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Samia: Covid-19 real, so take precautions

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday declared that Covid-19 is a real health challenge at

present, calling upon Tanzanians to take precautions recommended by health experts.

Addressing members of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC)

who hosted her in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the president said that health experts have briefed her that the disease is widespread and must be fought.

"In my recent tour of Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital (in Dar es Salaam), I went to one of the wards and the doctor there told me that the patients had difficulties

in breathing," she said. "I wanted to know if that was Covid-19 and the doctor said it was so," she told the gathering.

Without mentioning figures, the

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses members of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, which brings together all Catholic Church bishops in the country, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: State House

Forest officer in trouble after illegally evicting villagers

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has suspended Silayo forest farm officer in Chato District, Geita Region, Thadeus Shirima for conducting an unauthorized operation to relocate people from their areas.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the minister said the area's residents had lost their properties including houses and farms, causing unnecessary panic across the area.

The manager was suspended to pave the way for investigations, as the minister moved to form a committee to probe the issue and report to him within 14 days.

The ministry had received complaints from the Bukombe MP and other lawmakers who expressed their dismay over the illegal operation, he stated, further noting that he had instructed the permanent secretary to appoint another officer to replace him.

"Operations are supposed to be there but they should observe regulations and directives. This person decided to conduct an operation without consulting even the permanent secretary was not aware of that exercise," he affirmed.

Removing people without consulta-

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High Court overturns Mbowe conviction, fine to be returned

By Guardian Reporter

THE High Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday overturned last year's conviction of the main opposition CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe (pictured) and eight other people.

Judge Irvin Mgeta ordered that the nine be refunded a total of 350m/- they paid in fines to avoid going to jail.

In March last year, the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's court found

the nine politicians guilty of 12 counts related to conspiracy to commit offences, unlawful assembly, rioting after proclamation, raising discontent and ill-will for unlawful purposes, sedition and incitement. The material events took place in February 2018 in Dar es Salaam

Judge Mgeta said that there were weaknesses in scrutinizing prosecution witnesses by the lower court, noting that the conviction and consequent sentencing was

below the threshold of justice being seen to have been done.

For instance, with regard to unlawful assembly, the judge said the appellants produced documentary evidence that CHADEMA was indeed authorized to congregate at Buibui grounds in Dar es Salaam.

"CHADEMA had a lawful assembly at Buibui grounds and the prosecution failed to prove that appellants were involved in illegal assembly," he stated.



"Prosecution witnesses identified the accused persons while they were in remand prison," he further noted:

"I have gone through a video clip of the event and concluded that it was a peaceful demonstra-

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MPs named representatives to regional forums

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai yesterday asked MPs chosen to

represent the House in international law making bodies that they must stand by the Tanzania's interests in the conduct of their duties of representation.

The Speaker sounded this caution when officiating at the listing of legislators voted by the House represent it in regional and Commonwealth forums like the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF),

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Great Lakes Union.

He reminded the MPs that they were not joining those international bodies in their individual capacity and interests but that they are going to represent fellow MPs and Tanzanians at large. "So before you stand up and say anything you must first ask yourself if the matter is in the interest of the country," he stated.

"If you are not sure contact us because and will provide you



So before you stand up and say anything you must first ask yourself if the matter is in the interest of the country," he stated.

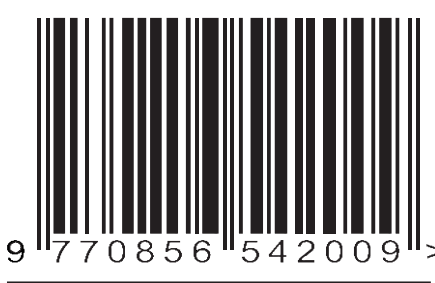
everything you wanted to say, be it notices or documents. We will also consult the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for any assistance in case you need something," he further noted.

"Don't go there and start talking about yourselves. Even if you are completely free, don't say that the Speaker has tied your hands, as long as all agendas are presented within the national in-

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Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro



High Court overturns Mbowe conviction, fine to be returned

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tion because demonstrators raised their hands up and demanded that their party agents be given official letters for an election that was to take place the next day," he pointed out.

The judge said he realised from the clip that it was the police who started the mayhem after lobbing teargas on peaceful demonstrators.

As for sedition and incitement, the judge faulted Principal Resident Magistrate Thomas Simba who delivered the ruling, saying he applied the wrong precedent and ended up with wrong conviction.

The magistrate had cited Hussein Kasanga verses the Republic, of 1974.

"In that case, Kasanga was charged of inciting hatred against then President Julius Nyerere and his party TANU; but in this one it was not shown that Mbowe and others incited hatred against who," he said.

He said the Kasanga case was a wrong precedent because it took place during a single party system while this one happened during the multiparty system "where politicians have greater freedom while on appropriate platforms."

Apart from Mbowe, others convicted and fined are former CHADEMA Secretary General Dr Vincent Mashinji, current Secretary General John Mnyika, Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar) Salum Mwalimu and then Iringa Urban MP Peter Msigwa.

Others were then Tarime Urban MP Esther Matiko, then Kawe MP Halima Mdee, then Bunda MP Esther Bulaya and then Tarime Rural MP John Heche.

The appeal was lodged by all but Dr Mashinji. However, in his judgment yesterday, Judge Mgeta said he also benefited from the quashing of the ruling by the lower court.

Mashinji alongside Mwalimu, Mnyika and Matiko, were found guilty of three counts and each was fined 30m/- . Heche, Msigwa, Mdee and Bulaya were each slapped with a fine of 40m/- while Mbowe was fined paid 70m/-



Commissioner General of Immigration Dr Anna Makakala (C) takes part in the construction of a building for the Immigration Department's headquarters in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Samia: Covid-19 real, so take precautions

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Head of State said that there were all indications to show that the third wave of the pandemic has attacked parts of the community, calling upon clerics to join in government efforts in curbing Covid-19 spread by reminding their followers to take precautions.

President Samia asserted that clerics must mobilize prayers in churches and mosques for the Almighty God to rescue the nation from the pandemic.

"I know that you have powers of relaying messages to your believers. I there-

fore call upon you to take time to remind them to wear masks, wash hands with soap or alcohol-based hand rubs and keep safe distances in public gatherings," she urged.

In the speech, the president repeatedly cited Biblical verses to underline her expectations in the meeting and buttressing positions she took in responding to issues raised in welcoming remarks by Archbishop Gervas Nyaisonga, president of the episcopal conference.

Samia assured the clerics that the government shall work on the challenges

facing faith-based institutions to improve service delivery to communities.

"I have noted all the highlighted challenges. Together with my cabinet ministers and experts in the government we will review each of them to see how we can assist you especially on tax reductions and exemptions."

Community service institutions established by TEC have contributed a lot in improving people's welfare and provision of education, the president.

The TEC president called on the government to refer to agreements reached

between faith-based institutions and the government as reviews and amendments made by the government in 2016 raised challenges that faith-based institutions face when executing their daily work.

"Law amendments in 2016 resulted in putting our institutions to debts caused by unpredictable taxes and interest charges," the archbishop affirmed.

Delayed payment of subsidies to health facilities such as the Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) also affects the facility's service delivery capacity, he added.



Dar City Mayor faults red-tape

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM City Mayor Omari Kumbilamoto (pictured) has urged the government to eradicate bureaucracy in the energy sector to attract more investors from inside and outside the country to invest in the lucrative area.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the seminar on wastes and energy Kumbilamoto said that there are several companies that have interest in investing in the sector but face a lot of setbacks from some of the government's institutions.

"We profoundly need investors in our city, there are more than six million residents in Dar es Salaam who produce 4600 tonnes of waste, so investing in technology to turn the waste into energy is paramount," he said.

According to him, if the government will improve the area and address bureaucracy in its institutions, the city will be cleaner and attractive.

Kumbilamoto called on the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco)

to enter into partnership with various private companies so as to facilitate production of power through wastes.

He was echoed by the Unguja North Regional Commissioner Ayoub Mohamed Mahmudu who said that Zanzibar also has several investment opportunities in the energy and tourism sectors which are yet to be fully exploited.

"If the technology to transform waste into energy comes to Zanzibar, it will contribute highly to the stable supply of power as well as stimulate economic growth," he said.

According to him, Unguja gets power from Dar es Salaam while Pemba Island depends on the Tanga Region.

The event was organized by a Swiss-based Eco-Waste Holdings with support from Swiss embassy in the country.

Didier Chassot, Swiss ambassador in the country said they will continue working closely with the government to stimulate development in various areas including the energy sector.

Journalist Mkinga Mkinga honoured

By Guardian Reporter

A cross-section of government leaders and media practitioners have described the late Jamhuri newspaper editor, Mkinga Mkinga as a hardworking journalist who always prioritised national interests.

Speaking at a funeral ceremony which took place in Dar es Salaam, various leaders who spoke at the event described the departed scribe as a role model to the majority of journalists in the country.

Minister for Minerals Dotto Biteko

said Mkinga was a friend to everyone he met and that he will remain a friend even in death because he was charming and loved everybody.

"His life has taught us a lot to be admired because he leaves behind lessons for us to those who are alive today," he said.

Minister for Trade and Industries Prof Kitila Mkumbo said this was the time for journalists to embrace the good things that the late Mkinga has left behind saying he has gone at a younger age but has done great things.

Deputy Chairman for the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) Bakari Machumu said the late Mkinga had identified himself as an investigative journalist since the early days of his career in journalism saying he had lived to it.

Mkinga died at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Dar es Salaam where he was receiving treatment in the early hours of Wednesday.

He was earlier admitted at Kitegule Hospital in Tegeta, Dar es Salaam before being shifted to Muhimbili for further treatment.

Apart from Jamhuri, Mkinga worked

at Uhuru Media Group as Executive Editor before returning to Jamhuri.

He also served as a senior reporter at The Citizen where he emerged as an overall winner of the best journalism award organized by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) after covering a series of stories on the escrow account saga.

His body was transported from Dar es Salaam yesterday to his home village of Chato in Geita region where he will be buried on Monday. He has left behind a widow and a daughter.



Mourners pay their last respects at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday to journalist Mkinga Mkinga, a Jamhuri Media Limited editor and co-director, shortly before his body was transported to his Chato home village in Geita Region for burial. He died at Muhimbili National Hospital on Thursday while undergoing treatment. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Forest officer in trouble after illegally evicting Geita Region villagers

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tions was tantamount to making personal decisions painting a bad image of the ministry, he declared, underlining that the ministry cannot tolerate operations which do not follow proper procedures.

"Whoever shall engage in similar matters will be dealt with in a decisive manner," he emphasised.

A team of experts had been deployed in the district to make a thorough assessment on the effects that people in the area had encountered, he stated.

Deputy Minister Mary Masanja underscored the need for public servants to discharge their duties by observing laws, regulations and procedures governing all public service activities.

"The ministry shall not tolerate public servants contravening regulations by making own, unwarranted decisions," she added.

MPs named representatives to regional legislative forums

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interest," he elaborated.

He also referred to amended regulations in relation to roles of MPs sent to extra-parliamentary bodies, that it would be good to go through them and understand things they are limited and obliged to take up.

"We had issues with rep-

resentatives in the last parliament as some of them brought us trouble. We have amended the regulations so we now have powers to call you back from where you are even if it is in the middle of meeting sessions, to come back for disciplinary hearings," he specified.

These limitations did not

feature in the first place as no problems had as yet emerged, but when disciplinary issues cropped up the House had to review the regulations to firmly hold the representatives accountable for what they do in international bodies, the Speaker explained.

"You still stand as members of the National Assembly and

that is your first role as representatives and you are directly responsible to the nation," he declared.

"Some of you might think that because we have chosen you can conduct yourself anyhow; that is not the case. Your responsibility is here, and we will seek progressive reports to see what is going on," he af-

firmed.

MPs chosen for the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) are Aeshi Hilary, Abdallah Shangazi, Janejelly Ntate, Zahoro Mohammed Haji, Fariaharia Shomari Hamis, Halima Mdee and Halifa Mohammed Issa.

Those picked for the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) are

Ng'wasi Damas Kamani, Toufiq Salim Turkey, Jerry Slaa, Nape Nnauye and Anatropia Theonest.

SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) representatives are Shally Raymond, Khasim Hassan Haji, Selemani Zedi, Dr Alfred James Kilea and Hawa Mwaifunga, while for the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

the House picked Mwanaisha Ulenge, Ramadhan Suleiman Ramadhan, Joseph Kizito Mhagama, Esther Matiko and Elibariki Emmanuel Kingu.

The Great Lakes Union representatives are Dr Christine Ishengoma, Najma Giga, Ezra John Chilewesa, Deo Clemence Sangu and Shamsia Aziz Mtamba.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (L, gesturing) has a quick word with Fire and Rescue Force commissioner general John Masunga (R) at Kikombo in Dodoma Region yesterday shortly after visiting the site of the ongoing construction of apartments meant to accommodate F&RF staff. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Economic diplomacy to start with EAC, SADC

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation is strengthening economic diplomacy with countries in the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) first with a view to enabling Tanzanian business community explores markets in the blocs.

Deputy Minister Ambassador Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk made the statement in the National Assembly yesterday during the question and answer session when he was replying to a question by Eng Stella Manyanya Nyasa Legislator who wanted to know what is the government's plan to strengthen trade through economic diplomacy between Tanzania and Malawi using the Mv. Mbeya II in the Lake Nyasa waters.

