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'Soil texture scan starts to improve fertiliser use'

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Dodoma

THE government is mapping soil profiles across the country to be used to guide farmers on proper application of fertilisers so as to avoid misuse which currently stands at 20 per cent.

Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe told The Guardian yesterday in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of the ongoing 6th Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) here that the report on soil texture and other properties will be ready by midyear.

The outcome of the study will be unveiled and distributed all over the country so that farmers do not use wrong fertilisers as is the case now, as application of the nutrients is based on guesswork.

Bashe said most farmers are not aware of applicable soil profile and therefore may use fertilisers on soil that does not need the input. If they had been informed

“Once the study was over, it will be open and posted for free in online platforms to enable farmers to access information through mobile phones anytime

earlier, fertiliser use would not result in poor yields and loss to the farmers.

He said that currently 20 per cent of fertilisers is used in the soil where it was not necessarily needed, implying that much of the fertiliser imported is excessive to real needs.

The aim of conducting this exercise was to further equip farmers with soil profile knowledge which shall enable farmers to choose the right fertilisers for a particular piece of land.

Currently, there was no soil profile study conducted that could enable them to have the right choice of fertilisers, as in every piece of land there are different

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Famine fears grip FAO as locusts draw closer



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi share a light moment with Dodoma Regional Sheikh Alhaj Mustafa Rajab Shaaban (C) shortly after Friday prayer at Gaddafi mosque in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

THE UN agency says the insects are breeding so fast that numbers could grow 500 times by June

By Guardian Reporter and agencies

TANZANIA and other East African countries could be on the verge of a famine if huge swarms of locusts devouring crops and pasture are not brought under control, a top United Nations official has said.

It would create a food crisis, Dominique Burgeon, director of emergencies for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told the BBC.

Tanzania, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda are affected, according to the UN

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Coronavirus: Envoy assures Zanzibar VP Tanzanians are safe

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar, Xie Xiawu, has said all Tanzanians living in China have been provided with preventive care against the deadly coronavirus and none has been infected by the disease so far.

He said this yesterday when he held talks with

“Currently, all Tanzanians are safe despite rapid spread of the disease which has taken lives of 1,368 people

the Isles Second Vice President, Ambassador Seif Ali Iddi on the current status of the highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness.

“Currently, all Tanzanians are safe despite rapid spread of the disease which has taken lives of 1,368 people up to now,” he said. The Chinese government in collaboration with the World

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Ministry working on universal health policy for affordability

By Henry Mwangonde

The government has said it is finalising reviewing the newly drafted Universal Health Coverage strategy with a view to making service affordable to all patients and their families.

The minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Umyy Mwalimu made this



observation yesterday during a tour of the Muhimbili National

Hospital (MNH) branch, the Mloganzila teaching hospital on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

The minister was responding to a question from an outpatient at the referral facility who lamented the high costs of insurance packages offered by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

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WOOLWORTHS



Famine fears at FAO while desert locusts draw nearer

FROM PAGE 1

official. Efforts to control the infestation have so far not been effective.

Aerial spraying of pesticides is the most effective way of fighting the swarms but countries in the region do not have the right resources, the director said in his remarks.

The government said recently that it had hired three spray planes in preparation to possible invasion of desert locusts before the pests were reportedly spotted in parts of Kilimanjaro region—reports that were refuted by authorities.

Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga said two planes were to come from the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) based in Addis Ababa, and one from the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCO-CSA) in Lusaka.

He said the ministry had already applied for a license from the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) to deliver the planes to Tanzania.

There are fears that the locusts - already in their billions - will multiply further.

The FAO said last month that the insects are breeding so fast that numbers could grow 500 times by June.

The UN body has now called on the international community to provide nearly \$76m (£58m) to fund the spraying of affected areas with insecticide.

"If it doesn't, the situation will deteriorate and then you will need to provide massive food assistance for a humanitarian situation that may even get out of control," Burgeon said.

The locust invasion is the worst infestation in Kenya for 70 years and the worst in Somalia and Ethiopia for 25 years.

Somalia has declared a national emergency in response to the crisis, while the Ethiopian government has called for "immediate action" to deal with the problem affecting four of the country's nine semi-autonomous regions.

Kenya has deployed aircrafts to spray pesticides in several regions, while Uganda plans to send soldiers to northern regions to spray affected areas.

The locusts are thought to have spread from Yemen three months ago, reports indicated.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings with Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) Mussa Hassan Zungu (C) at Zanzibar State House yesterday. The minister has gone to introduce himself following his recent appointment. Left is Ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk. Photo: Zanzibar State House

'Soil texture scan starts to improve fertiliser use'

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soil profiles, he stated.

As a result farmers use millions of shillings to buy fertilisers and put it in their farms that they could easily do without, he lamented.

About 60 per cent of fertiliser used in the country is imported and out of the total amount around 20 per cent of fertiliser is used inappropriately, he explained.

"We are finalizing this exercise conducted by three laboratories across the country. Once it is over, the public will be informed and obtain brochures in an easy and affordable way," he said.

"We are looking forward to subsidize the services to make them affordable to the farmers when accessing information to know soil profiles in their respective areas," he affirmed.

Once the study was over, it

will be open and posted for free in online platforms to enable farmers to access information through mobile phones any time.

The government in collaboration with the private sector plans to establish more plants to manufacture fertilisers to reduce the amount of fertilisers imported annually, he stated.

In another development, the deputy minister said the government was reviewing the Co-

operatives Act to direct them to commercial viability unlike at present.

"Without strong cooperatives, farmers cannot benefit from their agro-produce," he declared.

The conference theme is "Public and Private Sector Investment for Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania," attracting more than 150 participants from academia, research institutions, policy making bodies

and advocacy groups.

Agricultural Non State Actor Forum (ANSAF) executive director Audax Rukonge said the conference provides an opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of policy reforms.

Participants will discuss success stories and lessons learned to identify remaining gaps and emerging issues calling for attention, he added.



Mourners carrying the casket bearing the body of prominent Tanzanian economist and business sector leader Iddi Mohamed Simba arrive at his Mikochehi residence in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The former Industry and Trade minister, who died on Thursday aged 84, was buried in the city later in the day. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Coronavirus: Envoy assures Z'bar VP Tanzanians are safe

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Health Organization (WHO) is taking measures to ensure that the virus does not spread to other areas, especially as it has declared the disease a disaster, to mobilize more resources and take appropriate legal measures to ensure it is contained.

Efforts include the construction of a special hospital in the epicenter region to treat all those infected. Ambassador Iddi commended the Chinese government for its efforts in fighting the disease which has brought fear around the world.

"We are happy to hear that over 4000 Tanzanians living in China are safe. This is good news, but we also assure China that we are together in this tough period," he asserted.

The disease has not only affected China but all parts of the world, especially traders and entrepreneurs purchasing their products in China, he stated.

The Wuhan coronavirus has killed more than 1300 people so far, with confirmed cases topping 60,000 mainly within China and a few hundred in other countries.

The viral outbreak which has no

direct cure spreads more easily from person to person than previously thought, WHO said in a statement after a last week meeting in the Austrian capital of Vienna.

WHO moved to declare the fast-spreading coronavirus as a global health emergency.

It said coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more lethal maladies like the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The viruses were originally transmitted from animals to people before taking epidemic proportions.

Recently the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children said that personnel stationed at vital entry points were being trained on how to identify and care for patients with the new coronavirus, still fast-spreading around the world.

Quarantine facilities were organized at all major entry points, equipped with essentials for attending to patients of that nature, a ministerial statement underlined.

Zanzibar embarks on fumigation drive to counter surge in malaria

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH officials in Zanzibar have embarked on indoor spraying of insecticides to counter rising cases of malaria.

Coordinated by the Isles' ministry of health, the 10-day exercise which began on Thursday will target hamlets where malaria cases have been reported recently, a statement issued yesterday by Tanzania

Information Services-Zanzibar said. Zanzibar is one of the notable success stories in the fight against malaria in the world with its recent sustained interventions seeing prevalence levels drop from 40 per cent of the population to less than 1 per cent.

However, malaria cases increased from 5,640 in 2018 to 6,760 in 2019 with some fatalities, said malaria monitoring officer in the ministry of

health Wahida Shirazi Hassan.

Speaking to reporters in Zanzibar yesterday, Deputy Minister for health Harusi Saidi Suleiman said the fumigation will take place in 76 hamlets (shehia) in both Unguja and Pemba.

Suleiman said 67 hamlets are located in Unguja where the most cases were reported while only nine are based in Pemba, specifically in Mkoani District.

Ministry working on universal health policy for affordability

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"I understand there has been a challenge of affordability, but as government we have already prepared a draft strategy and what is remaining now is an analysis of how to go about it, including how to sustain the fund and contributions," she said.

In November last year, NHIF issued health insurance packages which sparked debate on mainstream media

as well as social media as many said they were too expensive for the common people without regular salaries or going businesses.

The minister said the government was working to ensure all those who need hospital care were getting services at affordable cost, noting that efforts were also being put in place to ensure that services improve across the country.

"I made this tour to see for myself the services being

offered as a notion was being spread that the services offered here are poor, with patients left to intern doctors. But let me ask Tanzanians that let's trust our doctors for the job they are doing," she appealed.

In his remarks, MNH Executive Director Prof Lawrence Museru said the use of interns is part of medical professional training, noting that they always work under supervision of specialists who direct them what to do the

same way it is done at MNH in downtown Dar es Salaam.

The emerging state-of-the-art teaching hospital at Mloganzila is an outcome of an aid agreement with South Korea signed in 2010, for a 49.5m US dollar grant towards the hospital's infrastructure costs.

The centre provides medical services and academic programmes, to add to efforts to reduce the number of people travelling abroad to seek medical services.



Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (in cap) has lunch with Siza Island fishermen during his ongoing five-day inspection tour of health, water and education projects in areas affected by recent heavy rains. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

Irish ambassador expresses commitment to raising of awareness on human rights

By Guardian Correspondent

IRELAND ambassador to Tanzania, Paul Sherlock has expressed readiness to cooperate with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) in implementing programmes that would raise human rights awareness to ordinary citizens.

Ambassador Sherlock made the statement on Thursday during his meeting with CHRAGG officials led by the Commission's chairperson, (retired) Judge Mathew Mwaimu. The officials paid a courtesy call to the Ireland embassy in Dar es Salaam.

The ambassador was responding to a request from Judge Mwaimu who wanted the embassy to look into possibilities of initiating a programme which would help to enhance citizen's understanding of human rights.

Judge Mwaimu was concerned that there are many land disputes in the country citing Kilosa and Kilombero districts in Morogoro region where women have been facing difficulties when it comes to issues of land ownership.

He urged the embassy to see how they can work together in educating Tanzanians especially those in rural areas on human and land rights.

In his response, the ambassador said: "This is the best idea, let's see how we can do, we need to discuss on areas of cooperation as we plan to implement the programme".

Earlier, CHRAGG commissioner,

Nyanda Shuli said the commission is currently receiving a number of complaints on labour rights especially on terminal benefits and unfair termination.

Shuli said Tanzanians are also filing complaints on access to justice and land disputes insisting CHRAGG is preparing to embark on educative programmes as part of efforts to provide solutions to citizen's grievances.

"We prefer resolving disputes through mediation because we believe in dialogue as the best way of resolving issues", Shuli noted.

CHRAGG Acting Executive Secretary, Fatuma Muya said the commission has been working with various stakeholders within and outside the country. She named United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as one of the stakeholders working together in various projects.

Muya informed that CHRAGG has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 21 local CSOs to ensure the country upholds human rights and principles of good governance.

She said under the agreement, CHRAGG will partner with Haki Maendeleo in conducting human rights and good governance trainings to councillors in Lindi district.

CHRAGG's visit to the embassy was for part of its familiarization tour which seeks cooperation in ensuring human rights and good governance are maintained and respected in the country.

Appeal for professionalism, patriotism in radio broadcasts

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo has challenged practitioners in radio broadcasting to uphold the ethics of journalism while discharging their profes-

sional duties.

Kombo made the call on Thursday when speaking at the national commemoration of World Radio Day, themed: "Radio and Diversity".

The event, which brought on board representatives from the government, civil

society and from across the media system to discuss what diversity means in today's media landscape was organized by Tanzania Development Information Organization in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) in collaboration with the Tanzania Development Information Organization (TADIO) and other stakeholders.

"Professionalism is not only about knowledge but also good conduct, ethics, and dignity. These are all the characteristics of a

good practitioner," he said, urging radio stations and broadcasters in the country to always exhibit patriotism and professionalism in their programming.

He also tasked radio stations among other things are meant to promote peace and unity within society, calling broadcasters to censor the kind of content that goes on air and be strict on the people to feature on their radios particularly at the time when the country is heading to General Elections.

Kombo advised managers and practitioners to bear in mind that the media is a source of security in society by virtue of being an information conveyer hence the need for media houses to be responsible in their productions.

He further advised community radio stations to always be non-partisan as they do their activities.

UNESCO Head of Office

and Representative in Tanzania, Tirso Dos Santos said that the radio is still the only means that reach everywhere at an affordable costs, calling radio stations to uphold diversity, both in their newsroom and on the airwaves.

He described radio as a powerful medium for celebrating humanity in all its diversity and constitutes a platform for democratic discourse hence "We need to team up in ensuring that radio reaches as many people as possible."

Radio is by far the most favored medium for information delivery in Tanzania, given its accessibility and cost-effectiveness.

"It is easy to operate and lies within the capacities of many local communities who are often left out by mainstream media and information channels."

UNESCO in Tanzania is implementing the Empowering Local Radios with

ICTs for the promotion of Rural Citizens Participation in Democratic Discourse and Development, a four-year (2016-2020) project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) which aims to strengthen the sustainability of local radios to ensure the timely delivery of quality, accurate, gender-responsive and culturally appropriate information to the public, particularly those in rural and hard to reach areas.

TADIO Board Chairperson Prosper Kwigize thanked UNESCO for the tireless efforts to scale up education for broadcasters in the country, whereby 75 journalists from 25 community radios and 105 leaders of those radios have benefited from the funding from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC).

The support, he said is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially

the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender-responsive accurate information and knowledge.

Kwigize also said that community radios have been playing a big role in addressing socio-economic challenges as well as promoting tourism, environmental conservation and luring local and foreign investors.

The statistics from the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA) show that from 86 licensed radio in 2012, the number almost doubled until 2017.

World Radio Day was first proclaimed in 2011 by the Member States of UNESCO, and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012 as an International Day, on February 13.



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Director General
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Majaliwa: Seek collaboration in modernising Dodoma city

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) to collaborate with other authorities in finalising the process of forming the composition of Dodoma city towards making it a modern metropolis.

He made the directive on Thursday when officiating the launch of Dodoma city master plan.

The PM also emphasised city council authorities to increase pace of surveying land plots so as to fight unplanned settlements and attract investors.

"The surveying exercises should go parallel with improvement of key infrastructures and social services such as water, education and health in the respective areas," he said.

He also wanted the city's management to prepare strong monitoring and evaluation system of the master plan so as to ensure that its intended goals are attained.

The Premier also emphasized on the need to make the country's capital green and clean.

"I want to ensure that Dodoma City Council is clean, therefore, I am directing the city council to ensure that it does all it can to ensure that Dodoma remains clean," he stressed.

Majaliwa directed the city's council to embark on an identification programme of all houses and structures built in road reserve areas.

"The programme should evaluate and pay those who are eligible for compensations and removing those who constructed in the areas illegally," he noted.

He urged for the government, stakeholders and develop-



ment partners to support the implantation of the master plan towards making Dodoma of the mega cities.

"I call that this plan be given special effort and incentives to make Dodoma the best and a centre for tourist destinations, as many of them will be leaving here to go to other places."

In 1973 the Tanzanian government under the leadership of President Julius Nyerere made an announcement that it would move from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma; however four decades later the move had not been implemented due to various reasons but the fifth phase government has managed to implement the move.

Govt out to remove scrap gear taxes

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said it is working to remove fishing gear taxes in a new drive aimed to strengthen the sector, increase employment and boost national income.

Deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega said this on Tuesday during the inauguration of new fish farming technology in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam. The technology will be applied by Big Fish Company.

The deputy minister said that there is a need to review the law so as to grant tax exemption in fishing tools as it is in some of the agricultural tools.

"We will work on this but we need to be extra careful because some of dishonest people may use the fishing tools in other activities thus denying revenue to the government...the modern fishing technology also involve pipes which are relevant to those used in house construction, so some people may evade tax by claiming that they are importing the tools for fishing while not," he added.

The fishing sector contributes 1.7 percent in GDP and provides 4.5 employment something which con-

firms that fishing is important to the country's economy.

He said that the fishery sub-sector has continued to regulate and control fishery resources through patrols and special operations; quality control and safety of fishery products; enhancing participation of fishery communities in managing fishery resources through participatory fishery management groups; and improving fishery infrastructure including fish landing sites.

He also mentioned shortage of quality feeds for fish as among the challenges facing the sector as it affects growth and production.

Ulega commended Netherlands government for its continued support to enable development of the sector.

Abraham Mdneme, director of Big Fish Company thanked the government of Tanzania for supporting the company and ensuring that the aquaculture investment conditions are improved for the firm to operate smoothly.

"We also commended the government of Netherlands for supporting us with quality equipment which will help us increase production as well as employment to local people," he said.



We will work on this but we need to be extra careful because some of dishonest people may use the fishing tools in other activities thus denying revenue to the government...the modern fishing



Fire and Rescue Force Training College principal assistant commissioner Kennedy Komba (R) briefs Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (L) when the latter toured the college at Chogo in Handeni District yesterday. With them (C) is Handeni district commissioner Godwin Gondwe. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

JPM to launch implementation of second phase of Productive Social Safety Net programme

By Getrude Mbagu

PRESIDENT John Magufuli will on Monday launch implementation of the second phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme which is expected to benefit 7 million poor people across the country.

The five-year project which will be implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), is expected to spend a total of 2trn/-.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, Minister

of State in the President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) George Mkuchika said the objective of the project is to provide poor households with income-earning opportunities and socio-economic services, while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children.

"The implementation of PSSN II will cover poor households in 185 district councils in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The last phase covered 70 percent of Tanzania's villages thus leaving some

of them out of the programme. This time we will also incorporate the remained villages", said Mkuchika.

He added the second phase builds on the first phase's achievements and will focus on productive and financial inclusion, through support services such as public works, savings groups, trainings, and livelihood grants.

"It will also focus more in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning oppor-

tunities to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation," he said.

Mkuchika underlined that despite impressive achievements realized during the first phase of the program, extreme poverty and vulnerability remain key developmental challenge that the government is strongly committed to address using various mechanisms including social protection.

He further added that PSSN II will support TASAF to enable many extremely poor households

"not simply to temporarily move out of poverty, but to progressively build their asset base, human capital and resilience necessary to keep themselves out of poverty for the longer term."

The Minister asserted that the government has for years undertaken a number of measures on poverty reduction whereby in the year 2000 it established TASAF to complement its goals.

"TASAF's role is to empower the poor households to gradu-

ate out of poverty and have sustainable social and economic development," he noted.

TASAF Executive Director, Ladislaus Mwamanga hinted on government agenda to industrialize the country and that the phase two of TASAF III is going to be in line with the goal. He said implementation of the forthcoming phase is set to cost 2trn/- while the just ended phase spent 1.57trn/-.

"We have strengthened our systems to ensure proper iden-

tification of poor people and households. We have purchased more than 800 tablets to facilitate identification and registration of beneficiaries across the country", he noted adding they make sure all vulnerable households are enrolled.

Mwamanga said: "The last phase has among other things improved income generation, access to health care, increased school enrolment and nutritional levels among beneficiary households".



Commissioner of Police (Operations and Training) Liberatus Sabas test drives one of ten motorcycles in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after receiving them as a Kinglion Company donation meant to support police activities. Photo: Police Hqs

Police holding four people for alleged unlawful entry into Tumbi students' hostels, theft of phones, laptops

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region are holding four people for allegedly unlawful entry into students' hostels at Tumbi hospital walking away with mobile phones and two laptops.

Coast Region Police Commander,

Nyigesa Wankyo said the suspects are alleged to have forced entry into the hospital's student hostel on Wednesday night and Thursday afternoon where they stole two laptops and mobile phones.

RPC Wankyo said: "We immediately launched investigations after

the incident was reported at our office. We were tipped off by Good Samaritans on the whereabouts of the suspected thieves and managed to arrest them on February 12th 2020". Commander Wankyo mentioned the suspects as Erasto Kayombo (43), a mason from Misu-

gusugu village, Ismail Abdallah (36) a resident of Visiga, Hamis Rashid (33) from Mlandizi and Hafidh Mori (24) also from Mlandizi.

He added that after conducting inspection into their rooms, police recovered the stolen laptops and two mobile phones owned by the

students. The RPC warned youth to avoid engaging in crime incidences as they will be nabbed and punished in accordance with the laws. He urged youth to engage in other income generating activities as there are many opportunities in various economic sectors.

International charity renovates classrooms

By Guardian Reporter

TIME To Help, an international charity organisation has renovated classrooms at Pwani primary school at Tegeta in Kinondoni district Dar es Salaam region as well as furnish it with different learning items such as computer and a library.

Launching ceremony for the new classrooms was held yesterday at the school premises where different guests attended.

Among the attendees were officials from Pioneers Academy and Emblem Relief based in the United States of America which also provided support during implementation of the renovation project.

Speaking at the ceremony, Time To Help public relations officer, Mbwana Kitendo said apart from renovating classrooms they have provided the school with a full equipped library, one projector and computers.

Pwani primary school headteacher, Rhoda Mlowo thanked the organisation for their assistance insisting completion of the classrooms will reduce pupils' congestion as the school has been facing shortage of classrooms for years.

"We are thankful for this timely assistance, they have furnished us with computers which will help us in executing our routine activities, now that we have full equipped library, our pupils will have a place to read and gain knowledge", Mlowo said.

She appealed to other organizations to assist the school by constructing toilets because the existing one is in bad condition, posing health threat to pupils, teachers and school staffs.

"We are also in need of a photocopy machine to be able to print examinations since we are paying a lot to print exams at private stationaries", he said.

Representing Kinondoni Municipal Council's education officer, Fatma Amiri thanked the organizations for tremendous contributions to the school adding that it will boost the school's academic performance.

Fatma urged pupils, teachers and the school staffs to properly use the donated equipment so that they last longer and benefit many pupils in future.

Time To Help is an international charity organization funded by Feza schools to provide support to orphanages, poor communities and schools. Supported schools are assisted with construction of water wells, renovation of classrooms, desks and several other learning materials.



Total Tanzania legal and corporate affairs director Masha Msuya (2nd-L) presents flowers to customer Sara Ndile as staff at the firm and Coca-Cola Kwanza celebrated Valentine's Day in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Coca-Cola Kwanza sales regional manager Ruqaiya Alibhai (L) and Total Tanzania shop, food and services manager Jane Mwita. Photo: Guardian Photographer

Use ministry's offices to solve disputes, Biteko urges miners

By Guardian Reporter

MINERALS minister Dotto Biteko has appealed to small miners to make use of ministry's offices for referring their complaints and other challenges they face instead of sending them to other national leaders who lack authority in the administration of the mining sector.

He was concerned that channeling the disputes to other national leaders results into delays in finding solutions thereon.

The minister was speaking on Wednesday this week at a meeting called to solve the conflict between two miners - Magere Mang'era and Joseph Ocheng, two brothers who were both claiming the right ownership of 23 square meters inside Irasamilo Gold Mine in Buhemba, Butiama District, Mara Region.

Biteko also called upon small miners in Mara Region to minimize conflicts among them saying his ministry would like to meet them to discuss issues that would expand their activities and not finding solutions to endless conflicts that in reality hinders their development and that of the nation.

Biteko also appealed to the mine's management, leadership of the small miners at

district and regional levels to ensure peace prevails among the miners and minerals production continues without creating conflicts.

