suppression'

Harare lawyer Kudzayi Kadzere believes the state is conspiring - to a degree rarely seen even under President Mugabe's rule - to silence dissent.

"We have seen a pattern of co-ordinated action between the army, the police, the prosecution and the courts," Kadzere said.

It is to suppress the voice of the people who want to express their anger at the deteriorating conditions in the country."

He argued that the army's prominent role in the crackdown is of particular concern.

"We are seeing more and more of the military coming out in the open and being involved. They have not retreated to the barracks."

"In Zimbabwe it is not usual for you to come across uniformed soldiers, so for us to see soldiers each and every day moving around in their trucks is quite chilling."

'Hard side of the law'

At State House, the government of President Emmerson Mnangagwa insists the international criticism is disproportionate. It says that any "excesses" by the security forces should be set beside the violence of demonstrators.

"Anyone who strays from the path of law and order necessarily invites the hard side of the law," said the president's spokesman George Chiramba.

"Naturally when (our security) forces react to that kind of lawlessness... It is not a science, it is not calibrated, there is always that element of excesses."

But the prominence of the army in the crackdown, video footage obtained exclusively by the BBC showed troops beating civilians on the edge of Harare on Tuesday - continues to raise questions about the balance of power in the government.

Especially whether the generals who ousted Mr Mugabe and brought President Mnangagwa to power are still pulling the strings in the background.

For now, it seems, Zimbabwe is entering a lull, as the government seeks to shift the focus to its economic reform programme and the opposition rejects what it sees as a disingenuous offer of national dialogue from the presidency.

In recent months, Mnangagwa has frittered away much of the goodwill he enjoyed in the aftermath of his predecessor's removal, and heady promises of a new Zimbabwe that would be "open for business".

But there are still plenty of Zimbabweans who are ready to give the government the benefit of the doubt, and who believe that the short-term pain of austerity measures may eventually lead to an economic revival.

"They have a plan but I think we've just got to let this government settle down and do what they need to do... without some side tracking," said Carol White, managing director of the Meikles Hotel in Harare.

'Bloated government'

Others are less optimistic. Local economist John Robertson is scathing about the government's claim that Zimbabwe is on the mend.

"Well, we're open for investment, but under conditions that are found by investors to be the least attractive in the world," he said.

"Hundreds of thousands of people in government appear to have no purpose other than to extract money in the form of fees for license and permits," he added, arguing that Zimbabwe's corrupt and bloated government is making the public suffer, but is not serious about tightening its own belt or cutting red tape.

"They're standing in the way of business. Government is holding up the progress, and does not want to see the size of government reduced so that the budget deficit could be something we could live with."

"I wish I could paint a better (picture). But these are the facts as I see them."

Agencies

NEW YORK

WHILE rates have decreased, school violence and bullying is still a major global issue, contributing to lasting impacts on youth, a United Nations agency found.

During the 2019 Education World Forum, taking place in the United Kingdom, the U.N. Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) released a report analysing global trends on school violence and bullying.

"All children and young people have the right to safe, inclusive and effective learning environments," said UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education Stefania Giannini at the launch of the report.

The report found that almost one in three students have been bullied by their peers at school at least once in the last month, and a similar proportion are affected by physical violence.

While physical appearance is the most frequent reason for bullying, students perceived as gender non-conforming face the highest risk of school violence.

In Australia, 60-70 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth reported experiencing bullying due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. In Thailand, the prevalence of bullying among LGBT youth was 55 percent.

Such bullying increases the likelihood of suicide. Across 96 countries, over 23 percent of bullied children reported that they seriously considered attempting suicide, compared with 12 percent of those who were not bullied.

In 2010, Tyler Clementi's suicide captured national attention to the issue of cyberbullying and the struggles LGBT youth face. He faced online abuse after being publicly outed by his college roommate.

Last year, a 9-year-old boy from Colorado committed suicide after coming out as gay to his classmates.

"School violence and bullying can be devastating for the victims," said Giannini, adding that bullying also impacts students' educational outcomes.

"An atmosphere of anxiety, fear and

Bullying is an "infringement" on children's rights



Students in school in Quibdó, capital of Chocó province, Colombia. School violence and bullying is still a major global issue. Photo: Jesús Abad Colorado/IPS

insecurity is incompatible with learning and unsafe learning environments can, therefore, undermine the quality of education for all learners," she said.

According to UNESCO, children who are frequently bullied are almost three times more likely to report feeling like an outsider at school and are nearly twice as

likely to skip school more often.

Aija Mayrock recounted this feeling in a report by the Office of the U.N. Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children, stating: "I was eight years old the first time that I was bullied.

One of my classmates said to me, 'No one likes you. No one will

ever like you.' From that day forth, I endured bullying every single day for eight years. I was verbally, physically, and cyber bullied. I believed my classmates.

Their words started to become the constitution I lived by. I stopped speaking in school. I kept my head down and my eyes on the ground at all times. In a way, I

began to give up."

UNESCO found that children who are bullied score lower in tests than their non-bullied peers, and it even affect continued engagement in education.

According to the Programme for International Students Assessment, 45 percent of students who were frequently bullied wanted to

leave formal education after completing secondary school.

"Being protected from bullying is a fundamental human right," said the SRSG on Violence Against Children Marta Santos Pais upon the launch of the Secretary-General's report on the issue in 2018.

Giannini highlighted the importance of addressing school violence and bullying in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including SDG 4 which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all.

Monitoring progress and collecting data on prevalence and trends in school violence as well as responses to the issue is therefore essential, she added.

Strong political leadership and a robust legal and policy framework are also necessary to address violence against children.

In Jamaica, the Prime Minister, who previously served as the Minister for Education, worked to ban corporal punishment in schools and promoted the use of positive discipline, an approach to make life in school a positive experience for all learners.

In the United States, some states including New York and Colorado have adopted anti-bullying laws with specific protections for LGBT teens.

According to GLSEN, only 18 out of 50 states have such laws.

Elsewhere, some civil society organisations are taking matters into their own hands.

In Chile, the Selenna Foundation established Latin America's first school for transgender children as a way to protect students from bullying and discrimination. Many of the students were those who often skipped classes or failed to complete studies due to their experiences.

"School-related violence in all its forms is an infringement of children's and adolescents' rights to education and to health and well-being. No country can achieve inclusive and equitable quality education for all if learners experience violence and bullying in school," Giannini said.

IPS



The Guardian

G-Living

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AN UNCONVENTIONAL

CARDIOLOGIST PROMOTES A HIGH-FAT DIET



By Anahad O'Connor, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

LONDON – Every morning, British cardiologist Dr. Aseem Malhotra stirs one tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of coconut oil into his coffee.

While it may not sound appetizing, the concoction – also known as “bulletproof coffee” – is popular among people who follow high-fat diets and modeled after yak-butter drinks consumed in Tibet for centuries. The combination, says Malhotra, gives him en-

ergy and “keeps me pretty full.”

There are not many cardiologists who embrace butter and coconut oil as health foods. But Malhotra rejects the decades-old mantra that eating foods rich in saturated fat causes heart disease, and he has been leading a campaign to change public opinion about fats, sugar and what constitutes a healthy diet.

“As part of a heart-healthy diet, I advise my cardiac patients to enjoy full-fat cheese, along with olive oil and vegetables,” says Malhotra, who

regularly indulges in grass-fed meat and three-egg omelets, yolks included. “You should see the look on their faces when I tell them.”

Malhotra, who works with Britain’s National Health Service, is among a small but increasingly vocal group of doctors in the United States and Britain who are challenging the medical and nutritional orthodoxy around fat, carbohydrates and calories. He has been a fixture on social media and on television programs in Britain, thanks in part to a series of controversial pa-

pers he published in medical journals arguing that saturated fat, especially from dairy, can be protective against heart disease, that sugar is “public health enemy No. 1” in the Western diet and that the dangers of high cholesterol are overstated.

In May, as a member of the National Obesity Forum, a nonprofit group, he helped write a widely publicized report that criticized the British government’s dietary advice to avoid saturated fat and eat low-fat foods. And in a country known for its sweet tooth, Malhotra is outspoken about the harms of excess sugar.

His critics – of which there are many – have pushed back. Public Health England, the agency that issues the country’s dietary guidelines, said the obesity forum report that Malhotra helped author was “irresponsible and misleads the public.”

Dr. Neil Poulter, a professor of preventive cardiovascular medicine at Imperial College in London, accused Malhotra of “cherry picking” data and misinterpreting research. And he said he was wrong to encourage people to

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THE DARK SIDE OF TOO MUCH EXERCISE? ARE YOU AWARE ABOUT IT?



By Gretchen Reynolds,
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
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We are always told that exercise isn't only good for the brain, but it's also something valuable for our body as well as overall fitness. But, is it possible that exercise could be almost too much of a good thing for our brains? This is the question that now lingers in the minds of many following the study conducted some two years ago by health experts.

A 2014 experiment with mice first raised that worrying idea, finding that the more the animals exercised, the worse their long-term memories became.

Until that study, research generally had shown that exercise is nothing but desirable for brain health.

Exercise boosts blood flow to the brain, prompting the development of more blood vessels and connections between cells there, and generally making the organ more fit. But exercise's signal benefit, most neuroscientists would agree, is that it increases neurogenesis, or the birth of new brain cells, particularly in the hippocampus, a part of the brain that is uniquely important for learning and remembering.

Study after study in animals has shown that exercise, especially aerobic activities like running, can double

or triple the number of new cells in the hippocampus, compared with the number in animals that do not exercise, and that these new cells translate into a significantly heightened ability to learn new skills.