He said MV Mbeya II with a capacity of 200 passengers and 200 tonnes of cargo was officially launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in January 2021.

"The vessel currently operates only between Tanzania Ports of Kyela and Mbambabay. Implementation of the economic diplomacy policy is one of the major responsibilities of the Ministry;

Given the great importance of promoting trade between Tanzania and Malawi and in ensuring that MV Mbeya II is perfectly continuing with its operation in the Lake," said Mbarouk.

He asserted that the Tanzanian em-

bassy in Malawi, in collaboration with the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has begun liaison with the government of Malawi and its Institutions through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi to create a conducive environment for MV. Mbeya II to voyage to Malawi.

"Our embassy in Lilongwe, Malawi is also closely monitoring an agreement (MoU) between the government of Tanzania and Malawi regarding the establishment of TPA offices in Lilongwe that will oversee the implementation and operation of all commercial activities," he added.

This is due to the resolutions of the Presidents of Tanzania and Malawi during the visit of the President of Malawi in Tanzania held on October 2020.

He asserted that completion of these procedures and the completion of testing the vessel's operation capacity will mark the beginning of its voyages to Malawi, it is clear that trade between Tanzania and Malawi through Lake Nyasa will be strengthened.



The vessel currently operates only between Tanzania Ports of Kyela and Mbambabay. Implementation of the economic diplomacy policy

'Homes not reached by REA II to be connected in new phase'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE energy ministry has pledged to accomplish connection of electricity to over 600 households across the country through the Rural Energy Agency (REA) left in the second phase of the project alongside connecting all regions of the country to the main grid by 2025.

The ministry made the

pledge in the National Assembly yesterday following a question asked by Aysharose Ndogholi Matembe, Member of Parliament Special Seats West Manyoni, who wanted to know what is the government's plan to connect 14 villages of West Manyoni to power through REA..

Deputy Minister for Energy Stephen Byabato told the National Assembly that

the remaining West Manyoni villages will be connected to electricity in the third round of the project that begins in July, 2021 through REA. The project is expected to be completed by December, 2022.

"Work for the implementation of the project in Manyoni district generally involves the construction of a 33 kilowatt power trans-

mission line of 383.1 km, 0.4 kilowatt transmission line of 31 km long, installation of 31 transformers with a capacity of 50 KVA as well as connecting 682 household left in the second phase. The cost of the project is 15.45billion/-," said Byabato.

According to him, the ministry will also during the 2021/22 fiscal year go through remained regions that have

not being yet connected to electricity from the main grid.

He cited one of the projects for the main grid is the 132 kilovolts with a length of 381 km from Tabora to Katavi.

According to him, the project involves the construction of three 132/33 kilowatt power stations in Ipole, Inyonga and Mpanda.

Construction of the project

is expected to be completed by August, 2023. The cost of the project is set at 64.5billion/-;

"The construction of another 400 kilowatt power transmission line from Iringa to Mbeya through Sumbawanga, Mpanda to Kigoma region with a length of 1,232 km, is expected to start in November, 2022 and will be completed in October, 2024.

The cost of the project stands at 470.42billion/-," said Byabato.

The minister asserted that the government is working day and night to make sure that the whole country is connected to electricity not only for domestic use but encouraging investors who wish to come to the country by generating enough power for industries.

Only registered MFIs will be permitted to operate, says BoT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has said it will only permit second class microfinance institutions (MFIs) who had registered by April 30 this year to offer services.

A statement issued yesterday by the BoT Governor, Florens Luoga said the central bank has already provided a list of institutions allowed to provide microfinance services second class to those who registered.

"According to Section 57 of the Microfinance Act (No 10 of 2018) microfinance services providers Second Class who submitted applications to BoT before April 30 this year will not be allowed to provide such services until when they get the licenses," the statement quoted BoT Governor Luoga as saying.

"Continuing with the provision of these services without being licensed by the Bank is in violation of the law and offenders can face a fine or imprisonment in accordance with Section 16 of the Act.

"This list is being published in accordance with Section 55 of the Act," Luoga added in the statement.

The statement said that BoT will continue publishing an integrated list of registered microfinance services providers Second Class, including the lists for microfinance services providers in Third and Fourth Classes.

Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) include Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), Village Community Banks (VICOBA) and the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella pictured in Arusha city on Thursday opening a seminar the Tanzania Revenue Authority has organised for members of the business community. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Govt issues 5bn/- for construction of Kakombo Fire residential houses

By Guardian Reporter

IN efforts meant to fight shortage of public workers' housing in the country, the government has issued 5bn/- for the construction of residential houses for the Fire and Rescue Force in Kakombo area in Dodoma Region.

Minister for Home Affairs

George Simbachawene made the remarks after he visited and inspected the construction of the houses in the area.

Simbachawene expressed satisfaction on the progress of the project saying that the funds which have been released should be spent properly.

"I am satisfied with the ongo-

ing construction of this project, I commended the Fire and Rescue Force commissioner general for supervising the use of the public funds, make sure that you continue working hard for the project to be completed within the scheduled time-frame," the minister said.

Commissioner General John Masunga said the construction

of the houses is expected to be completed by the end of September and will benefit a number of the force's soldiers.

"Our staff (soldiers/firefighters) will be thrilled after the completion of this project because they are the ones who have been grappling due to lack of housing. So these houses are for the soldiers only who are

working at the Fire and Rescue centre in Chamwino. These houses are not for officers," he said.

He commended the government through President Samia Suluhu Hassan for addressing the housing challenge where he vowed to supervise and ensure that once completed, the project benefits only the intended

workers. Presenting a report on projects implemented by the Force, Buildings supervisor, assistant senior commissioner Julius Ntabala said there are three projects which are currently executed in Dodoma.

They include the construction of the fire and rescue centre in Chamwino, Nzuguni and construction of residential

houses in Kikombo.

"The residential houses project has reached 55 percent where 4bn/- has been spent. However high expenses of equipment and tools has somehow affected the project but we will carry out an assessment later so as to identify the gaps and then request more funds," he explained.



Rotary e-Club of Masaki president Ashna Tanna (3rd-L) presents a birthing kit to an expectant woman at a Buguruni health centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. In collaboration with Diamond Trust Bank, the club donated 450 similar kits to Mbagala Rangi Tatu, Kigamboni and Buguruni hospitals - all based in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BRELA donates items to Amana referral hospital

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

BUSINESS Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) have visited patients at the Amana Referral hospital in Dar es Salaam with basic necessities assistance as part of activities to commemorate Public Service week.

Items such as soaps, sanitary pads, diapers for babies and adults, were handed over to sick parents and children by BRELA official who also used the opportunity to donate blood.

The week celebrated from the 16th to 23rd of June every year is aimed at recognizing the value of the services rendered by civil servants and to acknowledge their contributions to national administration.

Speaking at the event, BRELA's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Roida Andusamile said apart from supporting traders in registering their business, trademark and services, provision of business license class A, BRELA also cares for the surrounding community by providing assistance in case they get a chance.

"Brela has reached Amana hospital and made some basic contributions for parents and children so as to promote hygiene among them while they receive treatment" she explained adding that similar procedures would be carried to other hospitals countrywide.

On the other hands, the Amana Referral hospital Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Baya Kissiwa thanked BRELA for the support to

the patients urging other institutions to emulate the example shown.

He said at the moment the hospital is facing an acute shortage of blood asking the community to donate in order to save the lives of mothers and children.

BRELA officials also sensitized traders at the Kisutu market and encouraged them to register their business. Apart from such education they also cleaned the market as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Earlier, the Acting Chief Executive Officer at Brela, Seka Kasela also used the Public service week to serve customers who reached at the office for various services.

The Public service week which is coordinated by the President's Office Public Services Management and Good Governance was held under the theme "Building the Africa, we want, through a culture of integrity that fosters visionary leadership even in a crisis environment"



Brela has reached Amana hospital and made some basic contributions for parents and children so as to promote hygiene among them while they receive treatment

TRITA trains high-ranking immigration and labour officers to sharpen their skills

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) has trained high ranking immigration and labour officers from various regions in the country on managing immigration matters, a move aimed at sharpening their skills for improved service delivery.

Speaking during the certificate awarding ceremony to officials who completed the five-day training over the weekend, Kilimanjaro

Regional Immigration Officer (RIO) Edward Martin explained that the workshop aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills of the officers with a view to boosting their capacity to implement the migration matters in the country for the foreign workers at their institutions and other border management related matters.

"The training also aimed to give the Immigration and Labour Officers opportunities to interact and share experiences on the implementation of the EAC Common Market

Protocol provisions of Free Movement of Persons and Labour; acquire knowledge and awareness on the operationalization of EAC One Stop Borders Posts Act, 2016, and enhance their knowledge of EAC Peace and Security Initiatives and measures to combat transnational crimes," he explained.

The training further sought to enhance the officers' appreciation of the role of border management agencies in facilitating the growth of the Private Sector and Investment Promotion in addition

to acquiring knowledge on detecting fraud in travel documents, and security of documents and investigations.

Chief instructor at TRITA, Superintendent of Immigration (SP) Ignatius Mgana explained that, participants of the training are 21-high rank officials from both public and private sectors from different institutions including those under Roman Catholic church in Mbulu and Dodoma dioceses, Geita Gold Mine Limited (GGML), Manyara Sugar Company, Toyota Tanzania Limited (Dar-es-salaam) and

Lancet Laboratory Limited (Da-es-salaam).

Others are the Moshi Co-operative University (MoCU), African Inland Church (AIC)-Mwanza, Kilimanjaro Plantation Limited (KPL), UN Lodge en Afrique of Manyara, Kilombero Sugar Company (Morogoro), Kilimanjaro Christian Medical College (KCMU), SGS (T) Limited (Dar-es-salaam), and Kilimo Timilifu (Lindi), among many others.

SP Mgana further added that, during the training that was named; 'Operation Kazi lendelee' the participants

taught how to manage migration matters in the country, document examination and fraud detection, among many others.

Some of the participants, including high ranking officials from Toyota Tanzania Limited in Dar-es-salaam, Antony Moshia, Fr. Martin Mandi from Catholic Diocese of Mbulu, Sr. Maria Yasinta Lubuva from Catholic Archdiocese of Dodoma (Archbishop's office) explained that the training has opened their eyes on migration matters in Tanzania.

"The awareness and knowl-

edge that I have received from the training has opened my eyes, as we do receive many foreigners at our office including Missionaries from different destinations worldwide, the skills are vital for my institution and there is any immigration scam who can cheat me," explained Fr. Mandi.

Antony Moshia from Toyota Tanzania explained that the training has opened his eyes, adding that there is a high need for such training to the Labor officers so as to avoid immigration scams challenges.

Journalists challenged to observe children's rights

By Correspondent James Kandoya

JOURNALISTS in the country have been challenged to observe children's rights and safety when reporting stories involving them as victims of social injustices to protect them from psychological suffering.

Clouds Media Group, Chief Editor Joyce Shebe said during a Media and Civil Society Organisation (CSO) roundtable meeting about Day of the African Child (DAC) that was organized by the Internews via virtual conference.

She said journalists must therefore observe regulations and Child Act that protect them when reporting issues related to abuse in the court or other legal entrusted boards.

"The media have a big role to shape the community by reporting child injustices in order to have future leaders who are brought up by morals and ethics," she said.

The theme for this year's DAC was "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children"

Shebe said that when reporting, they must also ensure that the

community was aware about child rights including education and protection and be against all types of harassment and abuse.

Assistant Director (Children development), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Elderly and Children, Sebastian Kitiku said that there are low priorities in reporting children issues hence not reported until a child faces abuse or harassment.

"A big number of newsrooms have special desks for sports, environment, women but children desks are yet to be established for unknown reasons," he said.

He said the training of journalists on child reporting stories can have a positive impact on the media fraternity to reorganize and start establishing child desks to report issues related to child injustice..

Furthermore, the training should be a one stage ahead to the scribes to report more issues about child abuse and harassment occurring in different places of the country.

He said it was time for the journalists to publish or airing programmes that can increase awareness about children's rights to curb ongoing harassment and abuse habits.



Newly appointed CCM Youth Wing secretary general Kenani Kihongosi introduces himself to the wing's members at the party's headquarters grounds in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Government set to build 1,000 new secondary schools

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government through the secondary education improvement project is set to build 1,000 new secondary schools at the ward level across the country, the House heard yesterday.

Speaking during the questions and answers session David Silinde Deputy minister in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities told parliamentarians that the project will start with the construction of secondary schools in all

wards that do not have secondary schools.

"The project will be implemented in phases and in the financial year 2021/22 the government has allocated 220 billion/- to build 310 new secondary schools in the country at ward level," said Silinde.

He was responding to a question asked by Anastazia Wambura, Special Seats-CCM who sought to know plans by the government is solving the problem that according to her has not been addressed for years now.

According to Wambura, the

region has only seven ward secondary schools from the 191 wards. She asserted that during the current fiscal year about 57 secondary schools were supposed to be constructed but a single school has not yet been constructed.

"The government is aware of

ward secondary school shortage across the country and is working hard to make sure that the vice is solved," said Silinde.

Wambura also questioned the government for not deploying enough science subject teachers to the region as the demand keeps growing.

"I would like to know how many teachers from the more than 6,000 teachers who will be recruited in the next fiscal year, how many teachers, especially science teachers that will be deployed to Mtwara region to bridge the growing gap?" she questioned.