Deputy Minister for Minerals Stanslaus Nyongo urged the leadership of the small miners to abide by justice when leading them to minimize conflicts.

"Mara Region is endowed with abundant mineral resources; hence you should not turn this blessing to be a source of conflicts even to the point of threatening lives," Nyongo said, and added that it pains seeing mineral resources turning into some curse.

He called upon both sides to accept the decisions and this should not be source of another dispute, and beseeched for peace to prevail.

Permanent Secretary in the Minerals Ministry, Prof Simon Msanjila called upon the meeting's delegates to respect the government's ruling and should avoid making the government incur great cost in solving conflicts in the mining areas.

"We have established minerals offices in regions to minimize the number of minor problems being referred to the ministry, you should use those offices and respect ruling given by them," Msanjila stressed.



Mara Region is endowed with abundant mineral resources; hence you should not turn this blessing to be a source of conflicts even to the point of threatening lives,

TMA: This is the forecast for the March-May rain season

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) yesterday issued a climate outlook for the March - May long rains season, showing the likelihood of normal to above normal rains in most parts of the country which may have impacts to livelihoods.

The outlook describes the evolution of the climate systems and outlook for the next three month's rainfall season, advisories and early warnings to various weather sensitive sectors including agriculture and food security, livestock and wildlife, natural resources and tourism. The Masika rainfall season is

specific to areas of the northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast Dar es Salaam, Pwani (including Mafia island, Tanga regions, northern parts of Morogoro region, and Unguja and Pemba isles, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions)

and the northern parts of Kigoma region.

According to TMA regions that are expected to receive normal to above normal rains includes Tanga, Unguja and Pemba islands as well as most areas of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions, together with eastern parts of Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu

and Mara.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, TMA Director General Dr Agness Kijazi said sufficient rains especially over the areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains are likely to favour crops which are adaptive to excessive soil moisture such as paddy. "Short periods of heavy rains

may be expected even over the areas which are anticipated to have normal to below normal rains, thus necessary precaution should be taken to avoid any negative impacts," she said.

Other areas include Kagera and western parts of Geita region, northern parts of Kigoma region, Dar es Salaam, Pwani including

the island of Mafia) and northern parts of Morogoro region which are likely to feature normal to below normal rains.

TMA also said the ongoing off-seasonal rains over the bimodal areas are likely to coincide with the start of MAM 2020 season, particularly over the northern coast.

'Street children reason for increase in crime incidence in Kigoma Region'

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THE growing number of street children in Kigoma is said to pose threat to the region's security as the youth are apparently engaging in various crime incidences including robbery.

The concern was raised during a recent stakeholder's conference which brought together a number of organisations dealing with children matters, social welfare officers, police and business community.

Head of police investigation unit in Kigoma District, Athuman Sadick confirmed the increased number of reported robbery cases whereas the main suspects are street children. He claimed that the youth have been attacking people with different sharp objects such as razors and knives for purposes of stealing money from them.

"Since we are working to protect people and their properties, we have been receiving a number of complaints in regard to attacks and robbery incidences committed by street children. Authorities should find a way of identifying and providing them with safe shelter," said the police officer.

Sadick said apart from safe shelter, the children should also be engaged on specialized counseling to help change their mindset and transform into good citizens.

Kigoma Ujiji Social Welfare Officer, Agness Punjila said concerted efforts are required to resolve the problem as the number of the children increases every day.

Punjila said the government has been taking various initiatives to identify the children and take them back to their families whereas in 2019, a total of 107 children living in difficult conditions were identified.

"There is a challenge where some children escape from arranged shelters back to the streets," said the officer adding that some of the reasons contributing to the increase of street children includes death of parents, broken families, violence against children and extreme poverty at households level.

In January when speaking in the National Assembly, Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Faustine Ndugulile said the government has identified 6,393 children in six regions namely, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma, Arusha, and Iringa.

He noted that among identified street children, 4,865 are boys and 1,528 girls.

The Deputy Minister noted that in a period of between October 2018 and March 2019 a total of 2,702 children were provided with various humanitarian assistance including Arusha 330 children, Dar es Salaam (475), Dodoma (337), Iringa (313), Mwanza (770) and Mbeya (447).

The humanitarian assistance included medical treatment, food, shelter and school requirement, he said noting some of the children were trained in various life skills and sent back to their families.

Dr Ndugulile said the government in collaboration with other stakeholders, continues to educate the public on the importance of good upbringing and protection for their children.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile addresses residents of Momella village in Arumeru District yesterday while on a tour of Afrika Naamini Alama Health Centre, which had been closed following a dispute. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Government reopens Nyahua-Chaya road

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE government has reopened the 85 km Nyahua - Chaya road along the main Dar es Salaam - Tabora highway that was closed for one week following heavy rains causing water to submerge old bridges and posed danger to road users.

This was revealed by the Deputy Minister for works Elias Kwandikwa soon after inspection of large bridge-

es that were still under construction on the road.

These include the 8m Nyahua bridge and the 68m Kizengi bridge and said the government is well prepared to work day and night to ensure road communication is restored on all major highways in the country. Kwandikwa said the aim of the government is to improve the infrastructure in all

areas that pose challenges putting wananchi's safety foremost.

He also warned all wananchi whose areas have been affected by floods to go about their activities with great care, especially near river banks especially if they do not know how to swim.

On the ongoing Dar - Tabora road project the minister said the contractor has already completed

the 42 kms at tarmac level and the work will be completed as per contract agreement.

"This road is of very importance for people in Tabora Region and the western zone in general and the contractor - Chico has assured me it will be finalized within the given period," he said. Ag TANROADS Manager for Tabora Region eng Raphael Mlimaji said the highway

was closed due to heavy rains and they worked day and night to get it reopened.

Meanwhile during his visit the Deputy Minister participated in offering his condolences to the family of Shaban Saidi, a Form 1 student at Kizengi Secondary School who was swept away by floodwaters as he was washing clothes on the river's bank.

Tanzanian activist named winner of 'Transpersonal Leader Award'

By Aisia Rweyemamu

TANZANIAN human development specialist and anti-corruption activist—Dr Mayrose Majinge has been announced the first winner of the inaugural 'Transpersonal Leader Award' by the LeaderShape Global—a UK based organization with a global culture that operates without borders.

'Transpersonal Leader Award' is given to individuals who have completed a Transpersonal Leadership Development Programme, and who have made most impact with their new found understanding, according to the LeaderShape Global organisation.

The award was announced on November 12th, last year in London in honour of Dr Majinge as the first winner. The LeaderShape Global has announced that the medal will be known as the 'Mayrose Medal'.

Speaking with The Guardian, Dr Majinge said, she was excited and grateful to be nominated to receive that medal.

"I can honestly say the Transpersonal Leadership programme has equipped me to learn a very practical approach to becoming an authentic, ethical, caring and more effective leader", she said.

Dr Majinge whose dream is to become a politician said: "I have no doubt that the skills I acquired will help me realize my dream of becoming a great leader for my generation. May I encourage aspiring leaders who want to create an emotionally bonded, ethical, high-performing and sustainable organisation to participate in that tremendous course".

Dr Majinge said she was not able to attend the award ceremony in London because at that time she was in USA completing her PhD in human development.

Mayrose, a mother of four, married to Joseph Majinge undertook her Transpersonal Leadership Develop-

ment journey from May 2018 to August 2019.

She appealed to Tanzanians especially politician to pursue the course saying it is important for their carrier since they are dealing directly with the people.

According to a statement by LeaderShape Global, the organization has been developing transpersonal leaders for 10 years and they feel it is the right time to establish an annual 'Transpersonal Leader Award'.

Chair of LeaderShape Global, John Knights describes Mayrose as an avid learner who worked hard at embedding new habits and bringing her values to full consciousness in everything she does.

He added, "She possesses immense humanity, humility and grace, while showing a deep determination and resilience to achieve her goals".

Knight who was Dr Majinge's Transpersonal Leadership Coach added: "This is all geared towards making a better life for every Tanzanian and enabling them to participate in decision-making about their future".

Commenting on the award, Richard Ndunguru from the college of humanity, University of Dar es Salaam, said the medal is a great honour not only to Dr Majinge's family but also the nation. He said Dr Majinge has enabled the country to be internationally recognized and maintain its status.

Nduguru called on members of the public especially women to follow Dr Majinge's steps since she has proved that Tanzanian women can do wonders.

Dr Majinge holds a bachelor's degree in business management (BBM) from university of Bangalore India; Master's degree in public administration (MPA) from Mzumbe University Tanzania.

She is also a holder of Postgraduate in Transpersonal Leadership - Leading Beyond the Ego from Leader



Dr Mayrose Majinge, a Tanzanian human development specialist and anti-corruption crusader, elaborates on a point during an interview with The Guardian in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: John Badi

Shape Global and a Doctorate in Human Development from Fielding Graduate University.

She completed her primary education at Nyakabongo primary school in Mwanza and later joined secondary education at Mwanza secondary school and Tabora girls.

Dr Majinge is the author, most recently published book is the 'A Development Tool Important for Self-

Advancement (Chombo Muhimu Kwa Maendeleo Yako) and other two books: Development Vision and Entrepreneurship ('Dira ya Maendeleo na Ujasiriamali') and Standing Principles to Obtain Quality Life ('Nguzo Mahususi za Kupata Maisha Bora').

She is the expert in leadership, business management, human development, management of civil society organizations, and good governance

issues.

Also, extensively involving on building faith-based relationships, advocacy against corruption, HIV/Aids, drug abuse and poverty alleviation issues in Tanzania.

Previously she served as executive chairperson of the Registered Trustees of the Community Development Services. Prior to taking up her role as an executive chairperson (1998 to

2015),

Currently, she is a member of Social Action Linking Together (SALT) at Richmond Virginia, USA also a member of Washington DC Chamber of Commerce, USA.

Founder of International Employment Alliance Inc and owns and work as the Chief Executive Officer of May Health Care Services, Inc. at Reston, Virginia, USA.

172 km Ipole-Rungwa road contractor tasked to speed up rehabilitation work

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

WESTERN Construction, a contractor revamping the 172km Ipole-Rungwa road section that links Tabora and Mbeya regions has been tasked to fix the troublesome sections of the road by filling in with gravels to make it passable during the rainy season.

Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Elias Kwandikwa made the directives on Tuesday when speaking to people who were stranded for two days after the floods swept away some sections of the road due to the ongoing rains.

Kwandikwa described the road as important for transporting people and agro produces to the

markets, but now is impassable as four sections of the road have been swept off by floods, the situation that cause havoc to road users during this season.

The deputy minister is in Tabora to inspect road infrastructure of about 2,153 km long - national and regional roads.

He directed the contractor to work day and night in order to

bring back communication and enable the people at the areas to pass while waiting for water to decrease and build a culvert.

The deputy minister has also asked The Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) to effectively supervise the exercise of building a culvert at the area and make sure that it will not allow water to pass over the road and

cause damage.

He added that the government plan is to construct a bituminous road in order to link people from various regions and then improve their life standard and economy as well.

Kwandikwa added: "This will be a history to all regions that have delayed to get good road infrastructures especially Tabora,

Katavi and Kigoma".

For his part, the representative of Western Construction Company Eng Saidi Nassoro, assured the minister that the exercise of placing stones at the area will be completed within two days and the vehicles will be allowed to pass over.

The Eng told the deputy minister that, earlier the road was in

good position but the ongoing heavy rain led to breach of the road. Semenji Juma, a resident of Kitunda in Sikonge District requested the government to construct that road in bituminous standard for easy transport.

The deputy minister is in an official visit in Tabora region for assessing rain impact to the road infrastructures.



Rehabilitation of drainage system in progress at Masiwani in Tanga city's Majengo ward, as found earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Villagers in Babati benefit from 229m/- worth water project, thanks to WaterAid

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

SANGARA villagers in Babati District, Manyara Region have a reason to smile, thanks to WaterAid as they can now access clean and safe water following completion of a 229m/- project.

The project has the capacity of producing 352,800 liters of water per day.

WaterAid, a non-government organisation implemented the project in collaboration with Unit Trust of Tanzania (UTT-MFI) after signing an agreement with the Babati district council.

The project constructed a new borehole in the village, where water is pumped to a water tank via solar technology.

The water tank has a capacity of 100,000 liters and reaches six new water points in the village via gravity flow. Each of the six water points has the electronic prepaid meter, which charges community members 30/- per 20 liters bucket of water.

Speaking at the launch, WaterAid Director, Abel Dugange said before the project water availability in Sangara village was less than 20 percent falling significantly below the national average which is 85 percent.

"This project is intended to inspire creativity and attract the private sector to invest in construction of water infrastructure projects to facilitate sustainable access to clean and safe water services," he said. Representing Babati Regional Commissioner, Alexander Mnyeti, the Babati District Commissioner, Elizabeth Kitundu called on villagers to maintain the good status of the project and make it sustainable for future use.

The DC said the government's goal is to reach 85 percent of water availability in rural areas by 2020 and 100 percent in 2030.

Babati Rural MP, Vrajilal Jituson commended WaterAid for establishing a unique project which apart from Babati district will also be implemented in Korogwe, Tanga and Arumeru in Arusha Region.

Jituson said the project will help the villagers to save time and concentrate on other productive activities since they will no longer be walking for long distances in search of the precious liquid.

Magdalena Bayo is among the villagers who will benefit with the project, she said: "We are thankful to our leaders and WaterAid for ensuring us with reliable clean and safe water service, available close to our homes".

ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopia passes law to curb 'hate speech'

ETHIOPIA'S parliament has passed a law punishing 'hate speech' and 'disinformation' with hefty fines and long jail terms, despite rights groups saying it undermines free speech.

Nearly 300 legislators voted in favour of the bill on Thursday, with 23 votes against and two abstentions.

The new law defines hate speech as rhetoric that fuels discrimination against individuals or groups based on their nationality, ethnic and religious affiliation, sex or disabilities.

The new law permits fines of up to 100,000 Ethiopian birr (\$3,100) and imprisonment for

up to five years for anyone who shares or creates social media posts that are deemed to result in violence or disturbance of public order.

The law, however, says 'dissemination' does not include liking or tagging such content on social media.

Legislators said the law is needed because existing legal provisions did not address hate speech and disinformation, and said it will not affect citizens' rights.

"Ethiopia has become a victim of disinformation", legislator Abebe Godebo said adding

"The country is a land of diversity and this bill will help to balance those diversities". Several legislators who opposed the bill said it violates a constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Ethiopia has been experiencing sometimes deadly ethnic violence since June 2018,

shortly after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced sweeping political reforms for which he later was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ahmed has been praised for reforms hoped to foster a more open political and media environment. But domestic critics

accuse him of authoritarian tendencies, including locking up political opponents.

The government says there is a need to legislate against hate speech, because it has been partly blamed for rising ethnic violence in the East African nation.



Kinondoni municipal acting education officer Fatma Amiri (L) and Monica Bajraktanevic from Poland cut a ribbon in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to open a new modern library at Pwani Primary School in the city. The library was sponsored by Time To Help, Embless Relief and Pioneer Academy of United States. In yesterday's issue of this paper, this photo by one of our correspondents bore the wrong caption. The error is regretted. - Editor.

Maternal health workers urged to strive for quality service delivery

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

PRINCIPAL Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children Dr Zainabu Chaula has directed all hospitals, health centers and dispensaries in Kigoma Region to adhere to excellence in maternal health services delivery to reduce the number of maternal deaths.

Speaking during her visit at Bangwe dispensary in Kigoma-Ujiji municipality Dr Chaula said 80 percent of women who give birth do not have major complications upon delivery and that is why they do so safely at home.

"Twenty percent have delivery complications that require close observation, and that is why we want all pregnant women to give births at hospitals so that those with complications can be identified for appropriate surveillance," she said.

She also called upon hospital workers in the maternity department to be close to expectant women about to give birth as that would enable them to know their conditions and if there are any signs for complications, then they should be referred to other hospi-

itals with appropriate facilities.

Diamon Sadick, a Health ministry official said in the five years period since 2015 the ministry has been using Results-based Financing (RBF) plan that aims to reduce maternal deaths.

"The plan that begins at dispensary level, health centre and hospital continues to benefit nine regions in the country that were identified to have high rates of maternity deaths - eight in the lake Zone and Coast Region," Sadick said.

He said the funds are issued according to the need to ensure its aims are met as well as providing the impetus to staff after proving that they deserve from achievements realized.

The ministry's Director for Cure, Grace Magembe called upon dispensaries to have targets to improve work excellence so that they can attain "three" or "four star" status in service delivery.

Senior Medical Officer at Kigoma dispensary, Godlove Myinga said RBF funding for 2017 and 2018 was 27.45m/- that was used to improve service delivery at the dispensary.



The plan that begins at dispensary level, health centre and hospital continues to benefit nine regions in the country that were identified to have high rates of maternity deaths - eight in the lake Zone and Coast Region.

Tanzanian youth advised to use innovation hubs for acquisition of skills

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNG Tanzanians have been encouraged to make the most of innovation hubs that would help them gain knowledge and skills which would in turn help transform their ideas into businesses.

During a function held in Dar es Salaam at the climax of a programme to train recent Form Four leavers on entrepreneurial

skills using technology dubbed Ndoto Hub, youth were also urged to use platforms to share ideas and network.

Ntufye Mwakigonja, Acting Manager of National Fund Advancement of Science and Technology at the Commission for Science and Technology, said that they have been supporting innovation hubs because it is an undeniable fact that innovation

is the new common.

"There are many ways to support these platforms that will in the long run help youth be inclined to self-employ themselves, and we have been doing so with the help of other development partners," he said.

The programme is the brainchild of AlMaktoum College of Engineering and Technology which also runs AMCET Innova-

tion Hub.

According to Habibu Mrisho, Hub Manager, AMCET Innovation Hub, Ndoto is a platform that focuses on discovering great potentials in young generation (Form IV graduates) and mentoring them with soft skills that will help them identify their purposes, their contributions to their communities, envision their dreams and improve their

career.

"The project aims to bridge the existing unemployment gap among youth due to lack of skills that most employers look for. Through the platform youth acquire different skills that will help them compete in the job market or employ themselves," he said.

He added that the platform carries the promise of provid-

ing technological and entrepreneurial skills to youth and support them towards development of different activities to generate income.

Among the beneficiaries of the programme, Latifah Kudra, the programme has enabled her to learn about existing opportunities that she never imagined of.

"Before joining the pro-

gramme I was unable to make the most of technology and so I never even imagined through technology I could start my own business," she said.

Kudra completed Form Four last year and scored Division III and she is keen on pursuing further studies, she said, hinting that if everything goes according to plans, she is now able to start her own small business.

Rukwa RC issues ultimatum to Kalambo district officers on non-functioning Kasanga fish market

By Guardian Correspondent, Kalambo

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has directed the Kalambo District Executive Director and the committee formed to evaluate the infrastructure at Kasanga Fish Market to appear before regional defense and security committee to explain their failure to implement seven directives from the minister of Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina on the market's improvement.

Minister Mpina issued the directives during his visit in Rukwa Region at the end of October when he saw the dilapidated infrastructure at Kasanga fish market and listened to complaints from fishermen and people living in the surrounding area.

They said since the launching of the Fish market in 2013 by the then Vice President, Dr Gharib Bilal, it has never been in operation.

In stressing his directives, RC Wangabo said among the Minister Mpina's directives was for the fish market to start operation on 31 December 2019 but the Kalambo district council does not have that plan.

He stressed that the fish market could have been a major source of the council's revenue and added:

"Do not expect the ministry to do everything here so that the market can start operating, you must use money to get money, now if you cannot use money to bring electricity from there, you said it was a big challenge because there was no transformer ...we told Tanesco manager to install a transformer, he installed it since last year... there it is ... now to bring power from there to here is also another big deal, you need another year and leaders to be coming from Dodoma and Dar es Salaam to address trivial issues, that can't be so... wake up."

The Ag Rukwa regional administrative secretary, economy and production department Respich Mayengo said the market has not started operating because its electrical system has not been completed despite the installation of the transformer.

He also added that education for the mobilization of Kasanga fishermen over the use of the market has not been given. For his part the secretary to the committee, a Fisheries Officer from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Sadick Senge said just recently the ministry dispatched a team of officers to find out the cost to some of the infrastructure's improvement which the ministry could shoulder.

He said such infrastructure whose work the ministry can shoulder include the installation of blast freezer and water treatment plant for ice making.

The chairman of Kasanga fisherman association Khalfan Saidi advised for the power to be switched on so that the ice making machine starts working arguing that if there will be ice, there will be fish as well and added that without ice the fisherman cannot sell their fish at the market.



T-MARC Tanzania Social Enterprising director Flavian Ngole (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday in relation to the commemoration of International Condom Awareness Day, which is marked as part of a strategy to promote the proper use of condoms. With him are HR and logistics manager Geraldine Duwe (L) and sales manager Larson Chumi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fishermen concerned over piracy in Lake Victoria

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FISHERMEN in Ukerewe District have complained for being attacked by people from a neighbouring country and robbed of their property including canoes, fishnets and fish catches as well as putting their lives in danger.

Giving their complaints before the Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella at a public rally at Ryegoba Island, the fishermen said

the situation is not safe and they are heading to poverty as many of them took bank loans which they may be unable to repay and appealed to the government for assistance in fighting the lake pirates.

They also said they were ready to offer their fishing vessels for patrol work, as what they lack is security personnel including marine police.

"In truth we face many challenges over our security, as when we go to set in our fishnets there is no

problem, but when we go to pull the nets there appears people with firearms and rob us of everything while we cannot do anything," said Mhande Mafuru and Thomas Mwita on behalf of colleagues.

After listening to the complaints from wananchi residing in Ryegoba, Sizu, Kwelukubwa, Bushengele, Bulazu, Kulaza, Garinzila and Kwelu Mto villages, the regional commissioner called upon the fishermen to ensure they un-

earth the local collaborators who gang up with people from Uganda and Kenya in lake piracy in order for steps to be taken against them as no foreigner can do such vice without assistance from Tanzanians.

Mongella also directed the Ukerewe District Commissioner Lucas Magembe to make haste in fighting the piracy that is being complained of. Mongella who was on five-day visit in Ukerewe District

aimed at among other things beefing up of defense and security for the wananchi living in the islands so that they live peacefully and engage in economic activities.

For his part, DC Corner Magembe told the RC that he has already convened a meeting with all fishermen to be held on February 19 this year so as to put in place strategies for the establishment of patrols in all the areas in the district

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SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
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Reinforcing of Tanzania-IFAD relations extremely important

IN politics, humanitarian aid, and social science, hunger is a condition in which a person, for a sustained period, is unable to eat sufficient food to meet basic nutritional needs. So in the field of hunger relief, the term hunger is used in a sense that goes beyond the common desire for food that all humans experience.

Throughout history, portions of the world's population have often suffered sustained periods of hunger. In many cases, hunger resulted from food supply disruptions caused by war, plagues, or adverse weather.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

IFAD was established as an international financial institution in 1977 through United Nations General Assembly resolution as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 world food conference. Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy, and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group. The President of the IFAD is Gilbert F. Houngbo from Togo, who was elected for a four-year term in 2017.

It is very crucial that Tanzania has vowed to reinforce the current relations with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to meet the global agenda of ending hunger by 2030.

In 2015 the global community adopted the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development to improve people's lives by 2030 and Goal 2 is to end hunger, achieving food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Minister for Agriculture, Japhet Hasunga made the commitment yesterday when speaking at the 43rd session of the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund

for Agricultural Development (IFAD). "Our achievements in the agricultural sectors are heavily contributed by the cordial relations with IFAD and other partners," he said.

He also said that recently, Tanzania government in partnership with IFAD has established and came up with Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for 2016-2021, and agreed to collaborate in transforming agricultural sector in the country in plants, livestock and fisheries sub-sectors.