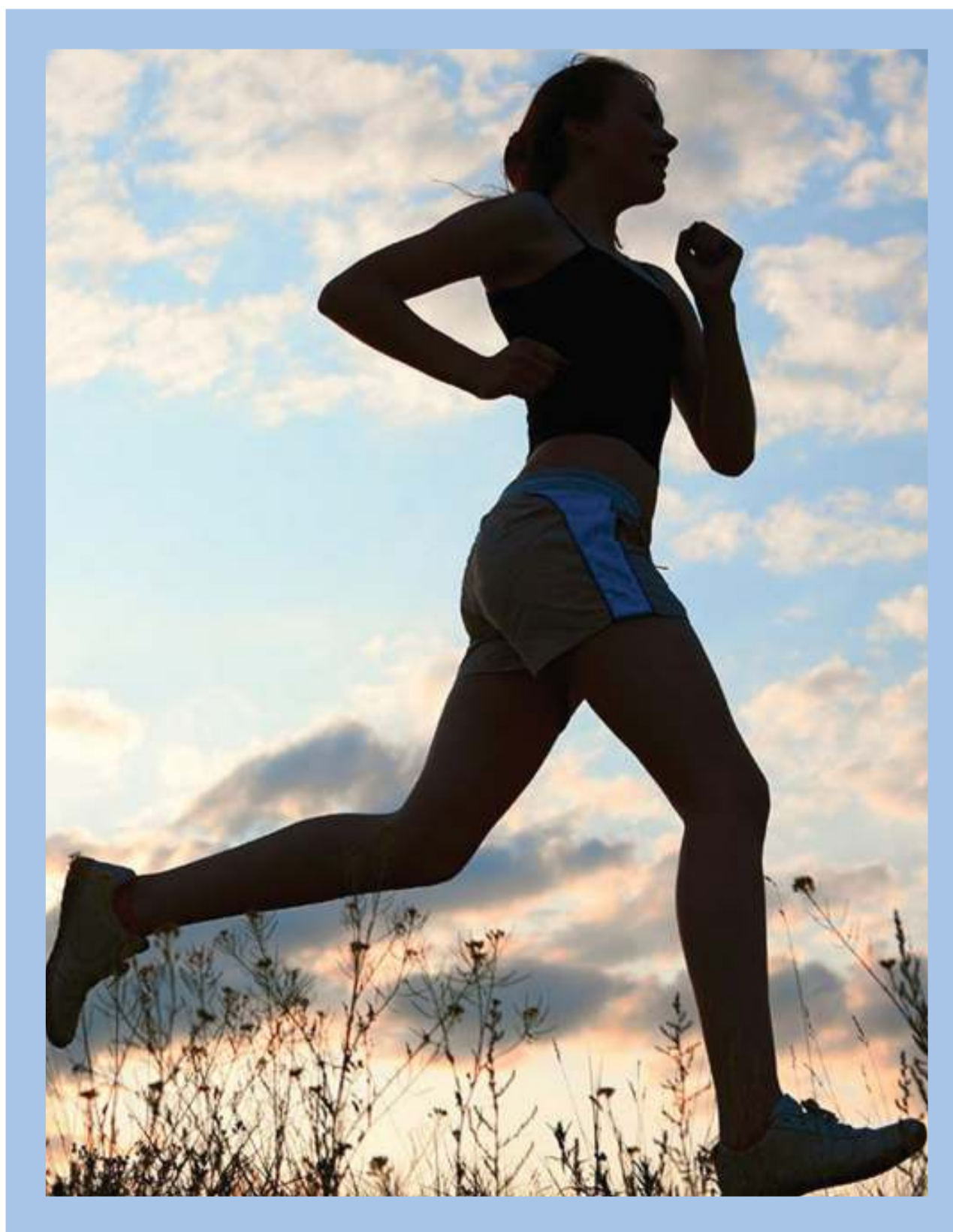
Animals that run, in essence, become brighter than those that do not.

But most of these studies of exercise and neurogenesis have examined the effects on learning and short-term memory.

What scientists had not considered was whether this influx of young, vigorous cells, many of them implanted

Study after study in animals has shown that exercise, especially aerobic activities like running, can double or triple the number of new cells in the hippocampus...

with newly acquired knowledge, might somehow elbow aside or overwhelm older, established neurons, the cells that contain long-term memories from the past. If so, even as brains effervesce with newborn neurons, the brain might be less able to recall what its owner had learned and experienced



before.

In the 2014 study with mice, that scenario in fact occurred. In the study, young mice learned to associate an area in a cage with threats, which is a type of memory that is implanted sturdily in animals' memories.

Then half the animals were allowed to run, while others were not. The researchers injected all the animals with a chemical that marks newborn cells in the brain.

After a few weeks, the animals were reintroduced to the place in the cage that had frightened them before. Those that had not exercised generally recognized the place and responded with concern. They remembered.

But those that had run generally did not. Their long-term memories were faultier than those of the sedentary mice, even though, the researchers found, their brains teemed with far more new neurons.

Exercise seemed to have erased the memories formed before the animals started running, the researchers concluded.

But Ashok Shetty, a professor of molecular and cellular medicine at Texas A&M University, and his colleagues were hesitant to accept those findings.

"Honestly, we didn't want to believe that exercise could be detrimental" for memory, he said.

So for a new study, which was published this month in *The Journal of Neuroscience*, the researchers decided to replicate aspects of the 2014 mouse experiment but instead use rats. Rat brains, prior research had shown, are more similar to our brains than mice brains are.

They also employed a different initial task, requiring the animals to learn how to get out of a water maze. This skill involves spatial memory, which for prey animals is quite durable; they need to remember escape routes. The rats all learned quickly and, by the end of their training, could locate the escape platform within seconds.

Then some of the rats were allowed to run while others remained sedentary. All were injected with the chemical that binds to new neurons, making them easy to identify and number microscopically.

After a month, the animals repeated the water maze test.

Unlike among the mice, however, the rats that had run displayed excellent long-term memory now, easily locating the escape platform just as rapidly as those rats that had been sedentary. Their long-term memories had not, it seems, been affected by the arrival of new neurons.

And there were new neurons. The runners' brains contained about twice as many new cells as did the brains of the sedentary animals, with the animals that ran the greatest distance having the greatest increase in neurogenesis.

But these new cells had not crowded out the old memories. Exercise had allowed the rats "to develop more neurons without destabilizing their existing memory circuitry," Shetty said.

Of course, rats are not people, any more than mice are, Shetty said. And the memory tests used in the two studies also were different. It is possible that some types of long-term memory might be more affected by neurogenesis after exercise than others, he said.

"We need far more studies in many different species" to better understand the nuances of how exercise changes the brain and mind, he said. He and his colleagues hope to start such studies soon.

But for now, he believes that the available evidence suggests that, unless you are a mouse, working out is going to be "quite beneficial" for your brain.

CAN A SHORT, HIGH-INTENSITY WORKOUT REPLACE YOUR LONGER, MORE MODERATE ROUTINE?

By Gabriella Boston

If you had a choice, would you exercise really hard for one minute or moderately for 45 minutes?

Pressed for time, you probably picked the first option. According to a recent study, the two options – high-intensity interval training (HIIT) and endurance/aerobic training – yield some of the same health and fitness benefits.

How is that possible? Is the rise of HIIT the end of endurance training?

Nope. As it turns out, it's a bit of an apples-and-oranges situation. First off, what do we mean by "health and fitness benefits"? Second, is the one-minute, all-

out interval appropriate for everyone? And finally, is there an ideal weekly ratio of HIIT-to-endurance training?

We asked two fitness professionals and a sports medicine doctor to help clear things up.

A sedentary population To be clear, the study, by researchers at McMaster University in Ontario, looked at sedentary individuals, not athletes with sport-specific goals, and it focused on health indicators such as insulin sensitivity and cardiorespiratory fitness (the body's ability to supply oxygen-rich blood to muscles and for the muscles to use that blood for movement). It was not about whether you should skip the prep run for your 10K race and do a minute of intervals instead. You shouldn't!

"The study focused on health intervention. How can we get [sedentary]

people into a regular exercise routine?" says Pete McCall, spokesman for the American Council on Exercise.

Lack of time is often cited as a reason that so many people – about 60 percent – don't exercise regularly. So a shorter, more efficient routine could be an appealing solution.

"You can't tell me you don't have just a few minutes every week to exercise," McCall says.

The study concluded that 30 minutes of interval training (really just 10 minutes of true intervals featuring all-out sprints, plus 20 minutes of warm-up and cool-down) had the same health benefits as 150 minutes of moderate aerobic activity – for individuals who are just starting out on a fitness regime. (This population is the most vulnerable to cardiac events, which can be brought on by high-intensity

interval training, so, as always, please see a doctor for an evaluation before starting a new fitness routine.)

The role of high-intensity intervals But for those who are already in a routine, what are the benefits of high-intensity intervals?

"With athletes, like everyone else, it improves VO2 max and lactate threshold," says Dave Hryvniak, a doctor with University of Virginia sports teams. VO2 max is the maximum amount of oxygen the body delivers to working muscles per minute; lactate threshold is the point at which lactate (a waste product from energy conversion) builds up faster than it can be removed from the blood.

"The best athletes in the world have the highest VO2 max," he says.

But it's never an either/or when it comes to HIIT and aerobic training,

Lack of time is often cited as a reason that so many people – about 60 percent – don't exercise regularly. So a shorter, more efficient routine could be an appealing solution

Hryvniak says. It depends on the sport and the specific demands of that sport.

Runners – even long-distance runners – will do high-intensity intervals (working at more than 90 percent of their max heart rate) to increase power and speed, but they obviously also do long runs, he says.

The type and length of intervals is sport-specific. For example, a football player might need to do 10-second intervals (short but very intense bursts of power), and a tennis player might need to do 30- to 45-second intervals, says Ben Fidler, fitness director at Sport&Health on Capitol Hill.

Fidler, who does high-intensity intervals as part of his own routine, says it's important to remember that the body needs lots of time to recover after high-intensity intervals. "You can only do HIIT 15 to 20 minutes a few

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AN UNCONVENTIONAL

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consume saturated fat because it increases LDL cholesterol, which correlates with heart disease.

"Decades of studies are consistent in showing that LDL is pivotal and that by reducing LDL you reduce cardiovascular events," Poulter said.

But Malhotra points to research like a major study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in 2014 that found no link between saturated fat consumption and coronary heart disease. In January, a leading American cardiovascular expert, Dr. Steven E. Nissen, published an editorial criticizing the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for urging people to reduce their saturated fat and cholesterol intake without enough evidence from rigorous clinical trials.

While it is true that some established physicians and scientists are calling for more research on the effect of saturated fat, that doesn't mean they endorse Malhotra's promotion of high-fat diets either. "I do not think he has an established track record in the science of nutrition and heart disease," said Nissen, who does not know Malhotra. "But I do wish we had more rigorous evidence to confirm or refute the claim that saturated fat and cholesterol are associated with heart disease, because I don't think it's clear."

With a knack for controversy, Malhotra has pushed on. In the past year he has also taken aim at statins, the most widely prescribed drugs in the world, arguing in academic papers and on some of Britain's leading news programs that the cholesterol-lowering medications are overused.

While the drugs can be lifesaving in people who have established heart disease, Malhotra says, people at low risk would be better off adopting a Mediterranean diet since the vast majority of cardiovascular disease is attributable to lifestyle factors like smoking and poor diet.

"I tell my heart patients that adopting a Mediterranean diet after suffering a heart attack is actually more powerful than aspirin, statins and even heart stents," he says. "I'm not saying these treatments aren't beneficial – they are. But the lifestyle changes are even more powerful, and without the side effects."

As evidence, he often refers to a

landmark clinical trial published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 2013, which found that heart attacks, strokes and deaths from heart disease plummeted in high-risk patients assigned to follow a Mediterranean diet with large amounts of fat from nuts and olive oil.