Govt wants more people to fly

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Works and Transport is constructing and revamping airports across the country to enable more Tanzanians embrace air travel, the National Assembly heard yesterday.

Also, the infrastructures aim at boosting tourism sector by attracting foreign travellers to destination Tanzania.

Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Godfrey Kasenyenda said this when he was responding to a question from Mwanisha Ng'azi Ulenge, Member of Parliament (Special Seats CCM) who wanted to know when the promised expansions of Tanga airport will be fulfilled.

The promise was made by the late President John Magufuli during the inauguration of the Hoima-Tanga Oil Pipeline project at Chongoleni in Tanga where the airport is located.

Kasenyenda said the Tanga airport is one of 11 airports that have undergone feasibility studies and detailed design with World Bank funding through the Transport Sector Support Project (TSSP).

"The World Bank has expressed interest in financing the expansion of Tanga airport through the Development Corridor Trans-

port Programme (DCTP)," said Kasenyenda.

According to him, there are ongoing discussions between the government and the World Bank on compensation for citizens who will pave way for the implementation of the Tanga Airport expansion and rehabilitation project, a preliminary review of this project report and the preparation of various required information before the loan agreement signed is in progress.

"I would like to take this opportunity to assure Eng Mwanisha Ng'azi Ulenge said that the government is serious about the expansion and refurbishment of Tanga airport.

In addition, when negotiations between the government and the World Bank are completed, the implementation of the project will begin immediately," he said.



The World Bank has expressed interest in financing the expansion of Tanga airport through the Development Corridor Transport Programme (DCTP)



Pannyyroyal Limited project manager Murtaza Hassanal (R) briefs journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on the construction of a five-star hotel at Matemwe Mbuyutende in Unguja North Region in which his firm is involved. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Sand scarcity delays construction of new five-star hotel in Zanzibar

By Guardian Correspondent,

Zanzibar

SHORTAGE of sand and Covid-19 outbreak has been cited as among the main factors that delay construction of the five-star hotel worth US\$1.6 billion, developers have said.

The Zanzibar-based firm-Pennyroyal Limited is behind the project.

Firm's managing director Saleh Mohamed Said revealed this yesterday when briefing members of CCM central committee in Unguja North Region,

who are inspecting development projects.

"There are a number of reasons as to why the first phase of construction of this hotel delayed," he said, citing delays in obtaining land permits, shortage of sand and transportation of construction materials from abroad was difficult after the outbreak of Covid-19, but now our containers with construction materials have arrived in Zanzibar," he said.

"The project started in 2015 by registering at the Zanzibar Investment Authority (ZIPA), but the land permit delayed

and we managed to get it in 2018," he added.

According to him, the project is expected to cost US\$1.6 billion, so far US\$40 million has been spent in the execution of the 1st phase of the project.

Saleh said 700 youth would benefit from employment after the completion of the first phase of construction in 2022 and the project would help promote Zanzibar as well as assist the government in implementing the blue economy plan.

He said the Pennyroyal Limited Company has been sup-

porting social services in the education sector, environmental conservation, and people with special needs in Mtemwe Mbuyutende village and Kijini North Region Unguja.

Project manager, Murtaza Hassanal cited shortage of sand as one of the challenges hampering the maiden project.

He said that the demand for the sand for the first phase of construction is 15,000 tonnes, "but so far we've spent 4000 tonnes and when we're asked for a sand permit, we're given 400 tonnes. In fact, sand is a

big challenge in executing this project."

He, however, said: "We've asked the government to give us a sand mining area and we promised that after the project we'll install fish farming and tree planting to conserve the environment, but our request hasn't borne fruit so far."

He added that the hotel would have marine games, a golf course and that each house would have a swimming pool and recreation areas.

"So far the government has

given us a permit for 411 acres of land and we still need additional 250 acres of land as we continue with the construction of the first-phase," said Murtaza.

Unguja North Regional Commissioner, Ayoub Mohamed Mahmoud urged young people to take advantage of the ongoing employment opportunities through the construction of tourist hotels instead of choosing jobs and forcing construction companies to hire people from outside Zanzibar.

He said that the project

to build a five-star hotel will help increase employment for young people, fishermen, farmers, and entrepreneurs and urge fishermen to enter the high seas fishery so that they can use the tourism industry market in Zanzibar.

"The time has come for fishermen to form cooperative groups and take advantage of credit opportunities in financial institutions so that you can buy boats and modern equipment to enter the deep sea fishing and use the tourism industry market," said Ayoub.



Construction of flyover at Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road/Kawawa junction in progress, as found yesterday. Photo: Yusuph Kangabya/TUDARCO

Govt planning to conduct major reforms in laws, policies and curriculums to boost education quality

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is planning to conduct major reforms in laws, policies and curriculums so as to ensure that every child has access to quality education as well as enforcing mandate re-entry to school by girls who dropped out of school due to various reasons.

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology Omar Kipanga said this in Dar es Salaam on Thursday during the '2021 Education Stakeholders Workshop' organised by the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA).

He said that the government will continue working closely with stakeholders and partners to supervise and ensure that young girls who dropped out of school resume their studies and thus become self-reliant economically.

"We are also working closely with our partners to ensure that we establish more institutions that provide alternative education programmes (AEPs) for out of school girls in both urban and rural areas," he said.

According to him, it is not that children who were dropping out of school had no access to education, no, we have several systems to allow the group access alternative education, but with the forthcoming reforms, things will be much different and will allow all children to have access to education regardless

their challenges," he said.

According to him, through TEA, the government has seen it better to engage stakeholders and development partners on the improvement of infrastructures while the government supervises the policies.

TEA director general, Bahati Geuzye said the national education fund's core responsibility is to complement the government's efforts in improving infrastructures for the provision of quality education.

He said that in the 2019/20 fiscal year, 9.1bn/- were spent in funding 96 education projects in 88 schools and an institute of science and technology.

In 2020/21 fiscal year, a total of 116 schools benefited from 123 projects worth 9.4bn/-

"In the past five years, a total of 92bn/- was issued by the education Fund to implement various education projects which included construction of 254 teachers' houses in primary and secondary schools," he said.

The funds also were spent in the construction of 54 dormitories, 450 classrooms, 1680 toilet holes, rehabilitation of 17 old as well as purchase of learning and teaching equipment and construction of quality infrastructures for children with special needs.

"We have also constructed and expanded buildings in higher learning institutions as well as sponsoring programmes which meant to support girl students to take science subjects at the university level and technical colleges," Geuzye said.

TARI establishes palm oil seedlings farm for Kyela district farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Uyole Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) in Mbeya Region has established a seedlings farm for quality oil palm crop in Kyela District for distribution to farmers in

areas fit for its cultivation.

This was revealed by TARI-Uyole Director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki in directives to agriculture officers in Kyela District.

He said they have reached the decision in the aim of producing oil palm in abundance to alleviate edible oil short-

age in the country, as well as assisting farmers to earn income.

"The main cause for the country's edible oil shortage is the lack of adequate raw materials for edible oil production, and now the government has decided to solve the problem by investing in the

cultivating of crops that yield edible oil," he said and added that it is the reason behind establishing a seedling farm for quality oil palm crop at TARI-Uyole.

He said the seedlings farm will assist to expand oil palm cultivation in the coastal areas of Lake Nyasa where it has

been proved that the crop grows well.

He said the seedlings will be distributed to farmers to expand their oil palm farms and when they start producing the issue of edible oil shortage will be past history.

TARI's Coordinator of Research and innovation, Dr

Emanuel Chiligani said to start with they have planted 41,000 seeds, saying if they all grow, they will have 41,000 seedlings, but added that they expect to get 27,000 seedlings at the very least.

He said the seedlings will be distributed free of charge in Kyela District and other

coastal areas of Lake Nyasa and that the training provided to the agricultural officers will be beneficial to farmers.

"These seedlings are adequate in areas totaling 220 hectares, hence we advise farmers in Kyela district and other areas to grab the opportunity," Dr Chiligani said.



Iringa district commissioner Mohamed Hassan Moyo (L) exchanges greetings with Augustino Sambagi shortly after a meeting with elders in Iringa municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Z'bar community told to rescue children from narcotic drugs use

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Managing Director of Zanzibar Commission for National Coordination and Drug Control (CNCDC) Col Burhani Zuberi has called on the community to work together in children's upbringing to prevent them from embracing the use of illicit drugs.

Col Zuberi made the remarks here yesterday when addressing reporters on preparations for the commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be marked June 26 this year at Sheikh Idriss Abdulwakil hall in Unguja at which President Hussein Ali Mwinyi will be the official guest.

He said as for now illicit drugs are a threat to Zanzibar youth who are the nation's workforce, but also being largely affected.

He added the commission is determined to mobilize youth as well as the community in the fight against the use of drugs, a move to be conducted in collaboration with the government and defense and security units.

"We must work together, we must be close to our children and whenever you see something on them, make follow ups to rescue the children from catastrophe," he added.

He also appealed to the society to abandon protecting one another by reporting to relative institutions on all those engaged in drug trafficking so that we can be able to reduce the prob-

lem.

He said more than 10,000 people have been affected from illicit drugs use and called on the community to save this generation from destruction.

For his part, the Commission's Director of Control and Transport, Juma Zidikheiry said the police report from its illicit drug control unit shows that in the nine-year period (2012-2020) a total of 3,810 suspects including 3,577 men and 233 women were arrested on suspicion of being involved in illicit drugs.

He added that during the same period a total of 51.5kgs of heroine, 2,946 kgs of marijuana, 5.4 kgs of valium and 19.71 kgs of cocaine was seized.



We must work together, we must be close to our children and whenever you see something on them, make follow ups to rescue the children from catastrophe

Tshisekedi inaugurates EAC verification mission

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix Tshisekedi, yesterday launched the East African Community's (EAC) verification mission to the country in the eastern Congolese town of Goma.

A high level mission comprising EAC Secretary General Peter Mathuki and officials from EAC Organs and Partner States Ministries of EAC will witness the launch by the Congolese Head of State.

The larger verification team

which was appointed by the EAC Council of Ministers earlier this month will be in DRC for 10 days to assess the vast Central African country's suitability to be admitted into the community.

The verification team is composed of three experts from each Partner State to be funded by the EAC Secretariat and an additional maximum of two experts to be funded by the nominating Partner State to carry out the Verification Mission from 23rd June to 3rd July, 2021.

The Summit of EAC Heads of

State at its 21st Ordinary Meeting held on 27th February, 2021 considered the application by DRC to join the community and directed the council to expeditiously undertake a verification mission in accordance with the EAC procedure for admission of new members into the EAC and report to the 22nd Summit.

The Sectoral Council, which was chaired by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development, further directed the Secretariat to submit the report of the Verification Mission to the Council of Ministers by

November 2021.

The high level mission is a historic one for the community, which has been on a growth trajectory since its establishment in 1999.

DRC's eastern region has interacted with East Africa through trade and commerce in addition to utilizing the Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports for its export and import business. "Intra-EAC trade has increased among the EAC Partner States in the past 10 years. And we have no choice. That is why we are widening to include the DR

Congo to become the 7th member of the EAC," EAC Secretary General Mathuki said in a tweet shared on the community's official twitter handle.

DRC shares a border with five EAC Partner States namely Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

Accompanying the SG on the trip to Goma is the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Nestor Kayobera, East African Legislative Assembly Abdullah Makame, and Kevit Desai, Kenya's Principal Secretary for EAC. It is expected that

more officials from the Partner States will join the team that will travel by road to Goma from Kigali for the launch ceremony.

The verification team will, among other things, review the current status of the DRC in international law and establish the country's level of conformity with the criteria for admission of foreign countries as provided in the treaty.

Under the treaty, the criteria for the admission of new countries into the community include: acceptance of the community as set out in the treaty;

adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice; potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the East African region, and; geographical proximity to and inter-dependence between it (the foreign country) and the EAC Partner States.

Other criteria include the establishment and maintenance of a market-driven economy and social and economic policies being compatible with those of the community.



Residents of Nyambono village in Musoma Rural constituency pictured earlier this week checking the quality of bricks meant for use in the construction of Nyetasyo Primary School classrooms. The school has only six classrooms, while it needs 23. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

9.1bn/- paid to SUMA JKT for building Immigration headquarters in Dodoma

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

A Total of 9.1bn/- has been paid to the National Service Corporation (SUMA JKT) as part of the expenses for the construction of the Immigration headquarters in Dodoma city.

Issued by the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation the funds are part of the 20bn/- budget for the whole project.

Issa Mohammed, project's engineer told the deputy minister for Home Affairs Khamis Hamza Chilo who visited to oversee the project's progress.

"Our aim is to ensure that the project is completed by mid-October this year, apart from adhering to the scheduled time frame, we also supervise to make sure that we pro-

duce a quality outcome," Mohammed said.

In his remarks, the deputy minister wanted the engineers to supervise the project well and make sure that it is completed within the scheduled timeframe.

"These projects have spent a lot of public funds, so we have to ensure that every single cent is used properly to bring out positive results. Work day and night to ensure that this project is completed and with all the required qualities," he said.

The project which commenced in May 2019 involves construction of an eight-floors building, installation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems and other needed infrastructures outside the building.