Among other things, Hasunga said that, IFAD has become an important partner in construction and financing programs and projects that aim to fight poverty in rural areas and increase the possibility of ending hunger completely.

"IFAD has been at the frontline in modernizing agricultural activities in many developing countries including Tanzania", the Minister said.

The minister has also expressed Tanzania's acknowledgement to IFAD for the various projects that have been implemented in Tanzania, stressing that the government will not wait until 2030 to end hunger but will make it as soon as possible.

He said the effort intended to address the challenges of rural poverty through introduced development strategies and economic growth plans.

Hasunga explained that, the Tanzanians economy continues to improve through the agriculture which contributes 28.7 percent of the national income, 30 percent of the foreign domestic income, employment for 65.5 and industrial equipments 66 percent and 100 per cent of the national food demand.

Speaking about economic growth in Tanzania the Minister said that the national economy is growing for 7 percent in mainland and 6.6 percent on Zanzibar.

African leaders' call for action to curb malnutrition merit maximum support

MALNUTRITION is a condition that results from eating a diet in which one or more nutrients are either not enough or are too much such that the diet causes health problems. It may involve calories, protein, carbohydrates, vitamins or minerals. Not enough nutrients is called undernutrition or undernourishment while too much is called overnutrition. Malnutrition is often used to specifically refer to undernutrition where an individual is not getting enough calories, protein, or micronutrients. If undernutrition occurs during pregnancy, or before two years of age, it may result in permanent problems with physical and mental development. Extreme undernourishment, known as starvation, may have symptoms that include: a short height, thin body, very poor energy levels, and swollen legs and abdomen.

Undernourishment is most often due to not enough high-quality food being available to eat. This is often related to high food prices and poverty.

African countries have made progress toward eradicating malnutrition and stunting but need to do more to hit United Nations malnutrition targets by 2025. This was the main message of a meeting that took place during the 33rd African Union Summit.

Speakers at a meeting of the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) included the heads of state of Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, national ministers of health as well as African Development Bank (AfDB.org) President Akinwumi Adesina, head of the African Development Bank.

Leaders acknowledged the scope of the challenge but sounded a note of optimism. "Indeed we can conquer hunger in Africa," said Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina, one of five African Lead-

ers for Nutrition champions. "I call on all our partners to continue to work with us to address hunger and malnutrition."

Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara said leaders should take it a step further. "I have proposed for the AU to focus on tackling malnutrition as a theme for 2021," he said.

Stunting has declined by eight percentage points across Africa since 2000, an advance on one of the UN's 2025 targets. African countries have also shown strong progress toward achieving the target of 50 per cent of the world's children being exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life. The other targets are: halting the epidemic of obesity; reducing anaemia in women of reproductive age; reducing low birth weight and reducing wasting.

The ALN, a partnership of the African Union and African Development Bank, brings together heads of state, finance ministers and other leaders to raise awareness and accountability, and reinforce investment by African governments to end malnutrition among children. The ALN meeting, held in Addis Ababa, offered an opportunity to take stock of achievements ahead of the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Tokyo in December.

In the same vein, Adesina outlined initiatives by the Bank and African Union to reduce malnutrition, such as the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard, which offers African leaders a snapshot of nutrition-related progress and gaps.

During his opening remarks, Adesina emphasized the paradox of African malnutrition. "We have 65 per cent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land. We have an abundance of freshwater and about 300 days of sunshine a year. There's no reason for anyone to go hungry," the Bank chief said.

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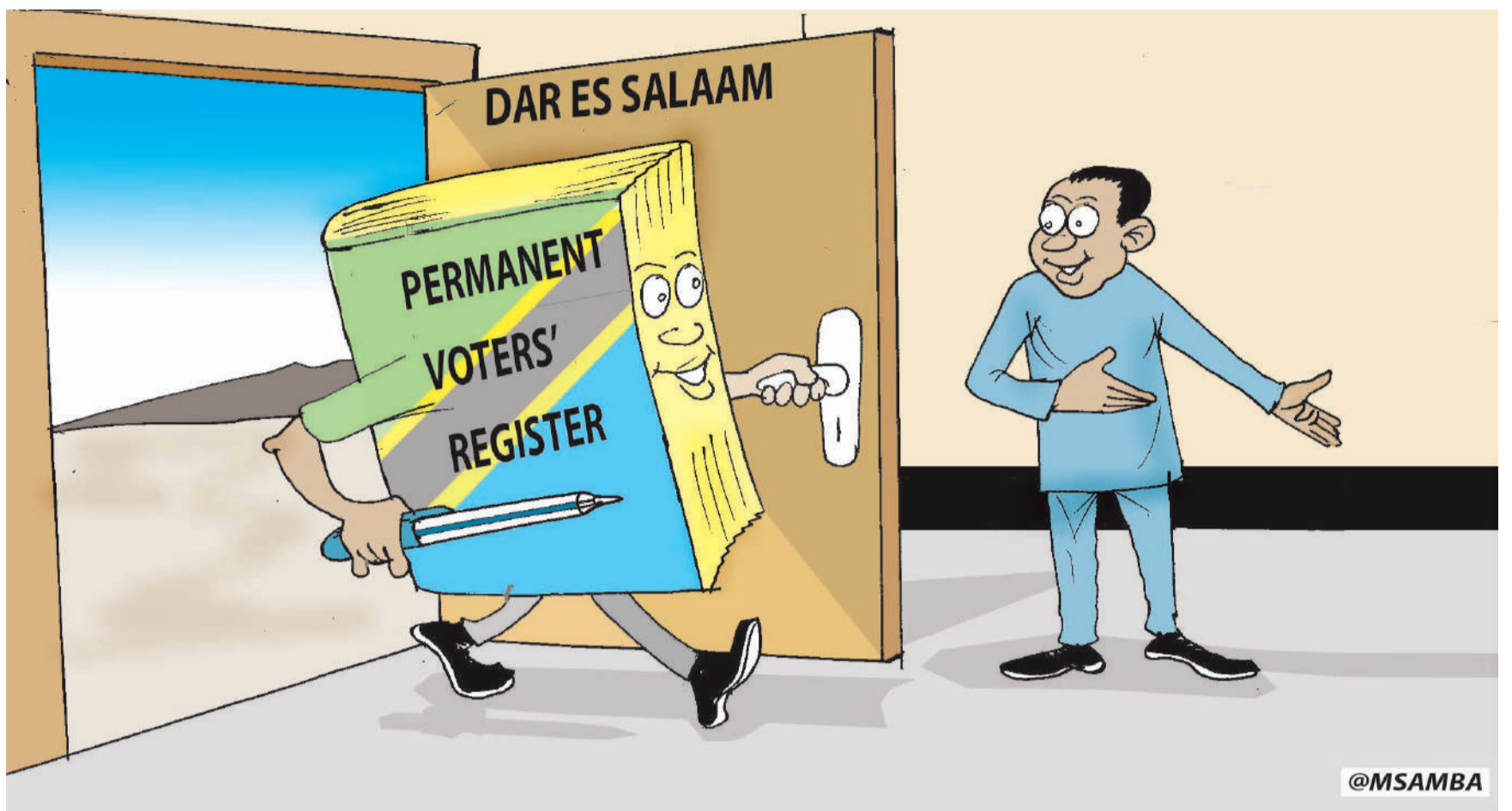
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Iddi Simba and Nsa Kaisi: Contrasting figures in the radical and reform periods, 1965-1995

By Ani Jozeni

VETERANS of the first and second phase periods of government in the country have been tested by contrasts of sympathy in relation to the double exit from the scene, in the space of hours, of former business leader and one time cabinet minister Iddi Simba, and (retired) Colonel Nsa Kaisi. The two held parallel posts or positions, which in a sense were imbued with inclinations that would set them in different directions. In a sense they illustrate the make-up of society or rather its economic and political intelligentsia during the two periods, contrasting fortunes.

While each individual has his or her own destiny, there is something in experience or politics that can be described as the destiny of a class, where a particular period of history or rather of governance favors a specific class, those with the will and enthusiasm for certain orientations. At a later period the political orientation shifts ground and begins to reward people with a different inclination on governance or society as a whole. And it isn't just the mode of governance which is at issue but the broader society, that it changes its perspectives of those it sees as heroes, etc.

During the first phase government where socialism, the dominance of the public sector and mobilizing people towards this or that endeavour was at its zenith, it was people like Col. Kaisi who rose to higher levels with relative ease. He was the very epitome of a person one would describe as a revolutionary in word and deed, closely identified with the vigor and energy of mobilization at that period. He was not as educated as Iddi Simba, who studied in at least two foreign universities (in Pakistan and in the UK) while Kaisi had usual qualifications of a good journalist.

Nsa Kaisi worked with Benjamin Mkapa, a former student of Mwalimu Nyerere before he left teaching to lead the nationalist movement, and like some of the later president's closest colleagues, he was well marked by his literary skills with the English language. That gives one a number of individuals in that

orientations and contrasting fortunes, like retired Ambassador Ferdinand Ruhinda, former Radio Tanzania Director Abdallah Ngororo, and also Nsa Kaisi.

What is instructive about this period, in the mid 1960s for some and early 1979s for others, is that they formed lifelong friendships, though not all of them would be durable. Among those who were closely tied to Mkapa on the basis of their erudite professional skills, these friendships tended to last for many years, apart from others from other than journalism which were also seen to last. Some of these affinities, perhaps not so close in the first place, petered out in the later period as in the case of Generali Ulimwengu, equally a known figure in the journalism scene.

As with quite a few cadres either in journalism or from universities, the moment they passed through the National Service they were often recruited to join the military, as in a sense the military has tended to serve as a party training ground. The reason is that in contrast to the Kivukoni Institute (later academy and now the Nyerere Memorial University) for instance, the military now only offers training in discipline and procedure that is irreplaceable, but also issues ranks that can help a cadre in his wider social affinities and sense of belonging. It critically enhances the sense of commitment, comprehension, sympathy or loyalty to the political system.

That is how the late journalist with Uhuru became a visible military figure, though in the military they know who are the professional combatants and who are party cadres going through military paces. For the benefit of younger readers, one can mention a few and their ranks - as including the late top CCM publicist Moses Nnauye (with rank of colonel), Jakaya Kikwete (party secretary, MP, deputy minister and upwards) with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In contrast, former secretary general Yusuf Makamba and former premier Edward Lowassa reached the rank of lieutenant before leaving the army for party careers.

Iddi Simba was at a differ-



Iddi Simba



Nsa Kaisi

ent trajectory of professional life and political perception for that matter, as similar to Edwin Mtei and in a sense his rather junior alter ego, he excelled in his early studies up to foreign universities and held top executive posts in economy and finance from the start. He worked first with the African Development Bank, then the World Bank and closed out with the regional version, the East African Development Bank. He rose to some notoriety in between, as executive director of EADB during the period of Gen. Idi Amin, firstly as actual namesake and then as a Muslim; if he showed some neutrality on political issues he risked being suspected of dual loyalties - as indeed were some Zanzibaris, as it appeared from folklore during the military campaign against the Ugandan despot.

It was the period after the Uganda war and the steep decline of economic growth and personal fortunes, and the reform period that ensued, that set the two starkly contrasting professionals on their later trajectories in life, which as we all know are final trajectories. One can 'change gear in mid air' during the middle stages of life, but as one nears retirement, what such person sets on his sights will remain, and without third or fourth

chances. With his considerable reserve in foreign exchange-based salaries, it was not surprising that financial sector executives led the way to enterprise and success during the reform period, while other cadres moved into a mixture of initiatives, either personal small business or collective NGO endeavors.

Thus the late Kabenga Nsa Kaisi as he was later more identified by the first name, moved into rural development advisory organizations, partially because of his lifelong identification with the Ntomoko irrigation scheme in Singida region, a heroic story of mobilization and environment let down eventually. This project touched the hearts of the country such that Mtei, in his 2008 autobiography, explains what he thought about the project as during that period he was governor of the central bank, and says it ultimately proved to be a disaster. Indeed, so did socialism itself. Nsa Kaisi then proceeded to govern regions militantly, raised complaints, and this was his last commitment to politics. He led a quiet life as solar expert and adviser.

If efforts of revolutionaries like Col. Kaisi weren't always crowned with success and they had to take a low profile in life subsequently, those like Simba, Mtei or other have never had the trouble to stoop low.

With their savings and collaterals they reached higher levels, and Iddi Simba quit the rather parochial Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) to form the more metropolitan Tanzania Confederation of Industries (TCI). Paradoxically it is to the older 'uzawa' outlook he later used to enter politics and win the Ilala parliamentary seat, and this outlook caught up with him as if in revenge, when he issued permits for sugar importation amid shortages; MPs said the permits caused prices to rise..!

This was for all intents and purposes an injustice to the late business executive and industry leader but as it is the case in life, misfortune catches up with people as they also had moments to cause misfortune or anguish upon others. But this return of fortune doesn't announce itself and comes as an accident or twist of fate, but it can always be traced in what we did earlier. "Lay your treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor thief doth corrupt;" we almost always fail to do precisely this.

Judicious deployment of technology decisive in raising education quality

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIA cannot afford to overlook the importance of information and communication technology (ICT) for improved access, equity, quality and relevance of education.

In inter-connected world, knowledge and information are becoming corner stones for the development of a society, as is the ability to communicate.

Discussant to the Policy Forum's breakfast debate, the Principal Research Officer from the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH), Dr. Gerald Kafuku has said that technology could immensely contribute to the education development in the country if properly utilised.

Dr Kafuku was speaking over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during a breakfast debate whose theme was "Digital platforms for social impact: The role of technology in addressing education challenges."

He said that technology, including eLearning was very vital in addressing major challenges facing the education sector, such as lack of enough qualified teachers, lack of textbooks in the classrooms and the overcrowding of classrooms.

With eLearning students/pupils are not necessarily needed to go in traditional classrooms to attend lessons, but instead they can study even when they are at home, provided they have computers and internet connection.

By definition eLearning is utilising electronic technologies to access educational curriculum outside of a traditional classroom. In most cases, it refers to a course, programme or degree delivered completely online.

He however, suggested that in order for students to be able to use the technology efficiently, many ICT physical structures need to be constructed in schools across the country.

He said that COSTECH through the different established ICT hubs and incubators have been preparing the youth to be able to benefit



As Tanzania's cities grow, entrepreneur aims to curb deforestation by substituting plastic building materials for wood. Photo/ Thomson Reuters Foundation

from the technology and contribute to the country's development in the information age.

"We must therefore take advantage of the full range of ICTs, from radio and mobile telephony to computers and the Internet, to build the foundation for a well-educated and learning knowledge society," He said.

He further noted that the integration of ICT in education will empower learners, teachers, educators, managers and leaders to use ICT judiciously and effectively for expanding learning opportunities and ensuring educational quality and relevance.

The use of ICT in education is the bedrock of a knowledge society and will enable the country to contribute both to achieving education for all goals and reducing the digital divide.

children and teachers. It will give an opportunity to access learning sources through a global platform, providing accessibility to teachers and breaking the barriers to gain quality education through physical classes. It is to absorb technology with the education system for better outcomes.

For her part, the main presenter at the breakfast debate, Executive Director of Shule Direct Civil Society Organisation, dealing with education Faraja Nyalandu said that as a way of supplementing government's efforts in addressing challenges faced in the education sector, her organisation was able to introduce an artificial intelligence dubbed: "Ticha Kidevu."

According to her, Ticha Kidevu was a kind of website application which is designed to allow students/pupils be able to interact with a virtual teacher who would respond to their questions and provide links to where they can access reference materials through google searches.

An artificial intelligence in education is a catalyst that ensures students' success by providing anytime, anywhere learning opportunities.

She further noted that, the interaction provided room for more students to learn amidst a shortage of teachers as well as get reference books, which are scarce in public schools in particular due to small budget allocations.

She said their innovation that got funds from COSTECH had aimed at addressing shortage of teachers and learning materials facing many schools across the country. It was first tested in the country in 2017.

She mentioned some of the pathways via technology as accessible teachers, supplementary learning opportunities and enhanced engagement with learning resources.

However, other participants have urged the government and its organs to ensure they control digital technology so that it did not become destructive to the youth and hence the entire society.

Mohammed Hamis who was one of the participants to the breakfast debate said that challenges in education are everywhere in the world. Education needs change and sustainability.

According to him the huge challenge facing the education sector is the way young people react to the dispersion technological devices... they create huge problems of destruction to children.

He therefore, suggested that key stakeholders in the education sector, in collaboration with the government should put in place policies that would turn technology to become beneficial to education rather than destructive. "We hope by doing so, it could minimise the adverse of destruction."

The future of education is digital. This means delivering education through digital platforms to



Joe Biden

Joe Biden seeks reboot after fresh stumble in New Hampshire

NASHUA, New Hampshire

JOE Biden's campaign held a victory party in a New Hampshire hotel ballroom on Tuesday evening. But there was no victory. And there was no Joe Biden.

Before the polls had even closed, the Democratic presidential hopeful had left New Hampshire, where he ultimately posted a fifth-place finish. The dismal performance came just eight days after the Iowa caucuses, where Biden finished fourth.

The back-to-back stumbles have created a difficult situation for Biden, who must perform well in upcoming contests in Nevada and South Carolina this month to show voters and donors that his candidacy remains viable.

David Hopkins, an expert in presidential campaigns at Boston College, said no candidate has ever gone on to win the Democratic nomination who finished lower than third place in Iowa and New Hampshire.

"Does Biden have the resources to sustain a comeback?" said Hopkins. "It's hard to tell in this trajectory whether you are going to bounce back or just keep going downhill."

Vermont U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders won New Hampshire, followed by South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Minnesota U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar and Massachusetts U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Biden, the affable former vice president, has tried to downplay his early struggles. Iowa and New Hampshire are small states with few delegates whose populations are overwhelmingly white and unrepresentative of the country overall, his campaign has argued.

The candidate is looking to Nevada and South Carolina, the next two states on the nominating calendar, to revive his fortunes. Nevada boasts large numbers of unionized workers and Latino voters. South Carolina has a heavy concentration of African-American voters, who have shown a strong affinity for Biden, the former running mate of Barack Obama, America's first black president.

While Sanders, Buttigieg and a suddenly surging Klobuchar celebrated their strong showings in New Hampshire on Tuesday night, Biden headed to a rally in South Carolina.

"Up 'til now we haven't heard from the most committed constituency in the Democratic Party, the African-American constituency," Biden said in Columbia, the capital. While Buttigieg and Klobuchar have emerged as formidable rivals to Biden in attracting moderate Democratic voters, they so far have attracted little support among Latinos or African Americans, whose votes will be critical to defeat incumbent Republican President Donald Trump in November. Sanders has attracted Latino support, but has yet to gain traction with black voters.

Biden has touted himself as the only candidate in the race capable of harnessing

the Democrats' diverse coalition. But that claim is being challenged by Mike Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, who is skipping the four early contests to compete starting on Super Tuesday on March 3.

A national poll this week from Quinnipiac University showed Biden's support among black Democrats, which stood at 51% in late January, has slid to 27%, while Bloomberg's black support has climbed to 22% from 7% over the same period.

On a campaign strategy call on Wednesday, U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond, a co-chair of the Biden campaign, blasted Sanders, Buttigieg and Bloomberg, a former Republican, as too risky to trust with the nomination. "We cannot afford to take a chance with a self-defined socialist, the mayor of a very small city, a billionaire who all of the sudden is a Democrat," Richmond said.

Bloomberg, who has spent more than a quarter-billion dollars of his personal fortune on the campaign, is gunning for the same voters Biden will need in later contests in states such as California, Texas and North Carolina.

Biden has relied on traditional fundraisers more than his rivals, who have vibrant digital operations. Biden wrote a plea to donors on Wednesday that said "the donations I get today are the most important, most symbolic ones of the campaign." He is expected to hold fundraisers in New York on Thursday.

Unite the Country, a political action committee supporting Biden, last week sent a memo to its donors urging them to stick with him. The memo said the party cannot afford a situation where moderate Democrats split their ballots between several centrist candidates, allowing Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, to win the nomination. Many Democrats fear that scenario would hand the general election to Trump, who is already launching broadsides against socialism.

A ROCKY ROAD

For Biden, 77, to have any chance in the contests ahead, he'll have to reassure voters he has the best shot to defeat Trump - and that his age and his 40 years in government are assets, not liabilities.

One Democratic donor, who supports Biden and asked that his name not be used in order to speak freely, told Reuters that he started to have doubts as the candidate's age showed on the campaign trail. The donor said major fundraisers within the Biden campaign were considering Buttigieg as a possible alternative. Some voters, too, expressed concern with Biden's age, including 69-year-old New Hampshire resident Millie LaFontaine.

"I have plenty of energy and I don't think I could keep up the demands of the president," LaFontaine said at a Biden event in Manchester on Saturday. "That concerns me." **Agencies**

Russia declassifies papers, photos of 1945 Budapest recapture from Nazis

By Special Correspondent

THE Soviet offensive in Hungary and siege of the latter country's capital, Budapest, was a key milestone in defeating the German Nazis. For its 75th anniversary, Russia has declassified archived documents and photos, giving new insights into the bloodbath.

Hungary was an ally of Nazi Germany, providing troops and resources for the war effort, sharing in its land grabs and the pillaging of conquered territories, as well as collaborating in war crimes. But as the tide turned on the battlefields, the relationship became strained, as the government in Budapest weighed up its options and was preparing to leave the Axis camp.

In March 1944, Adolf Hitler sent German troops to de facto occupy its ally, a source of crucial oil supplies, and later replaced Hungarian dictator Miklos Horthy with a figurehead. The short period was disastrous for Hungarian Jews, who were previously somewhat protected from genocide at Nazi hands by their nation's sovereignty.

Soviet troops and their Romanian allies crossed into Hungary in late September 1944. They were given strict orders to act as a liberating force despite the possibility of being met with hostility.

Hungarians should be allowed to carry on with their lives, an order of the Soviet high command said, as long as they are not acting directly against the Red Army, their prop-

erty rights protected and their labour and goods paid fair prices. The offensive is "a military necessity caused by continued resistance of the German troops" and Hungarian units allied with them.

Three months later, the advancing troops laid siege to Budapest. The capital was declared a 'fortress city' by its Nazi overlords, who demanded that it be defended to the last soldier. Surrender was not considered an option, and when the proposal to lay down arms came from the Soviets, the Germans once again showed that the norms of war meant little to them.

The two Soviet envoys who delivered the message were attacked and killed by the German troops. The newly declassified papers include the interrogation report of a Hungarian general, who says he only got wind of the Germans' atrocity in mid-January. "The news horrified everyone and nobody wanted to believe it," he told his Soviet captors.

The street battles in Budapest were brutal for both sides. By the time of capitulation on February 13, 1945, the Germans and Hungarians had sustained some 190,000 casualties, the post-siege report says. The Soviet-led forces lost 80,000 lives while 240,000 troops were injured.

The city itself was heavily damaged. All the bridges across the Danube River were blown up by the defending forces as they retreated to Buda, the western part of the city. Historic buildings used as sniper positions or fortifications were dot-



ted with bullet holes. Streets were littered with destroyed tanks and artillery pieces.

Defeating the Nazis and their Hungarian supporters in Budapest was a strategic military victory for the Soviets. Exactly two months later, Vienna followed and soon a red flag was flying over the German Parliament building in Berlin.

Back in Hungary, the Soviet commanders had problems of another kind. Many of their own troops knew too well of the atrocities that Hungarian soldiers had committed just a few years ago. It took a lot of convincing - and a threat of harsh punishment - to ensure that the civilians were fellow proletarians and victims of the Nazis rather than their accomplices to deter those

seeking revenge.

The Soviets were still a foreign armed presence in Budapest, and some say Moscow's promise that it was coming as a liberator and not a conqueror was false, which eventually led to the rebellion of 1956.