To help spread his food-is-medicine message – a notion Hippocrates, the "father of Western medicine," first promoted centuries ago – Malhotra held a Kickstarter campaign to raise money for a documentary called "The Big Fat Fix," which follows him as he visits the Campania region of Italy to explore the Mediterranean diet's well-documented health benefits. He said he crowdsourced the funding of the

I do not think he has an established track record in the science of nutrition and heart disease," said Nissen, who does not know Malhotra. "But I do wish we had more rigorous evidence to confirm or refute the claim that saturated fat and cholesterol are associated with heart disease, because I don't think it's clear

film to avoid conflicts of interest, and he and his co-star produced the film themselves and released it online.

Malhotra and his co-star, Donal O'Neill, a filmmaker and former professional athlete, argue in the film that the Mediterranean diet has been widely mischaracterized. While it features an abundance of plants, seafood, olive oil, nuts and red wine, it also includes plenty of red meat, cheese and other

CARDIOLOGIST PROMOTES A HIGH-FAT DIET

sources of saturated fat. Malhotra contends that the traditional diet is also very low in sugar, a fact that he says is often overlooked. "The locals there eat no processed food," he said.

In the film, Malhotra also makes a case that the people of the region owe their remarkable longevity to a Mediterranean lifestyle, which prioritizes social engagement, stress reduction, proper sleep, movement and flexibility.

Dr. Rita Redberg, a cardiologist and professor at the University of California, San Francisco, medical school, said she applauded Malhotra and his film's emphasis on prioritizing lifestyle before medicine. She said that too often people rely on pills as an antidote to poor diet and other unhealthy be-

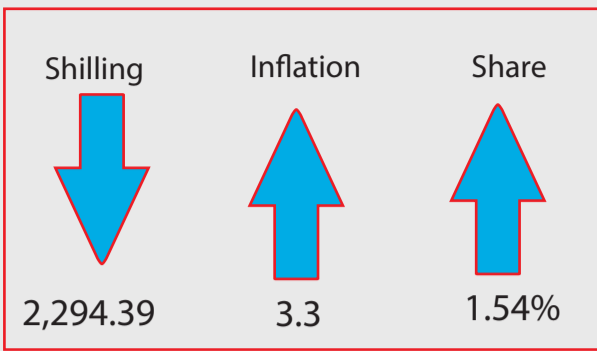
haviors.

"I think a lot of people feel that they can eat whatever they want and just take a statin and not have to worry about exercise," she said.

Malhotra said that although his work challenging the conventional wisdom has been controversial, he intends to do more of it. He repeats a quote from the South African surgeon Dr. Christiana Barnard, who performed the world's first heart transplant procedure and later became a champion for heart disease prevention through proper nutrition and lifestyle changes.

"If I had first concentrated on heart disease prevention," Barnard once said, "rather than saving the lives of 150 people, I could have saved the lives of 150 million."





Total Market Capitalization
 TZS 19,455.60 bln (USD 8,535.35 mln)
 Indices January 24, 2019
 TSI 3,615.04 -4.97
 DSEI 2,018.44 +10.42

Top Movers

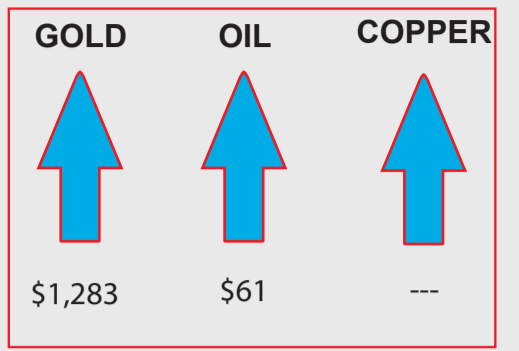
Company	Price	Volume
CRDB	135	1,531,622
TBL	12,400	153,121
VODA	800	59,690

THIS WEEK AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Crop	Price	Crop	Price
Maize	50,636	Finger Millet	147,632
Rice	173,864	Wheat	121,429
Sorghum	81,056	Beans	172,045
Bulrush Millet	85,818	Round potatoes	85,643

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,591.28	2,617.65
USD	2,268.07	2,290.76
KES	22.38	22.56
GBP	2,947.82	2,977.52



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: January 24, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	5,350	5,250	+1.90
CRDB	135	140	-3.57
DCB	340	340	+0.00
DSEI	1,320	1,320	+0.00
EABL	3,860	3,840	+0.52
JHL	9,800	9,750	+0.51
KA	190	180	+5.56
KCB	900	900	+0.00
MBP	500	500	+0.00
MCB	500	500	+0.00
MKCB	800	800	+0.00
MUCOB	400	400	+0.00
NICO	265	265	+0.00
NMB	2,340	2,340	+0.00
NMG	1,300	1,320	-1.52
PAL	400	400	+0.00
SWALA	490	490	+0.00
SWIS	2,340	2,340	+0.00
TBL	12,400	12,400	+0.00
TCC	17,000	17,000	+0.00
TCCL	640	640	0.00
TICL	385	385	+0.00
TOL	660	660	+0.00
TPCC	2,060	2,060	+0.00
TTP	120	120	+0.00
USL	15	15	+0.00
VODA	800	800	+0.00
YETU	600	600	+0.00

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,615.04	-4.97
DSEI	2,018.44	+10.42

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,455.60
Equity Turnover	2,152,854,330.00
Total Volume	1,747,993
Total Deals	47

TOP MOVERS

Market Cap (bln)	19,379.47	
CRDB	135	1,531,622
TBL	12,400	153,121
VODA	800	59,690

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
NMG	1,300	-1.52%
CRDB	135	-3.57%
KA	190	+5.56%
EABL	3,860	+0.52%
JHL	9,800	+0.51%
ACA	5,350	+1.90%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
24/Jan/2019	.80	2,300.85	2,293.45	2,294.39
23/Jan/2019	.70	2,300.00	2,293.40	2,294.36
22/Jan/2019	.80	2,300.70	2,293.35	2,294.29
21/Jan/2019	.90	2,301.80	2,293.30	2,294.27
18/Jan/2019	.80	2,301.00	2,293.25	2,294.24
17/Jan/2019	.70	2,300.00	2,293.20	2,294.19
16/Jan/2019	.82	2,300.05	2,293.15	2,294.16

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
24/Jan/2019	17,500	4.25	3.00	3.61
23/Jan/2019	44,500	4.20	2.50	3.38
22/Jan/2019	36,300	4.25	2.50	3.51
21/Jan/2019	23,000	4.20	3.50	3.59
18/Jan/2019	34,800	4.20	3.50	3.65

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDTZS increased 3.0000 or 0.13% to 2,303.0000 on Friday January 18 from 2,300.0000 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 2325 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold up as dollar eases; global growth concerns lend support

- * Economic conditions could help gold break above \$1,300-analyst
- * Platinum sets sights on first weekly gain in three
- * Palladium heads for first weekly fall in five

LONDON, Jan 25 (Reuters) - Gold edged up on Friday as the dollar eased from a multi-week peak, with bullion seen consolidating in a narrow range supported by concerns about global growth and political uncertainties, including the U.S. government shutdown.

Spot gold rose 0.2 percent to \$1,283.69 per ounce, as of 1103 GMT, holding in a tight range of about \$6, and on course for a small weekly gain.

U.S. gold futures climbed 0.3 percent to \$1,283 per ounce.

"Gold seems to be finding a level and it is quite comfortable around it at the moment," Capital Economics analyst Ross Strachan said, adding economic conditions still provide an underlying strength for the metal to surpass \$1,300.

The dollar index fell 0.2 percent. The dollar is facing a tough year as growth at home and globally comes under pressure and the Federal Reserve moves closer to pausing its rate-hike cycle.

On an intra-day basis, "gold is up due to a somewhat weaker dollar behind it," said Commerzbank analyst Daniel Briesemann.

However, risks "from economic and political perspectives, are keeping gold relatively well supported going forward," Briesemann added.

A synchronised global economic slowdown is underway and any escalation in the U.S.-

China trade war would trigger a sharper downturn, according to the latest Reuters polls of hundreds of economists from around the world.

Investors are also worried about the impact of the longest U.S. government shutdown in history, now in its 34th day, with two bills to end the partial shutdown failing to win enough votes in the Senate.

Yet another key focus are developments surrounding the U.S.-China trade front, with U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross stating on Thursday the two countries are "miles and miles" from resolving issues.

"We have seen quite a bit of asset reallocation in recent times, the Exchange Traded Fund holdings have risen quite substantially in recent weeks and months," Strachan said.

Holdings of SPDR Gold GLD, the largest gold-based ETF, hovered around its highest levels since late June 2018.

Among other metals, palladium, which hit a record high of \$1,434.50 an ounce last week on low inventories and rising demand, down 0.3 percent to \$1,315.64.

The metal was also heading for its first weekly drop in five, falling over 4 percent so far this week.

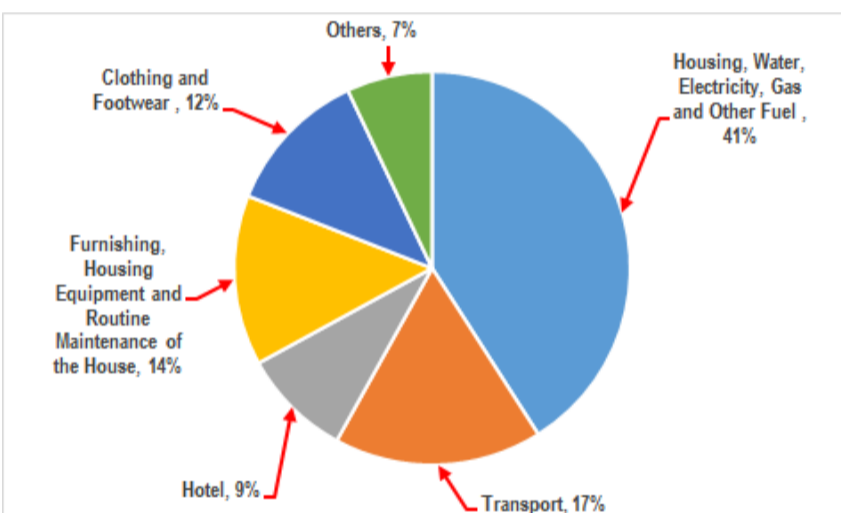
Silver rose 0.4 percent to \$15.38 per ounce, while platinum gained 0.2 percent to \$802.19, on track for its first weekly gain in three.