These projects have spent a lot of public funds, so we have to ensure that every single cent is used properly to bring out positive results. Work day and night to ensure that this project is completed and with all the required qualities

OUT organises Mwanza Lake zone summit to promote tourism

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Open University of Tanzania (OUT) in collaboration with Mwanza-based Tamaduni Entertainment and Production has organised the Mwanza Lake zone summit for youths in the area of tourism with the view to promote the sector in the country.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, the Director of Tamaduni Entertainment and Production, Wambura Mwikwabe said the summit which involved entrepreneurs, college and university students as well as those intending to invest in tourism was a platform to help explain to youths key issues to go about investment in the sector and therefore

secure employment opportunities.

"During the summit youths were given the opportunity to see tourist potentials available in Lake zone and how they can invest in them, he said noting that there are many areas that need tourism investment and youths with ideas fail where to use them owing to lack of assistance," he

underscored.

Bernard Kapaya who is also a lecturer at the OUT said the university has three functions including giving education, advice and conducting researches adding that through the summit, the university will be able to do researches on the developing tourism industry in the country.

He said that for example

some tourists just go to Thailand to watch arrangement of stones but in Tanzania with a lot of stones people do not see them as part tourism therefore OUT is ready to help youths and encourage them to massively turn out so that they can get skills on how to prepare write-ups for soliciting business loans.

"We believe that someone with education does not necessarily need to be employed

rather than employing his/her self-using potentials available around," he encouraged.

Assistant Commissioner for Conservation and Saanane Island National Park chef, Eva Mallya said that national parks have a lot of tourism area that needs to be more invested in a bid to boost the national economy.

In-Charge of Tanzania Tourism Board in the Lake Zone, Gloria Muhambo stressed that as the region is endowed with a lot of attractive stones there should be companies to encourage tourist to climb them while also urging youths to support efforts taken by the government to boost the development of the tourism sector by investing in it.



Legislators head for a session of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Do not keep research results in office cabinets - COSTECH

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has called upon people in the Health, Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources sectors to utilize the results of various researches in their activities to bring positive outcomes to the society instead of keeping them in their office cabinets.

The call was given by COSTECH Director in the Coordination Department and Research development Dr Bugwesa Katala on behalf of COSTECH Managing Director Dr Amos Nungu at a workshop that brought together policy makers, researchers, planning officers and decision makers from Health, Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources sectors.

Dr Katala said the aim of the workshop was the need in capacity building in regard to procedures for policy makers, researchers, planning officers and decision makers from the Health sector to work using results of various researches made.

Dr Bugwesa said COSTECH responsibility is to ensure the results of various researches made in the country are used in formulating policies and development plans for the

country, instead of leaving them in office cabinets.

COSTECH Acting Director of Knowledge Management Department, Dr Philbert Luhunga said the work for research results is to enable the country realise the 17 UN Development Goals come 2030.

He said: "In order to succeed we must utilize research results in policy making and that is why we urge to use the results in formulating policies and development planning in regard to laws, procedures and guidelines."

He added: "There are many issues which our legislators have been discussing in Parliament, researchers are supposed to work on important issues thereof and provide results for the society and the nation in general."

For his part, COSTECH Senior Research Officer on health issues Dr Khadija Malima said when doing research there must be some scientific proof that abides by professionalism in order to have intended results.

She said the country needs reliable results for making the country's development plans to attain its development vision and not for the research results remaining in office cabinets.

TANIPAC to open post-harvest centre of excellence in Dodoma to control aflatoxin

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Initiatives for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) is planning to construct a modern Post Harvest Centre of Excellence (PCE) at Mtanana area in Kibaigwa Township, Dodoma Region.

The envisaged facility which targets to fuel efforts by the government to fight contamination of aflatoxin in crops is expected to involve three different units.

TANIPAC Project national coordinator, Clepin Josephat told The Guardian this week

that the centre will involve a special market centre, agro-processing unit as well as technology unit.

Aflatoxin are a family of toxins produced by certain fungi that are found on agricultural crops such as maize (corn), peanuts, cottonseeds, and tree nuts. The main fungi that produce aflatoxin are *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*, which are abundant in warm and humid regions.

"The focus is to construct a modern market centre which complies with all needed international standards in order to facilitate professional

selling of agricultural produce," he said.

He further said that the technology transfer unit will be specific for disseminating different training to farmers, agro stakeholders and decision makers.

Josephat detailed that the state-owned project has injected at least 10 percent of its budget towards awareness creation among key groups on how to mitigate aflatoxin in crops.

"We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to conduct several aflatoxin training agro

traders and other involved stakeholders," Josephat explained.

He said the plan was also to train over 3,000 farmers in all 20 districts where the project operates.

"We are also going to empower at least 30 Masters and PHD students in different varieties within the country to thoroughly undertake special research to invent favourable technologies for combating aflatoxin in agricultural produce," he revealed.

According to him, the vital program which seeks to see development of local technology against aflatoxin

has already attracted at least students from different high learning institutions, including the University of Dar es Salaam (Udsm), Sokoine University of Agriculture (Sua), Nelson Mandela and the University of Dodoma (Udom).

He observed that aflatoxin was a serious venom which continues to affect the country's economy by denying Tanzania to market its agricultural produce to profitable international markets.

"The disease, caused by dangerous fungus (*aspergillus flavus*) was also the cause of several human deaths. Aflatoxin is a known carcinogen and

the leading cause of liver disease and liver cancer in Tanzania --and reduces the country's export earning potential," he noted.

Tanzania is a leading producer of maize and groundnuts in the East African region, accounting for two per cent of world production.

However, the crops are highly susceptible to fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination which affects the health of consumers.

In an effort to fight against fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination, the Ministry of Agriculture blessed the execution of the Tanzania Initia-

tive for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project, worth US Dollars 35.3 million (about 81bn/-).

The major objective of the TANIPAC project which is implemented by the government in collaboration with Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) is to minimize aflatoxin occurrence in the food system through an integrated approach in the maize and groundnuts value chains.

The project is operating in the Regions of Morogoro, Manyara, Mtwara, Ruvuma, Dodoma, Tabora, Kigoma, Mwanza, Simiyu and Geita.

World Bank approves \$20m for refugees in Rwanda

KIGALI

THE World Bank has approved a grant of \$20 million to boost social inclusion of refugees hosted by Rwanda.

The grant, which will be channeled through the Socio-Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities in Rwanda Project, aims to ease the economic pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic on refugees.

The bank said that the funding will support job creation through economic infrastructure such as roads and markets, technical and vocational training and funding for local businesses in the six districts that host refugees in Rwanda.

The districts include Kirehe, Gatsibo, Gicumbi, Karongi, Nyamagabe and Gisagara.

Since its inception in 2019, the project, also known in Kinyarwanda as "Jya Mbere" (move forward) is providing over 450,000 Rwandans and refugees with better access to basic services such as health, education and clean water.

Matthew Stephens, World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist, and the project task team leader said that the initiative and project will help refugees and host communities recover from the immediate impacts of the pandemic while building longer-term capacity in the health and education systems.

"The support for businesses is particularly important given the impacts on local enterprises of the Covid-19 lockdowns," he said.

The additional \$20 million grant responds directly to the impacts of Covid-19.

This will include upgrading to improve patient care at the district hospitals in Kirehe and Gatsibo, plus construction and improvements to health

centres, schools and water systems in the project districts.

The additional grant will also provide access to finance and training for businesses run by refugees and host community members in urban areas, including Huye District, the City of Kigali and Bugesera.

Rolande Pryce, World Bank Country Manager for Rwanda said that the World Bank is committed to helping Rwanda recover from the impacts of Covid-19.

"The additional \$20 million grant for the Jya Mbere project is part of a \$350 million package that the World Bank has made available so far to support the government's response to the pandemic. By including refugees and the communities that host them in these efforts, Rwanda is further solidifying its well-earned reputation as a welcoming host to refugees," she said.



The additional \$20 million grant for the Jya Mbere project is part of a \$350 million package that the World Bank has made available so far to support the government's response to the pandemic. By including refugees and the communities that host them in these efforts



The empty containers he is transporting may not be a heavy enough load to trouble him, but it was still risky for him to move along urban streets this way. Roving correspondent Jumanne Juma caught up with the man on a road passing by the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Govt allocates funds for completion of road construction projects

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government has allocated enough funds in the 2021/2022 fiscal year for completion of road construction projects that were not implemented in the national budget ending this June.

Godfrey Kasekenya, Deputy Minister for Works and Transport said yesterday in the National Assembly during a question and answer session that in the next financial year a big number of regional and rural roads will be constructed as the government

has put in place new plans to source enough funds for implementation of the projects.

He was replying to a question raised by Bukene legislator, Selemani Zedi (CCM) who sought to know when will the construction of the Tabora, Mbambali through

Bukene and Itobo to Kahama road would be completed as nothing was done in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Kasekenya told parliamentarians that the ministry through the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) has completed the feasibility

study, detailed architecture and preparation of tender documents for the construction of the Tabora, Mbambali through Bukene highway to Itobo that covers 114 km long.

"The feasibility study was carried out by the Consulting Engineer M / S NIMETA

Consult of Tanzania and was completed in April, 2020 at a cost of 790million/-;

In the financial year 2020/2021 a total of 1bn/- has been allocated for the start of preparations for the construction of the road, said Kasekenya

The Deputy Minister added that while the government is in the process of preparing to start construction of the road, the ministry through TANROADS continues to undergo various repairs so that it continues to be accessible throughout the summer sea-

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**Taking A New Look
At The News**
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Wanted: Global action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking

THE illicit demand for, production of, traffic in and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has become one of the most serious dangers to the health and welfare of populations, adversely affecting the political, economic, social and cultural structure of all societies.

Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is the use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder. Differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts. In some cases, criminal or anti-social behaviour occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug, and long-term personality changes in individuals may also occur. In addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, the use of some drugs may also lead to criminal penalties, although these vary widely depending on the local jurisdiction.

Drugs most often associated with this term include: alcohol, amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, hallucinogens, methaqualone, and opioids. The exact cause of substance abuse is not clear, but there are two predominant theories: either a genetic disposition which is learned from others, or a habit which, if addiction develops, manifests itself as a chronic debilitating disease.

In 2010 about 5 per cent of people (230 million) used an illicit substance. Of these 27 million have high-risk drug use otherwise known as recurrent drug use causing harm to their health, psychological problems, or social problems that put them at risk of those dangers. In 2015 substance use disorders resulted in 307,400 deaths, up from 165,000 deaths in 1990. Of these, the highest numbers are from alcohol use disorders

at 137,500, opioid use disorders at 122,100 deaths, amphetamine use disorders at 12,200 deaths, and cocaine use disorders at 11,100.

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June, since 1989. The date June 26 is to commemorate Lin Zexu's dismantling of the opium trade in Humen, Guangdong, ending on June 25, 1839 just before the First Opium War in China. The observance was instituted by General Assembly Resolution of 7 December 1987.

On 26 June 1987, two important texts (Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) were adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was held in Vienna during 17-26 June 1987. The Conference recommended that an annual day should be observed to mark the importance of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Both the dates 17 June and 26 June were suggested, and in the later meetings 26 June was chosen and written into the draft and final resolution.

The UN's 2007 World Drug Report puts the value of the illegal drug trade at US\$322 billion a year.

Campaigns, rallies, poster designing and many other programs are conducted. People of different countries celebrate the day together. As drug use increases the day becomes more important.

Health for Justice. Justice for Health, the theme for International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2019, highlights that "justice and health are two sides of the same coin when it comes to addressing drug problems."

As Mozambique marks Independence Day, Cabo Delgado situation a concern for us all

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan arrived Wednesday in Maputo for a two-day state visit that would include a summit of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and in addition, the gathered leaders participate in the commemoration of Mozambique independence on June 25, 1975. Not only was host president Felipe Nyusi the chairman of the conference but the situation in the northern province of Cabo Delgado was also a key point in their gathering, to discuss at a close up manner what should be done, and how. Plenty of diplomatic preparations and mooting of lines of action had already been raised on the basis of snippets in the regional media but the outlook needs to be ascertained, officially stamped.

For one thing, it appears that countries in the southern Africa zone have hesitated to send in military units to help outstretched Mozambique forces in the sprawling province taking all of the northern part of the country. It is rather isolated from the more densely populated and economically more active central and southern parts, with the capital, Maputo being on the southern tip of the country. With decades of low intensity civil war with rebel groups of the RENAMO (National Resistance Movement), the country's defence and security apparatus is riddled with tensions as is the case with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and was largely ineffective in containing the insurgency. SADC still couldn't rush there.

This caution wasn't surprising as one of the most important principles of engaging in ad hoc military action is to ensure that prima facie, that engagement stands to yield positive results, in a calibrated manner which is psychologically and operationally

sustainable. These elements weren't in place by the end of last year when the situation was aggravating, while attacks on the population, police posts etc had started much earlier, some say towards the end of 2017. And it also required sounding out developed country logistic backing, for instance in training Mozambique units, beefing up their presence there, etc.

For Tanzania the Mozambique anniversary is a special moment if only for the old guard, those who were adults during that period, and militant enough to cherish the liberation epoch to this day. This legacy is still vibrant in Africa as the African Union Commission was early this week unveiling a book by the late Major Hashim Mbita (who was later promoted to upper army ranks but during the Mozambique war he was basically of that rank). He served as Mwalimu Nyerere's personal envoy to the liberation movement as a whole, overseeing logistic support in particular, and solving operational issues that would otherwise merit Mwalimu's attention. He was officially Executive Secretary of the Liberation Committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), where he was scarcely replaced until liberation was achieved. There are others who played active roles, committed to those pursuits to this day, like Philip Mangula, then a more youthful member of that support network and assistant to Major Mbita. He has served in the post of CCM Vice-Chairman for decades, as secretaries come and go while he remains there. There are others who have a narrative to deliver to the next generation, despite that these memories are now fading, but they were crucial to the forging of a new Africa and a sense of mission for its youth.