But in 1945, the Soviets' victory meant that there would be no more fighting. The troops were busy defusing mines left behind by the Germans, securing food deliveries to the starved city, and tearing down the walls of the Budapest ghetto with some 70,000 survivors.

An RTCC memorial piece published courtesy of the Russian-Tanzania Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam.

Can the African Union help Mozambique combat terrorism?

BY LIESL LOUW-VAUDRAN

FOR the first time the escalating terrorist threat in Mozambique has been discussed by African leaders, at the 33rd African Union (AU) summit in Addis Ababa - more than two years after the insurgency started in the northern Cabo Delgado province. AU officials spoke of a 'totally new threat' that has reached 'unprecedented levels' in Mozambique.

The United Nations last week warned that the terror attacks were becoming more frequent and spreading southwards. It says there have been 28 attacks in Cabo Delgado since the beginning of 2020. At least 100,000 people have been displaced and up to 400 killed since the beginning of the insurgency.

'Armed groups have been randomly targeting local villages and terrorising the local population. Those fleeing speak of killings, maiming, and torture, burnt homes, destroyed crops and shops. We have reports of beheadings, kidnappings and disappearances of women and children,' said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), who Mozambique has asked to help those displaced.

'The attackers at times warn the local population where and when they will strike, creating panic as people rush to flee their villages. Most leave everything behind,' UNHCR spokesperson Andrej Mahecic said.

Despite warnings, there has been little or no mention of Mozambique at the AU up to now.

Despite these warnings there has been little or no mention of Mozambique at the AU up to now. Its 66-page report to heads of state on Monday, noted only that the 'northern part of Mozambique, including its border areas with the neighbouring Tanzania, face the risk of overspill of terrorist activities from those regions of the continent that are already afflicted.'

Asked about the situation, AU Commissioner for peace and security Smaïl Chergui said the AU could help



The AU has finally acknowledged the threat, but has had limited results in countering terrorism in Africa. File photo

Mozambique with information sharing, providing equipment and training Mozambican soldiers. To them this was 'totally new,' Chergui said. The AU could also help Mozambique understand the phenomenon in order to 'respond holistically,' he said.

The AU has over the years improved intelligence sharing. It inaugurated the new headquarters of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa on the margins of the summit.

An AU official who attended closed discussions on peace and security at the summit said while Mozambique acknowledged they needed assistance, the situation was unlikely to reach the official agenda of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) any time soon. Mozambique is on the PSC, and in the past members have been averse to seeing their own country situations tabled by the council.

Experience elsewhere in Africa

shows that AU involvement in curbing terrorism has had mixed results

Such discussions would also need approval from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the official said. The regional body believes it should be the first to step in and take charge of crises in Southern Africa. So far, SADC has ignored the situation, at least publicly. It has not been tabled at any meetings of the SADC Troika on Politics, Defence and Security, currently headed by Zimbabwe.

South Africa, as AU chairperson, isn't a member of the PSC, but can place issues on the council agenda. Last month South Africa's international relations minister Naledi Pandor said there was grave concern about the claims that Mozambique's terror attacks were linked to Islamic

State.

Experience elsewhere in Africa has shown that AU involvement in curbing terrorism has had mixed results, at best. The summit acknowledged that military responses such as the G5 Sahel force in the Sahel hadn't had the desired impact. In fact terrorism has increased dramatically in many of the countries in that region.

The AU's Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram, created after much discussion at an AU summit in 2014, has also been unable to reduce terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin. And the African Union Mission in Somalia hasn't managed to sustain its initial gains in driving out al-Shabaab. None of these responses would have been possible without the financial support and capacity from the UN, the

European Union and others.

President Filipe Nyusi recently admitted that Mozambique needed external help to fight terrorism

At the summit AU Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat made an impassioned plea for 'solidarity' among African countries to help those facing terrorism, even if affected states weren't in their immediate regions.

Increasingly African leaders acknowledge that military responses aren't adequate and other ways should be found to deal with terrorism. They admit that terror threats are more often than not rooted in local grievances that need local solutions. The link between weak governance and economic development and the growth of terror groups is increasingly gaining traction.

On the margins of the AU summit Malian president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita for the first time revealed that his government had started dialogue with some leaders of jihadist groups that have wreaked havoc in his country for years.

Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi also recently said he was willing to start talks with the insurgents - although at the same time he threatened to 'hunt them down'. Nyusi didn't attend the AU summit, instead holding a cabinet meeting in Cabo Delgado - an unprecedented move to show his commitment to addressing the problem.

Nyusi recently admitted that Mozambique needed external help to fight terrorism. Last year he asked Russia for help, and numerous Russian mercenaries arrived in Mozambique. Many were however reportedly killed, and those remaining have retreated to Pemba.

This kind of outside involvement in African conflicts has been criticised by some of Nyusi's fellow African leaders, including new AU chairperson, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa. Yet South Africa hasn't provided any support - military or otherwise - to Mozambique, at least not publicly.

Given SADC's reluctance to get involved, it remains to be seen whether Mozambique will feature at the special heads of state summit in South Africa on Silencing the Guns, the AU theme for 2020, in May this year.

The major challenge for Mozambique and the AU is the lack of information about who exactly is responsible for the attacks. So although it's still unclear how best to deal with terrorism in Mozambique, at least the continent has stopped turning a blind eye.

Agencies

Landmark law empowers women farmers

ISLAMABAD

WHEN Pakistan's eastern Sindh province passed the 'Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Bill' on 20 December, giving women in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and other agrobased work the same rights and benefits enjoyed by workers in the industrial sector, it was a revolutionary step for the whole of South Asia.

The new legislation is limited to Sindh province but speaks volumes about the state of women's rights in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, countries where agriculture is the biggest sector and women form the largest labour population.

As a land revenue officer and administrator in Pakistan for the past nine years, I have come across women who have worked their whole lives on lands they are prevented from owning by male relatives.

Although they make up more than half the agricultural labour force in developing nations, women own only 10 to 20 per cent of the land.

Although Pakistan's land and inheritance laws make it mandatory to divide land fairly among heirs on the death of the owner, more often than not women avoid staking claims for fear of being ostracised by their male relatives.

In Pakistan, as late as the 1960s, land records were maintained according to customary laws as introduced by the British Raj in pre-partition India. The said customary laws did not recognise women as legal inheritors and the family trees required for keeping land records omitted women's names to deny them legal existence.

In 1960, the enforcement of Islamic laws of inheritance saw inclusion of women in land ownership. But in practice, this right to property was twisted either by force or by manipulating it to 'gift' their share to male relatives. Few women with rustic backgrounds dare stand up against this injustice - but that is a larger struggle against extreme patriarchy.

The state of women's land and agricul-



ture rights in Pakistan is a microcosm of the historical barriers that prevent them from owning land or farming around the world. For example, until 1850, married American women had no legal right to own land, and in Brazil, women's right to own land became official only in 1988.

In 2010, the Nicaraguan government finally adopted legal measures to improve rural women's access to credit in order to facilitate their path toward land ownership. There is very little sex-disaggregated data on land ownership in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, but most studies suggest that women own far less land than men.

The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2020 said that only

Women form the largest labour population, yet prior to the passing of the 'Sindh Women Agricultural Workers Bill', customary laws in Pakistan did not recognise women as legal inheritors. File photo

a handful of countries are approaching economic equality, and estimated that it will take another 257 years for the world to achieve economic gender equality. While 78 per cent of men are in the labour market, only half of all adult women are employed.

To achieve gender parity, the rights of women employed in the agriculture sector are urgent and important. Although they make up more than half the agricultural labour force in developing nations, women own only 10 to 20 per cent of the land. That restricts a woman's chances of making farming contracts that provide

higher incomes and better returns on labour. Gender norms in developing countries also prevent women from bringing their crops to market, and when they do, they usually face hostile environments in male-

dominated farm markets.

Governments can intervene on behalf of women farmers. They can reposition gender equality and protection as central to all development initiatives. The first step, as taken by Pakistan, can be to end discrimination against women farmers under the law, followed by rights to buy and sell

land, demand equal wages for agricultural labour, take legal steps for income generation, and access credit, technology and technical assistance.

Enacting the laws is not enough, implementing them through good governance is as important.

Gender-focused policies towards women farmers and donor initiatives like 'Feed the Future,' aimed at empowering women farmers, can be helpful in private and public sector alike. Access to gender-specific trainings, agri-extension services, mobile technology for market information and laboursaving technology for

enhanced productivity are other empowering measures.

Women in agriculture must be facilitated to avail of finance and loans, infrastructure and markets so that they can switch from wage-based labour to sustainable ownership farming. Women-only farm markets and women focused subsidies on crops and equipment may generate better results than generic policies.

FAO estimates that given equal access to agricultural resources, women's farming yields can increase. By giving women the same access as men to agricultural resources such as credit, technology and equipment, increase in productivity on their farms in developing countries can rise by 20-30 percent which, in turn, can help feed an additional 100-150 million people in the world.

FAO asserts that earning extra income would enable women to spend more money on health care, nutrition and education for their children - investments that could produce long-term, positive results for farm families and their neighbours.

Sindh province seems serious in implementing the new law. However, Pakistan is a country where land reforms have been thwarted by big landlords who tend to be influential politicians.

Implementation can begin with documentation of all women labourers working in agri-sector. Defining punishments and fines for persons who indulge in discriminatory practices against women workers are another step. Above all, the law needs to be followed by policies and practices in a consistent manner.

Gender equality may still be a hundred years away but giving women agricultural rights will not only help close the gender gap but also boost the economy and reduce poverty.

Agencies

Bank donates 25m/- for new education drive in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

IN its effort to support government's quest in transforming education in the country, Exim Bank Tanzania has donated 25m/- towards the purchase of 47 students' hostel beds (double deckers) as support towards Mrisho Gambo specialized stream public secondary school in Arusha re-

gion. Speaking during a handover ceremony presided over by Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo, Exim Bank Tanzania Chief Executive Officer, Jaffari Matundu said: "The donation is part of the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) dedicated programme called 'Exim Cares' with a sole vision of transforming lives through the

bank's actions." "Exim Bank strongly believes that we have a major role to play in facilitating positive changes in the communities that surrounds us. Education is amongst our key focus areas and this drive resonates with our mantra of transforming lives of students under 'Exim Cares' through sustainable actions. He further reiterated that,

"Exim Bank is interested in affecting the communities in which we operate and so looking at our finances we thought we could afford 47 pieces of double beds that can take care of more than 100 students." He called for the empowerment of youths through education adding that there are many challenges being faced by youths in communities. "We have noted that there

are many issues affecting today's youth that can potentially lead them into various vices or ill-advised activities. At Exim Bank, we believe that there is need to redirect attention and focus on youth empowerment through education. We will continue investing and playing our part in this for many years to come," he promised. He further commended the

government for providing free basic education to all children which is responsive to girls, rural children, children with special educational needs, orphans, and other vulnerable groups. In his remarks after receiving the donation, RC Gambo hailed Exim Bank Tanzania for the timely support. "With this kind of support from your esteemed bank, we

shall be able to help those students stay at the hostel, especially those that are currently walking long distances back and forth. This will certainly help them learn better and realize their education dreams," said Gambo. He further mentioned that the project's needs are 100 beds (double deckers) with mattresses that will cost 53.7 million Tshs.

Mbulu residents told to use opportunities in Uganda-Tanzania Oil Pipeline project

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbulu

RESIDENTS of Mbulu District in Manyara Region have been urged to utilise various business opportunities found in the Uganda-Tanzania Oil Pipeline project.

District Commissioner Chelestino Mofuga made the call here at the councillors' meeting saying that with Manyara being one of the regions that the pipeline expected to pass through, the residents have to make sure that they benefit immensely with every opportunity in the project. He said that one of the major things that his leadership will do is to ensure that residents in the regions are well informed on the opportunities and were not left behind from various tenders for them to also grab new technologies from other companies.

He emphasized that as the project will pass in two districts of Kiteto and Hanang' wanting the public to also show their determination.

"Youth, women and other traders have to ensure that they produce whatever they are able to such as onions and chick-

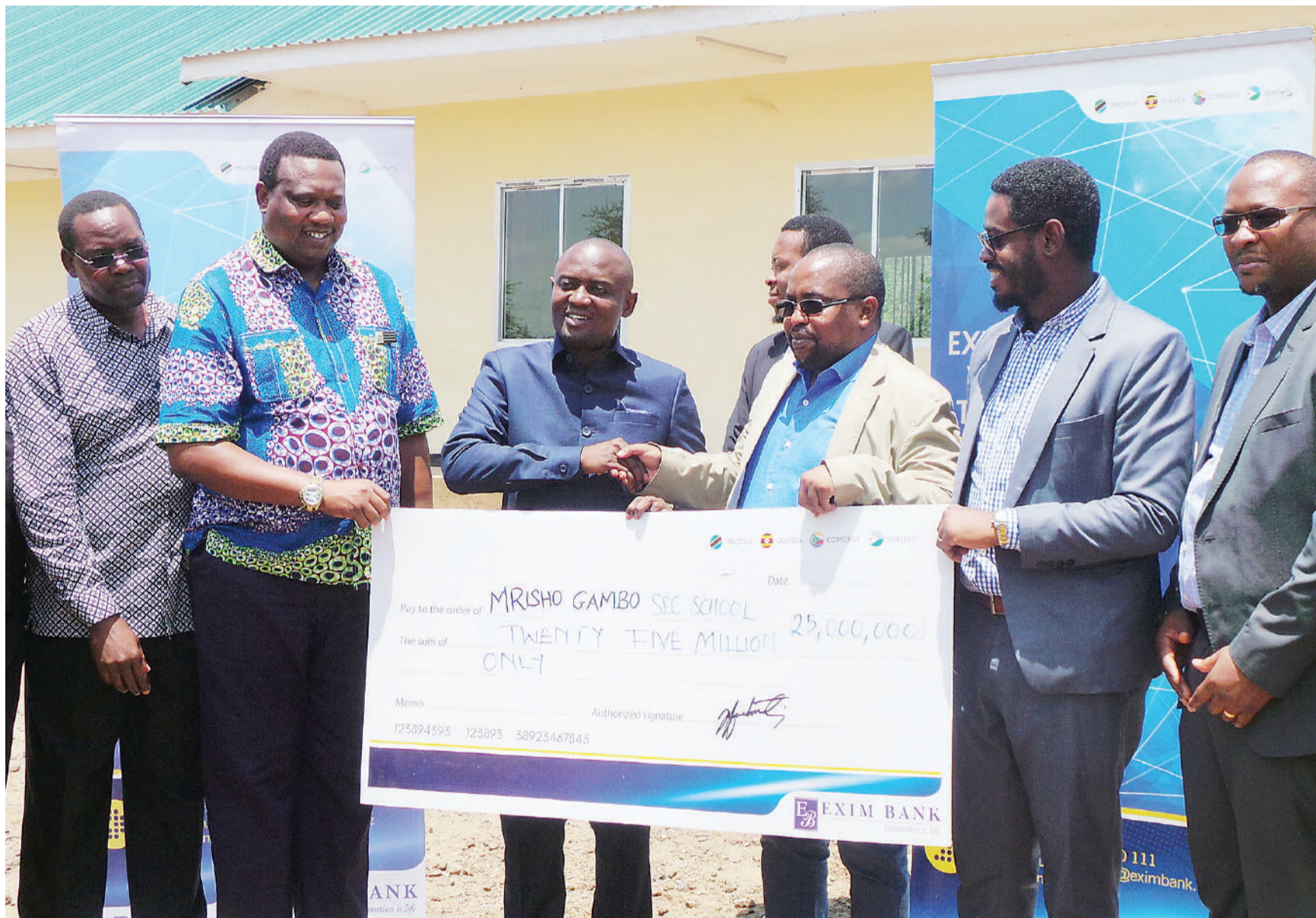
ens to feed the workers in the projects... we will call experts from the prime minister's office to come and train our population on the opportunities and quality of products," he added.

For his part, District Executive Director Hudson Kamoga told the councilors that the construction of the district's hospital and administration block was progressing well. "We commend President John Magufuli for releasing funds for implementation of various development projects which will eventually see people's lives being improved," he said.

Elimiana Shishi, Dongobesh ward 1 said: "I will use the opportunity to educate my people on the importance of the oil pipeline and various opportunities from them to grab."

The 1,443-km lengthened pipeline is expected to transport about 200,000 barrels of oil per day providing the nation millions of funds annually.

Despite transporting the oil from Uganda, the pipeline will be transporting oil from other countries of DRC Congo and South Sudan which have showed interest to transport the oil through Tanga Port.



Exim Bank Tanzania CEO Jaffari Matundu (3rd-R) presents a dummy cheque for 25m/- to Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (3rd-L) as the bank's contribution to the purchase of 47 students' hostel beds for Arusha Region's Mrisho Gambo Secondary School in Arusha Region. Others include regional officials and representatives of the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Canadian PM meets African leaders to advance conflict resolution and economic security

ADDIS ABABA

CANADA'S Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, convened a meeting for African heads of state, foreign ministers and representatives of the United Nations and other multilateral bodies on Monday to discuss ways to secure peace across the continent as a necessary condition for prosperity.

Trudeau, the 2020 chair of the United Nations Peace building Commission, called for co-operation among international partners and governments to

create economic opportunity and prosperity that is broadly shared. "...as a way not just of countering the pull of extremism in some places or the cynicism of populism, but as a way of building a real and tangible future for countries around the world."

The breakfast meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 33rd African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, was intended to strengthen the Commission's partnership with the African Union (AU) and to better integrate African priorities in conflict

prevention and bolstering economic security. Among issues discussed were the role that international financial institutions and youth job creation can play in Africa in averting extremism and conflict; and the AU leadership in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

The talks, titled Sustaining Peace and Economic Security, aligned with the Summit's theme: Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development.

Trudeau acknowledged that one of the biggest challenges

both developed and developing countries face is the perception that governments are indifferent.

"In this time of change, in this time of transformation of the global economy, time of conflict, time of climate conflict, people worry that the system has no place for them and isn't providing them with what they need," the Canadian Prime Minister said.

Among participants were President Roch Marc Christian Kabore of Burkina Faso; the Vice President of Gambia, Isatou Touray; President of the United

Nations General Assembly, Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the foreign ministers of Sierra Leone and Rwanda.

President Kabore offered his reflections on the issues. Burkina Faso is one of several nations in the Sahel region that have seen economic growth adversely affected by conflict and instability.

In opening remarks, African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina noted the shifting nature of conflicts across

Africa. While the number of outright wars in Africa has declined substantially, they have been replaced with greater fluidity with rising cases of terrorism, extremism, conflicts from non-state actors.

The root causes of conflict, according to Adesina, include "rising inequalities, lack of political inclusiveness, extreme poverty, management and control over natural resources, youth unemployment that causes social unrest, climate change, to name a few." The Bank is at the forefront of helping to address fragility

in Africa with several initiatives currently under way. So far, \$3.8 billion has been allocated to address issues of fragility through the Transition State Support Facility. Adesina recognized the role Canada plays in enabling the Bank's work.

"The successful replenishment of the Bank's African Development Fund 15 - to which Canada contributed substantially with \$355 million - will allow the Bank to deploy an additional \$1.2 billion to address fragility, strengthen resilience and sustain peace and economic security," he said.



Efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been hindered by attacks on health workers. Photo: Agencies

WHO extends emergency status of Ebola in the DRC

KINSHASA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has extended its global emergency designation for the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but said the sharp decline in cases was "extremely positive".

"As long as there is a single case of Ebola in an area as insecure and unstable as eastern DRC, the potential remains for a much larger epidemic," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told journalists in Geneva on Wednesday.

Tedros expressed hope that the emergency could be lifted within the next three months on the advice of the WHO's emergency committee of international experts.

The WHO last July declared the Ebola outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" - a designation that gives the UN health agency greater powers to restrict travel and boost funding. Tedros on Tuesday said only three cases had been reported in

the past week in the DRC.

But for the epidemic to be declared over, there have to be no new cases reported for 42 days - double the incubation period.

The health emergency designation last year came a few days after a patient was diagnosed with the virus in the provincial capital Goma, the first case in a major urban hub.

More than a month before that, the WHO reported that the virus had spread to Uganda for the first time.

The recent outbreak was first identified in August 2018 and has since killed more than 2,300 people in eastern DRC - an area where several militia groups are operating.

This is the second-worst outbreak of the disease since 2014, when it killed about 11,000 people, mostly in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Efforts to contain the current outbreak have been hindered by attacks on health workers and conflicts in the east.

Optimism grows on Africa's security situation as continent embarks on 'Silencing Guns'

ADDIS ABABA

ONLY few could be more excited than Young Nial, a South Sudanese refugee currently residing in Ethiopia, as the African continent embarks on "Silencing the Guns" to end all wars, which continue wreaking havoc on the resource-rich, yet less-stable continent.

Being one of the major flagship aspirations of Africa's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063, dubbed "The Africa We Want," Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 has been everything that the 16-year-old South Sudanese refugee has been yearning for, as the extended civil war in his home country forced him to seek refuge in South Sudan's neighbor Ethiopia, along with his four family members.

"No war in my country means we will be able to return to our home and start a normal and peaceful life once again," Nial told Xinhua.

As African leaders vowed to end all wars across the continent during their latest meeting as part of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit that was held at the headquarters of the AU in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa from Feb. 9 to 10, Nial and millions of conflict-affected children across the continent have been given a boost of hope that they will be able to embrace continental peace and stability, a major prerequisite to a prosperous Africa.



The 33rd African Union (AU) summit of heads of state and government is held at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Feb. 9, 2020. (Xinhua)

While progress has been made in reducing state-driven conflicts across the continent, many also argue that recurring conflicts are rolling back gains already made in achieving lasting peace in several regions of the continent.

African leaders adopted the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for "Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020" back in January 2017 as part of AU's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063, which envisaged ending all conflicts in Africa by 2020 with the provision of specific timelines and streamlined division of targets.

Ramtane Lamamra, special envoy of the AU Commission chairperson on Silencing the Guns, argued that while respect for national sovereignty is paramount, "this should not undermine the efforts to scale up conflict prevention and, if and when necessary, take collective action in the name of the principle of non-indifference as enshrined in the Constitutive Act."

"Cognizant of the fact that civil conflicts are triggered by series of disagreements, disparities within or between individuals, communities and

factions, we are faced with the challenges of being more creative in conceptualizing and implementing innovative solutions to conflicts," Lamamra said on Monday.

"In this perspective, our focus should primarily be to ensure the preservation of national unity, functioning of state institutions and overall sovereignty of the people," said Lamamra.

He said a significant proportion of conflicts across Africa have been predominantly driven by ethnic rivalry over political succession, disagreement over modalities for the conduct or outcome of national elections, and power struggles within the state.

Conflicts have also arisen due to struggle over control and access to natural resources and their benefits, Lamamra added.

"While we continue to deploy conventional methods of conflict resolution through processes that involve the use of wise Pan-Africanist, international and re-

gional organizations, the involvement of neighboring countries, peace support operations and civil society organizations, we should be cognizant of the nature, scope and cultural settings of these conflicts," he said.

CALL TO REPEAT UNITY

As African leaders join hands to tame conflicts that are wreaking havoc on the continent's development aspirations under the AU umbrella, experts are also calling on the continent's policymakers to repeat the unity achieved on Africa's Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA), which was launched in July 2019.

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), an African non-profit organization, in its recent publication "Conflict is Still Africa's Biggest Challenge in 2020," stressed the imperative for African leaders to "repeat the show of unity achieved on continental free trade to silence the guns."

According to the institute, 2020 "is supposed to be a land-

mark year" for the 55-member pan African bloc, as the AU endeavors "ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and preventing genocide in the continent by 2020."

Noting that Africa's pattern of "new conflicts bubbling up alongside existing ones is likely to repeat itself," the ISS also emphasized that the Sahel region is of particular concern.

According to the institute, a surge of violence in both Burkina Faso and Mali this year underscored the fragility of the governments in both countries, while conflicts in and around the Lake Chad Basin area have also continued.