All Share Index : 25 Jan 2019

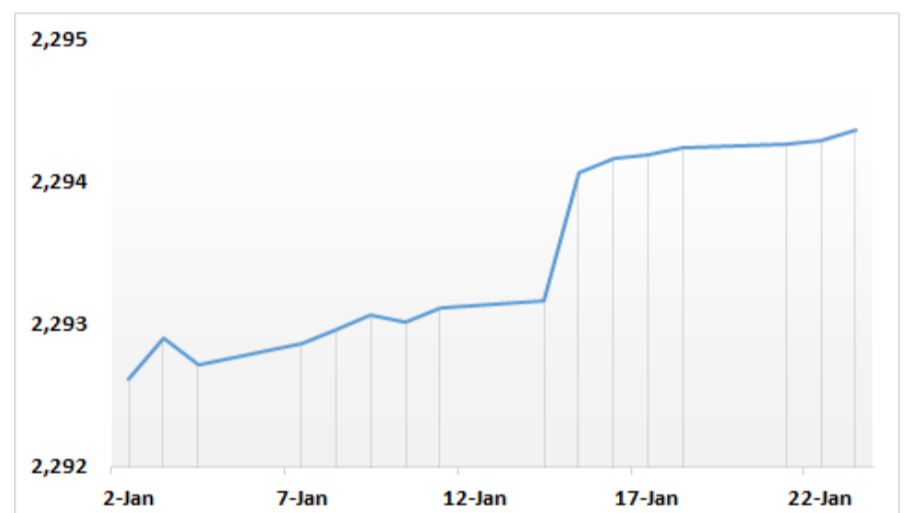
Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	31413	423	1.37%	-0.05%	-2.22%	-29.21%
JALSH-All Share	53917	278	0.52%	0.66%	4.92%	-12.19%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	47760	286	0.60%	0.70%	4.96%	-12.12%
Egypt EGX 30	13507	0	0.00%	-0.03%	5.65%	-11.79%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,329	4.62	0.04%	1.13%	0.66%	-12.92%
NSE All Share	145	0.06	0.04%	0.20%	3.17%	-20.03%
Nairobi 20	2,878	0.23	0.01%	0.97%	3.02%	-22.82%
DSEI	2,018	10.42	0.52%	0.62%	1.02%	-15.12%
TUN	7,188	15.55	-0.22%	-0.88%	0.23%	12.56%
GGSECI	2,440	10.17	0.42%	-1.97%	-2.99%	-19.62%
Gaborone	7,877	3.97	0.05%	0.02%	0.30%	-10.00%
SEMDEX	2221	4	-0.19%	-0.28%	0.33%	-1.45%
NSX Overall	1340	2	0.17%	0.79%	4.68%	-4.20%
Zimbabwe Index	533.75	2.09	0.39%	4.32%	11.19%	74.90%

DSEI increased 1 points or 0.04% to 2018 on Thursday January 24 from 2008 in the previous trading session. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.

Inflation 3.3% - December 2018: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Oil prices climb as U.S. threatens sanctions against Venezuela

LONDON Jan 25 (Reuters) - Oil prices edged up on Friday as turmoil in Venezuela increased the chances of tighter global supply if the United States makes good on signals that it could impose sanctions on Venezuelan exports.

But fresh data on surging U.S. fuel stocks and worries about U.S.-China trade talks weighed on prices.

Brent crude oil futures were at \$61.17 a barrel at 0955 GMT, up 8 cents, or 0.13 percent. Earlier on Friday, the international benchmark crude rose as high as \$61.92.

Brent, however, has shed about 2.4 percent since the start of trade on Monday and is on track to post its first week of losses in four weeks.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$53.34 per barrel, up 21 cents, or 0.4 percent.

Amid violent street protests, Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaido declared himself interim president this week, winning recognition from Washington and parts of Latin America.

Nicolas Maduro, the country's leader since 2013, responded by breaking relations with the United States.

"The oil market is partially pricing in the risk to Venezuela's crude production, which has been plummeting in recent years," Vandana Hari of Vanda Insights said.

RBC Europe predicted that sanctions could nearly double projected output shortfalls from the troubled

exporter.

"Venezuelan production will decline by an additional 300,000-500,000 barrels per day (bpd) this year but such punitive measures could expand that outage by several hundred thousand barrels."

Global oil markets are still well supplied, however, thanks in part to surging output in the United States.

Record U.S. production would likely offset any short-term disruptions to Venezuelan supply due to possible U.S. sanctions, Britain's Barclays said in a note. The bank cut its 2019 average Brent forecast to \$70 a barrel, from \$72 previously.

The output surge has swollen U.S. fuel stocks, and crude inventories rose by 8 million barrels last week, according to official data released on Thursday.

But demand may start to stutter because of a global economic slowdown, which is likely to dent fuel consumption.

A trade dispute between the United States and China and tightening financial conditions around the world have hurt manufacturing activity in most economies and dragged China's growth last year to the weakest in nearly 30 years.

According to Reuters polls of hundreds of economists worldwide, a synchronized global economic slowdown is underway and would deepen if the U.S.-China trade war escalated.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 2nd Jan 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,295	2,224	2,202
Arusha	2,255	2,299	2,286
Kibaha	2,300	2,228	2,206
Dodoma	2,354	2,283	2,260
Geita	2,461	2,389	2,367
Iringa	2,359	2,288	2,266
Katavi	2,503	2,432	2,410
Kigoma	2,527	2,455	2,433
Moshi	2,245	2,289	2,276
Lindi	2,354	2,283	2,261
Manyara	2,289	2,333	2,320
Mara	2,474	2,403	2,380
Mbeya	2,402	2,331	2,309
Morogoro	2,320	2,249	2,227
Mtwara	2,368	2,296	2,274
Mwanza	2,445	2,374	2,352
Njombe	2,388	2,316	2,294
Sumbawanga	2,468	2,397	2,375
Ruvuma	2,419	2,347	2,325
Shinyanga	2,424	2,353	2,331
Singida	2,386	2,315	2,292
Songwe	2,411	2,340	2,318
Tabora	2,449	2,378	2,356
Tanga	2,198	2,243	2,229

Foreign Exchange- Jan 23

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.13440	0.0039	0.34 %
GBPUSD	1.30991	0.00351	0.27 %
AUDUSD	0.71151	0.00211	0.30 %
NZDUSD	0.67819	0.00209	0.31 %
USDJPY	109.86	0.23	0.21 %
USDCNY	6.76645	0.02805	-0.41 %
EURO	2.890		
USDFCH	0.99688	0.00058	0.06 %
USDCAD	1.33246	0.00224	-0.17 %
USDMXN	18.9452	0.0728	-0.38 %
USDINR	71.1030	0.113	0.16 %
USDBRL	3.7718	0.0070	0.19 %
USDRUB	66.1663	0.4703	0.72 %
US Dollar	96.34	0.26	-0.27 %
BTCUSD	3,552.67	18	-0.51 %

Exchange Rates for 24 / Jan /2019

Currency in 100 Units Spot Buying Spot Selling

EAST AFRICAN CURRENCIES

Kenya SHS	2,243.60	2,261.57
Uganda SHS	57.95	62.09
Rwandan Franc	253.35	256.45
Burundi Franc	217.50	219.14

OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES

USD	227,164.36	229,436.00
Pound STG	296,017.87	299,001.00
EURO	258,263.16	260,868.73
Canadian \$	170,684.77	172,339.82
Switz. Franc	227,893.62	230,103.30
Japanese YEN	2,071.16	2,091.68
Swedish Kronor	25,216.67	25,460.36
Norweg. Kronor	26,478.81	26,728.02
Danish Kronor	34,594.96	34,930.27
Australian \$	162,036.34	163,679.64
Indian RPS	3,185.99	3,216.86
Pakistan RPS	1,555.36	1,627.21
Zambian Kwacha	18,835.24	19,135.61
Malawian Kwacha	290.25	310.87
Mozambique-MET	3,649.23	3,679.81
Zimbabwe \$	42.51	43.37
SDR	315,901.57	319,060.58
Gold (T/O)	291,881,209.94	294,983,570.84
S. African Rand	16,389.92	16,541.89
UAE Dirham	61,850.46	62,457.06
Singapore \$	167,167.82	168,777.40
Hong Kong \$	28,954.73	29,242.79
Saud Arabian Rial	60,572.32	61,171.51
Kuwait Dinar	748,951.09	756,166.37
Botswana Pula	21,467.03	21,819.36
Chinese Yuan	33,473.96	33,803.72
Malaysia Ringgit	54,936.97	55,419.32
South Korea Won	201.58	203.24
Newzealand	154,199.17	155,809.99

World Commodities (\$) 23 January 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil	53.4871	1.54%	2.24%	25.75%	-18.49%
Silver	61.8495	0.76%	0.83%	22.51%	-12.33%
Natural gas	3.11				

WORLD

Backed by military, Venezuela's Maduro hits back at rival

CARACAS

BACKED by Venezuela's military, President Nicolas Maduro went on the offensive against an opposition leader who declared himself interim president and his US supporters, setting up a potentially explosive struggle for power in the crisis-plagued South American nation.

A defiant Maduro called home all Venezuelan diplomats from the United States and closed its embassy on Thursday, a day after ordering all US diplomats out of Venezuela by the weekend

because President Donald Trump had supported the presidential claim of Juan Guaido.

Washington has refused to comply, but ordered its non-essential staff to leave the tumultuous country, citing security concerns.

The Trump administration says Maduro's order isn't legal because the US no longer recognizes him as Venezuela's legitimate leader.

"They believe they have a colonial hold in Venezuela, where they decide what they want to do," Maduro said in an address broadcast live on state TV.



Juan Guaido, head of Venezuela's opposition-run congress, declares himself interim president of Venezuela, during a rally demanding President Nicolas Maduro's resignation in Caracas, Venezuela, on Wednesday. (AP)

"You must fulfill my order from the government of Venezuela."

Meanwhile, all eyes were on Guaido whose whereabouts have been a mystery since the 35-year-old was symbolically sworn in Wednesday before tens of thousands of cheering supporters, promising to uphold the constitution and rid Venezuela of Maduro's dictatorship.

Speaking from an undisclosed location, Guaido told Univision he would consider granting amnesty to Maduro and his allies if they helped return Venezuela to democracy.

"Amnesty is on the table," said Guaido, who just

weeks earlier was named head of the opposition-controlled congress. "Those guarantees are for all those who are willing to side with the constitution to recover the constitutional order."

Besides the United States, much of the international community rallied behind Guaido, with Canada and numerous Latin American and European countries announcing that they recognized his claim to the presidency. Trump promised to use the "full weight" of US economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela's democracy.

Maduro has been increasingly accused of undemocratic behavior by his opponents, and has presided over skyrocketing inflation, a collapsing economy and widespread shortages of basic goods.

Meanwhile, Russia, China, Iran, Syria, Cuba and Turkey have voiced their backing for Maduro's government.

China's Foreign Ministry called on the United States to stay out of the crisis, while Russia's deputy foreign minister warned the US against any military intervention in Venezuela. Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the information committee at the Russian Federation Council, called Guaido's declaration "an attempted coup" backed by the US.