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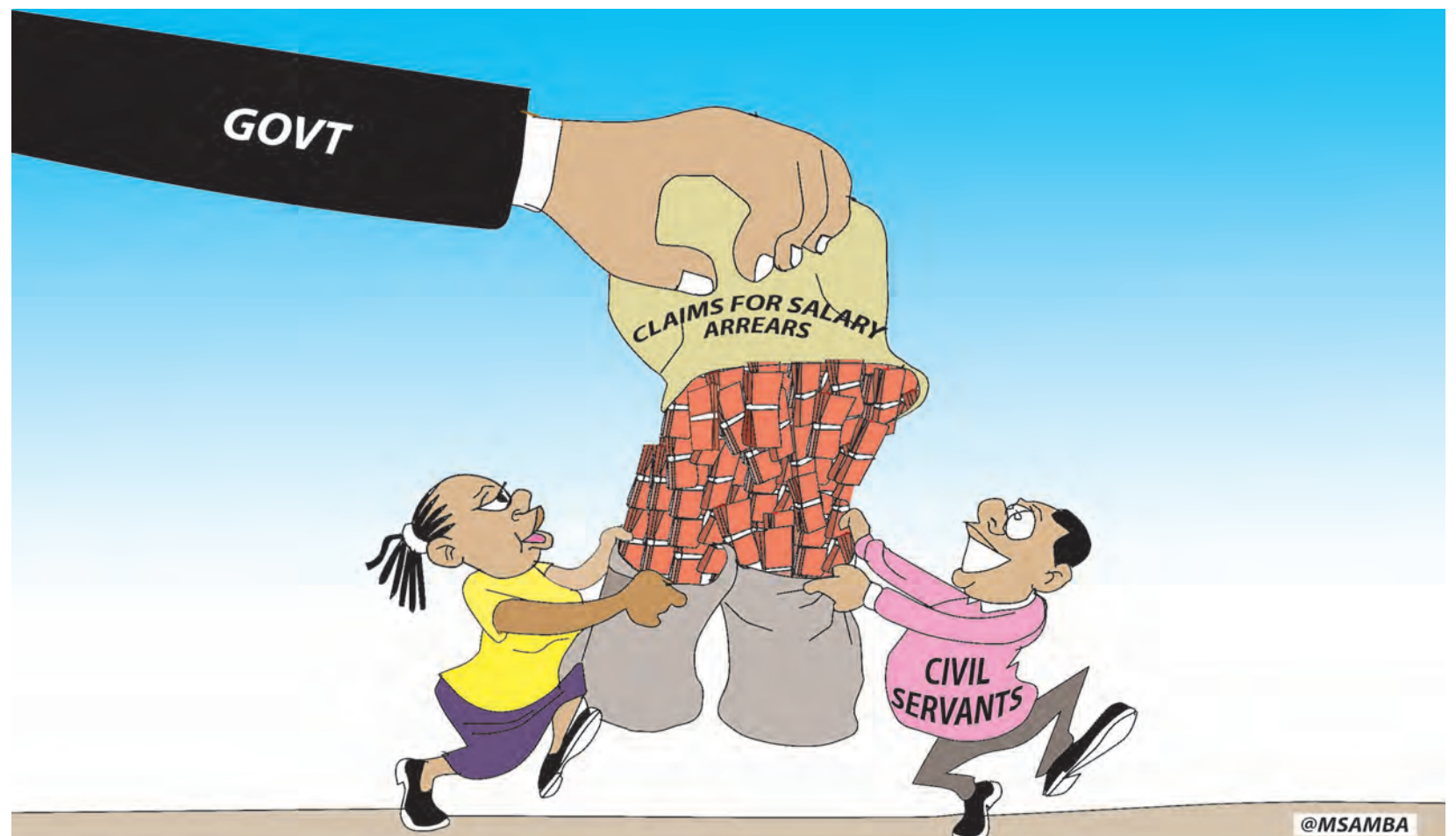
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Are vertical gardens the future of farming in Africa?

By Stella Nasambu

"LAND capital is so high, and yet what farmers can plant on the ground is so little".

Farmers may yet find a solution above ground, with tower gardens. That is if cousins and proprietors of Vertical Gardens, an alternative farming solutions company, have any say in the matter.

Fred Muthiga and Fred Kimani came together in 2012 after they perceived a gap in the market for farmers who could not afford vast tracts of land - the duo put in US\$120 of starting capital and soon the business grew.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic turned out to be a blessing in disguise as more customers from urban areas began to trickle in. "Fast forward to 2020, when Covid-19 happened, we saw an influx of people grow their own food," reports Muthiga.

Vertical Gardens offers a variety of services such as vertical garden system, a crate system going for anywhere between US\$180 to US\$50. Tower gardens and the Pouch systems are also available anywhere from US\$130 in Kenya.

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, more than 68 per cent of the global population will live in cities by 2050. These urban customers will need high quality pesticide-free food but, despite this projection, the growth in the industry remains low.

This may well be the case with many of the vertical garden customers asking for installation on their balconies. "We provided solutions that enabled our customers to grow their own food...in a safe and hygienic way," says Muthiga.

What's happening with the rest of Africa?

There may be a demand for hydroponics as a service, but what does it really take to set up a working system? Huge barriers face anyone looking to go down the vertical farming. There are quite a few barriers, among them huge initial investment and frequent power cuts - not to mention the enormous cost of setting up an alternative power source system.

African governments have made a push for hydroponics among other next-generation methods of farming to attract its youth population to provide labour for its agricultural market.

According to a 2021 report by the International Labour Organisation, the continent's labour force has increased markedly in size during the same period - from 302.1 million in 2000 to 489.7 million in 2019 - and was projected to reach 518 million by this year. Meanwhile, governments are bent on making agriculture sexy again.

In Uganda, for example, the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute in Kabanyolo now hosts



Fred Kimani and Fred Muthiga inspect herb instalments of the vertical gardens.

demonstrations of agricultural technologies, including hydroponics, that the youth and farmers can learn from.

Papius Tumusingize heads the section on hydroponic systems and greenhouses management under which youths are trained.

This is done in collaboration with the Learn As You Earn Programme of the Consortium for University Responsiveness to Agribusiness Development (CURAD), an agribusiness incubator based at the Institute.

But hydroponics is yet to take off in Uganda, where rich arable land is available for farming and many still prefer traditional methods of farming.

Back in Tanzania, hydroponics has seen some more progress in comparison to other East African countries. Mwamy Mlangwa (47) has launched a hydroponics farm under her company, Mwamy Green Veggies, the first of its kind in the east African nation.

Mwamy started the business four years, acquiring the technology in Israel, and is now selling pesticide-free vegetables to hotels, supermarkets and even international airlines. Whether this will be the case for other East African countries remains to be seen.

In Zambia, the government and the World Food Programme are using hydroponics to boost school meals. The country of 18 million people is facing a food security crisis brought on by extreme weather due to climate change.

The government had set up, as recently as this April, 23 green houses in schools to help pilot hydroponics as the new wave of agricultural technology.

According to the World Food Programme's website, training will be made available to parents, teachers and the students. Each green house will grow at least 2,000 plants, getting an estimated

1,300 kg of much-needed vegetables per month.

Is vertical farming needed in Kenya?

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says YES as, after all, agriculture contributes 26 per cent of the country's GDP and another 2726 per cent via links to other sectors. It also employs 4026 per cent of the total Kenyan population.

Admittedly, the sector has problems. Many problems. For example, even with such a large contribution meant to grow the economy, more needs to be done on the ground.

The FAO report states that many farmers are reliant on rain-fed farming systems and are being pushed into dryer more marginal areas, which makes them vulnerable to drought.

Climate change is clearly to blame, but these problems are linked to even bigger problems like food insecurity, pastoralist conflicts and reliance on food aid.

USAID also says in its 2021 report that agricultural productivity in Kenya has gradually stagnated in recent years, despite continuous population growth.

The coronavirus pandemic has made things much worse, with higher retail prices and reduced incomes forcing a large number of households to cut down on the quality and quantity of food consumption.

This has a devastating effect on farmers and food producers; they face unprecedented losses of perishable and nutritious produce as overall consumption shifts towards cheaper staples.

Only 20 per cent of Kenyan land is suitable for farming and in these areas maximum yields have not been achieved, which leaves considerable potential for increases in productivity. Vertical gardens may just be the solution to averting this

growing crisis.

Vertical gardening fact box

Wondering why you should get into hydroponics? Hydroponics uses alternatives mediums to soil eliminating the usual weed problems. Less weeds, more yield!

Hydroponics allows one to one to grow up to four times the number of plants. One can raise fish and plants in the same system. Now you don't just have one business but two and double the profit!

Wondering what needs to be done to support hydroponics in Africa? There is hope for young African farmers. African government are gaining more and more support from institutions like the World Bank among other financial agencies out to improve the farming sector as whole.

These partnerships between and among African government have laid emphasis on improving water infrastructure, developing the capacity of water user association delivery input, more soil testing, encouraging take-up of crop insurance and credit extensions advice, and multi-market linkages.

The ultimate desire has always been to get money into farmers' pockets and equipment into the right hands, including cash transfers, seed and fodder packages and other socio-economic safety nets.

However, many farmers may never see the trickle-down effect owing to the documented runaway corruption by many governments across the continent. But whether hydroponics takes off for Africa's youth and young farmers in the future, only time will tell.

26 per cent

• A BBC Money Daily piece published courtesy of BBC World Service Group Communications Publicist Marina Forsythe.

Amid the pandemic, China's Luban Workshops boost vocational skills for African youth

NAIROBI

PETER Kariuki, a 23-year-old Kenyan university student majoring in science and telecommunications technology, has ambitions to be on the frontlines of the country's fourth industrial revolution.

Kariuki is enrolled at Machakos University, about 65 km southeast of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, where a Luban Workshop launched in 2019 has raised the bar in vocational training.

A Luban Workshop provides technical and vocational training across a variety of fields to boost practical skills.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has affected learning institutions worldwide, China has been working with African countries to establish more workshops.

China's Tianjin City Vocational College jointly built the workshop with Machakos University.

The workshop held a five-day training on cloud computing back in January. Nineteen trainees from Kenyan universities, including those from Machakos University, took part.

Kariuki said the training was a game changer in his quest to refine his technical skills and has paved the way for a promising career in the industry.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING SOURCE

"I have been taking a Huawei Certified ICT Associate (HCIA) routing and switching hardware (course) at Luban workshop for the last four months and have been able to gain hands-on skills on HCIA, R&S, AI Routing and Switching," Kariuki told Xinhua in a recent interview.

He said joining the program named after Lu Ban, an ancient Chinese woodcraft master, has improved his grasp of state-of-the-art networking technologies and their real-life applications, since the knowledge he learned in school has not adequately prepared him for a demanding career in network engineering.

"In HCIA routing and switching here at the Luban workshop, you get to learn a lot of skills, hands on skills unlike in class where we do a lot of theories," said Kariuki.

Kariuki said he is confident of establishing small-to-medium-sized networking platforms in the near future with the skills acquired at the workshop.

Charles Mwaniki, dean of the school of engineering and technology at the institution, told Xinhua that training has enabled learners to have greater space to hone their technical skills.

"By introducing the Luban Workshop, the training has been more practical than before. We have more resources for students," said Mwaniki.

Phillip Muchiri, head of the department of computing and information technology at the university, said his department has trained about 20 academic



Charles Mwaniki (C), dean of the school of engineering and technology at Machakos University, demonstrates how to set up WiFi and bluetooth networks to students Peter Kariuki (R) and Owen Alikula (L) at the institution's Luban workshop in Machakos, Kenya, May 19, 2021. (Xinhua)

staff to teach students at the workshop.

"By the end of this year, we will have the first group of students graduating," said Mwaniki.

Owen Alikula, a 23-year-old university student majoring in information technology, said he never had the opportunity to interact with data centres until he joined Luban.

"It is a place that transforms young minds," Alikula said, adding that "Luban Workshop is the best additional learning source."

FULFILLING PLEDGE

Kenya is among a growing number of African countries where the launch of a Luban Workshop lines up with China's plans to boost capacity building including vocational training on the African continent.

The launch of the learning program in Nigeria's Abuja University in November 2020 was hailed as critical in meeting the rising demand for high-end technical skills in Africa's largest economy.

Adamu Adamu, Nigeria's education minister, said the Luban

Workshop, whose target beneficiaries are local youth, will boost socio-economic progress in the country.

"This laudable initiative by the Chinese government is commendable due to the technical and professional training for the good and development of our nation," said Adamu.

China announced in September 2018 that 10 Luban Workshops would be established in Africa to provide vocational training for the continent's youth under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

Abdulrasheed Na'Allah, vice chancellor of the University of Abuja, said the program -- established with support from the Tianjin Sino-German University of Applied Sciences and Tianjin Railway Vocation and Technical College -- will enable Nigerians to acquire marketing skills.

Offered are courses on urban rail traffic management, urban train transit vehicles, railway bridges and tunnels, electronics and telecommunications.

SKILLS FOR GLOBAL MARKET

The April launch of the Luban Workshop at Ethiopian Tech-

nical University (ETU) based in the capital of Addis Ababa will pave the way for training in industrial sensor technology, mechatronics and robotics.