Noting that South Sudan's peace deal "is hanging by a thread," the institute also indicated that new fighting between ethnic groups in central South Sudan had left at least 79 people dead and forced the deployment of UN peacekeepers.

"The prospects of a resolution to this (South Sudan's) long-running conflict in 2020 look slim," the institute argued.

It also noted that the situation has resulted in "widespread communal violence and tensions within the ruling party."

The institute also argued the need to tame regular flare-ups of violence in the Central African Republic, the conflict in the Ebola virus-affected Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as Nigeria's entrenched long fight against Boko Haram, saying the phenomenon necessitates further attention during the just-started 2020.

African experts have also emphasized the magnitude of expected continental engagements that would help end all wars and conflict in Africa.

"While no one can argue with that laudable goal, the continental body and its member states will have to work miracles to achieve it by the end of this year, especially when the trend seems to be heading in the other direction," Costantinos Bt. Costantinos, who served as an economic advisor to the AU and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, told Xinhua.

GROWING OPTIMISM

As articulated by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who is also the current chair of the AU for the year 2020, the ambition of Silencing the Guns will help the African continent to fully capitalize on the continent's natural resource as well as human capital.

"We are rich in natural resources yes, but also in history, in intellectual output, in culture, in a sense of humanity and in human capital," Ramaphosa said, adding that "as Africans living in this new era, we shoulder the greatest of responsibilities to ensure that our wealth does not become our poverty; that our blessing does not become our curse, and that our endowment does not become our downfall."

"It is to us that the task has fallen to build an Africa that is prosperous and at peace with itself," the South African president said.

According to Ramaphosa, the South African government will work together with the AU Commission's Peace and Security Council to "focus our efforts on conflict resolution across the African continent, especially those experiencing protracted conflicts."

Despite growing concern that silencing the guns would be a mammoth task, given the nature of ongoing and recurrent conflicts across the continent, some have also expressed optimism regarding the continent's potential and capabilities to do so.

According to Lamamra, repeating recent achievements made in promoting peace and security in Africa would help realize the major objective behind the continental aspiration of ending all wars.

"Looking at the achievements made in promoting peace and security in the continent in recent decades ... the noble objective of silencing the guns and ending wars in the continent is achievable," Lamamra said.

He also noted that from around 30 active conflicts in 2004, Africa must celebrate the fact that it is now addressing fewer conflicts than in the past.

"Africa has a robust blueprint for promoting peace, security and stability, as well as advancing good governance, respect for human and people's rights and constitution," he said. Xinhua

LONG WAY TO GO

Amid the greater need to end all wars across the continent, Chairperson of the AU Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said that the year 2020 has been proclaimed the year of "Silencing the Guns on the Continent" while addressing the continental leaders' summit.

"How to succeed in this feat in a continent grappling with significant phenomena such as terrorism, inter-community conflicts, pre and post electoral crises or even disputes between states?" the chairperson of the 55-member pan African bloc asked African heads of state and governments on Sunday.

Mahamat also emphasized the need to exert concerted efforts to realize the continental aspiration of silencing the guns across the African continent.

"By acting concretely on all these issues and their root causes, by giving ourselves the political, military and diplomatic means, the challenge of silencing the guns can be won," he added.

Digital strategic communication good for governance?

By Elinami John

SOCIAL media has emerged as a totally new way of engaging with news content...social networking is not the only

mechanism. Blogging platforms offer a similar service. They allow individual to tap into a chosen personality who will aggregate information and offer a ready-made opinion.

Writings on the complex relation-

ship between social media and governance of the Global North and South has increased in recent years.

These writings contribute to the knowledge in media, communication and social science fields, but they also

pose antagonistic situations and questions to consider from various schools of thoughts in strategic political communication.

The intricate and ubiquitous relationships between social media and good governance have generated two theoretical standpoints namely, the optimistic and pessimistic school of thoughts.

While the optimistic perspective sees the potential of social media to drive change if it is liberated, the pessimistic draws its premises by considering other factors such as the presence of undemocratic regimes which could control internet and social media.

Sceptic scholars claim that, thinking about social media (digital ICTs) as liberating tool to transform socio-economic and public sphere, is too utopian. Christensen (2011), for example, criticized a move of developed governments to claim social media as key tools in the battles over freedom of expression, democracy and rule of law in the developing countries.

Conversely, other writings refer to social media as important tools to drive political change. They hold that social media brings transparency and accountability only if they are liberated and there is a collective action.

They argue that, social media can be used to bring information to the society and in addition can also be used by oppressed societies to demand socio-economic and political change. This argument sees social media as impetus tool that can empower citizens to demand rights and promote democratic transitions.

Whereas this writing appreciates the ongoing debates regarding the relationship between social media and governance, it is important to contin-

ue projecting the critical relationship between internet and governance together and not in isolation.

The internet has become politically normalised and it is not worth projecting alone. It is difficult to project diplomacy, art of governing and political actions at national and international level without paying attention to the internet.

The dichotomy of western democracies and developing countries is usually respectively framed as the correct way and the wrong way to conduct governance. We should move beyond the best practices approach to study the structural capacities that shape the use of ICTs in different developmental context, and analyze the role of NGOs in those contexts.

This writing proposes to governance stakeholders to explore strategic uses of social media by Tanzanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and how they play a role (if any) of influencing good governance.

At this point strategic uses of social media should be defined as a purposeful means of employing strategic communication to fulfill the organisational goals.

Although good governance can be defined in myriad ways, I propose to define good governance as the manner in which the power is executed in management of country's economic (i.e. efficient use of public resources) and social (i.e. democracy and human rights) resources for development.

Advancement and globalisation of social media and technologies have changed the way information is produced, shared and consumed in society.

As social media has become more available and part of our everyday life,

the focus has shifted from the technology itself to how we use it to change the society. Social media technologies have shaped the way organizations and governments share information to the society.

Generally, there is a strong assumption in the literature that internet accessibility and social media will improve transparency and good governance.

A number of studies studying strategic uses of social media and good governance mold the discussion towards what happened in north Africa countries, Tunisia and Egypt in 2010/2011 where there were social movements organized through social media such as Facebook and Twitter to topple the authoritarian governments.

However, there is limited knowledge centred in the discussion of the role played by advocacy-based NGOs in influencing good governance especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa through strategic use of social media.

Composed by Elinami John working with Policy Forum thelastobi@gmail.com



Generally, there is a strong assumption in the literature that internet accessibility and social media will improve transparency and good governance

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =049=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

ARUSHA

DO

AGED

Clues: Across

- 1 Make meat easy to chew (9)
- 2 Express your choice (4)
- 3 Complaining or criticizing (7)
- 4 Strong wish (5)
- 5 Persuade someone to do something (6)
- 6 Fifteenth sign of the ZODIAC (3)
- 7 Poisonous form of oxygen (5)
- 8 Possess (3) 17 Strange (5)
- 9 Trusting (5)
- 10 Side higher (3)
- 11 Trusts and funds (6)
- 12 Talent and ability (5)
- 13 Bone (3)

Down:

- 1 Cuts of meat (10)
- 2 No (8)
- 3 Escape (3)
- 4 Always (4)
- 5 Residential area (6)
- 6 Only recently formed (8)
- 7 Take advantage (3)
- 8 A man who fought another man or animal for public entertainment (9)
- 9 Inconsiderate (7)
- 10 Someone who does something (4)
- 11 New Zealand bird (4)
- 12 Question (3)

WORD FIT

CHALKI, KINGS, S, T, E, N, U, R, E, S, C, R, U, B, I, N, G, A, B, A, N, D, O, N, E, D, R, N, E, A, R, S, I, G, H, T, E, D, T, N, A, T, I, O, N, E, M, B, R, Y, O, H, O, U, R, S, L, A, M, B, A, T, I, V, G, N, N, A, I, H, E, N, M, I, N, E, C, I, T, I, O, N, S, Y, O, U, N, G, D, O, W, N, S, D, O, T, R, A, B, U, S, E, D, F, O, S, E, A, L, E, W, S, A, L, E, S, S, S, L, O, V, E, A, C, E, D, W, M, E, N, U, L, A, C, F, E, E, L, A, S, H, A, N, S, P, I, A, R, E, O, N, I, L, E, T, E, N, D, E, R

Comments: 07/86 3/4/14/0/1

BUSINESS

TECH SAVVY

Rutsiro families get free smartphones

KIGALI

Up to 1000 smartphones were on Thursday, February 13 given to citizens of Rutsiro District through Connect Rwanda campaign which was launched in December 2019. The campaign aims at providing smartphones to 2.6 million families in the country.

The smartphones, which come with sim cards and three-month internet data, were distributed to 1000 households. The beneficiaries were selected by local leaders based on criteria that included poverty level.

The ceremony was graced by senior government officials including Minister Paula Ingabire of ICT and Innovation, Alphonse Munyantwari, Governor of the Western Province as well as representatives from government and private institutions.

Giving back

In her remarks, Minister Ingabire commended all individuals and institutions that have so far contributed to the cause derived from the Rwandan custom of giving back and asked the beneficiaries to return the favour.

"Here in Rutsiro, you have many economic activities that this technology can boost, including agriculture, mining and fishing. If well used, these smartphones can boost development in this district," Ingabire said.

The minister described the smartphones as gifts and told beneficiaries to give back using the devices to communicate issues and concerns affecting the community, especially pointing out illegal mining activities.

On behalf of other beneficiaries, Jean Damascène Sebitoki said: "there has never been a gesture like this in Rwanda. Now I'll sit home, tap my phone to order fertilizers and grow potatoes, all thanks to President Paul Kagame and other donors."

Mark Nshimiyimana, after receiving a Mara smartphone, said it will impact how he carries out his farming life. "I



I will be learning from what other people are doing across the country. Also, we will not be wasting any more time to go to local offices because we will be using Irembo services online

will be learning from what other people are doing across the country. Also, we will not be wasting any more time to go to local offices because we will be using Irembo services online."

Beyond phones and free internet, beneficiaries will continue to be given basic training on how to use a smartphone. To address the issue of affording connectivity, the ICT minister said plans are underway to put Wi-Fi internet in public places such as health centres and schools.

Some residents, however, raised the lack of electricity as an obstacle that might hamper use of smartphones.

Essence of connecting Rwandans

Located in northwestern Rwanda, Rutsiro was identified as a district with the lowest smartphone penetration, a reason that prompted the first distribution to take place in the mountainous district.

There are 84,654 families of which only 8,866 (10 percent) have smartphones. Since the campaign was launched, over 43,000 smartphones have been pledged which from now on, will be equally distributed in every district. After Rutsiro, the next batch will go to Ngororero and Burera.

Connect Rwanda is an ongoing campaign and officials have been urged to keep pledging to raise the number to at least a million smartphones which would make a remarkable increment in smartphone penetration in the digital agenda of turning Rwanda into a knowledge-based economy.

CONCERN

Zindzi Mandela stands 'heartbroken' that ANC defended FW de Klerk's presence at state event

PRETORIA

The daughter of former president Nelson Mandela has tweeted that she is heartbroken following Thursday's State of the Nation Address (SONA).

Zindzi Mandela wrote that, as a loyal and dedicated member of the ANC, she is heartbroken. She posted a picture of her mother Winnie Madikizela-Mandela being arrested by apartheid-era police officers.

Mandela tweeted that the action against her mother and many others had happened while FW De Klerk was president. She questioned what the ANC stood for. Mandela's tweet comes after EFF leader Julius Malema rose on a point of order on Thursday night and asked National Assembly Speaker Thandi Modise to eject De Klerk.

He charged that the former president was an "unrepentant apologist of apartheid" and that it was an insult to those who died at Vlakplaas to have him present in a democratic Parliament.

"He is an unrepentant apologist of apartheid who is not willing to accept that apartheid was [a] crime against humanity," the EFF leader added. "My submission, Speaker, is that, please, for us to have peaceful proceedings, we should ask the commander of Vlakplaas, apartheid apologist, a man

with blood on his hands, to leave this Parliament because he does not belong here."

Apologised for apartheid

Modise, however, argued the history of the country was there for everybody and the presence of De Klerk was proper. Last week, while marking the 30th anniversary of his speech unbanning the ANC, De Klerk granted a number of interviews in which he spoke about apartheid. He noted that he had apologised for apartheid and that it had been wrong.

In an interview with eNCA, he also said: "I sincerely believe that, yes, apartheid has left marks which are still visible today and which people still feel today, but to blame everything which is wrong in South Africa today after 25 years on apartheid is also not true."



I sincerely believe that, yes, apartheid has left marks which are still visible today and which people still feel today, but to blame everything which is wrong in South Africa today after 25 years on apartheid is also not true

EGGHEAD

25-year-old becomes youngest person to obtain law doctorate from SA's University of Pretoria

PRETORIA

Scholar Dr Marko Svcevic has set a record for the youngest person (25 years and three months) to ever obtain a Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree from the University of Pretoria's Faculty of Law.

In a statement, the university said Svcevic had obtained a BA (Law) degree in 2015, completed his LLB degree in 2017, and completed his doctoral thesis in January this year. He had registered for an LLM through research in the Department of Public Law in 2018, while working as a research associate under Professor Erika de Wet - who was the first incumbent of the South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) in International Constitutional Law - between January 2016 and December 2019.

"After a year of LLM studies, Professor De Wet suggested that, given the quality and nature of the research, we should apply to upgrade the study to an LLD. The upgrade was successful, and I submitted my thesis for examination in November 2019, titled 'United Nations Security Council authorisation of regional enforcement action: Legal implications of Resolution 2337 (2017) in The Gambia', Svcevic said. "My thesis examined and scruti-



Dr Marko Svcevic.

nised United Nations Security Council authorisation of the use of force in international law, with an expanded focus on the practices of African regional and sub-regional organisations. Ultimately, it proposed that explicit United Nations Security Council authorisation is a well-established practice, and concluded against implicit and retroactive instances of such authorisation."

"Extremely proud"

De Wet is "extremely proud" of Svcevic. She describes him as a very dedicated and mature individual with an exceptional analytical ability, sense of discipline and work ethic for someone so young.

"The mere fact that Svcevic's LLM through research was upgraded to a doctoral project after one year underscores that he is an exceptional talent. Moreover, merely 11 months later, he submitted a doctoral thesis which received extensive praise by all three examiners for its quality. I have no doubt that Svcevic's research will make a significant contribution to issues pertaining to the use of force and peace enforcement operations in the African context."

Svcevic will graduate on April 9 at the university's Autumn Graduation Ceremonies, and plans to pursue a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Johannesburg. De Wet relocated to the University of Graz in Austria in January.

LOVELY

Kenyans top Valentine's Day spenders

NAIROBI

Kenyans are increasingly going beyond traditional gifts to spend wads of cash on romantic experiences in an effort to make their partners happy.

According to this year's Mastercard Annual Love Index released Thursday, the number of people who go on rendezvous in hotels has risen by 65 percent between 2017 and 2019, against a 22 percent global increase.

Kenyans also spent 37 percent more than they did in 2017 on booking flights and trips, travelling with their partners to celebrate this special time of the year, to ensure that lovers have "two hearts that beat as one."

The Index, a study of transactions ahead of Valentine's Day (February 11-14 of the three years) identifies spending habits and trends during this period by analysing credit, debit and prepaid card transactions from 53 countries around the world.

The 2019, according to the report, saw the majority of Valentine's Day transactions take place on February 11, compared to 2018 when they took place on February 12 and in 2017 where they took place on February 13.

"Now in its fifth year, the findings reveal that the world's "love economy" is growing five times faster than the global economy, with Valentine's Day spend around the world up 17 percent since 2017," it indicates. In Kenya, sentimental spending around Valentine's Day has increased even more - up by 32 percent since 2017, with the overall transactions up by 51 percent.

The rise of e-commerce also continues, with a 64 percent spike in online transactions in the Valentine's Day period against 57 percent globally over the past three years. Food continues to be the best route to people's hearts, with spend in restaurants increasing during the affection month every year. "Kenyans are more likely than other global romantics to treat their loved ones to special meals on Valentine's Day, with the amount spent on restaurants increasing by 18 per-



Flowers and gift hampers for sale outside Nation Centre on February 13, 2020.

cent in 2019, against a 16 percent rise globally," the report says.

Kenyan shoppers buck global trends when it comes to gifting jewellery for Valentine's Day. While global spend on jewellery for the occasion increased by just 6 percent globally, Kenya recorded a 21 percent increase in jewellery budget in the run up to Valentine's Day.

However, flowers appear to be falling from favour in Kenya. While Kenyan Valentine's Day flower sales decreased by 29 percent last year, global sales increased by three percent. Valentine's Day cards remain a firm favourite in Kenya, where

spend has increased by 24 per cent in 2019 from the previous year, and by 5 percent from 2017 to 2018. In contrast, global spend on Valentine's Day cards has increased by just 2 per cent in the past three years.

"Kenyans are keeping pace with global trends and favouring experiences over traditional gifts. It's clear that the younger generation values the opportunity to create a shared experience," said Adam Jones, Area Business Head East Africa, Mastercard.

"It is easier to travel and book trips away now than ever before, which is re-

flected in the huge increases in flights and hotels booked online in the lead up to Valentine's Day over the past three years.

"The Mastercard Love Index is a unique look at how buying behaviour is evolving over time, and as we make our way in a new decade, we expect the trend of investing in time and memories together to continue to grow." The data also revealed a positive trend of a more organised Valentine's Day planner, with the majority of transactions taking place earlier than ever before and the number of last-minute shoppers falling.

Discovering Addis Ababa in Deira: Inside UAE's vibrant Ethiopian quarter

DUBAI

Taking in a coffee ceremony at an Ethiopian cafe is an experience. A woman arrives with a straw tray full of freshly roasted coffee beans, placing them directly under your nose so you can inhale the strong aroma. Once you nod in approval, feeling suitably heady from the fumes, she disappears, only to return a few minutes later with a clay pot full of brewed coffee. She pours it delicately into small, white, traditional china cups.

What happens next could be totally fine or weird, depending on your culture and point of view - she sits down next to you to talk. As I am from Eritrea, which borders Ethiopia, I find it normal. We chat away and sip our coffee, allowing the strong dose of caffeine to perk us up.

The lady's name is Arhet and we are in Freiwot Coffee Shop. This is the first stop on the self-guided, online African Scene Tour of Dubai found on the Street Life app. Available to download for free, the app allows you to enjoy a variety of tours that take in some of the cultural and historical sites in Dubai and Sharjah.

The coffee shop is in Frij Al Murar district of Dubai, in the back lanes of Deira. The neighbourhood has long been viewed as the emirate's African enclave, with shops and stalls belonging mostly to merchants from Ethiopia. The area is made up of tiny streets only wide enough to allow the odd car to roll through. These are filled with small businesses - from barbershops to restaurants - all featuring the tricoloured flag (green, yellow and red) belonging to one of the world's oldest civilisations.

Music wafts through the streets alongside the coffee smells, and the pulsating Amharic pop belonging to one of Ethiopia's biggest stars, Teddy Afro, plays in Freiwot. Arhet digs the tune. She taps her foot along to the



Mulugeta Belays, owner of Mulugetta Belay Fashion & Ladies Tailoring.

beat, as she tells me how much she enjoys the whole Dubai experience. "I have been here for just over a year and this area just feels like home in Addis Ababa," she says. "This cafe and the people who come here are all the same. I feel comfortable."

The fact I also feel comfortable chatting with Arhet is down to her skill in making customers feel right

at home. "Many people who come to the coffee shop, men and women, are lonely," she says. "They miss their friends and family and my job is to sit with them and let them talk. The rules are that I don't judge and don't share secrets. What we talk about here, stays here."

A few moments later, the curator of the walking tour, Dina Yassin, walks

into the cafe. You can't miss the Eritrean fashion designer whose behind the label Efro & Co, with her brightly coloured and impossibly cool urban clothing, which includes a yellow embroidered jacket, jeans and eye-popping sneakers, which contrast with the dimly lit, basic decor of the venue. Apologising for being late, Yassin says she is pleased I have already

enjoyed the Ethiopian coffee experience, so we immediately head out and she accompanies me along the rest of the tour.

It takes five hours to complete the tour, and it distils the knowledge and experiences Yassin has accumulated during her many years spent living within one of the first East African communities in the country. As we walk past tailors and specialised grocery stores, she describes her experience of growing up in a pan-African household after arriving in Abu Dhabi in 1978 at the age of 2. "My father was an economic adviser for what was called the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development," she explains. "He travelled a lot around Africa and he made a lot of friends who came to our house."

One of our neighbours was Tanzanian, so there was this great vibe and African community - of Eritreans, Ethiopians and Sudanese - that I grew up with in both Abu Dhabi and Dubai. It was only about 15 years ago that Deira started being viewed as a hub for the African Diaspora. It began mostly with Somali traders working in various businesses, from import and export to women's fashion, as well as Ethiopian and Eritrean merchants.

The African Tour mostly focuses on the last two groups, Yassin explains, as these represent the majority of the small businesses in this area today. "The Sudanese have been [in Dubai] longer, but they mostly worked in the government sector."

The businesses may be small, but that doesn't mean financial success can't be found among Deira's gritty backstreets. I only need a few minutes in Mulugetta Belay Fashion and Ladies Tailoring - our next stop on the tour - to know business is booming. The shop specialises in traditional Ethiopian and Eritrean garments, which are renowned for their soft cotton and hand embroidery. The shop has been doing well for the best part of a decade, and prices for hand-stitched dresses range from about Dh200 to Dh3,000.

"It started in Eritrea, in our capital, Asmara," the owner, Mulugetta Belay, says. "But I wanted to move to Dubai to allow myself a more international base. Deira is an excellent location because a lot of African tourists come here and they make

orders for family weddings in Europe or America."

After sampling the visual splendour of East African clothing, Yassin and I follow the smell of fragrant spices. It's a good thing that Red City's stock is positively pungent or we would have totally missed the place. Located on a side street, the hole-in-the-wall shop is sparsely furnished but full of shelves featuring all kinds of berbere - a spice blend integral to Ethiopian and Eritrean curries - as well as traditional clay pots and cutlery.

Ethiopian co-manager Johannes Saatiskat grabs one of the plastic bags full of the bright red seasoning - which usually consists of chilli peppers, garlic, ginger and fenugreek, to name a few - and explains "berbere is like water for many families here. Any Ethiopian or Eritrean family who lives in the UAE needs berbere or they cannot eat."

Mattaues Mulugetta, who also works there, is more circumspect about the importance of the spice to his community. "It is a very important spice and something we have eaten since we were children," the Ethiopian says. "Our business does well here because of the location in Deira and the fact we are close to the airport. Our spices come fresh from Ethiopia a few times a week."

It's easy to recognise why these businesses in Frij Al Murar do well. In the few hours I spend chatting with shopkeepers, none of them take any digs at their competitors. There is a community element here that is endearing, and an overall feeling that a successful business benefits everyone. That's why it doesn't surprise me when Mulugetta kindly volunteers to chaperone us on the five-minute walk to a nearby business and another stop on the tour, the Jade Salon.

Ethiopian male models feature in posters that adorn the bright white walls, as men sit in front of large, intricately designed mirrors. The manager, Biniyam Worku, has a laid-back charm. "Whenever there is an Ethiopian neighbourhood there needs to be barbershops," he says. "We have been here for five years and the community is getting bigger and they need someone to look after their hair."

RELIEF

Cape Town garden changes lives of the homeless for the better

CAPE TOWN

Archiebold Zolile Ndingwa moved to Van Riebeeck Park near Cape Town's city centre after he could no longer afford to pay his rent in Langa, GroundUp reported.

For many homeless people, finding work is hard, even harder if they are without documents. But with help of Streetscapes, Ndingwa recently obtained his ID and can now receive a disability grant. (He was in an accident in 1987 that left him with a back injury.)