Russia has been propping up Maduro with arms deliveries and loans. Maduro visited Moscow in December, seeking Russia's political and financial support. Over the last decade, China has given Venezuela US\$65 billion in loans, cash and investment. Venezuela owes more than US\$20 billion.

Diplomats at the Organization of American States held an emergency meeting Thursday on

the Venezuelan crisis, during which 16 nations recognized Guaido as interim president.

Domestically, attention has been on Venezuela's military, a traditional arbiter of political disputes in the country, as a critical indicator of whether the opposition will succeed in establishing a new government.

Venezuela's top military brass pledged their unwavering support to Maduro, delivering vows of loyalty Thursday before rows of green-uniformed officers on state television.

A half-dozen generals belonging largely to district commands and with direct control over thousands of troops joined Maduro in accusing Washington of meddling in Venezuela's affairs and said they would uphold the socialist leader's rule.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez, a key Maduro ally, dismissed efforts to install a "de-facto parallel government" as tantamount to a coup.

"It's not a war between Venezuelans that will solve our problems," he said. "It's dialogue."

Guaido has said he needs the backing of three critical groups: The people, the international community and the military. While yesterday's protest drew tens of thousands to the streets and over a dozen nations in the region are pledging support, the military's backing is key.

Though many rank-and-file troops suffer the same hardships as countless other Venezuelans when it comes to meeting basic needs like feeding their families, Maduro has worked to cement their support with bonuses and other special benefits.

In a video addressing the military earlier this week, Guaido said the constitution requires them to disavow Maduro after his May 2018 re-election, which was widely condemned by the international community because his main opponents were banned from running.

Agencies

Belt and Road Initiative expands China-Iran cooperation

BEIJING

"THE economies of the two countries are complementary to each other. We are one of the biggest energy producers in the world and China is one of the biggest energy consumers in the world," said Hassan Shahbeig, chargé d'affaires at the Iranian embassy in China, during a recent interview with China Daily.

The investment reached a frenzy in September 2017. In just one week, a series of deals were reached between China's top financial institutions and a business delegation led by Iran's central banker Valiollah Seif, in which China promised US\$35 billion in financing and loans to support Iran's economy.

The Iran Daily first reported a credit line of US\$10 billion from Beijing-based CITIC Group, a State-owned investment firm, to finance water, energy and transport projects.

Scarcely a day passed before the newspaper reported that the China Development Bank had signed preliminary deals with Iran worth US\$15 billion for its infrastructure and production projects, adding that officials from Export-Import Bank of China would travel to Iran to

finalize another US\$10-billion letter of credit.

Iranian officials told the newspaper that all these deals were part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to build infrastructure, from highways and railways to ports and power plants, between China and other Asian countries, Europe and Africa to promote trade.

Iran's strategic location renders it a vital component in the BRI's global framework. As Shahbeig put it, "Iran is located in the central part of the Middle East, as a bridge between China and Europe. It is located in a place which can connect the north and south corridor, and also the west and east corridor."

"The Iranian government has supported the Initiative of Belt and Road, and we have been following up this idea and have been in discussion with the Chinese government," he added.

There is already a direct freight train between China and Iran. The rail route, also known as the New Silk Road, stretches 2,300 kilometers from Urumqi in western China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region to Tehran, connecting Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan along the way, cutting transportation to 14 to 15 days, compared with 45 to 50 days by sea.



Hassan Shahbeig, charge de Affairs of the Iranian Embassy in China

According to Iranian business daily Financial Tribune, five cargo trains have traveled the route to the Iranian capital since January 2016, loaded with myriad Chinese goods, from automobile accessories and spare parts to household appliances and ceramic tableware.

As a strand of the global New Silk Road, China

is also building a 926-km railroad from Tehran to the eastern city of Mashhad, Iran's primary pilgrimage site which attracts tens of millions of visitors each year.

Construction of the electrified railway by China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation, also a State-owned enterprise (SOE), is

expected to take up to four years.

Once completed, it will reduce the journey from 12 hours to 6 hours and increase transportation capacity to 25 million passengers and 10 million tons of cargo per year.

For Iran, the Tehran-Mashhad electrification project is part of its wider rail development plan to electrify all railroads by 2025.

The government has placed expansion of the country's rail network on top of its agenda. In its sixth five-year development plan (2017-22), Iran vowed to increase the share of rail in cargo and passenger transportation to at least 30 percent and 20 percent respectively by the end of the period.

Iran's ambitious program of rail construction and upgrading has attracted a lot of Chinese companies to participate, especially those big SOEs. The State-owned China Railway Engineering Corp is building a 415-km high-speed rail line between Tehran and Isfahan via Qom.

In January 2018, a subsidiary of China Railway Construction Corp won a 3.53 billion yuan (US\$513 million) contract to build a 263-km railway in western Iran between Kermanshah and Khosravi. Xinhua

UN observes first ever International Day of Education

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday called on all countries to prioritize education as a public good and support it with cooperation, partnerships and funding.

In his message to the first ever International Day of Education, the UN chief said that at least 262 million children, adolescents and youth are out of school.

"The world cannot afford a generation of children and young people who lack the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy, nor can we afford to leave behind half of humanity," said Guterres, adding that if all girls and boys complete secondary education, 420 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

In celebration of the role of education for peace and development, the UN General Assembly in December adopted a resolution to proclaim Jan. 24 as International Day of Education.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General Audrey Azoulay, on her message to the international day, said that the day is the occasion to "re-affirm fundamental principles."

About 617 million children and adolescents cannot read and do basic math, less than 40 percent of girls in sub-Saharan Africa complete lower secondary school while some 4 million



Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Deputy Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Jens Frolich Holte, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway (from L to R) hold a press briefing on the occasion of the International Day of Education (24 January), in recognition of the role of education for peace and sustainable development, at the UN headquarters in New York. (Xinhua)

children and youth refugees are out of school, their lives disrupted by conflict and loss, said Azoulay.

"Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility," she said, calling it "the most powerful force in our hands to ensure significant improvements in health, to stimulate economic growth, to unlock the potential and innovation we need to build more resilient and sustainable societies."

Apart from these messages, the UN-

ESCO, the permanent missions of Ireland, Nigeria, Norway, Qatar and Singapore on Thursday held a whole day event entitled "Maiden Celebration of International Day of Education" at the UN headquarters in New York.

Attendants at the event expressed their concern over the lack of funding in the education, and urged the international community to make education a leading priority.

Xinhua

Russia hopes that US will not pursue political gambits in Syria and Venezuela

WASHINGTON

THE Russian side hopes that the American administration will not pursue foreign ventures in Syria and Venezuela in an attempt to distract public attention from the consequences of the ongoing federal government shutdown, the Russian Embassy in the US said in a statement released on Thursday.

"It is sad that the US Secretary of State's attempt to cheer up his diplomats, who are forced to fulfill their duties without a paycheck, dumber down, just as always, to an aspiration to offend Russia, in this particular case - 'Vladimir Putin's government that never shuts down'.

There are seemingly no reasonable arguments for his subordinates in Michael Pompeo's arsenal," the Russian embassy said.

"The only thing left is to hope that the US Administration will not pursue foreign ventures, for instance, in Syria or Venezuela in attempt to shift public opinion from the aftermath of the shutdown.

We wish our colleagues in the US Department of State resilience and hope to continue our dialogue on the most pressing issues of bilateral and global agenda, on which international security and strategic stability depend. We



Russian embassy in Washington

are ready for such work," the embassy concluded.

Speaking earlier about the way the American diplomats are performing their duties across the world under suspended government operations in an interview with Fox News, Pompeo noted that representatives for the Department of State throughout the globe know that the Russian government never suspends its operations.

The operation of the US government was partially suspended on December 22, 2018, due to a lack of budget funding.

It happened because the Republicans and the Democrats in Congress did not manage to hammer out a temporary state budget in which Trump

and the Republicans want to earmark more than \$5 billion for the construction of a wall on the border with Mexico on a non-negotiable basis.

The Democrats state that they will not approve the allocation of such a large sum from the budget. Accordingly, they are ready to offer just \$1.3 billion. Nine US departments, including the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Homeland Security, staffed with 800,000 employees were left without any financing.

The Congress earlier managed to approve the allocation of funds for other government departments until late September. Agencies

Senate seeks solution to open US government, Trump insists on wall

WASHINGTON

US senators made a new try at ending a partial month-long government shutdown through a temporary funding bill on Thursday, but President Donald Trump demanded a "down payment" for a border wall that Democrats reject.

After the Republican-led Senate failed to advance two measures to reopen shuttered agencies, Democratic and Re-

publican lawmakers spoke on the Senate floor and urged quick passage of a three-week, stop gap funding bill to create time for talks on border security.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said such a measure would only work "if there is a large down payment on the wall." Trump, who sparked the shutdown, now in its 34th day, with his demand for US\$5.7 billion in funding for the US-Mexico border wall, told reporters

after the votes in the Senate: "We have no choice but to have a wall or a barrier, and if we don't have that, it's just not going to work," referring to border security.

Trump said that if Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer come to a "reasonable" agreement to end the partial government shutdown, "I would support it, yes." McConnell said late on Thursday that talks were on

going. "At least we're talking. I think that's better than it was before," he said. Democratic House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Trump's demand for a large down payment on a border wall "is not a reasonable agreement."

The shutdown has left 800,000 federal workers without pay and struggling to make ends meet, as the effects on government services and the economy reverberate nationwide.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said he had spoken to Trump about a short-term funding bill.

"All of us believe if we have three weeks with the government open that we could find a way forward to produce a bill that he would sign, that would be good for everybody in the country," Graham said on the Senate floor. "To my Democratic friends, money for a barrier is required to get this deal done."

Earlier, a bill backed by Trump to end the shutdown by funding the wall and a separate bill supported by Democrats to reopen shuttered agencies without such funding did not get the votes required to advance in the 100-member chamber.

Trump has touted Republican unity during the longest shutdown in US history, but in a sign of cracks in that resolve, or just a desire for compromise, six Republican senators voted with

Democrats on their measure to reopen government agencies temporarily without money for a wall.

They included freshman Senator Mitt Romney, the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nominee. "Democrats have said they're not willing to negotiate unless the government's open. Well they tried their effort. I voted for it. It didn't happen. Now they've got to negotiate." Romney said. Agencies

The Guardian

SPORT



Naomi Osaka

Fit, focused Osaka has 'upper hand' against Kvitova - coach

MELBOURNE

U.S. Open champion Naomi Osaka may be best known for her fierce power game but her coach Sascha Bajin believes the Japanese 21-year-old's fitness and mindset should give her an edge in the women's final against Petra Kvitova.

Osaka will bid for her second Grand Slam title in succession against twice Wimbledon champion Kvitova today, having claimed her maiden major in New York last year by upsetting Serena Williams in the final.