"It will make our graduates familiar with the 21st century skills and knowledge," said Teshale Berecha, president of ETU, adding that the facility will accommodate about 150 students and has the capacity to offer training to batches of students every year.

Habtamu Sisay, a student pursuing a post-graduate degree in automotive engineering at ETU, said studying at Luban will fulfill his dream of advancing mechatronics and robotics technologies in his country.

According to Sisay, the absence of well-equipped facilities hindered his quest for knowledge on emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence that could fuel Ethiopia's industrial transformation.

He said a visit to the workshop made him appreciate the practical learning experience.

"With the Luban Workshop, we will be able to directly engage in practical classes with the help of modern machinery," said Sisay.

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia Zhao Zhiyuan said the workshop boosts cultural and educational opportunities between the two countries.

A workshop in eastern Uganda was launched in December 2020.

Elioda Tumwesigye, Uganda's former science and technology minister, praised China for establishing such a workshop that trains local youth on the application of modern technology in order to secure better jobs.

"After this particular training, and when students graduate, we are very sure that they are going to secure good jobs," Muchiri said, "because the demand is very high for cloud computing engineers." **Xinhua**

NEW YORK

EVERY Israeli will sooner than later realize that the creation of a Palestinian state is the only way by which Israel can protect its democracy, independence, national security and national Jewish identity. Denying Palestinian statehood defies Israel's existence as we know it.

Righting the Wrong

The continuing international consensus that supports the establishment of a Palestinian state only strengthens the Palestinians' resolve to never abandon their quest for a state of their own.

Having held on to this position for more than seven decades, they still have no reason to accept anything less, regardless of the vast changes on the ground. They will continue to wait and engage in sporadic violence and mini wars, as we have seen time and again, regardless of the heavy toll in human lives and destruction.

However, besides the consistent international consensus in support of a Palestinian state, Israel also has a moral and practical obligation for its own sake to resolve its conflict with the Palestinians based on a two-state solution.

Israel's very existence is based in morality—the West felt the moral responsibility to support the creation of the state because of what happened to the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust—and its continuing existence as a free and independent country depends on its moral standing both as a democratic state and as a Jewish nation.

Discrimination of the Jews

The Jews were discriminated against, persecuted, and segregated, and millions perished during World War II simply because of their religious identity.

Their horrifying historic experience makes it morally unacceptable to subjugate other people, especially the Palestinians with whom they coexist and will have to continue to coexist indefinitely,

'The creation of a Palestinian State is inescapable'



A building damaged by an Israeli air strike amid a flare-up of Israeli-Palestinian violence in Gaza City. Only a political solution will end the "senseless and costly cycles of violence" between Israelis and Palestinians, UN Middle East envoy Tor Wennesland said in a briefing to the UN Security Council in May.

ly, and yet Israelis treat them with derision and contempt the way the Jews were treated for centuries in foreign lands.

Thus, maintaining the occupation in any form defies what the Jews worldwide stood for and sacrificed for millennia. True, the Palestinians have made many mistakes and to this day some Palestinians groups remain vociferous in their threats against Israel.

These threats, however, have never amounted to being existential, and right-wing Israeli parties have over the years deliberately exaggerated the potency of such threats to justify the occupation and the often-draconian policies against the Palestinians.

Given the fact, however, that since 1967 new irreversible developments (such as the building of new and expansion of existing settlements and intermixing of populations) occurred, the two-state solution appears now to many Israeli and Palestinian observers as either unrealistic or undesirable,

or both.

They no longer believe that a two-state solution is possible, especially given the inter-dispersement of Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank and in Jerusalem, and Israel's unwillingness to relinquish much of the occupied territories.

These facts are leading the believers of the one-state solution to argue that it is the only practical alternative.

On state is not an option

Such an alternative will never be accepted by the Israelis at large, as that would compromise the state's Jewish national identity and its democracy by virtue of the fact that the nearly 3.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank and the 1.6 million Israeli Arabs will constitute roughly 45 percent of the total combined population of Jewish and Arab Israelis and Palestinians.

If we were to include the Palestinians in Gaza, the total number of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs

will be near that of Israeli Jews.

Although the Jewish fertility rate has now surpassed that of the Arabs for the first time, with an average of 3.1 per Jewish woman versus 3 per Israeli-Arab woman, that does not change by much the demographic time bomb.

In fact, even without the Palestinians in Gaza, a minority of nearly 50 percent makes it impossible to maintain the Jewish national character of Israel without violating the Palestinians' human and political rights.

Under such circumstances, if free and fair elections are held, it is unlikely that an Israeli coalition government could be formed without the participation of the Arab parties, as we have already seen.

To prevent that from happening, Israel would have to apply military laws to govern the Palestinians, along the line of what is in place today in the West Bank.

This would make Israel an apartheid state, which would be unacceptable not only to the interna-

tional community but to many Israelis who believe that Israel has a moral obligation to treat all citizens equally before the law.

For these reasons, no Israeli government has considered the creation of one state by annexing the entire West Bank with its Palestinian population to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Occupation defies Israel's existence

Instead, Israel chose continued occupation with creeping annexation of land, and in so doing it maintained control over the territories and built settlements, governing the Palestinians under military law yet applying Israeli laws to the settlers.

Although many Israelis maintain that the current status of Israeli occupation of the West Bank is sustainable and may well be a way of life for decades to come, over three-quarters of the Israeli Jewish population (76.7 percent) supports the Abraham Accords, which required Israel to stop further annexation of

any Palestinian territory.

Most Israelis recognize that further annexation will damage any chances at making peace with the Palestinians and freeze further normalization of relations with other Arab states.

Every Israeli who opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state should ask themselves if there would be a circumstance under which the Palestinians would abandon their aspiration for statehood.

The answer is clear—that simply would not happen.

Why on earth would they give up their right to a state of their own? What force—Israeli or foreign—could compel them to do so? What kind of political or economic pressure will coerce them to submit to the harsh Israeli occupation and resign themselves to unending humiliation and despair?

After 72 years of Palestinian resistance and the extent of suffering they have endured, nothing will dissolve the Palestinians' determination to realize what they aspire for, to govern themselves in a free and independent state.

In fact, continued occupation defies the very reasons behind the establishment of Israel, which was intended to be a haven for the Jews where they could live in peace and security. The notion that occupying the West Bank will make Israel more secure has been shown after 53 years to be nothing but an illusion, as Israel has never felt completely secure yet has also never faced a legitimate existential threat that it could not meet with ease.

However, as the Palestinians, moderate and extremists alike, continue to challenge the occupation, they ensure that Israel will always feel insecure and spend billions of dollars on its security.

Some Israelis find comfort in the fact that several Arab states have normalized relations with Israel before the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has ended, which was a precondition to normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab state under the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002. **IPS**

US government prepares to issue landmark report on UFOs

WASHINGTON

THE US government, once openly dismissive of UFO sightings that for decades sparked the popular imagination, is poised to issue an expansive account of what it calls "unidentified aerial phenomena," based heavily on observations by American military pilots.

The US intelligence community, in conjunction with the Pentagon, is due in the coming days to submit a report to Congress on the subject. The Pentagon in recent years has released or confirmed the authenticity of video from naval aviators showing enigmatic aircraft exhibiting speed and maneuverability exceeding known aviation technologies.

In the lead-up to its forthcoming report, Defense Department officials have made clear they take the issue seriously while sidestepping questions about any potential extraterrestrial origins. The report marks a turning point for the US military after decades of deflecting, debunking and discrediting observations of unidentified flying objects and "flying saucers."

"We take reports of incursions into our airspace - by any aircraft, identified or unidentified - very seriously, and investigate each one," Pentagon spokesperson Sue Gough said.

The experience of retired US Navy Lieutenant Commander Alex Dietrich is a case in point. The fighter pilot was among several aviators from the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz involved in a 2004 encounter off California's coast with unknown aircraft described as resembling large "Tic Tac" breath mints.

Dietrich recalled in an interview with Reuters this week that the

oblong object lacked "any visible flight control surfaces or means of propulsion." Dietrich said she believes the episode was "analyzed in a professional, sober way" by the military chain of command after she and her colleagues were debriefed.

She said she hopes her ability to go public will help ease the stigma others once faced under similar circumstances, encouraging them to "speak up, even if they don't know what they saw."

"I'm trying to normalize it by talking about it," Dietrich said, adding, "I hope I'm not the 'UFO, Tic Tac person' for the rest of my life."

The New York Times reported on June 3 that US intelligence officials have found no evidence that unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP) witnessed by Navy pilots are alien spacecraft, but cannot explain the unusual movements of these objects and cannot definitively rule out extraterrestrial explanations.

The Times, citing senior administration officials briefed on a classified version of the report, said officials found that the vast majority of more than 120 UAP incidents over the past two decades - many observed by personnel aboard US Navy aircraft and warships - did not originate from any American military or other advanced government technology.

The term "unidentified flying objects," or UFOs, long associated with the notion of alien spacecraft, has been replaced in official government parlance by "UAP." In addition to the UAP 2004 incident, others from 2014 and 2015 occurring off the US East Coast have been confirmed by the Navy, with the objects deemed "uniden-



This picture taken on Dec 26, 2011 shows the Pentagon building in Washington, DC. (STAFF / AFP)

tified."

The report, to be issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, will include the work of a US Navy-led task force established by the Pentagon in August 2020 to examine UAP incidents. US Senator Marco Rubio was instrumental in commissioning the report, ordered as part of broader legislation passed last year.

Cold War flying saucers

Public fascination with UFOs generally dates to 1947, when the pilot of a small airplane reported

seeing nine "saucer-like" objects flying at supersonic speed near Mount Rainier in Washington state. His account gave rise to a newspaper headline about "flying saucers" and preceded a wave of similar US sightings in subsequent months.

That same year, US military officials said wreckage recovered near Roswell, New Mexico, represented remnants of a crashed weather balloon, though theories of a downed alien spacecraft and recovered bodies of extraterrestrial beings have lingered in UFO

lore. Reacting to such incidents during the height of the Cold War, a CIA advisory panel concluded that UFO sightings posed a potential threat to national security. So began the government's history of official skepticism toward such reports, according to Christopher Mellon, a former deputy assistant defense secretary for intelligence who has urged greater official transparency on the subject.

While publicly dismissive of UFOs, the Air Force investigated and cataloged more than 12,000 sightings under its Project Blue Book program, categorizing 701 cases as "uni-

identified" before the project ended in 1969. The Air Force later said it found no indication of a national security threat or evidence of extraterrestrial craft.

Conventional national security risks posed by such incidents will likely be covered in the forthcoming report, according to Mick West, a UFO skeptic and researcher. On the other hand, West added, "evidence that UAPs represent something extraordinary - like anti-gravity, possibly aliens - has not been forthcoming and it is unlikely it will be."

Shanghai teacher blazes new trail for Tibet students with fine art education

By Xu Yuyao

FINE art is bringing new possibilities to students in China's Tibet autonomous region.

Thanks to Gao Qunbin, an art teacher from Shanghai volunteering to teach at the Shanghai Experimental School in Shigatse, southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, several students of the school have passed the entrance exams for art academies this year and are ready to go to colleges, which had never happened in the school's history.

In an activity room, extra-curricular fine art lessons are given by Gao at noon and evening every day and on each weekend.

However, the man was questioned a lot when he first started the classes.

"Can painting pay the bills?" That was a question he was always asked back then, because

no one of the school had ever been admitted by a university through entrance exams for art academies, and most of the parents didn't attach importance on art education.

"Art education is new to the people here," Gao told People's Daily, and that's why he decided to seek students interested in fine art on his regular classes and recruit them for the extra-curricular lessons.

Padma Chungda was one of Gao's earliest students. It was a fine art work of his with splendid coloring that attracted attention of Gao.

The students comes from Yadong county of Shigatse, a low-altitude county that boasts wide vegetation coverage. It is home to green mountains and lucid waters, as well as views of snow-capped mountains, which are all rare in Shigatse. Growing up in an environment like this, Padma Chungda are highly perceptive color-wise and is an expert of colors.



Gao Qunbin (right) teaches a student to draw.

"Do you want to learn drawing? It earns you chances to enter colleges, or you can become an art teacher just like me," Gao

asked the student, seeing his talent.

What Gao said was quite tempting for Padma Chungda.

After discussing with his family, he decided to join Gao's extra-curricular courses and became one of the first fine art students

of the latter in Shigatse.

Gao's students learned well and fast. Padma Chungda, and the other two students attending Gao's courses in the earliest days, all achieved great performance in the entrance examinations for art academies that year.

"They were the first students in Shigatse to pass the exams," he said, adding that hard work forever pays, which is true to both himself and his students.

Just like pigments can make a glass of water colorful, Gao's fine art classes have made school life more splendid for the students.

The success of Gao's first students made him more confident when he explained art education to other parents. At present, over 20 senior high students are attending his extra-curricular fine art classes, and the number is higher in the school's junior high department.

Preparing for further art studies in college, the students are also expanding the influence of art, Gao said.

Gao, who's in his fifties and volunteering to teach in Tibet for a second time, has a goal to present the beauty of Shigatse to every student there and open a window into aesthetics for the children in mountainous areas.

"Art courses are a mirror of the school's efforts in enhancing moral and art education. We have always been working to ensure that all students can find the extra-curricular activities they like," said Zhang Bisheng, principal of the Shanghai Experimental School in Shigatse.