The Streetscapes garden in Vredehoek, where Ndingwa has been working since last year, assists homeless people through simple interventions, such as helping them get their IDs. Many homeless people, who were living next to a stream in Van Riebeeck Park, have been integrated into the Streetscapes gardening programme, a collaboration between Streetscapes, Vredehoek-based DPV Watch, the City of Cape Town, and Friends of Rugley Road Park - a residents' association.

Streetscapes sells its garden produce to walk-in customers and has arrangements with four restaurants in the area. It sells potted succulents and a variety of vegetables, such as butternut, spinach, and tomatoes.

Streetscapes garden's supervisor Vredehoek, Babalwa Bangani, said: "I found out that all those people [living in the park] have two things in common: They wanted jobs and they needed shelter. I approached them and when a person showed an interest and wanted to work, then I would give them an opportunity."

Bangani said if they stuck to the rules for the two-month probation, Streetscapes would then send them to a social worker at Khulisa Social Solutions for them to apply for a job in the garden. Streetscapes' project director, Jesse Laitinen, said the two-month period was a "test period to see if they are committed to work-based rehabilitation. And if they are, they get signed up for the programme."

Streetscapes is part of Khulisa Social Solutions, a non-profit organisation that offers social services to the vulnerable in society. Bangani said the Streetscapes programme also helped its volunteers and employees to obtain IDs, creating and uploading CVs, using the internet, and showing where they could attend short courses.

"We started the initiative because they were really vulnerable people living in a very wealthy area," Laitinen said. She added Streetscapes had helped more than 300 homeless people since 2015. There are currently 70 people in the programme this year.



Streetscapes garden supervisor Babalwa Bangani.

"It all starts with having an ID. It's first an ID and then it is a roof over your head... When you're on the street, everything gets lost. You also get lost. Your life gets lost," said Jerome Daniels who

works at the garden.

"You have to have an ID, otherwise it is as if you don't exist. It opens doors for you; you can do nothing without an ID," said Fiona Swartz who lives in Van

Riebeeck Park. She added she understood residents complained about homeless people "because they think people who live on the street are usually criminals, that they are dirty and that they

have no education". "I would have probably had the same idea in my mind if the roles were reversed," Swartz said. She added, however, some Vredehoek residents brought them food.

Dating sites put Kenyans at risk

NAIROBI

Kenyans are among the African users falling prey to cyber attacks disguised as dating apps, cybersecurity firm Kaspersky has revealed.

Cyber criminals have been using popular dating services names such as Tinder, Bumble or Zoosk to spread mobile malware, retrieve personal data to later bombard the users with unwanted ads or even spend their money on expensive paid subscriptions.

"Cybercriminals who specialise in phishing also do not miss the chance to feed on those seeking to find love. Fake copies of popular dating applications and websites, such as Match.com and Tinder, flood the internet. Users are required to leave their personal data or connect to the applications via their social media account. The result is not surprising: the data will later be used or sold by cybercriminals, while the user will be left with nothing," explained the report by Kaspersky.

Kaspersky's analysis has shown that within 2019 the region saw a circulation of 1,486 threats under the guise of over 20 popular dating applications in Africa, with 7,734 attacks on 2,548 users detected. Around 10 percent of all these threatening files (765) were detected in Kenya, with 380 attacks seen in this region.

"Love is one of those topics that interests people universally, and, of course, that means that cybercriminals are also there. Online dating has made our lives easier and yet uncovered new risks on the path to love," said Vladimir Kuskov, head of advanced threat research and software classification at Kaspersky.



Love is one of those topics that interests people universally, and, of course, that means that cybercriminals are also there. Online dating has made our lives easier and yet uncovered new risks on the path to love

ADVENTURE

Why Gunnar Garfors visited every country in the world - twice

DUBAI

“The most important thing to me about travel is to challenge and expand my own mind - not to travel would be an insult to my intellect, my curiosity, my creativity and my understanding of other people, cultures, mindsets, backgrounds and faiths.”

Gunnar Garfors has visited every country in the world. Twice. And knowing this self-proclaimed “restless” traveller, a third time could very well be the charm. The Norwegian national's first visit to each country took place between 2000 and 2013, and he published a book about those travels: 198: How I Ran Out of Countries. He has always worked full-time, and for the most part, visited only one or two countries at a time from his base in Norway. By December 2018, he had visited all 198 countries a second time and, in April 2019, his second book, Ingenstad, was published in Norwegian.

Ingenstad is about Garfors's travels to the 20 least-visited countries in the world. “It had to be done,” he says. “Very little data exists on tourist numbers to countries with extremely few visitors, so I had to dig that up myself, by revisiting countries and countries that I suspected would make the list.” He ascertained that the five least-visited countries in the world are the Central African Republic, Tuvalu, Libya, Nauru and Yemen.

He admits that his competitive nature bolstered his desire to be the first person to visit every country in the world twice. “I have now stayed overnight and slept in every country in the world - all 198 of them - and I have spent a week in each country through my travels.” In the process, he has notched up 10 world records.

It was Garfors's father who first inspired him to travel. He worked on a cruise ship in the Pacific Ocean and would send the family cassette tapes detailing his experiences abroad and at sea. “I like to say that travelling is in my blood,” says Garfors, his eyes glinting as he recounts some of the stories

his father shared. “We listened in awe. And I promised myself that I would travel like my dad when I grew up.”

He laughs as he recounts the number of times he has been asked what his favourite country is. “There are just way too many amazingly special countries, cities and other places in the world for me to make a winner or even a shortlist.”

He prefers to stray from typical tourist routes and take recommendations from locals. “My visit to the Door to Hell in Turkmenistan stands out as one of the most iconic. It is a crater with gas sifting up from the ground; there are no people there and no lights or sounds in the distance.”

Garfors's travels have taken him from his native Norway to some of the most remote locations in the world, including a visit to a pygmy village two hours from Bangui in the Central African Republic. It is these encounters with lesser-known destinations that fill Ingenstad. “These countries are virtually unknown to most, and if they hear anything about any of them, it is usually for all the wrong reasons: bombs, grenades, war, starvation and other misery.”

He wanted to give those who live in these off-overlooked countries a voice, and provide a new perspective on the places they call home. “Often they have nothing, but their hospitality is absolutely world-class,” he adds.

Ingenstad is brimming with enlightening insights. Did you know it is illegal to own a black car in Turkmenistan? That in Kiribati, they claim to have 250 words for coconut? And that, in Mauritania, slavery was banned as late as 2007, making it the last country in the world to outlaw the practice?

The Norwegian passport ranks as one of the strongest in the world, and this has aided Garfors's adventures in countries that are more difficult to enter. “I am certainly lucky and privileged. I have now totally overused on bureaucracy, which is way too prevalent in many embassies, but every difficult visa is a small victory, so those little upsides



Norwegian author Gunnar Garfors, pictured in Kabul, Afghanistan, has visited every country in the world, twice.

helped,” he adds.

He lives by the mantra “experiences over things”, and no longer collects memorabilia from his visits. “I previously collected kitchen magnets, but the last five to 10 years, I have rather focused on taking photographs that help me remember the people and places.”

As much as he may be a “citizen of the world”, he has no plans to move from Norway. As an author, he gets to stay in various places for extended periods of time to carry out his research. “That gives me a refreshing taste of what it is like living in various places, and for now that is a good start.”

Over the course of his travels, Garfors estimates that he has taken “probably between 2,000 and 3,000 flights”, but when I raise the issue of carbon emissions and their impact on the environment, his response is a surprising one. “Travel helps reduce conflicts, and reduced conflicts means a need for fewer weapons and smaller armies. Currently there is an increased number of troops and weapons, causing more pollution than any other sector.”

Not only has his penchant for travel given him multiple passports, it has given him plenty of time to reflect. “I have learnt a lot about myself, grown more confident and realised that I am extremely privileged, and most people are not. “If travel doesn't humble you, nothing will,” he says definitively.

REMUNERATION

Forbes's list of the world's highest paid actors and actresses has been revealed, listing Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

Johnson and Scarlett Johansson as the highest paid, respectively.

Highlighting the fact that a gender pay-gap is still a Hollywood reality, despite being top of the actresses' list, Johansson would only come in at eighth with her earnings of \$56 million which would sit her behind Bradley Cooper and Adam Sandler, who each made \$57m. The list takes their earnings, before tax, between June 1, 2018 and June 1, 2019.

The only other actress who would make a merged top 10 is Modern Family star, Sofia Vergara, who made \$43m last year. The men's top five is made up of Dwayne Johnson (\$89.4m), Chris Hemsworth (\$76.4m), Robert Downey Jr. (\$66m), Akshay Kumar (\$65m) and Jackie Chan (\$58m).

The 2018-2019 window reads like a particularly busy period for Johnson, with movies Skyscraper, Fighting with My Family and Fast & Furious: Hobbs & Shaw all hitting cinemas, and TV shows WWE Smackdown! and Ballers continuing their run.

Hemsworth had box office success with Bad Times at the El Royale and Avengers: Endgame; while fellow Marvel star Downey also made bank with Endgame. Bollywood hero Akshay Kumar outdid even Johnson on the busy front when it came to releases. In the 12 months measured, he starred in: Gold,

2.0, Simmba and Kesari; as well as a series of video shorts. While Chan featured in The Knight of Shadows: Between Yin and Yang.

Following Johansson, who made \$56m, on the female top five are: Sofia Vergara (\$43m), Reese Witherspoon (\$35m), Nicole Kidman (\$34m) and Jennifer Aniston (\$28m).

Johansson's money came in from Captain Marvel and Avengers: Endgame; while Vergara starred in movie Bottom of the 9th and Modern Family. Her earnings of \$43m would see her sit at 10th place on a merged male and female list.

Forbes's top 10 highest paid actors: Dwayne Johnson \$89.4 million; Chris Hemsworth \$76.4 million; Robert Downey Jr. \$66 million; Akshay Kumar \$65 million; Jackie Chan \$58 million; Bradley Cooper \$57 million (tie); Adam Sandler \$57 million (tie); Chris Evans \$43.5 million; Paul Rudd \$41 million and Will Smith \$35 million (tie).

Forbes's top 10 highest paid actresses: Scarlett Johansson \$56 million; Sofia Vergara \$43 million; Reese Witherspoon \$35 million (tie); Nicole Kidman \$34 million; Jennifer Aniston \$28 million; Kaley Cuoco \$25 million; Elisabeth Moss \$24 million; Margot Robbie \$23.5 million; Charlize Theron \$23 million and Ellen Pompeo \$22 million.



Akshay Kumar, Scarlett Johansson and Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson

ISIDINGO

MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>ITV</p> <p>SATURDAY 15 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Habari 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangweka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 16 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>MONDAY 17 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 08:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Isidingo the need 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Jagina rpt 11:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa</p>	<p>14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Alya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Moja 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV</p> <p>TUESDAY 18 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 08:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:20 Shangweka rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Alya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi maalum: KTMDA 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania yetu 21:35 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 19 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:20 Uchumi na biashara rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera</p>	<p>12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi 22:15 Ripoti Maalum 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 20 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi 11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Watumishi housing rpt Habari za saa 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ripoti Maalum rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum Rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 21 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco</p>	<p>12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 22 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangweka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 23 Feb</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p>	<p>CAPITAL</p> <p>Sat 15 Feb</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijimae 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: Street Kings 23:00 The other side rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 16 Feb</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: The other side 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Ilijimae 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Mon 17 Feb</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: The other side 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:30 Eco@Africa rpt 19:00 The Decor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Stars & Scars 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 18 Feb</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está</p>
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WORLD

US Senate rebukes Trump, votes to limit Iran war making ability

WASHINGTON

THE US Senate passed legislation on Thursday to limit US President Donald Trump's ability to wage war against Iran, rebuking him weeks after a strike against an Iranian military commander and Tehran's retaliation raised fears of broader regional conflict.

Eight of Trump's fellow Republicans joined Democrats to pass the war powers resolution by 55-45. The measure would require Trump to remove US troops engaged in hostilities against Iran unless Congress declares war or passes a specific authorization for the use of military force.

Trump has promised a veto, and there is not expected to be enough support to muster the two-thirds Senate super majority to override. Fifty-three of the 100 senators are Re-

publicans, who rarely break with the president.

Senators voted nearly along party lines a week ago to acquit Trump of impeachment charges, after an investigation and trial that underscored Washington's bitter partisan divides.

Opponents said the resolution's passage sent the wrong message.

"We need to send a message of firmness, and not weakness," said Senator Jim Risch, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine, author of the resolution, said the vote showed strength and reflected the importance of Congress weighing in on any decision to deploy troops.

Even if the Senate cannot override a veto, Kaine said the resolution's backers hoped it would influence Trump



US President Donald Trump speaks during a rally in Manchester, New Hampshire on Monday. (AFP)

when it came to future military action, adding that the president cared about what the public thinks, if not the Senate.

"The bill getting to my desk is an indication that we're listening to our constituents, and we're telling him blundering into another war would be a bad idea," Kaine told a news conference after the vote.

The bill's supporters noted that they were gaining more support for efforts to take back Congress' authority to declare war. The Constitution gives that power to Congress, not the president, but presidents from both parties in recent decades have expanded the White House's authority to pursue military action without legislators' input.

Republican Senator Todd Young, who voted for the resolution, said it should not have been necessary, but Congress had for years "attempted to pass the buck" to the president when deci-

sions about military action had to be made.

"It's time to do our job," Young said in a statement explaining his vote that also praised Trump's leadership.

In June, another resolution that would have required Trump to get Congress' permission before striking Iran failed in the Senate.

Congress in July failed to override Trump's veto of legislation opposing the president's declaration of an emergency to allow the sale of billions of dollars worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia, despite lawmakers objections.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives last month passed a war powers resolution similar to the one the Senate approved on Thursday, also by less than a two-thirds super majority. But there are enough differences between the Senate's version and the House's that it must pass that chamber again before it can be sent to Trump's desk.

Agencies

KLM apologises for barring S. Koreans from using toilet

SEOUL

KLM, the Dutch arm of Air France KLM, offered a public apology yesterday after a crew member sparked online outrage by posting a sign in Korean saying passengers on a recent flight were not allowed to use a toilet because of the new coronavirus.

Photos of the handwritten sign saying "lavatory for crew members only" went viral in South Korea this week after a passenger on a 10-hour

The passenger accused KLM of discriminating against South Korean passengers because the sign was only in Korean.

"Dear KLM... Today, you made it



A file photo shows a plane of the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines at the Roissy airport in Roissy-en-France, near Paris. (AFP)

quite clear that you discriminate against race. Using Corona Virus as

an excuse. You owe my friend and Korea a HUGE apology," wrote one

Twitter user, whose posts in English and Korean about the incident gathered thousands of retweets and likes. The hashtag BoycottKLM was trending on Korean Twitter.

Yesterday, executives with KLM bowed as they publicly apologized at a news conference in Seoul, saying they take allegations of discrimination "very seriously" and promising to prevent it from happening again.

"This is a human mistake, and we don't take it lightly," said Guillaume Glass, an Air France-KLM regional general manager. "We are deeply sorry that this was viewed as discrimination, which was absolutely not the intention of the crew."

Agencies

Foreign political party leaders express confidence in China's defeating coronavirus

BEIJING

A GROWING number of leaders from political parties around the world have expressed their appreciation for and confidence in China's efforts in combating the novel coronavirus.

History has repeatedly proven the capability and resolution of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in its leading the Chinese people to overcome various challenges, and he firmly believes the CPC will win again in the fight against the epidemic, said Jurin Laksanawit, head of the Democrat Party, who is also Thailand's deputy prime minister and commerce minister.

The Democrat Party of Thailand is willing to develop cooperation with the CPC in various aspects, he added.

While expressing his party's respect and support in his message,

Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping and the CPC have led the Chinese people to adopt strong and comprehensive anti-virus measures in a remarkably quick and efficient response to the unexpected virus outbreak, ensuring the safety of both the Chinese people and Pakistani nationals in China.

The efforts show the CPC's firm resolve and outstanding capacity in coping with complex challenges, he added.

Prabowo Subianto, general chairman of the Great Indonesia Movement Party, or Gerindra, and the Indonesian defense minister, said the coronavirus outbreak emergency has prompted huge efforts from governments and medical societies around the world, and the Indonesian people and his party shared



the feelings and hearts of the Chinese people and wish them success in their fight against the virus.

In his message, Cevdet Yilmaz, deputy chairman of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), expressed the readiness of the Turkish people to help the Chinese people at any time in their combating the novel coronavirus.

The AKP is willing to maintain close communication and coordination with the CPC to jointly tackle the common challenge, he said, and that it believes that under Xi's lead-

ership, the CPC and the Chinese government and people will eventually defeat the virus.

Secretary General of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) party, Ace Magashule (pictured), said in his message that under the strong leadership of the CPC, the Chinese people are making concerted efforts, with scientists, medical workers, the People's Liberation Army and other people from all walks of life cooperating effectively.

He added that the Chinese efforts are admirable, and the ANC believes that the CPC will lead China to a victory in the fight.

First-Vice President of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela Diosdado Cabello said the entire international community has witnessed the decisive actions taken by the CPC and the Chinese government to combat the epidemic.

He expressed full confidence that under Xi's command, the CPC is sure to lead the Chinese people to an ultimate victory.

The victory belongs to the Chinese people and the epidemic will certainly be defeated, he added.

General Secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party Jeronimo de Sousa said the CPC and the Chinese government have been actively treating infected patients to prevent the spread of the disease and striving to safeguard the people's health, and have made immeasurable contributions to containing the spread of the virus around the world.

He expressed his belief that the CPC and the Chinese people will definitely overcome the difficulty and continue to develop and make progress on the socialist path, he said.

Xinhua

THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19
PLA sends doctors to fight against COVID-19 in Wuhan

ON 13 February, a total of 5,090 new confirmed cases and 2,450 new suspected cases were reported in mainland China, with 1,081 cured and discharged from hospital, and 121 fatalities. In Hubei province, a total of 4,823 confirmed cases were reported on 13 February, with 690 cured and 116 fatalities.

Around 95% of new confirmed cases and 96% of fatalities occurred in Hubei on 13 February.

By 14 February, in mainland China, altogether 63,851 confirmed cases have been reported, among which 6,723 cured and discharged from hospital, 1,380 died, and 55,748 still under treatment.

There are altogether 10,109 suspected cases pending test results in mainland China as of 14 February. In Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, 53, 10 and 18 confirmed cases have been reported respectively by 14 February, with one fatality in Hong Kong.

In Hubei province, altogether 51,986 confirmed cases and 21,318 fatalities have been reported by 14 February, which account for 81% and 96% of the total numbers in mainland China.

On 12 February, the confirmed cases in Hubei province increased by 14,840, much higher than that of the previous day, 1,638. The reason is because of the inclusion of clinically diagnosed cases. Clinically diagnosed cases are unique to Hubei statistically.

According to the latest version of the diagnosis and treatment scheme released by the Chinese National Health Commission, any suspected cases with pneumonia-related computerized tomography (CT) scan results are counted as clinically diagnosed cases.

The Hubei provincial health commission said the diagnosis criteria revision has been made to give those who have been clinically diagnosed the timely standard treatment of confirmed cases to further improve the treatment success rate. This diagnosis criteria revision has been largely recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO).

As Dr Michael Ryan, Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme said at media briefing, the revision allows clinicians to move and report cases more quickly, not having to wait for lab confirmation, ensuring that people get to clinical care more quickly, and also allows public health responses in terms of contact tracing and other important public health measures to be initiated.

According to WHO statistics, there are 447 cases from 24 other countries and two deaths outside China by 13 February. In addition to the death in the Philippines, there is one more death in Japan.

On 12 February, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee convened for the third time to discuss the situation of COVID-19 prevention and control. Chaired by General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee Xi Jinping, the meeting pointed out the importance of addressing the crux of epidemic control by raising hospital admission and cure rates and lowering infection and case fatality rates.

It called for efforts to improve treatment for patients, especially those in severe conditions, by pooling the best medical and technological resources, to carry out timely review of diagnostic and therapeutic solutions and apply the effective ones on a bigger scale, and to step up development of medicines and vaccines.

On the approval of President Xi Jinping, who is also the Chairman of the Communist Party of China's Central Military Commission, Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) sends an additional 2,600 medical personnel to support the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan.

The PLA medical mission covers two hospitals in the city and will operate under the mode of Huoshenshan Hospital, which is the first makeshift hospital established in early February during the epidemic.

By 14 February, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) have dispatched three batches of more than 4,000 medical personnel to Wuhan since the outbreak of the epidemic.



Medical team member Lin Kai (L) bids farewell to his family before leaving for Wuhan of central China's Hubei Province at the Affiliated Union Hospital of Fujian Medical University in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province, on Thursday. (Xinhua)

Solidarity, cooperation indispensable to battle against novel coronavirus

IN the face of public health crisis, all countries should unite as one and cooperate with each other to ride out the storm.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), there has been a growing awareness of the importance of solidarity and cooperation in the international community.

On Feb.4, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres called for strong international solidarity and strong support for China and other countries that might be impacted in the difficult circumstances of the current coronavirus epidemic.

On the same day, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization (WHO) called on all countries to share accurate infor-

mation about the epidemic with WHO and the world.

"We are all in this together, and we can only stop it together," Tedros said, stressing that all countries should work together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation. To work together to fight the epidemic, countries should have a correct understanding of why the WHO declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

In recent years, the WHO has declared multiple outbreaks of epidemic as PHEIC. The aim of such move is to mobilize more international resources to fight epidemic.

In the meantime, the WHO has tried to coordinate actions of various countries by releasing temporary recommendations, intending to avoid overreactions

of some countries.

Restrictions on trade and travel imposed by some countries may increase fear and are of little benefit to public health, according to the WHO, which said it would seek clarification on the reasons for the restrictive measures taken by relevant countries.

The international community should respect the professional and authoritative recommendations of the WHO and devote themselves to fighting the current public health crisis through cooperation.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the Chinese government has taken unprecedented strict prevention and control measures, the standards of which far exceed WHO recommendations and International Health Regulations requirements.

The WHO applauded China for its efforts in combating the epidemic as saying it is setting a new standard for outbreak response.

According to reports, in 2009, the A/H1N1 swine flu originated in the U.S. caused over 1.63 million infection cases, 284,500 deaths, with a mortality rate of 17.4 percent.

With the unremitting efforts of China in fighting the novel coronavirus, the 2019-nCoV mortality rate in China is about 2.1 percent, much lower than that of previous epidemics. Besides, since Feb.1, cured cases of infections began to outnumber deaths.

According to a WHO report on the current epidemic released on Feb.3, there are altogether 153 confirmed cases of infections caused by the novel coronavirus outside China, which is less

than 1 percent of the number in China. The novel coronavirus epidemic has not become a "pandemic", said WHO.

What China has shown the world in tackling the current crisis is the strength of solidarity and cooperation. It is a consensus among the international community that China's efforts have effectively contained the spread of the virus to other countries.

The human race is a whole when facing virus outbreaks, and epidemic is a common challenge confronting mankind. Every time when there is a PHEIC, we see heart-touching scenes of concerted efforts of the international community.

In 2014 when the Ebola virus hit Africa, the international community immediately provided assistance for the countries and regions in need. As the

first among all countries to offer emergency supplies and send medical teams to the affected areas, China was widely praised for its efforts.

After the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, many countries and international organizations have offered support and assistance for China in various ways, saying they share the weal and woe with China.

Burj Khalifa was recently lit up in red in solidarity with China over coronavirus. Equatorial Guinea, the country with a population of only 1.3 million, donated \$2 million to China. In addition, people and enterprises from all over the world have actively donated and transported medical supplies to China. All these efforts have proven that human beings are a community with a shared future.

People's Daily

UN warns increasing desert locust in east Africa, calls for concerted efforts

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned that the desert locust breeding has continued in the Horn of Africa (HoA), causing locusts to increase further in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya with new swarms forming in the coming two months.