Bajin said he wanted Osaka to take the game to lefthander Kvitova in the same way she did against another Czech in Karolina Pliskova in the semi-final, when she hammered 56 winners and clubbed 15 aces.

"I kind of want her to approach the match like she approached Pliskova. (Kvitova) is also a big server. Just kind of like the opposite, because she's a lefty. Same mindset," the German coach told reporters at Melbourne Park on Friday.

"You know, both of them are very dangerous off the first two, three shots, but I believe once the rally keeps going, Naomi with her current state of mind and physique has the upper hand."

Osaka's mental strength has shown in the way she has avoided the trap of first time Grand Slam winners crashing at their next major and knuckled down to overcome three-set tests to book her first final at Melbourne Park.

Bajin was impressed at how his fourth-

seeded charge had re-started training for the new season after a short break.

"Yeah, she really wants it. You know, people say they want it, but she really wants it," he said.

"You know, we had an unbelievable great season last year, but after having just two weeks' break, she came back and showed up and really worked her butt off."

"Yeah, she's a hard worker, and she wants to be, and that's why she's here."

Adding additional weight to today's clash, Kvitova and Osaka are also playing for the world number one ranking.

Osaka was crushed to miss out on winning her third career title at the Brisbane International warmup, upset by Lesia Tsurenko in the semi-finals, but had taken lessons from the disappointment to Melbourne, Bajin said.

"I always think you learn more from your losses than from your wins. Naomi is definitely one of those persons, as well," he said.

"Obviously she takes losses very hard, because it means a lot to her and she works really hard to keep winning and wants to win every match."

"But there's not so much I have to say afterwards. It's just more like emotional management, just to be there for her and tell her that it's all right and losses happen to everybody."

"But thankfully she learns from it a lot, and it shows here."

REUTERS



England Roses celebrate after victory over New Zealand in Netball QUAD series in Echo Arena in Liverpool, Britain January 13, 2019 in this picture obtained from a social media on January 24, 2019. REUTERS

From the playground to sell-out stadiums, Netball enjoying boom in England

LONDON

THE sight of playground netball matches taking place in schools the length and breadth of the country is as much part of the English sporting fabric as village green cricket and Sunday morning football.

Tens of thousands of young girls play it at some stage during their education but until relatively recently it barely registered in the psyche of the nation's sports fans.

Joanna Adams, CEO of English Netball, admits the sport, invented in England as a variation of basketball in the 1890s and exported right across the former British Empire, had an image problem. Not any more though.

Fuelled by England's national team, the Roses, winning the Commonwealth Games gold last year, the sport is booming and last weekend a sell-out crowd in London watched them beat world champions Australia in a nailbiting finale to the Quad Series.

With a home World Cup looming in Liverpool in July, no wonder Adams says it is the "biggest time in the history" of the sport in England – a chance to complete netball's elevation from the playground to the world stage.

"It's because it's the first time the sport has really reached an audience outside the traditional netball audience," Adams told Reuters in an interview.

She is not wrong. The recent Quad Series, a twice-yearly event between England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, was televised live while last year's Commonwealth Games final Down Under against Australia captured the public's imagination in spectacular fashion as Tracey Neville's team caused a huge upset in thrilling fashion.

At the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards in December the Roses beat off the likes of Gareth Southgate's World Cup soccer semi-finalists, the European Ryder Cup squad and Ireland's Six Nations rugby champions to win 'Team

of the Year'.

England's stunning 52-51 win over Australia was also voted by the British public as the "sporting moment of the year" – eclipsing cricket captain Alastair Cook's farewell century and England's penalty shoot-out win over Colombia at the World Cup.

"The Commonwealth Games meant we reached a whole new generation of sports fans, and don't forget it was also a time when we were fighting for our funding," Adams says. "Then SPOTY brought it all back to everyone's attention. For us to win the public vote and beat football was massive. It was huge. An incredible time for us."

The old image of a rather static game played by girls in bibs has now been replaced by a slick, fast-paced sport where handling skills rival that of basketball.

England's 10-club Superleague, televised live by Sky Sports, includes Saracens Mavericks and Wasps – both backed by Premiership rugby clubs.

While getting rich from playing netball in England is still a pipedream, Adams believes it can become a professional career path like in Australia.

Last year U.S. sports giant Nike signed what Adams called a "game-changing" multi-year deal to supply the England Roses.

"We were seen as a schoolgirl sport even if people were embarrassed to say that to us, but we were," she said.

"Now over the last six or seven years we have worked so hard to change the perception

through our Superleague.

"We call the concept 'from navy blue knickers to Nike'. That sort of says it all. Young girls now see incredible athletic, bright women playing this amazing game and it's not that schoolgirl image any more."

Adams says netball is the fastest-growing team sport in Britain, with 130,000 women saying they either returned to netball or took it up after the Commonwealth Games.

With UK Sport funding assured until 2021, the priority now is to maintain the momentum leading into the World Cup and the signs are encouraging. All England's matches are sold out and organisers have reached 2 million pounds in ticket sales.

"It's going to be a huge. It's like an alignment of the stars," Adams said.

England's 35-year-old Commonwealth Games winner Jade Clarke says there is now a buzz about the sport.

"The whole nation had been watching and we've sort of rolled with it," Clarke, who has more than 150 caps for England told Reuters.

Clarke, who studied at Loughborough University, had to spend seven years playing in the Australian league as there were few opportunities to make a living playing netball in England.

She has returned with Wasps though and with Adams hopeful that the Superleague will be completely professional by 2024, hopes that in future English girls shooting for the hoop in the playground will be able to aspire to a career in netball. **REUTERS**

Kvitova finds killer instinct when in 'bubble' - coach Vanek

MELBOURNE

PETRA Kvitova needs to be in her own "bubble" to find her killer instinct, coach Jiri Vanek said yesterday ahead of the Czech's Australian Open final showdown against Naomi Osaka.

Kvitova was left a nervous wreck after being attacked by a knife-wielding home intruder in 2016 and would struggle to be in a room by herself.

She missed the 2017 tournament

while recovering from surgery on the stab wound to her racket hand she suffered during the attack and exited Melbourne Park after a first round loss to Andrea Petkovic last year.

But the 28-year-old Czech is now one match away from crowning one of the bravest comebacks in tennis after beating Danielle Collins 7-6(2) 6-0 to reach her first final at Melbourne Park this year.

Kvitova has appeared to be always smiling off the court belying

the intensity she brings during her matches.

"She's always smiling. I mean, we try in our team to smile everywhere. We make so many funny stuff around the court. She likes it," Vanek, a former professional singles player, told reporters on Friday.

"I mean, sometimes she's, we call it if she's in her bubble that she plays this way. But sometimes happens, like, two, three months when she's not in the bubble then

she plays in a different way.

"We just try to put her (back) to her bubble. Then she find her killer instincts."

According to Vanek, Kvitova used to be too concerned about the opinion of other people since the 2016 incident but her focus was now back firmly on herself and her tennis again.

"Somebody can come and say something not really nice, and so we keep her away from other people," added the 40-year-old,

who has also worked with former world number one Czech Karolina Pliskova.

"We just stay together with her, with our fitness coach, and we just have our team and we don't need somebody else to be with us."

The tall left-hander has also looked at her fittest at Melbourne Park which has also helped her improve her game.

"She lost some weight. She even tells us she feels more comfortable on the court when she's running,

when she has longer rallies.

"During our preparation before the season, we tried to play as much tennis as we can and lose (weight), that probably helps her a lot."

Kvitova said there were a number of occasions when she thought she would never be able to make another Grand Slam final and counted last year's first round exit at Melbourne Park as one of her lowest moments since returning to playing.

"I think there were a few of them," the double Wimbledon champion said. "I think one of them was just last year when I lost to Petkovic in my first round here, which I felt really terrible. Of course losing in Wimbledon was hurting a lot, as well, at the time."

"I think those two losses were really tough for me. Was especially in the Grand Slams, of course. The feeling how I felt wasn't really nice. Sometimes I'm probably too stressed and it's not really great."



Petra Kvitova

Heat wave brings blackouts to Melbourne, halts play at Australian Open

MELBOURNE

SCORCHING temperatures suspended play at the Australian Open tennis grand slam in Melbourne yesterday, expected to be the hottest day in a decade, as a week-old heat wave brought power outages and left streets bare in the business district.

Firefighters went on alert as the mercury crept towards an expected maximum of 44 degrees Celsius (111 F), the highest since Black Saturday bushfires in 2009 that killed about 180 people in the southeastern state of Victoria.

"Glam Slam and Australian Tennis Championships

matches have been suspended on all outside courts at Melbourne Park and Albert Reserve," tournament organisers said on social media.

It was the second day that heat had affected play, after the roof at the Rod Laver arena was closed on Thursday for the women's semi-finals match.

But the blistering heat did not stop the world No. 4, Japan's Naomi Osaka, from taking to the practice courts early, ahead of Saturday's women's final, where she faces the world number 6, the Czech Petra Kvitova.

Crowds were only expected

to gather later in the day for the men's semi-finals between world No. 1 Novak Djokovic, and Lucas Pouille of France, ranked 31.

Fire officials in the state's north set the danger rating to "extreme," while bushfires raging out of control around eastern Timbarra prompted an emergency warning to campers.

In the southern island state of Tasmania, officials issued eight emergency warnings.

"We've got a lot of fire in the landscape," state fire official Andrew McGuinness told broadcaster ABC. "Some of those fires are quite large. And already, we're seeing

quite nasty fire weather conditions."

In Victoria, home to 4 million people, rolling power outages of two hours each could hit about 60,000 homes, after blackouts on Thursday in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, which saw temperatures hit 46.2 C (115.16 F), surpassing a record set in 1939.

Australia's power operator again ordered industrial users to ease back and reduce pressure on Victoria's overburdened grid, including an aluminium smelter owned by Alcoa in the town of Portland.

REUTERS

Rested Lionel Messi to be unleashed against Girona

BARCELONA

BARCELONA coach Ernesto Valverde has sought to ration Lionel Messi's game time with the aim of keeping his talisman fresh for the final gruelling stretch of the campaign, yet every time the coach rests the Argentine, his team tend to suffer.

Valverde is expected start Messi for the first time in three matches for Sunday's La Liga trip to Catalan neighbours Girona, with his side eager to protect their five-point gap at the top of the standings over nearest challengers Atletico Madrid.

The fixture was earmarked as the first La Liga game to take place in the United States, but protests from other institutions mean it will be played at Girona's Montilivi ground rather than the more glitzy surroundings of Miami's Hard Rock stadium.

But Messi, the leading scorer in Europe with a remarkable 18 goals in 16 league starts, will still be the main attraction.

The 31-year-old was left out of the starting line-up against Leganes last week, only the second time he has been benched in the league. However, despite their wealth of talent, Barca were drawing 1-1 midway through the second half when they called upon their captain, who inspired them to a 3-1 victory.