According to him, 52 student societies have been opened at the school by 28 teachers from Shanghai, who are trying their best to cover as many students as possible.

People's Daily

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

One million African girls 'may never return to school'

By Special Correspondent

ABOUT one million girls in Sub-Saharan Africa may never return to school after getting pregnant due to COVID-19 school closures, a development that could derail Africa's growth, a report says.

The Ibrahim Forum Report highlights the COVID-19-related challenges facing Africa, including an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, strain on already weak health services, rising instability and economic hardship.

The report released this month warns that school closures negatively impact girls' socialization, access to sexual and reproductive health services, and safe spaces. It says they become vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and early pregnancies.

"The Ibrahim Forum Report shows how school closures risk widening existing learning inequalities," says Camilla Rocca, head of research, Mo Ibrahim Foundation. "Already in 2019, there was a 3.9 percentage points gap between the rate of out-of-school girls and boys in Sub-Saharan Africa."

The analysis, Rocca explains, is based on data such as education enrolment and adolescent pregnancy rates.

Stay-at-home orders during the pandemic have triggered an increase in violence against women and girls across the world, notes Rocca, adding: "This is happening at a time when access to support and emergency services to curb SGBV [sexual and gender-based violence] have declined due to the pandemic and its related restrictions."

Rocca said that in a survey of 1,056 women across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal almost 41 percent of respondents reported incidents of domestic violence before the pandemic, while this rose to more than 52 percent during COVID-19.

The report outlines a roadmap to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery for Africa, including strengthening collaboration, prioritizing young people, and championing good governance.

Tijani Salami, a physician advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Nigeria, says that women are bearing the brunt of socio-economic fallout from COVID-19.



"Child marriage is prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa," explains Salami, an Aspen New Voices fellow. "About 43 percent of girls in Nigeria marry before the age of 18. The impacts of COVID-19 could worsen this practice with consequences on the health of girls."

The New Voices Fellowship at the Aspen Institute is a year-long, non-residential program that provides intensive media and advocacy training for frontline development

experts. Tammay Esho, a director at Amref Health Africa's Center of Excellence to End Female Genital Mutilation, says that the pandemic has exacerbated the harmful practices of deliberately cutting or injuring female genitals in countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Uganda.

"Women and girls make up a huge human capital and this will have a negative impact on Africa losing up to a decade of developmental progress if GBV [gender-

based violence] is not addressed," she says.

The pandemic calls for innovative approaches to strengthen and support social, economic, health and justice systems for public emergency prevention and response preparedness, Esho adds.

Elizabeth Anne Bukusi, senior principal clinical research scientist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, says that COVID-19 has demonstrated the lack of attention to promotive and prevention

health services which are key to mitigating the pandemic.

Recovery will require access to COVID-19 vaccines in which Africa is at the back of the queue, and a framework to help increase the region's capacity to navigate future crises, according to Bukusi.

"Africa also needs to rethink priorities and investment in the healthcare of its citizenry in research for health to achieve health and wellbeing for its citizens," Bukusi adds.

AfDB expresses commitment to expanding options for farmers to thrive

ABUJA

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) is highly committed to the success of the African Continental FreeTrade Area (AfCFTA), Akinwumi Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group has said.

Adesina, who submitted that making the AfCFTA work was now more crucial than ever, added that the Bank will continue to invest in regional infrastructure, promoting regional integration which includes the integration of

financial and capital markets.

Meanwhile, according to the Network of Practicing Non-oil Exporters of Nigeria (NPEN), during a Virtual Town Hall Meeting held in February, Nigeria remains one of the world's largest producers of exportable agricultural commodities, with enough potential for revenue generation if properly tapped.

The International Trade experts agreed that Nigeria's agricultural sector is capable of generating revenue through export, and particularly by maximizing the opportunity pre-

sented by the AfCFTA.

AfDB President in his Opening Speech at the African Development Group 2021 Annual Meetings on Wednesday reaffirmed the bank's commitment to AfCFTA. Adesina also said that the Bank was working to expand options for farmers that were never before thought possible.

In his words, "In Sudan and Ethiopia, the Bank has supported farmers to have access to heat-tolerant wheat varieties that now, for the first time, makes it possible for Sudan to boost self-sufficiency"

The AfDB president further quoted Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdock of Sudan's comment on the development in his country. Hamdock said "we now grow wheat in drylands where we never thought we could grow it. We have cultivated these heat-tolerant varieties on 800,000 acres, and expect

Sudan to be self-sufficient in wheat in three years".

Adesina also reiterated that the Bank, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), had mobilized \$17 billion to support the scaling up of food security in Africa.

AgroNigeria had earlier reported that the AfDB and IFAD co-convened a global leaders dialogue on Feeding Africa

At the dialogue, the Leaders called for the establishment of a Facility for African Food Security and Nutrition to scale up technologies to millions of farmers and to achieve zero hunger by 2030.

SADC approves 'standby force' to intervene in Mozambique and EU to decide on deployment

By Morgan Artyukhina

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has approved deployment of a 'standby force' to Mozambique, and that the European Union was likely to decide on its own deployment there next month, where nearly 1 million people have been displaced by a growing insurgency.

The 16-member SADC, chaired by Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi and hosted in the capital of Maputo, approved creation of a "Standby Force in support of Mozambique to combat terrorism and acts of violent extremism in Cabo Delgado," SADC Executive Secretary Stergomena Lawrence Tax said.

The troops will buttress the Mozambican military and the private military contractors it has hired to combat Ansar as-Sunna, a Muslim militia in the northern Cabo Delgado province that has formally pledged itself to Daesh, although the substance of the group's claim remains largely in question.

Tax gave little other information about the force. At an April meeting also held in Maputo, SADC members had suggested a 3,000-soldier force based on a revived Force Intervention Brigade (FIB), an entity created in 2013 as part of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) that was entirely staffed by South African, Tanzanian, and Malawian troops.

A veteran of the FRELIMO liberation front's war of independence against Portugal, Nyusi has been hesitant to allow foreign troops on Mozambican soil. However, shrinking state budgets mandated by International Monetary Fund loan deals have left the country's army



without the manpower to deal with the insurgency, so Nyusi reluctantly invoked SADC's mutual defense pact late last month.

"We know in which areas we need support and which areas are up to us, Mozambicans, to solve," Nyusi said in April. "Those who arrive from abroad will not replace us, they will support us. This is not about pride, it's about sovereignty."

According to The Conversation, there is no precedent for SADC to intervene in a nation without the cooperation of a United Nations mission. Past incidents where troops were deployed to other African nations to keep unrest under control, such as the international deployments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1998, helped make the situation even worse. The DRC soon spiraled into an even larger war than before, which threatened to envelop the majority of Africa.

SADC aren't the only troops likely to be headed to Mozambique soon. Also on Wednesday, Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva told lawmakers he expected the July 12 meeting of European Union foreign ministers to give its approval to deployment of an EU force, as well.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in early May the bloc wanted to send troops "as soon as possi-

ble." He has been one of the leading voices in the creation of a 5,000-strong rapid reaction force. However, Portugal has already separately signed a deal with Maputo last December to deploy up to 1,500 troops, so it's unclear if Lisbon would also send troops in an EU deployment, as well.

US Africa Command also has sent a small number of troops to train Mozambican forces. On Tuesday, US Africa Command deputy commander Lt. Gen. Kirk Smith said in a press conference that Special Operations forces had recently trained with Mozambican marines and "to kind of get a sense of how we can potentially understand the situation better."

A US embassy press release from earlier this month announced the training of 40 medical personnel by AFRICOM troops.

Extraction Fuels Insurgency

Ansar as-Sunna, which is known by locals as "al-Shabab" ("the youth"), but is unaffiliated with the Somali group of the same name, has taken root in Mozambique's impoverished north, where much of the country's Muslim minority lives. It is also where some of its most valuable natural resources are found, including natural gas and rubies, both of which are extensively mined by foreign multinational corporations.

USAID provides over \$97 million in additional humanitarian assistance to countries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic

By Guardian Reporter

THE U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced during the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Humanitarian Affairs Segment more than \$97 million in additional assistance to respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa, nearly \$83 million of which is dedicated to address growing COVID-related food insecurity.

USAID Assistant to the Administrator, Sarah Charles said the new funding will provide urgently needed food and nutrition assistance, health care, protection services, and psychosocial support for people in seven countries across Africa.

Of the funds, nearly \$3.2 million in additional assistance will go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide lifesaving health care, nutrition support, and protection for the most vulnerable, as well as rehabilitating health care facilities, and strengthening the resilience of communities affected by conflict and the pandemic.

Some \$2 million in additional assistance for Madagascar will provide urgently needed food assistance, agriculture support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies to drought affected populations impacted by the pandemic.

More than \$9.2 million will be directed to Mali to provide food and nutrition assistance to people facing the compounding impacts of the pandemic and to facilitate the transportation of humanitarian workers and cargo to hard-to-reach areas.

Niger will get \$6 million for food assistance and the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

\$35 million for Nigeria to meet basic food needs for the most vulnerable and to safely facilitate the transportation and logistics of humanitarian workers and supplies to hard-to-reach areas.

Somalia will receive \$20 million in additional assistance for emergency food assistance, including rations of sorghum, yellow split peas, and vegetables, as well as nutrition assistance for children, pregnant and lactating women, and other vulnerable people facing malnutrition.

The USAID will give Uganda \$22 million to provide food assistance to refugees.

So far, the USAID has provided more than \$1.5 billion in humanitarian assistance to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic around the world.

USAID will continue to work alongside partners to provide life-saving assistance to meet urgent needs in communities affected, as well as help them prepare for future outbreaks.

Kivule residents commend govt for constructing school latrines, roads

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

MAJOHE residents have commended the government for taking immediate actions for starting the construction of latrines at Kivule Annex Primary school which was operating without even a single latrine.

Speaking with this paper recently, the chairperson of Magore 'A', Mr. Abukar Kindagule said that the reaction by the government to start the construction came about after this paper revealed that the school which has around 648 pupils was operating without even a single latrine.

Kindagule further noted that the move by the government was an indication that it was really serious with issues touching pupils' lives. "Things were much worse during rain-season we thought our pupils would get contagious diseases, but thank God it did not occur."

He has also applauded the government for the construction of a bridge and a gravel road which was not there before. "We praise the government for their intervention to construct these infrastructures. Adding: usually before the construction of this bridge during rain-season communications between Kivule and Majohe wards in Ilala District was cut off."

For her part, the Ward Executive Officer for Magore 'A' Tumaini Sichone said "There are positive results as far as road infrastructures and curbing of thefts are concerned."

She said through their local militia groups "ulinzi shirikishi, they have managed to curb thefts of flat screens, music systems, and mobile phones which had started mushrooming in their areas. She said that the most affected groups in these incidents were women and girls.

Sichone said that her office has not received any complaints on female genital mutilation (FGM) incidences. "If they are being practiced here, then it might be being implemented secretly at a family level."

Another Majohe resident who sought anonymity because of her position in the government circles, also praised the government for that effort of constructing that bridge that connects both Majohe and Kivule.

She revealed "I shifted to Majohe in 2016, I found this problem. And it was even worse during rain-season, when the communications link between the two wards were cut off, so we were forced to take long routes to reach our homes. But we thank the government for this intervention."

For her part, Majohe Knowledge Centre's treasurer Ms. Sara M. Isha said that all those things happening now wouldn't happen if it was not their intervention.

She said "After we attended the participatory action research seminar that was organized by TGNP, we were empowered with the skills on how to identify issues that can be found at the community level and how to report them."

Isha further noted that after that seminar by TGNP, they had a meeting with the Dar es Salaam City Council Authority and told them the challenges which the residents of Majohe and Kivule were facing.

"Through our sensitization efforts to the authority you are seeing these efforts taken by the government. You can see they have already put water in place at Kivule Annex. The only challenge remaining is connecting electricity to the school that can enable pupils to start utilizing that water.

She also said that plots where to construct a dispensary and a primary school were already allocated and they had already sent a proposal to the district authority for action.

Mama Mwita Matiku, a resident of Majohe told this paper, gender based violence were on decrease. She said that previously some families were carrying out female genital mutilation (FGM) to their girls openly but the government's intervention they haven't heard such incidences.



Water tanks near a water well at Kivule Annex Primary School which was constructed by the government of Tanzania in support of the African Relief Organisation Tanzania in collaboration with the Kuit-Rahma International Society. Photos: Correspondent Daniel Semberya

The Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) has defined clearly the standards for school sanitation facilities. These standards include setting latrines with the ratio of one drop hole per 20 girls and one per 25 boys.

Three weeks ago this paper reported that there was a lack of drop holes at Kivule Annex Primary School, their pupils were forced to use the latrines at Kivule Primary school which is in the neighbourhood.

Whereas, the Deputy Secretary of Kivule knowledge Centre, Mr. Erick Anderson told this paper that if the government would not take immediate actions to address the situation, there was fear that pupils could have contagious diseases, like diarrhea, worms, acute respiratory infections, trachoma and dysentery which

are all linked to inadequate access to water supply, improper sanitation and unhygienic behaviour.

So, Anderson called upon the government to ensure the latrines that were to be constructed at the school have facilities that are suitable or accessible to children with disabilities as well.

For his part, Kivule Ward Councillor, Mr. Nyansika Motena said that since he was elected to that post he has been working tirelessly to ensure challenges such as: Insufficient desks, lack of latrines and lack of enough teachers facing schools in his ward are addressed.