"Breeding continues in the Horn of Africa, which will cause locusts to increase further in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya with new swarms forming in March and April.

Consequently, there is an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in the region," the FAO said in its desert locust outbreak update issued late Wednesday. In Ethiopia, maturing swarms were present in eastern and southern areas and additional swarms moved into the Rift Valley from the south and the north.

Egg-laying and hatching are likely to be underway but so far it has not been detected. Aerial and ground control operations continue in most areas, the FAO said.

Noting that the "widespread hatching and band formation of desert locust will occur in the coming weeks in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia," the FAO also stressed that there remains a

risk of a few small swarms appearing in northeast Uganda, southeast South Sudan and perhaps northern Tanzania in the coming days.

According to the FAO, above-normal desert locust breeding also continued along both sides of the Red Sea coast where hopper groups, bands, adult groups and a few swarms are forming on the coastal plains, in which desert locust swarms have continued to appear in the highlands and interior of Yemen amid ongoing progress in control operations in Sudan, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia.

The FAO also stressed that numerous immature and mature swarms have continued to move throughout northern and central areas of Kenya as mature swarms reached within 50-km of the Uganda border on Feb. 6 and other mature swarms nearly reached the Tanzania border on the Feb. 7.

In Somalia, second to fourth hopper bands are present in the northeast of near Somalia's Garowe, while other infestations are likely to be present in the northwest, central and southern areas where breeding is expected to be in progress.

Amid growing desert locust-inflicted food insecurity concern across Horn of Africa countries, mainly Ethi-



opia, Somalia and Kenya, experts and policymakers are calling the international community to exert concerted efforts to contend the dangerous pest.

On Saturday, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had also called for intensified international efforts to deal with a locust outbreak that has affected large parts of the African continent. "The UN has issued an urgent appeal for assistance. I ask the international community to respond with speed and generosity to ensure an effective response and control the

infestation while we still have the chance," Guterres said on the sidelines of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit at the headquarters of the AU in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

The UN chief stressed that the locust swarms affecting many parts of Africa are unprecedented in size and scope, with climate change playing a big part in aggravating the locust crisis. "Today locust swarms are as big as major cities and it's getting worse by the day.

There is also a link between climate change and the unprecedented lo-

cust crisis plaguing Ethiopia and East Africa," Guterres said. "warmer seas mean more cyclones generating the perfect breeding ground for locusts."

As part of the concerted efforts to control the spread of desert locust infestation in the region, the 55-member pan-African, AU, had also last week disclosed that it is working with the FAO to mitigate the effect of desert locust that has significantly affected the East African sub-region, particularly countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

"We have our own regional center for phytosanitary counsel, and we are also working directly with FAO," said Josefa Sacko, AU Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, told a press conference on Friday, as she emphasized that the AU is working with FAO to address the problem and also contain its spread to other countries in the region and beyond. "We really want to make sure that there is no spread in another country like Tanzania, even the other region apart from the East African region, like Uganda. We are really addressing this issue very seriously and on time because when we had a Fall Army worm, we do not address it immediately," the AU Commissioner added.

Xinhua



Barr: Won't be 'bullied' by Trump on Stone case; jurors appalled

WASHINGTON

U.S. Attorney General William Barr said on Thursday that President Donald Trump's attacks on prosecutors, the judge and jurors in the trial of a longtime adviser undermined the Justice Department's work, adding he would not be "bullied" by anyone.

In an ABC interview, Barr (pictured), the country's top law enforcement officer, said Trump's criticism of those involved in the case of Roger Stone "make it impossible for me to do my job." Barr spoke after his Justice Department abandoned prosecutors' initial recommendation to give the veteran Republican operative seven to nine years in prison, prompting all four prosecutors to quit the case.

Trump has weighed in on Twitter all week with comments that have aroused concerns his administration is weakening the rule of law.

"I'm not going to be bullied or influenced by anybody ... whether it's Congress, a newspaper editorial board or the president," Barr said.

"I cannot do my job here at the department with a constant background commentary that undercuts me," Barr said, adding: "I think it's time to stop the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases." The White House said Trump was not bothered by Barr's remarks.

"The President has full faith and confidence in Attorney General Barr to do his job and uphold the law," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

Russia waits for India's order to supply MiG-29K fighters for Vikrant aircraft carrier

MOSCOW

RUSSIA has not yet received any requests from India for the delivery of a new batch of MiG-29K deck-based fighters for the Indian-made aircraft carrier Vikrant, a source in the aircraft-building industry told TASS on Wednesday.

Russia earlier provided all the necessary information to the Indian side on a possible

contract, the source specified.

As the Indian newspaper, The Financial Express, reported earlier, citing India's Defense Minister Sripad Naik, the wait for the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant has been extended "due to issues with the delivery of aviation equipment from Russia."

"Russia is waiting for a request from the Indian Defense Ministry for the delivery of



deck-based MiG-29K fighters for the Vikrant. That is why, it is

not quite correct to claim that the delivery of the aircraft carrier to the Indian Navy is being delayed because of Russia," the source stressed.

The Indian side has not yet issued even a call to bid in a tender for the supply of deck-based aircraft, although the Indian side made the relevant inquiry back in 2017. On Russia's behalf, the state arms seller Rosoboronexport will take part in the tender, the source said.

According to India's plans,

the light aircraft carrier Vikrant is due to be delivered to the Indian Navy in March 2021. The warship is expected to carry up to 14 MiG-29K fighters and several helicopters. Russia earlier delivered a batch of MiG-29K/MiG-29KUB fighter aircraft for the Indian aircraft carrier Vikramaditya (the former heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Admiral Gorshkov).

Agencies

Battle against novel coronavirus epidemic calls for concerted efforts from all

CHINA'S active and effective measures taken to combat the novel coronavirus outbreak have received wide support and praise from the international society.

Leaders from multiple countries and people from various circles showed trust and support for China's efforts to control the epidemic. They called on the international society to cooperate together for an early win over the virus.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Feb. 4 met with representatives of overseas Chinese in Spain, and expressed sympathy and support for the Chinese government and Chinese people over the current epidemic. Sanchez said that the Chinese government has taken timely and forceful measures against the epidemic, and believes in China's capability of winning the battle against the virus.

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered sympathies over the pain and loss inflicted on Chinese families and wished each patient a speedy recovery in his call to Chinese President Xi Jinping. He expressed belief that under President Xi's leadership, China's resolute measures will contain the epidemic and minimize losses.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said China's efforts to contain the epidemic is exemplary, believing that China win-



A staff member works in a laboratory in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, on Thursday.

ning the battle against the coronavirus is just a question of time.

China is the world's second largest economy, so whether the epidemic will have an impact on the development of the Chinese economy is an issue of global concern. It's noteworthy that both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank recently made statement in recognition of the measures taken by China to contain the epidemic, injecting confidence in the future of the Chinese economy.

The World Bank on Feb. 3 said that the Chinese authorities have policy space to respond and have announced a sizeable injection of liquidity, which should help mitigate the costs to economic growth.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on social media that "We support China's efforts to respond, including recent fiscal, monetary, and fi-

ancial actions." She added that the IMF is confident that China's economy remains resilient.

In the era of globalization, countries' destinies are closely knitted. The epidemic is a public enemy of the entire human race, and countries shall join hands to overcome the difficulties amid the public health crisis. Unfortunately, rumors and panic have been fanned up in some countries, and the Chinese people are even being discriminated against and rejected in certain places.

Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres said at a press conference on Feb. 4 that the epidemic situation was growing, and in this situation sometimes it's easy to move into perspectives in which there tends to be discrimination, violation of human rights and stigma on innocent people. He called on the world to avoid the

stigmatization of people that are innocent and that might be victims of that situation.

China is doing all it can to contain the spread of the coronavirus, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, adding that sentiments against China are not helpful at all. Lee stressed that the coronavirus situation should be seen as a public health issue and not as a racial or international diplomatic problem. He called on each country to work with China to get through the challenge.

The world is a whole in front of viruses and epidemics. Human being's battles against the plague, cholera, SARS and Ebola have repeatedly proved that it calls for international cooperation to win the battles against viruses.

"Virus hunter" Walter Ian Lipkin, a professor with Columbia University praised China's active measures to contain the novel coronavirus in a recent interview. He said science has no borders, especially in the era of globalization, and to actively respond to and prepare for the threat of infectious diseases is a mission shared by scientists from all countries.

He stressed that the only way to end the epidemic lies in the joint efforts of all countries in the spirit of unity and cooperation, just like what the WHO suggested.

People's Daily

Kremlin says all proposed constitutional amendments must be discussed further

MOSCOW

NO final decisions have been made on the amendments to the Russian Constitution during Thursday's meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the constitutional amendments working group, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday. He added that all proposed ideas must be discussed further.

"The president has not stated any final position [during the meeting with the working group]," Peskov (pictured) said. "The president said that many ideas are worth considering, however, it is still up for discussion, which of them can be incorporated as constitutional amendments, and which can be implemented in a different manner."

Peskov added that this concerns the issue of enshrining wage indexation in the Russian Constitution. "No decisions have been made on this initiative. No position has been formulated. We need to carry out a legal expertise, a financial expertise, and so on."

The spokesman added that the same could be applied to the voting process: namely, whether Russian citizens would vote for the whole package or for separate amendments. "All these details will be clarified



within the working group," he reiterated.

"This is not the job of the presidential administration. The president has put forward an initiative [to introduce constitutional amendments], then we formed a working group to deal with all these issues in detail."

While delivering his State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly on January 15, Putin proposed a number of constitutional amendments, particularly calling for providing the State Duma with the right to approve the appointment of Russia's prime minister, deputy prime ministers and federal ministers, as well as for holding consultations with the Federation Council (upper house) on the appointment of senior law en-

forcement officials. In addition, the head of state emphasized the need to enshrine the priority of national legislation over international law within Russia's legal space. Some of the other amendments are aimed at strengthening the role of the State Council and regional governments.

The Russian leader also signed an order to create a task force to hammer out constitutional amendments. The task force includes politicians, lawmakers, researchers and public figures.

On January 23, the Russian State Duma approved the first reading of the constitutional amendment bill proposed by the Russian president. The bill stipulates a public vote on constitutional amendments.

China's prevention, control measures against coronavirus well acknowledged at WHO meeting

TEDROS Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), acknowledged the efforts of the Chinese government and people in fighting the pneumonia epidemic while addressing the 146th session of the WHO Executive Board that kicked off in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the meeting, Tedros elaborated on the cooperation between China and the WHO amid the coronavirus, called on all countries to implement decisions that are evidence-based and consistent, and said that the vital importance for all countries is to invest in preparedness, not panic.

The WHO made recommen-

dations that there is no reason for measures that unnecessarily interfere with international travel and trade.

China has taken serious measures at the epicenter, at the source, which not only protected the Chinese people, but also prevented the spread of the virus to other countries, Tedros said, adding that it demonstrated the responsibility, confidence and capabilities of the country.

Outside China, there are 146 confirmed cases in 23 countries, "Instead of spending time on fear and panic, we should say this is the time to prepare," Tedros said. "Because 146 cases, by any standard, is

very low."

"If it weren't for China's efforts, the number of cases outside China would have been very much higher," he said.

The world must support countries with weaker health systems, as well as accelerate the development of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, Tedros pointed out.

The WHO said that the world should also combat the spread of rumors and misinformation, review preparedness plans, identify gaps and evaluate the resources needed to identify, isolate and care for cases, and prevent transmission.

The organization called on all

countries to share data, sequences, knowledge and experience with the WHO and the world.

Tedros said the WHO stands ready to provide advice to any country that is considering which measures to take, and called on all countries to work together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

WHO's spokesperson Tarik Jasarevic reiterated in an interview with People's Daily that the organization does not recommend any measure that unnecessarily interferes with international travel and trade.

At the WHO executive board meeting, many countries spoke highly of China's epidemic preven-

tion work and its contribution to global public health.

The Tanzanian delegate thanked the Chinese government for taking strong measures to control the outbreak quickly, and emphasized that thanks to China's great effort and sacrifice, Africa has so far no confirmed cases.

He said that the next step for African countries is to continue to strengthen prevention measures, hopefully with the support from the WHO and China.

The German delegate appreciated China for having acted quickly against the epidemic, being open and transparent, sharing information in a timely manner and work-

ing closely with the WHO.

The delegate from Singapore praised the Chinese government for sharing the information in a timely manner and unwaveringly controlling the spread of the epidemic, expressing their firm belief that China and the rest of the world will surely overcome the epidemic through cooperation.

The Swiss delegate said that China's prevention, control and treatment measures are exemplary, and that Switzerland is willing to work with the Chinese people to win the fight against the outbreak.

Britain, Australia, Japan, Brazil, Singapore, Israel, Chile, Sri Lanka, the Netherlands, Spain, Myanmar,

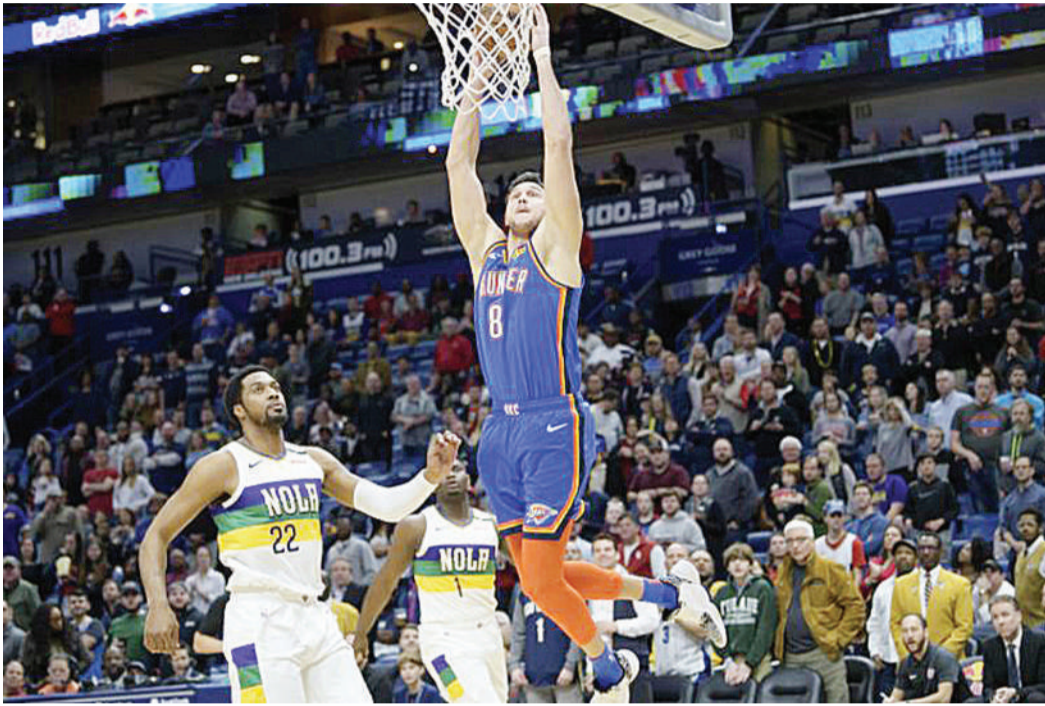
Egypt, Norway, Indonesia, Canada, Denmark, Thailand, Sweden, Montenegro, and Bangladesh have all appreciated highly the measures taken by the Chinese government, calling on the international community to strengthen cooperation and work together to overcome the disease.

The pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus is a common challenge facing the entire world, said Li Song, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland.

People's Daily

SPORT

Tatum scores 39, Celtics hold off Clippers 141-133 in 2OT



Oklahoma City Thunder forward Danilo Gallinari (8) goes up for a dunk next to New Orleans Pelicans center Derrick Favors (22) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. Thunder won 123-118. (AP Photo)

BOSTON

JAYSON Tatum didn't want to smile. But sometimes the moment calls for it.

The Celtics were trailing 124-123 in the final minute of overtime in their back-and-forth slugfest with the Clippers and Tatum found himself defended by Landry Shamet and Montrezl Harrell. Tatum hesitated, sidestepped Shamet, then spun around Harrell for a layup. As the crowd cheered around him, Tatum led out a loud yell, flexing his arms.

The play didn't win the game and gave Tatum just two of the 39 points he scored in Boston's thrilling 141-133 double-overtime win on Thursday night. But it's the latest sign that the first-time All-Star is getting more comfortable as a go-to player.

"I did get a little excited," Tatum said. "I try to be as calm as I can and try to keep a poker face and move on to the next play. But basketball is a game of emotions and the crowd was into it."

Marcus Smart added 31 points and Gordon Hayward finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Kemba Walker had 19 points and nine rebounds. Tatum and Smart combined for 16 of Boston's 27 points in the overtime periods.

The Celtics have won seven straight at home and eight of their last nine overall.

The Clippers played most of the game without Paul George, who left in the second quarter with a left hamstring strain. Lou Williams led Los Angeles with 35 points. Kawhi Leonard had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Harrell finished with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

George played 15 minutes, scoring four points on 2-of-7 shooting before heading to the locker room.

The first meeting between the teams on Nov. 20 was also decided in overtime. The Clippers held on for a 107-104 win.

The Celtics took a 134-130 lead in the second OT on a driving layup by Smart and another by Tatum.

"He's more assertive," Leonard said of Tatum. "They are trusting him and he is trusting himself."

Harrell got a dunk on the Clippers' next trip up the floor. But Hayward responded with a 3 to increase Boston's lead to 137-132.

Tatum was called for an offensive foul, but Hayward blocked a runner by Williams off his body to force the turnover with 55 seconds left.

Hayward hit four free throws in the final minute to help close it out.

Tatum said he left the court feeling relief. "I'm just happy we won," he said. "That would have been tough playing that hard as a team and not coming out with a victory."

The All-Star break comes at a perfect time for both teams as they try to get healthy.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley missed his fourth straight game with a sore right groin. The Celtics played without Jaylen Brown, who has a left calf contusion.

Smart started in place of Brown and scored the Celtics' first 10 points, digging them out of an early 7-0 deficit. Smart and Tatum combined for 24 of Boston's 30 first-quarter points. It helped offset a 15-point opening period by Leonard.

Boston limited Leonard to two points in the second quarter but had no answers on the inside for Harrell, who had 16 points in the first half on 5-of-5 shooting from the field.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he likes his

team's position heading into the break.

"We're good," Rivers said. "We've had a first half of the season where basically we've had more starting lineups than anybody in the league. Our record's pretty solid. We gotta get healthy. That's the key for us. We gotta get healthy."

Meanwhile, in New Orleans, the veteran savvy of Danilo Gallinari and Chris Paul helped Oklahoma City withstand the latest stirring performance by Pelicans rookie Zion Williamson.

Gallinari scored 11 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter. Paul had 14 points and 12 assists, and the Thunder beat New Orleans 123-118 on Thursday night.

"Down the stretch, that's when we feel like we're at our best," Paul said. "It was Gallo tonight. He was killer."

Williamson set his new single-game scoring mark with 32 points for New Orleans, his second straight game scoring more than 30, but Gallinari's clutch shooting kept the Pelicans at bay.

New Orleans, which trailed by as many as 13 points in the third quarter, rallied behind Williamson's dominant inside play to take several slim leads inside the final six minutes.

But after Lonzo Ball's corner 3 gave the Pelicans a 111-110 lead, Gallinari hit a fall-away in the paint and followed up by rattling in a 3. He added free throws and a left-wing pull-up in the final minutes, the last making it 121-115 with 30 seconds left.

"They just have a way of hanging in games and closing them," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "They made plays down the stretch and we just didn't."

Dennis Schroder scored 22 points for the Thunder and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 17 points. Thunder center Steven Adams capped his 11-point, 11-rebound, three-block night with a clutch jumper in the paint that made it 119-114.

"We had a lot of guys step up in different moments," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "We found a way to make enough plays there at the end."

JJ Redick scored 24 points for the Pelicans, who saw their three-game winning streak snapped in a compelling, highlight-filled contest that saw 22 lead changes and 12 ties.

Both teams shot better than 48%, but New Orleans was done in by 17 turnovers that the Thunder converted into 24 points. Oklahoma City committed just nine turnovers.

"With a leader like Chris Paul, he's facilitating their offense and they were hitting shots, and we just had self-inflicted turnovers," said Williamson, who committed three turnovers.

For much of the game, Williamson delighted the crowd on both ends of the floor. He rejected Abdel Nader's floater in the paint with a volleyball-style spike out of play. His dunks included one on a putback and another on an alley-oop feed from Frank Jackson.

Paul had nine of his assists in the opening two quarters, the last of those coming in a rather unusual way. Paul unloaded the ball to Adams in the back court in the final seconds of the half, and Adams hurled the ball right into the hoop from 56 feet.

The shot, which gave the Thunder a 66-58 lead, was the first 3-pointer of Adams' career. He celebrated it with a brief, smiling shimmy before jogging with teammates toward the tunnel to the locker room.

AP

Mainland Premier League golden boot season and renewed complaints

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

AS the season comes to its pre-climax weeks, where there is no longer much contest either about the champion or even the likely golden boot winner, plenty is coming up in sports media talk shows that sound rather familiar. But there is a penchant to it that is always fresh and even new, that no one remembers what was said the previous year and thus the arguments look new, as reasoned opinions of sports observers, not a familiar digest of the sports lobby.

And it is only just beginning as the sentiments will be modified as the league climax approaches.

Of late some pundits in sports talk shows have started wondering why foreign players or professionals as they are usually called monopolize the golden boot honors. There was a list sounded out of golden boots since nine or ten years ago of the premier league and only two local players had attained that rank so far - Simon Msuva and John Bocco.

The more outstanding professionals from this side of the show, Mbwana Samatta and Thomas Ulimwengu, to an extent, didn't feature in the top list, and indeed the four remain our best known international players so far.

What strikes any listener in the discussions is that they proceed from an unrealistic point of view, as the debate is why it is foreign players who take the golden boot and not local players, an illogical question. The point is that they take the golden boot because they were recruited from other countries to fill gaps in obtaining local players filling the coaches do's and don'ts in tactics, etc.

In that sense they take the golden boot as they are better than the locally recruited, or at least believed to be better than most players available locally - and not all foreign recruits make it.

A good number of foreign players have stayed for a single season despite having had two year contracts to start with, and mostly they failed to put up with the sort of expectations leading to their being recruited. At the same time



Polisi Tanzania's striker, Mohamed Kassim (L), challenges Azam FC's Bruce Kangwa in a Vodacom Premier League match, held in Dar es Salaam mid this week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

most recruiting is evidently well thought out, so there is no regret in paying good salaries to players like Medi Kegere at present or Emmanuel Okwi in the past, or Kipre Tchetchche more distantly.

If there was a player that good, why wouldn't Nkana Red Devils come for him, Moroka Swallows or the famed TP Mazembe? What is it at issue?

The notion of 'local players' is illogical and discriminatory as it fails to see that they are 'local players' who have so far not obtained buyers or seekers outside, and unavoidably most of them will never get such buyers.

A former golden boot winner illustrates the point, namely John Bocco, who obtained a team and then he was compelled to return after a not so long spell outside. Less noticeably so is Thomas Ulimwengu, who has succeeded at TP Mazembe but could not muster the skills to keep a position in European non-premier league clubs, and is back there.

But not all 'local players' tend to fail or find it difficult to remain on top range if they

are recruited outside, where the cases of Samatta and Msuva are particularly outstanding. Samatta has been an engine of success wherever he has been, and is lately trying to help Aston Villa FC from relegation, and will remain with his strike partner Jack Grealish up to the end of the season, before the latter shifts to his idol club, Manchester United.

Msuva was picked from Difaa al Jadida in Morocco to Benfica in Portugal, more or less like Samatta's shift to Belgium, but was on loan to Panathinaikos in Greece as he could not muster a position at the Portuguese giants. But still he is good, such that the Greek steam rollers obtained him on loan.