Messi stayed at home altogether for Thursday's trip to Sevilla in a

Copa del Rey quarter-final first leg, and Barca were beaten 2-0, leaving them on the brink of elimination from a competition they have dominated since 2015.

Perhaps still haunted by Barca's shock exit from the Champions League last season to AS Roma, which was blamed on overexertion, the coach was unrepentant about leaving Messi out against Sevilla and also resting midfielder Sergio Busquets.

"I don't regret resting Messi, it's what I had to do," Valverde said.

"Last year we paid the price for our efforts in the Copa, and now we're rotating more because we think it's the best thing to do. We want to maintain our gap at the top of the league and we think our squad players have to help us out."

Although they will benefit from a fresher Messi, Barca will be without France forward Ousmane Dembele, who has roared into form in recent weeks but is nursing an ankle injury sustained against Leganes.

Atletico, who look like being Barca's only title rivals, host Levante on Saturday after earning a big 3-0 victory at Huesca in their last outing.

Real Madrid, who are 10 points behind Barca in third, will be looking to build on last week's encouraging 2-0 win over Sevilla, described as their best league display of a torrid campaign, when they visit Espanyol.

REUTERS

Piatek told he will have to earn the Milan nine shirt

MILAN

AC Milan's new striker Krzysztof Piatek will have to wait to wear the number nine shirt which previously belonged to the likes of Jose Altafani, Marco van Basten and Filippo Inzaghi, he was told Thursday.

The Polish striker joined Milan on Wednesday after scoring 19 goals in 21 appearances for Genoa in a remarkable first six months in Italian football. He will replace Gonzalo Higuain who cut short his year-long from Juventus to join Chelsea.

Piatek, who has signed a contract until 2023, has been handed the number 19 shirt, although it was not the one he wanted.

"To be honest, he asked for the number nine, but at this moment it is something which has to be earned because it's an important number," Milan's technical director Leonardo Araujo told reporters during Piatek's official presentation.

A long line of illustrious players have worn the shirt such as Altafani who scored 14 goals in the European Cup campaign in 1962/63, including two in the final, to finish as top scorer

as Milan won the competition for the first time.

Inzaghi scored 74 goals in European competition for Milan, including two in the 2007 Champions League final against Liverpool, while Dutchman Van Basten won the Ballon d'Or three times as a Milan player in the 1980s and 1990s.

However, it recently appears to have become a burden with Luiz Adriano, Alexandre Pato, Mattia Destro, Fernando Torres, Andre Silva and Higuain among players who have struggled. "It's not a question of superstition," said Leonardo.

Piatek, 23, said he wanted to "score in every game" and help Milan achieve their target of finishing in the top four to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"I was born ready and I will do everything I can to help AC Milan get back into the Champions League," he said.

"I want to play in this competition. I will always fight and give my all on the pitch".

Milan are fourth in Serie A with 34 points and host Napoli today.

REUTERS

Sources: Henry sacked with Monaco in 19th place

MONACO

MONACO have sacked manager Thierry Henry, according to ESPN FC sources.

The club announced earlier in the day in a statement that they had suspended Henry, but the sources say that move was only a stopgap with the former Arsenal star out at the principality club.

Henry, who took over from Leonardo Jardim on Oct. 13, has not won at home in Ligue 1 with his team sitting in the relegation zone in 19th place.

Earlier in the day, ESPN FC sources said that Henry had been given a vote of confidence from Monaco, but hours later the club confirmed they had suspended the former Arsenal star and put assistant Franck Passi in charge of first-team training beginning on Friday.

The sources added that some of the club's players had gone to ownership to complain about Henry's methods and tactics, including centre-back Kamil Glik.

Henry's Monaco side were beaten

5-1 by Strasbourg at Stade Louis II last weekend and 3-1 in the principality by second-tier Metz in the Coupe de France midweek.

Despite reaching the Coupe de la Ligue semifinals, Henry has only overseen two league wins and announced earlier on Thursday that he would be ridding his squad of uncommitted players ahead of the fight against the drop.

"We need guys who want to save the club, who don't think about themselves. We're going to war," he told reporters on Thursday.

"But despite the results we are still alive," added Henry, who had refused to speculate on his future at the club.

Henry, 41, played for Monaco for five seasons, winning a league title with them in 1997.

Portuguese coach Jardim, who led Monaco to the Ligue 1 title in 2017 -- the same year they reached the Champions League semifinals -- has been linked with a return to the club by French media.

(AGENCIES)

Chelsea edge Spurs on penalties to reach League Cup final

LONDON

CHELSEA produced the perfect response to manager Maurizio Sarri's weekend criticism to beat London rivals Tottenham Hotspur on penalties on Thursday and set up a League Cup final showdown against holders Manchester City.

Trailing 1-0 from the semi-final first leg, Chelsea turned the tie on its head with goals by N'Golo Kante and Eden Hazard in the first half but Fernando Llorente struck for Spurs in an enthralling Stamford Bridge duel.

Chelsea had 20 goal attempts to Tottenham's five but the visitors held firm to set up a penalty shootout.

Christian Eriksen scored Tottenham's first spot-kick but team mate Eric Dier, the hero of England's World Cup shootout win over Colombia last year, fired over and Lucas Moura's penalty was well-saved by goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga.

Chelsea's penalties were more clinical and David Luiz slotted past Paulo Gazzaniga to seal the victory and send Chelsea into their 15th cup final in 17 years.

Spurs, who were without Harry Kane, scorer of a penalty in the first leg, and England team mate Dele Alli, both because of injury, plus South Korean Son Heung-min who is on international duty, battled hard but their wait for silverware goes on.

They have not won a trophy since beating Chelsea in the 2008 League Cup final.

After Chelsea's 2-0 weekend Premier League defeat at Arsenal, Sarri raised eyebrows by accusing his players of being "difficult to motivate" and publicly demanded more of his Belgium forward Hazard.

But a visit to rivals Tottenham, with a Wembley final at stake, provided the incentive for a far sharper display, with Hazard at the heart of Chelsea's attacking endeavour.

"I think that they reacted well tonight," Sarri, who has never won a trophy during his near 30-year managerial career, told reporters.

"But I didn't attack my players. I just said



Chelsea defender David Luiz scores the winning penalty past Tottenham goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga to put side into the League Cup final. (Agencies)

we had a problem. The reaction was very good but we need to have motivation with continuity now.

"In the last three or four matches we were not able to be dangerous. Tonight was better."

TAILS UP

Tottenham, who are four points above Chelsea in the Premier League standings, looked comfortable early on but the hosts gradually began to exert a measure of control.

Chelsea went ahead in the 27th minute when Kante's shot from the edge of the area went through the legs of two Spurs

players and squirmed past Gazzaniga -- in goal instead of Hugo Lloris.

With their tails up Chelsea began to dominate and they went ahead in the tie in the 38th minute when a fluid passing move ended with Cesar Azpilicueta's low cross being calmly side-footed home by a stretching Hazard.

Tottenham responded after the break and Kane's replacement Llorente bundled in a header from Danny Rose's cross to put them back on level terms on aggregate in the 50th minute.

The Spanish striker also wasted a great chance from Eriksen's raking pass before being replaced by Moura.

However, it was Chelsea who looked the more likely side to avoid the need for penalties. Hazard twice went close and Spurs needed some last-ditch tackles to keep Chelsea at bay.

It was all in vain for Mauricio Pochettino's side, though, as they faltered with a domestic final in sight.

"We are disappointed but it's a massive success to get to the semi-final with all the circumstances," he said.

"We're so disappointed to lose in that way, but it can happen. The players were brave and with all the circumstances I can only feel proud. It will make us stronger."

REUTERS

Pochettino running out of chances to prove he can win

LONDON

MAURICIO Pochettino makes football teams better, he improves players and he demands high-intensity attacking football, but is the Tottenham Hotspur manager a winner?

After his Spurs side missed out on a place in next month's Carabao Cup final following a penalty-shootout defeat against Chelsea in Thursday's semifinal second leg -- Spurs lost 2-1 on the night after winning 1-0 in the home leg -- it is a legitimate question to ask about the man who is already high on the wanted lists of Manchester United and Real Madrid.

The Argentine will argue that he possesses the ruthless streak to deliver major honours at Tottenham, or wherever his talents take him next, but sometimes, and often when everything is on the line, he and his team fall short.

The great managers -- Sir Alex Ferguson, Pep Guardiola, even Jose Mourinho -- became the best in their profession because they always found the edge, found a different way to win, when the heat was at its most intense. But this was another occasion when Pochettino was unable to take Spurs over the line in a big game, and his team selection was an area where he left himself open to scrutiny and criticism.

This was a game when Spurs were already without three key players, with Harry Kane and Dele Alli injured and Son Heung-Min away on international duty with South Korea at the Asian Cup. Those three players have scored 39 goals for Spurs in all competitions this season, so Pochettino could surely not afford to be without any more of his senior men.

Yet despite the holes in his team, Pochettino stuck with his policy of playing second-choice goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga in this competition and left club captain, and World Cup-winning keeper, Hugo Lloris on the substitutes' bench. A small detail, perhaps, but small details often make a big difference at the highest level of elite sport, and Pochettino weakened his team by selecting Gazzaniga -- whose error gave Chelsea the lead -- ahead of Lloris.

Ferguson, Guardiola and Mourinho have all used their backup goalkeepers in major semifinals, even finals, but would they have taken the same risk



Kevin-Prince Boateng - Luis Suarez

with so many other crucial figures missing? That is debatable, but Pochettino has often treated domestic cup competitions lightly, even claiming that success in the Carabao Cup or FA Cup is not a priority, yet with no other silverware coming Tottenham's way in recent seasons, nobody at the club can be choosy when it comes to which trophy is worth winning.

Under Pochettino, Spurs have lost two FA Cup semifinals and now this Carabao Cup semifinal. They reached the League Cup final in 2014-15, only to lose to Mourinho's Chelsea at Wembley. He spoke about being "so proud" of his players after this defeat at Stamford Bridge, but for Pochettino to break into the top echelon of coaches, he needs to win something and make it sound like every trophy matters.

"We came here to try and win the game and to try and be in the final," Pochettino said. "Congratulations to Chelsea. I think they deserved it, but we made an unbelievable effort."

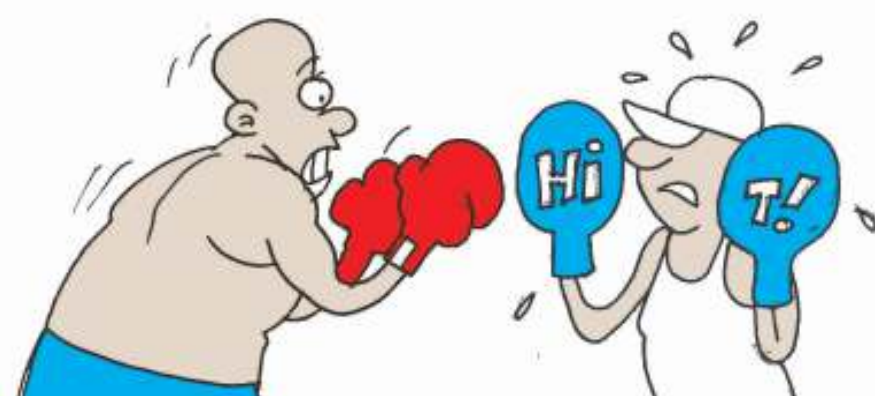
"This season we are fighting not only with the opponents with everything that's happened. That is not an excuse. It'll make us stronger."

"We have three more competitions, still. We arrived in a semifinal and lost to Chelsea, one of the best teams in Europe. I can only feel proud of the performance and the way we competed."

Being "proud" of a team that loses a semifinal -- another semifinal -- is not the language of a manager who wins the biggest trophies.

In Pochettino's defence, there are mitigating circumstances at Tottenham.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea edge Spurs on penalties
to reach League Cup final

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Naomi Osaka

Osaka, Kvitova chase double delight in Melbourne final

MELBOURNE

THE rewards could not get bigger when Petra Kvitova takes on Naomi Osaka in today's Australian Open final with one of them set to emerge as a fresh champion at Melbourne Park as well as the new world number one.

Four months after stunning 23-times Grand Slam champion Serena Williams in the final of the U.S. Open last September, 21-year-old Osaka is one win away from becoming the first player since Jennifer Capriati to win the next Grand Slam after her maiden major title.

The fourth seed, one of the cleanest strikers of the ball in women's tennis, is not expecting it to be a cakewalk, especially being pitted against an opponent as aggressive as Osaka and also more experienced with two Wimbledon titles under her belt.

Osaka fought back from a set and 4-1 down against Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei in the third round at Melbourne Park and showed her determination in winning two more three-setters to keep a 13-match victory streak in Grand Slams running.

She will need all of that grit if she hopes to stop Kvitova, who is yet to drop a set en route to her maiden Australian Open final, in their first career meeting.

"I think to have the opportunity to play her for the first time in a final of a Grand Slam is something very amazing," Osaka told reporters after her semi-final win. "I've watched her play the Wimbledon finals.

"I know what a great player she is. It's definitely going to be very tough for me."

Kvitova is one match away from capping one of the most inspiring comebacks in the history of the sport, having had to undergo a nearly four-hour surgery on her playing hand in 2016 after being attacked by a knife-wielding intruder at her home in the Czech Republic.

She missed the 2017 tournament at Melbourne Park while recovering from the surgery and it was just not a case of overcoming a physical injury as the attack left an indelible mental scar too.

"I have been in the final of the Grand Slam, but this is a little bit different," she told reporters yesterday.

"I'm not playing on the grass, but I think it's just probably a little bit more special because it's after everything I have been through. So I think it's just different, but I don't think it's, like, more nervous."

The 28-year-old, currently sixth in the rankings, won the Sydney International warm-up before arriving in Melbourne and has not looked back, having strolled past her opponents in a 11-match winning streak.

Today could, however, be a different fight against the big-hitting Osaka, who hammered 56 winners and clubbed 15 aces to defeat another Czech player in Karolina Pliskova.

"I need to play my best tennis, what I can say. I think Naomi is on fire. She's in very good form," Kvitova said.

"She's an aggressive player, which I am, as well. So I think it will be about who gonna take the first point and push the other a little bit."

With both players evenly matched in their aggressive play and ability to serve big, Kvitova's coach Jiri Vanek believed the player with the bigger heart will win Saturday's contest.

Vanek's opposite number Sascha Bajin believes Osaka's fitness and mindset will give her the edge in rallies.

REUTERS

Hatem wonder strike secures Qatar upset of South Korea

ABU DHABI

QATAR'S Abdulaziz Hatem scored with a stunning late strike as the 2022 World Cup hosts upset Son Heung-min's South Korea 1-0 to reach the semi-finals of the Asian Cup for the first time on Friday.

The defensive midfielder's left-footed shot came out of the blue in the 78th minute and flew past South Korea goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu to decide a largely disappointing contest in front of a crowd of only 13,700 at Zayed Sport City.

Twice former champions South Korea poured forward to try and rescue the match but were unable to produce an equaliser and it will be the Qataris who face holders Australia or hosts the United Arab Emirates for a place in the final next Tuesday.

The political rift between Qatar and the UAE meant the Maroons were supported by only a couple of hundred Omanis but they celebrated wildly in front of them at the final whistle.

"We've achieved something special today, this is history for us," said coach Felix Sanchez, whose team will go into the semi-final without having conceded a goal.

"We played a great game, the players made a huge effort and we achieved something great for our country."

"I'm the happiest coach in the world."

Pre-tournament favourites South Korea, who had been looking to reach the last four for a record-extending 11th time, bowed out before the semi-finals for the first time since 2004.

Both teams had played their last 16 matches on Tuesday, which perhaps contributed to a forgettable first half with just one shot on target – Akram Afif's long-range effort after 32 minutes which South Korea keeper Kim safely gathered.

The Qataris, who started with five at the back, came out with more attacking intent in the second half but were almost immediately caught on the break with Hwang Ui-jo forcing a save out of Saad Al Sheeb.

The game was opening up with chances at both ends and Son, who had looked fatigued since joining the South Korean squad for their third group game, started to impose his influence.

The Tottenham Hotspur forward got a low drive on target in the 72nd minute which went straight to Saad and made a decoy run before Kim Jin-su curled the ball onto the outside of the post from a free kick three minutes later.

REUTERS



Simba SC right fullback Nicholas Gyan (L), shoots during the semi-final match of the 2019 SportPesa Cup tournament at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: HALIMA KAMBI

SportPesa Cup run climax an all-Kenyan affair

By Guardian on Sunday Reporter

KENYAN club, Bandari, has ended Simba's dreams of securing a place in the final of the 2019 SportPesa Cup tournament, cruising to a 2-1 win over the latter in a pulsating semi-final that was played at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The Kenyan outfit will meet compatriots Kariobangi Sharks in the final today as the latter edged Tanzania's Mbao FC 6-5 in penalty shootouts in the second semi-final, at the same venue later in the evening.

Strikers Wilberforce Lugogo and William Wadri notched Bandari's goals, whereas forward Meddy Kagere scored what turned out to be a consolation goal for Simba.

Bandari, led by head coach Bernard Mwala who played for Yanga of Tanzania in his heydays, displayed fancy footwork and matched Simba toe to toe in the match, forcing the latter to step up their game.

The two teams' defenses had to be alert throughout the opening stanza to frustrate efforts by either side's forwardline to find the back of the net.

Striker Kagere scored the opener for Simba on the 44th minute, beating Bandari keeper Faruk Shikhalo with a fierce shot from outside the area.

Kagere had earlier been presented with an opportunity to put the ball on the back of Bandari's net after he was released by a team mate inside the area. His low foot shot was however saved by the Bandari keeper.

Striker Wadri wasted a good chance for his club midway through the opening stanza, when he headed wide off a cross from

the right side.

The first stanza came to a close with Simba leading by the lone goal.

Bandari went close on two occasions early in the second half, as they sought to level matters, where Wadri fluffed a shot on the edge of Simba's area.

Bandari midfielder Collins Agade then unleashed a long range blockbuster which went inches over the crossbar.

Wadri helped Bandari draw level on the 60th minute, converting a spot kick they won when Simba's Muzamiru Yassin fouled midfielder Hassan Abdallah inside the area.

Simba failed to make the most of a good chance on the 65th minute, where Kagere failed to get on the end of a good pass by left fullback Mohamed Hussein inside the box.

Forward Wilberforce Lugogo notched the second goal for Bandari on the 72nd minute, beating Simba keeper Aishi Manula with a right foot shot from within the area.

The striker had capitalized on the failure by Simba defenders to clear a free kick from the left side.

Simba survived a scare on the 77th minute, as Wadri made his way into the area, got the better of fullback Nicholas Gyan and whipped in a low cross.

Wycliffe Ochomo sped into the area, but however lost his footing and failed to connect the ball home.

Simba midfielder Haruna Niyonzima threw overboard a glorious opportunity on the 83rd minute, when he shot over from within the area, with only the keeper to beat.

Simba made several forays into Bandari's

penalty area during the closing stages in an effort to level matters. The latter's defense marshalled by skipper Felly Mulumba stood firm and foiled repeated attacks.

Simba booked a place in the semi-finals with a 2-1 win over Kenyan side AFC Leopards in the quarterfinal match at the same venue on Wednesday.

Wadri was Bandari's hero in the club's quarterfinal match against Singida United, which took place a day earlier.

He netted the all-important goal from a spot kick to help the side qualify for the semi-finals.

The competition's other semi-final later yesterday ended with Mbao FC conceding a loss to Kariobangi Sharks.

The two teams had to go for penalty shootouts after settling for a barren draw in the 90 minutes of the clash.

In the penalty shootout, Tom Tekka, Sven Yida, Geoffrey Shiveka, Nixon Omondi, Eric Juma and Michael Bodo converted the spot kicks for Kariobangi Sharks whereas a shot by Patilah Omotto was saved by Mbao FC keeper Metacha Mnata.

David Mwasa, Eric Murilo, Vincent Phillip, Raphael Siyame and Saidi Hamisi netted for Mbao FC, whilst Amos Charles and Hamimu Abdulkarim could not find the back of the net.

Mbao FC stunned the tournament's defending champions, Gor Mahia in the quarterfinal to progress to the last four stage by penalty shootouts.

Kariobangi Sharks made short work of city giants Yanga with a 3-2 win in the quarterfinal clash.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 EATV

TODAY @ 18:00

SUNDAY

14:00 Sisi Za Familia (rpt)
15:30 Wakilisha (rpt)
16:00 Msasi Kitaani
16:30 Flora show (rpt)
17:00 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
17:30 ZeComedy (rpt)
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 Planet Bongo
18:30 Waganga Ulimbo
19:00 Bongo Hits
20:00 Wtup DJ
20:30 Wanawake Live
21:00 WeekEnd Movie
22:30 Bongo Hits
23:00 Kurasa (rpt)

PLANET BONGO is strictly about the world of Bongo Flava music. It features a mix of interviews with artists and those who shape the Bongo Flava industry. Regular segments range from hot topics, music video reviews and industry news.

east africa RADIO

06:00 WeeKend Breakfast
10:00 Tam Tam Za Mwambao
13:00 Lovers Rock
16:00 Sunday Soul
18:00 Request Show
20:00 Afro Sunday
22:00 Late Night
00:00 Music Mix

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