In that sense pundits should stop this populist street labeling of local versus foreign players as it doesn't make sense, now that all good local players find teams outside, and those who are even better are recruited in premier leagues sides in Europe.

Those who 'remain behind' are definitely not as good as those who move out, and those whom local clubs recruit from

outside concomitantly tend to be much better than most local players, as otherwise clubs wouldn't use small those small fortunes to register professionals if they did not need them. In what manner then do pundits expect that the not-so-good local players will play to the same standards at the foreign recruits? And clearly, it isn't all foreign recruits that shine.

So there is nothing surprising that foreign professional recruits tend to play better football than their supposed local counterparts, as they don't have counterparts to be explicit but team mates. The counterpart of Medi Kegere in Simba SC is say Thomas Ulimwengu at TP Mazembe, who shined enough to get other teams but his skills are best appreciated at the Lumbumbashi outfit, not in Austria or elsewhere.

And at the same time the most successful professional player in the local league, Okwi is admittedly not yet an equivalent of Samatta. How about that for a change?

Tokyo, IOC officials reiterate that the Olympics are on

TOKYO

TOKYO Olympic organizers reiterated their message on Thursday at the start of two days of meetings with the International Olympic Committee: The 2020 Games will not be waylaid by the virus that is spreading from neighboring China.

"I would like to make it clear again that we are not considering a cancellation or postponement of the games. Let me make that clear," organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori said, speaking through an interpreter to dozens of top IOC officials gathered in Tokyo.

The Olympics open in just over five months, and the torch relay begins next month in Japan - a clear signal the games are getting close.

Japan reported its first death from the coronavirus on Thursday, a development that will add to the jitters among organizers and IOC officials. Japan has confirmed almost 250 cases, including 218 from a cruise ship quarantined at the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Sitting among the IOC officials this time was Dr. Richard Budgett, the IOC's medical and scientific director who does not always travel for these inspection visits.

Last week Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, said he was "seriously worried that the spread of the infectious disease could throw cold water on the momentum toward the games."

He backed down a day later and said he was confident the games would go forward, which is the message this time.

On Wednesday, the virus forced the cancellation of a Formula One race set for April in Shanghai, which draws more than 100,000 over a race weekend.

The Hong Kong and Singapore rounds of the World Rugby Sevens Series were rescheduled from April to October on Thursday, with organizers saying the decision was taken "in response to continued health concerns relating to"



In this Jan. 29, 2020, file photo, a tourist wearing a mask poses for a photo with the Olympic rings in the background, at Tokyo's Odaiba district. Tokyo Olympic organizers repeated their message at the start of two days of meetings with the IOC: this summer's games will not be cancelled or postponed by the coronavirus spreading neighboring China. (AP Photo)

the outbreak of the virus. Also, the SportAccord conference, an event with close ties to the Olympic movement, will not take place in Beijing in April as scheduled, organizers said Thursday.

The virus has also wiped out the indoor world track and field championships in Nanjing, golf tournaments, soccer matches, and almost all sports in China, including Olympic qualifying events. It is also keeping Chinese athletes from traveling to qualify, which could put their

presence in Tokyo in jeopardy. Saburo Kawabuchi, a former Olympian and the so-called mayor of the Olympic Village that will house 11,000 athletes and thousands more staff members, suggested Tokyo's hot and humid summer would stop the virus.

"The biggest concern is the coronavirus and the infection," he said, speaking in Japanese. "Currently we don't have any clue when this issue will be resolved. Based on various pieces of information we receive, it seems that this

virus is not as strong as the influenza virus. The virus is susceptible to humidity and heat. In Japan, we have the rainy season which could defeat the virus."

John Coates, an IOC member who heads the regular inspection visits to Tokyo, said he expected to receive reports on the virus from the Japanese government, the Tokyo city government, and local organizers in order to see the "necessary precautions that are being taken."

AP

Pele dismisses talk of depression: 'I am good'

RIO DE JANEIRO

FORMER Brazil striker Pele dismissed talk he is depressed and reclusive on Thursday and assured fans he is doing well and maintaining a busy schedule.

Pele's son Edinho told Brazilian outlet Globo in an interview published on Monday that the three-times World Cup winner was depressed and reluctant to leave his house because he cannot get around properly due to hip problems.

"I am good," said Pele, who will be 80 in October. "I continue to accept my physical limitations in the best way possible but I intend to keep the ball rolling."

"I have good days and bad days. That is normal for people of my age. I am not afraid, I am determined, confident in what I do."

Pele, widely considered to be one of the greatest footballers in history, is the only player to win three World Cups.

He has suffered from hip trouble for years and cannot walk unaided. Many of his most recent public appearances have been in a wheelchair.

However, friends of the former



Santos and New York Cosmos player said this January was one of his busiest in years.

He did photos shoots and sponsorship work and he is cooperating with a British director making a documentary about his footballing life.

"I am not avoiding fulfilling the commitments in my always busy schedule," Pele said in his statement.

This summer will mark the 50th anniversary of his third World Cup title, won in Mexico in 1970 with what many rate the greatest team of all time.

(Agencies)

'Unacceptable' Klinsmann axed from Hertha board

BERLIN

JURGEN Klinsmann will not return to his role on Hertha Berlin's supervisory board, with primary investor Lars Windhorst labelling the manner of his departure "unacceptable."

Klinsmann, 55, left his position as Hertha head coach on Tuesday, just 76 days into his tenure, which was due to last until the end of the season. His move left the Bundesliga club stunned.

The former United States head coach was made Hertha's interim coach in late November, less than a month after being appointed to the supervisory board by Windhorst, who wanted sporting expertise for a €224 million investment he made into the club.

Following a turbulent 48 hours since Klinsmann announced his resignation on Facebook, Windhorst told a news conference on Thursday the former Bayern Munich boss would not return to the board.

"I regret that Jurgen Klinsmann left us abruptly. I talked to him on the phone, and he apologised for it. He's very sorry," Windhorst said. "But, sadly, the way he left, he won't be able to return to the supervisory board. The manner of his departure was unacceptable."

The businessman added that he was sorry the club and Klinsmann could not agree on a long-term partnership. "Also because of the sponsors," Windhorst said, and later explained that Klinsmann

also felt sorry for his "knee-jerk reaction."

He added: "You can do that as a teenager, but not in the business world. His name resounded internationally. And we were really close to landing new sponsors."

On Wednesday, Klinsmann went live on Facebook and hinted at a power struggle with sporting executive Michael Preetz over the coach's responsibilities. Klinsmann wanted more power when he entered talks over a long-term future as the Hertha coach, and the sporting executive was not willing to hand it to him.

Klinsmann also said that he had not signed a contract in his 76 days at Hertha. On Thursday, Hertha president Werner Gegenbauer said that was not the case. "We had an oral agreement since Nov. 27 and a head coach contract since Dec. 2," he said.

Preetz, a former Bundesliga player, added that he had not experienced anything like this in his 34 years in the business.

On the power struggle, he added: "There was a substantial disagreement over the responsibilities of a head coach. Klinsmann's approach, already in the past when we loosely talked about him coaching Hertha, always was that he wants to decide everything."

"But there must always be someone who has the last word. At this club, those persons are [finance executive] Ingo Schiller and me. And that's not negotiable."

(Agencies)

Zidane takes selfie with man after car accident

MADRID

A MAN took a selfie with Zinedine Zidane moments after the Real Madrid coach accidentally hit him with his car on Saturday.

Zidane was on his way to training Saturday morning when he hit an Audi driven by furniture shop owner Ignacio Fernandez, who was in front of him and had stopped at a roundabout near Valdebebas, Madrid.

"As soon as I saw him, I recognised him and told him I would have liked to have met you under different circumstances, but this one isn't too bad," Fernandez told newspaper La Voz de Galicia. "I told him if he

could take a selfie because people would not believe that Zidane had hit me.

"And very kindly, he said yes. He took his hat off and we took a photograph. I also told him that we could settle it by exchanging the cars, but that didn't fly."

The Frenchman's agent later called Fernandez and told him: "Zidane was very grateful as he was going to training and was in a hurry so he was thankful that I had not asked for autographs, jerseys and tickets."

However, that isn't something Fernandez was looking for, as he added: "The truth is I'm not very interested in football."

(Agencies)

Liverpool look to extend lead as top-four battle recommences

LONDON

LIVERPOOL are expected to take another step towards clinching a long-awaited Premier League title at bottom-of-the-table Norwich, while behind the runaway leaders the battle for Champions League places takes centre stage this weekend.

The Reds can extend their mammoth 22-point lead over Manchester City at Carrow Road on Saturday as they aim to not only win the league for the first time in 30 years, but smash the record books in the process.

Jurgen Klopp's men have dropped just two points all season and are on a run of 16 consecutive league wins.

That march towards the title began on the opening night of the season when Norwich visited Anfield and were 4-0 down inside 42 minutes.

An injury to Alisson Becker was the one big concern of that victory for Klopp as the Brazilian was sidelined for two months.

After taking some time to get back to his best form, Alisson has saved 26 of the last 27 shots he has faced, with Liverpool racking up an aggregate score of 23-1 in that time.

"We want to win the title and for winning the title, you need to win everything," Alisson told Premier League Productions.

"The way we play, you need to enjoy that because if you don't enjoy that then you cannot play all the games with our intensity."

A massive 55 points separate



Number One: Liverpool's Alisson Becker has kept nine clean sheets in his last 10 Premier League games (AFP Photo)

Norwich from the champions-elect with the Canaries seven points adrift of safety.

Daniel Farke's men desperately need to start turning good performances into points to beat the drop.

However, they have shown an ability to upset the odds with one of their four league wins this season

coming against Manchester City.

- Rodgers welcomes a rest -

For a long time, Leicester were Liverpool's closest challengers at the top of the table, but the Foxes' form before a two-week winter break had faded with just one win in four league games.

An eight-match winning streak earlier in the season means Brendan Rodgers's men still have a 10-point cushion in the race for a Champions League place and can even move back up to second with victory at Wolves on Friday.

And Rodgers is hoping a fortnight's rest, without any overseas training camp, will have been the perfect tonic to recharge his side for the run-in.

"There's improvements to be made, no doubt," said the former Liverpool boss. "We will now regain a bit of stability."

"We're all fresh ahead of this final third of the season."

Wolves have also suffered a mid-season dip with one win from their last six league games, albeit two of those fixtures were against Liverpool.

Nuno Espirito Santo's side have fallen behind Sheffield United, Tottenham, Everton and Manchester United in the battle for the top four and need to return to winning ways on Friday to remain in the hunt.

- Man Utd make Ighalo wait -

Chelsea remain in pole position for fourth place despite a run of four wins in their last 13 league games.

The Blues' lead over Tottenham could be down to a single point,

though, by the time they entertain Manchester United on Monday if Spurs win at Aston Villa on Sunday.

Chelsea boss Frank Lampard claimed that Tottenham and Manchester United's January transfer spending meant his side are now "underdogs" to hold onto fourth.

However, victory over United on Monday at Stamford Bridge would give Chelsea a nine-point cushion over the Red Devils.

The visitors could give a debut to new striker Odion Ighalo, even though the Nigerian has been denied the opportunity to train with his new teammates due to fears over the coronavirus.

Ighalo is on loan from Chinese club Shanghai Shenhua and did not travel to United's warm weather training camp in Spain due to fears he would be denied re-entry to the United Kingdom if restrictions on travellers who had been in China within the past two weeks were tightened.

The 30-year-old has even been training away from United's training ground in Manchester until completing a 14-day quarantine period.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today
Southampton v Burnley (1230),
Norwich v Liverpool (1730)

Tomorrow
Aston Villa v Tottenham (1400),
Arsenal v Newcastle (1630)

Monday
Chelsea v Manchester United (2000)

AFP

How Ighalo's transfer to Manchester United happened in 8 hours

BY COLIN UDOH, SPECIAL TO ESPN

SHANGHAI Shenhua striker Odion Ighalo almost failed to get his dream transfer to Manchester United on the Jan. 31 deadline day -- a few minutes later, and he could have been at a rival Premier League club instead -- but once things started to move, they did so at lightning pace. A frenetic night of talks spanning Norway, England and China saw it take just eight hours from the first phone call to the final contract signing for United to land the 30-year-old on loan.

The man at the centre of it all was not Ighalo himself but his agent, Atta Aneke, the Norwegian-Nigerian who has managed the former Super Eagles striker since his transfer to Lyn in 2007, then through permanent moves to Udinese in Italy, Watford in England and finally Changchun Yatai and Shanghai Shenhua in China.

With just over a week to go until the end of the January transfer window, and with Manchester United still in desperate need of a striker, Aneke said he contacted the club with his client's availability for a loan.

"I reached out to Manchester United about him maybe a week prior to the transfer deadline," Aneke told ESPN. "We spoke at first; they asked some questions and got some info about him. But I never heard back from them again after that. The day before deadline day, I felt there wasn't going to be any deal because I was picking up from a fellow agent that they were chasing some other player."

Aneke, of course, briefed his client on the situation, given he is a self-confessed United fan. This was in the early days of the coronavirus outbreak and there were reports of some players wanting to leave China, but Aneke says Ighalo was not among them.

"Actually, he wasn't really looking to leave, to be honest," he added. "He was quite OK. Preseason was on. There was never a discussion that we needed to make something happen this window. He's always been fine in China and enjoying his time there."

"So it needed something like this [United's interest] to make him want to leave because there's been many loan offers all the time and teams wanting him to come. Even when I contacted United, I gave him a hint earlier that I was speaking to them and they seemed interested. He was a bit excited but not overexcited. That is how it is in football. There are so many rumours in football. Knowing it came from me, he knew there was truth in it, but he wasn't overexcited because you know the game. If you



Odion Ighalo

get excited every time a club reaches out, you're going to get a lot of disappointment."

The other player that United were keen to sign is now known to have been Bournemouth's Josh King, a former youth player at Old Trafford. It was only when the King deal fell through that Aneke was surprised by a call from United, late on deadline-day afternoon.

"When I got the final confirmation, it was past 4 p.m. Norwegian time. So I had less than eight hours to get this all done," he said. "Also, when they called me, it was 11 p.m. in Shanghai."

I was like, 'How are we possibly going to make this happen now with all the paperwork that has to be done between the clubs and everything?' At that point I was a bit worried, to be honest. I did not think we would get it all done on time to beat the deadline."

Aneke called Ighalo, who had to wake up his translator in China and then go in search of the Shanghai Shenhua sporting director. That is when they ran into a stroke of good fortune: The sporting director was not in bed. He was working.

"Luckily the sporting director was up working

because they were negotiating a loan move to another Premier League side [reported to be Tottenham Hotspur]," Aneke said. "Otherwise, it would have been difficult to get hold of him and that may have cost us valuable time."

At that point, Ighalo put a stop to everything else -- even when it appeared there was more money on the table from elsewhere. Aneke said: "He was the one that said: 'I really want to do this.' He said: 'I don't really care if the other teams are offering more, I just want to go to Man United.' He told me: 'Just make it hap-

pen."

Working feverishly late into the night to get the deal done, Aneke says the successful conclusion was simultaneously a relief and the crowning moment of his career as a player representative.

"It was a big relief. Since day one, he [Ighalo] told me that this was his dream. To play for Manchester United one day," he said. "To take a player to such a club, not the financial side but more the joy of doing a transfer like this, is really fulfilling. So this is the biggest one for me."

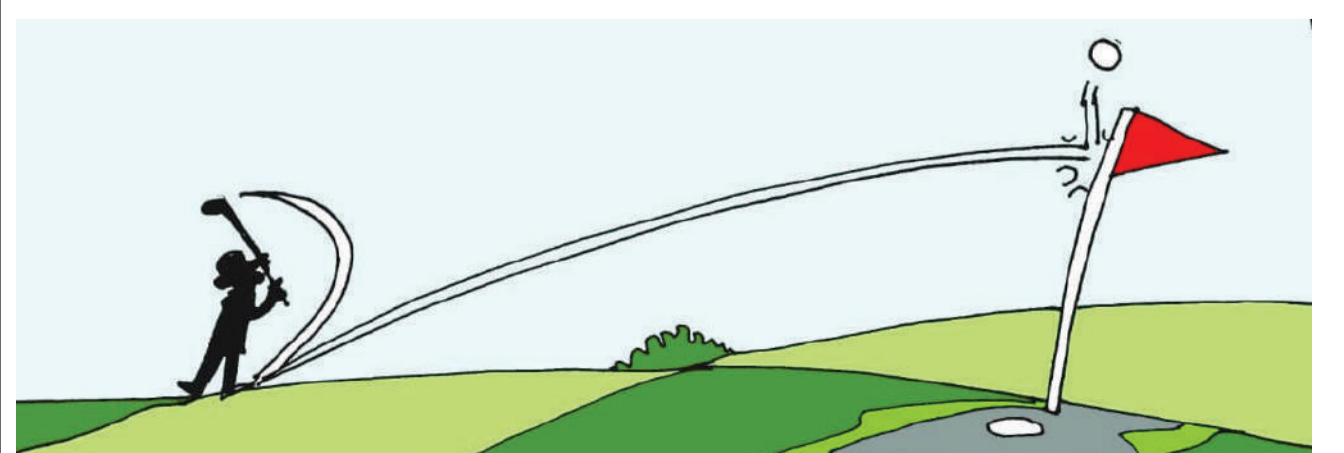
Aneke, who also manages other stars including Heerenveen's Chidera Ejuke in the Dutch league, says there is a lesson for players who change agents with alarming regularity.

"It's also a good thing as it shows players you don't have to switch agents every year to make it to the top," Aneke added. "He's been loyal and we have had a great working relationship for 13 years now."

"It is so easy to get carried away in the football world, and so many people promise players so many things. Just to look at his career, the kind of places he's gone, and the kind of money he has made and he's still kept his personality, staying the same Odion. It's remarkable to see."

Childhood dream achieved, Ighalo will now be keen to show the United fans how much it means to him to wear the famous red shirt. And if his goals can help Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side to turn things around, then all the hard work to get the deal done will have been well worth it.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool look to extend lead as top-four battle recommences

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Lockie Ferguson

Twiga Stars hammer Mauritania in UNAF women competition

By Guardian Reporter

SENIOR national women soccer squad, Twiga Stars, have clobbered Mauritania 7-0 in the opening clash of a competition organized by the Union of North Africa Football Federations (UNAF), which took place in Tunisia yesterday afternoon.

Twiga Stars are the guest team in the competition, which involves nations that are members of the UNAF.

Twiga Stars were in great form in the match, easily tormenting their seemingly weak opponents to eventually come out with the emphatic victory.

The visitors had already posted the seven goals in the first period of the duel, which was played at Kram venue.

Amina Ally, Opa Clement and Eneka Kasonga drilled in a goal each, whereas fellow players, Kadosho Shekigenda and Mwanahamisi Om-

ary, notched two goals apiece for the eventual winners.

The event serves as platform for Twiga Stars, mostly made up of youngsters who also feature in the national U-20 team, to stay in great shape and excel in the FIFA U-20 World Cup qualifiers.

Twiga Stars' head coach, Bakari Shime, pointed out his squad needs a series of competitive encounters in an effort to help the team gain experience.

He thanked Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for doing its best to help the team get the opportunity to participate in the tournament.

The coach pointed out TFF officials did all they could to get the opportunity given the squad needs to regularly play competitive games.

He moreover noted he was hopeful his squad will start the tournament well.

Fullback Esther Mabanza, a member of the Tanzania team, pointed out

she is confident they will post good results in the competition.

In yesterday's other duel, Morocco took on Tunisia in a duel that was set to kick off shortly thereafter.

Algeria, Morocco, Egypt and hosts Tunisia are as well taking part in the tournament.

Twiga Stars consist of Tausi Abdallah, Eneka Kasonga, Juliet Singano, Happy Hezron, Fatuma Issa, Fatuma Hassan, Amina Ally, Mwanahamisi Omary, Pheromena Daniel, Asha Hamza, Eva Jackson, Zubeda Mgunda, Aisha Masaka, Violet Machelala, Asha Rashid, Anastazia Katunzi, Fatuma Hatibu, Esther Mabanza, Opa Clement, Diana Lucas.

The first edition of the North Africa competition was played in 2009 in Tunisia and only three teams, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt, participated.

Tunisia laid their hands on the top honour in the maiden tournament with victory over Algeria in the final.



Senior national women football team 'Twiga Stars' forward, Opa Clement (R), dribbles past Mauritania player during a Union of North Africa Football Federations (UNAF) women tournament's clash which was played in Tunisia yesterday. PHOTO: TFF

New Zealand's Ferguson not expecting to make India test series

WELLINGTON

FAST bowler Lockie Ferguson is not expecting to be picked in New Zealand's test squad on Monday for the series against India as he recovers from a calf injury that ruined his debut against Australia late last year.

Ferguson broke down after bowling just 11 overs in the first test in Perth and has been working his way back to fitness for Auckland in domestic cricket.

He expects to play New Zealand's domestic one-day final on Sunday and indicated the limited overs series against Australia in March was a more realistic target for his international return.

"Of course the goal is for me to get back as soon as possible, but there is so much cricket coming up this year," he told Stuff Media in Auckland on Friday.

"We've got a lot of white-ball stuff and I head away to the IPL as well, so it's important with a calf injury, where there's a high percentage chance of re-injury, that we be conservative.

"Sunday's my focus and then I'll be looking to play some first-class cricket."

Despite making his test debut last December, Ferguson is realistically fifth in the pecking order behind the established trio of Trent Boult, Tim Southee and Neil Wagner and then Matt Henry.

Boult broke his hand in Australia but trained with the national side earlier this week in Mt. Maunganui before they wrapped up a 3-0 sweep in the one-day series over India and should play the first test that starts on Feb. 21 in Wellington.

"It's not an easy side to make, the New Zealand test side," Ferguson added. "Not that it's easy to make any of the sides, but they've been exceptional for so long, and especially the fast-bowling attack, that's been very settled for a long time."

He also acknowledged that despite being considered as more of a limited overs bowler at the international level, he was still motivated to play the longest form of the game.

"Since I started playing professional cricket, it has been my goal to play test cricket, because personally I feel that's the biggest challenge," he said.

"I am obviously super stoked to be playing one-dayers and T20s for New Zealand, I love every moment of it, but playing red-ball has been a big goal of mine.

"On the day it wasn't to be (in Perth), I only got through 11 overs, and it was really frustrating.

"But it's one of those things. When you bowl quick, injuries can sometimes happen."

REUTERS

5 EATV MONDAY **TONIGHT @ 9:30**

5Sports

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5LEKT
17:55 Kuraza
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

5Sports
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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planef Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Extradited 'Hansiegate' bookmaker in custody, say Delhi police

NEW DELHI

DELHI police have said London-based Indian bookmaker Sanjeev Chawla, who has been accused of involvement in a 2000 match-fixing scandal involving former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje, is in custody following his extradition from Britain.

The police have been seeking Chawla's extradition since naming him in their 2013 charge-sheet along with four others.

A local court has ordered Chawla, who arrived in India on Thursday, to remain in police custody for 12 days, a senior crime branch officer of the Delhi Police said in a statement.

The 2000 scandal, dubbed 'Hansiegate', opened the cricket world's eyes to the dangers of match-fixing, former joint commissioner KK Paul, who led the probe in 2000, told the Hindustan Times newspaper.

"This case was important for many reasons," he said after Chawla's arrival in India.

"It exposed the extent of match-fixing. Many had refused to believe such a thing could happen."

Delhi Police had been probing an unrelated extortion case when they stumbled upon a tape that eventually led to the unearthing of a scandal that rocked the game.

After initially denying fixing charges, Cronje confessed his role to an inquiry commission in South Africa. He was subsequently banned for life but died in a plane crash in 2002.

REUTERS

Flexibles by David Chikoko

I AM THE PROSECUTOR, JUDGE, JURY AND WITNESS...
AND WHO ARE YOU BY THE WAY?



REUTERS