Mr. Motena boasted that he has contributed a lot to ensure the Kivule Annex gets water project which has been completed.

Literature has shown that the implementation of the

education sector development programme (ESDP) has led to a fast growing school children population, and the increased number of pupils has in turn led to an increase in demand for WASH facilities.

Demand for WASH facilities in schools is enormous hence the need for an integrated approach that includes key ministries in school WASH.

Other findings have shown that in all primary and secondary schools of Tanzania, water, sanitation and hygiene are very poor.

Only 11 per cent of the schools surveyed meet the national standard of 20 girls and 25 boys per drop hole. Twenty percent of the schools have more than 100 pupils per drop hole and 6 per cent of schools have no latrines.

RATIBA YA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 10.00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05.00 AM HALLI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM MATANGAZO 07.15 AM TAARIFA ZA 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

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ASSURANCE

Skin reactions to Pfizer and Moderna Covid-19 vaccines: No cause for alarm, experts declare

WASHINGTON

Covid-19 vaccines by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are safe despite reports of skin rashes at the injection site, also referred to as "Covid arm," a pair of University of Connecticut researchers say.

A significant proportion of individuals worldwide have shown vaccine hesitancy and a "misrepresentation or exaggeration of potential cutaneous [affecting the skin] adverse events may be contributing to these concerns", they explain in their paper, published in the journal *Clinics in Dermatology*.

Injection site reactions may occur shortly after getting the vaccine and may take the form of swelling, itchiness, redness (known as erythema), and/or pain, they explained. Unfortunately, with reports and photos of Covid-arm appearing on social and public media, emphasis hasn't been on the condition being benign (not harmful) and lasting only for a short time, they added.

The duo reviewed extensive data on Covid arm and described the side effects from the two mRNA vaccines in their paper. They supplemented their analysis with data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (CDC-VAERS).

"Usually, the cutaneous reactions described are not a cause for concern," said co-author Dr Christian Gronbeck, UConn School of Medicine, Farmington. He added: "Existing reports should reassure patients of the overall compelling safety profiles and benignity of skin reactions following mRNA Covid-19 vaccination." In April 2021, the American Academy of Dermatology Association noted that a large study of Covid skin reactions showed a wide range of reactions possible, but that none of them was severe.

Chairperson of the SAHPRA Board Professor Helen Rees in a briefing on Friday detailed the role of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority continues to play, as the country expands its vaccination campaign.

The research was published in the reputable *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* and demonstrated the wide variety of skin rashes observed after Covid vaccination. The authors of the paper provided reassurance that the reactions are usually mild and resolve on their own.

"Some rashes may appear a day or two after vaccination, and some have a delayed onset, as long as seven to 14 days after vaccination," said senior study author and board-certified dermatologist Dr Esther Freeman, director of Global Health Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"Most of these rashes resolve on their own with time or - depending on the rash - may require oral antihista-

mines, topical steroids, or other treatments as directed by a physician," she added. Freeman is also the principal investigator of the international Covid-19 Dermatology Registry. The reactions, including Covid arm, show that your body is mounting an immune response to the vaccine, she said, which, in some cases, shows up on your skin.

Still, if any of these reactions appear immediately after vaccination, or within four hours of the shot, they need to be taken very seriously, she advised. Patients experiencing these rare types of allergic symptoms should seek prompt medical attention.

Incidence of cases

In the newly published review, the two authors wrote that the incidence rate of these reactions reported in studies range from 5.5% to 23.7%, and the reports agree that these reactions are harmless and generally resolve within two to five days.

However, these types of reactions must be distinguished from immediate allergic-type hypersensitivity reactions, such as anaphylaxis - a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that can occur within four hours of vaccination. Dermatological symptoms are short-lived and rarely associated with anaphylaxis, the authors said.

Anaphylaxis has been seen in some countries (including South Africa) administering the mRNA vaccines, as well as the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. Most of these reactions occur in people with a history of allergies. Early results from the J&J Sisonke trial in SA revealed that 12 out of 288 368 healthcare workers had allergic reactions, of which one met the criteria for anaphylaxis, Health24 reported.

However, all the participants who had experienced allergic reactions had recovered and are doing well, co-author of the study, Professor Ian Sanne, an infectious diseases specialist and CEO of Right to Care, told Health24. Those with a history of allergies are also monitored in person for a bit longer than the usual 15 minutes after vaccination.

Some media coverage has also sparked alarm among patients who underwent filler injections, the authors said, as there have been reports around facial swelling seen in some people who received filler injections after getting the Pfizer or Moderna jab.

Although rare, these events are important to recognise amidst the growing popularity of dermal fillers. The development of such uncommon reactions, which are, however, seldom serious, justifies clinical monitoring, they said.

The authors added that while further studies are needed to understand the reaction mechanisms behind the jabs and how to manage them, the research published to date should provide reassurance regarding the safety of these vaccines relating to the skin.



NIT rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa (2nd L) and Kenya Coast National Polytechnic's principal Anne Mbogo (2nd R) display documents in Mombasa earlier this week shortly after signing a memorandum of understanding for collaboration. Photo courtesy of NIT.

INTEGRATION

NIT signs agreements with Kenyan peers to collaborate in transport, logistics matters

By Guardian Reporter

IN order to ensure that East African Community members have the same level of qualified transport and logistics personnel, National Institute of Transport and its Kenyan peers, Kenya Aeronautical College and Kenya Coast National Polytechnic College have signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate.

The deal will allow NIT and its Kenyan peers to, among other things, collaborate in academic exchange programmes, research activities, curricula development and capacity building of the institutions.

The KAC which is located at Wilson Airport in Nairobi and KCNP which is based in Mombasa will also collaborate with Dar es Salaam based NIT

in improving transport and logistics infrastructure in the two EAC largest economies.

"We have signed the MoU with our Kenyan counterparts to meet requirements of the EASTRIP project which wants to see regional students and academic staff members collaborate regularly," said NIT Rector, Professor Zacharia Mganilwa.

Prof Mganilwa told journalists in Dar es Salaam shortly after coming back from the signing ceremony in Nairobi and Mombasa that the agreement is a condition attached to World Bank funded East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP).

"Kenya Coast National Polytechnic is a centre of excellence in marine

transport and port logistics as indicated in EASTRIP, therefore the collaboration with NIT will provide numerous opportunities for both of us in accomplishing objectives of the project," he said.

The NIT chief further noted that the institute is already offering diploma courses in ship building and repair, shipping and port logistic operations but also a Bachelor's Degree in Shipping and Port Logistics Management. "We are currently in the process of accrediting the Bachelors' Degree in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture," he added saying KCNP has enough expertise in these areas.

As for the KAC deal, Prof Mganilwa said its long history of collaboration in aviation expertise will assist NIT

to deliver on the EASTRIP project. "Through this collaboration, both institutions will be able to improve the quality of training offered at the respective sites and will assist our Centre of Excellence in Aviation and Transport Operations to achieve its goals as stipulated in EASTRIP," he noted.

The NIT Rector and accounting manager explained that lecturers from Kenya Aeronautical College will come to teach at the institute in Dar es Salaam specifically relating to the aviation industry. "Our academic staff will also go to Kenyan to do the same as a way of sharing experiences," Prof Mganilwa noted. NIT is also expected to sign similar agreements with Railway Training Institute which is based in Nairobi.



Agatha, a radiated tortoise, at Congo Wildlife Ranch in Oudtshoorn.

UNIQUE

Endangered tortoise Agatha does her bit for conservation - two eggs at once

DURBAN

Only two days after celebrating her 80th birthday, a critically endangered tortoise has surprised her caretakers by laying two eggs.

Agatha, an endangered radiated tortoise, ushered in the milestone at the Congo Wildlife Ranch in Oudtshoorn on 1 June. Two days later, Agatha produced two eggs. She is already a mother of five. Along with her 35-year-old husband, Astro, the family lives at the wildlife centre.

Agatha, a radiated tortoise, celebrated her 80th birthday at Congo Wildlife Ranch with husband Astro, 35. The tortoises usually only started producing eggs once they have grown longer than 30cm, said zoological assistant director Narinda Beukes.

"They can lay multiple clutches of eggs throughout the season, which is anything from three to 12 eggs per clutch. The multiple clutches depend on seasons and environmental conditions. Egg

production can also increase when they are around 15 to 20 years old," she added.

Agatha and Astro joined the wildlife centre almost a decade ago when they were donated by a facility in KwaZulu-Natal in April 2012. Her five young hatched two years ago - something Beukes described as a "phenomenal contribution to the population management of these rare and beautiful reptilian."

Indigenous to Madagascar, these tortoises occupy a narrow band of spiny forest along the island's south-west coast. The species appears to have disappeared entirely from about 40% of its past range due to habitat destruction and hunting.

"It is estimated that their population has declined by 80% over the past five decades," said Beukes. But young produced in captivity, such as Agatha's brood, could hold the key to conserving this and other critically endangered species.

"There are 39 animal species currently listed by the IUCN as extinct in the wild. These are species that would have vanished totally were it not for captive populations around the world, many of which reside in zoological facilities.

She added: For species whose survival in the wild looks in doubt, we are setting up animal 'insurance' populations, captive groups of animals that could, in a worst-case scenario, assist in reintroduction to the wild should the original population become extinct. But for now, the young tortoises will be kept at the wildlife centre.

"Due to habitat destruction and poaching of radiated tortoises in Madagascar, they do not have a safe and sustainable home to be released into. "Accredited zoological facilities around the world like Congo Wildlife Ranch are working with Madagascar groups to assist in the conservation of their natural habitats and to reduce poaching,"

Beukes said.

And in the meantime, the eggs will be in good hands at the wildlife centre. "The eggs need to be handled carefully in captivity. The eggs are removed from the substrate that they were laid in and placed in our special incubation substrate, but it is crucial that the angle of the eggs is not altered," she added.

For the first month, the eggs will undergo a period of suspended development at a constant temperature. They will then be placed into an incubator that maintains the ideal temperature and humidity level.

"Some eggs might naturally be infertile and others may have sustained damage when laid and may only be noticed later in the incubation period. The eggs are monitored regularly to maintain ideal conditions to ensure a successful hatch," said Beukes. The eggs are expected to hatch in five to eight months.



'Covid arm' in patients who received the Moderna vaccine.

INNOVATION

Mayor of Dar city touts solid waste use to produce energy

By Enock Charles

SOME environmental stakeholders have outlined how waste disposal can be converted into a useful product in terms of energy for households in the country using modern technology that can processes it.

Speaking at a conference held mid this week in Dar es Salaam attended by environmental stakeholders on the new technology organized by Eco-Waste Holdings, the commercial capital's Mayor, Omary Kumbilamoto

said through use of modern technology, solid waste will be turned into energy source.

Kumbilamoto said companies such as Eco-Waste Holdings which deals with collection and conversion of waste to generate electricity, are an important partner to the city which is struggling with how to dispose of its massive solid waste.

"We used to consider waste as worthless material but now with advanced technology, we have known that waste is an important commodity, in our council bud-

gets we do not have a budget to convert waste into electricity so we are ready for that investment now," Kumbilamoto said.

He revealed that through use of modern technology which converts both liquid and solid waste as energy source, the city's sanitation and garbage disposal is improving hence being a conducive place for its residents. The Mayor said Dar es Salaam which is estimated to have over six million people who generate 4,600 tons of waste per day, the task of disposing such mound of waste

is big in the absence of modern technology.

Speaking at the same function, Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania, Didier Chassot said his government in collaboration with Tanzania is investing in strategic projects of mutual benefits for the two countries. "Last year, Tanzania reached an important milestone after graduating into a lower middle income economy, Switzerland congratulates the government for achieving such a feat and promise to continue our support," Ambassador Chassot

said. "This achievement reflects sustained growth characterised by macroeconomic stability over the last decade," he added.

Unguja North Regional Commissioner, Ayoub Mohamed who also attended the meeting said initiative being undertaken by Eco-Waste Holdings are important for Zanzibar because they will enable the Spice Islands become self-sufficient in energy production and wean it from depending on electricity generated from the Mainland.



DCB Commercial Bank Plc's managing director, Godfrey Ndalaha (c. standing), makes a presentation at the launch of University of Dar es Salaam School of Business' graduate banker readiness programme held in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

LIFESTYLE

How I reversed diabetes

NAIROBI

If you told Munge Wachira that he could live a healthier life eating well-seasoned marinated steak, as much cheese as he wanted and little to no carbohydrates, he would not have taken you seriously.

However, this has been his diet for two years now, and it has come with incredible results – a 21-kilogramme weight loss, a leaner physique, joy, and remission of Type-2 diabetes. Five years ago, he received a shock diagnosis. "Young man," he recalls the doctor saying, "if you don't do something about your health, you're not going to see your 45th birthday."

At the time, he was 39, with a healthy appetite for alcohol and food, compounded by a sedentary lifestyle and a family with a history of diabetes. "I weighed 84 kilos with a blood sugar level of 9-10mmols/litre. That is double the recommended range," the 44-year-old says.

He was wrecked by the diagnosis but for four years, he did little about it. Advice from his mother who is a diabetes educator fell on deaf ears. Diabetes, a pancreatic disorder, can lead to heart attacks, stroke, nerve damage, kidney disease, visual loss and cognitive impairment. At one time while on a live TV interview, his shirt ripped apart as he sat down.

"That day, I knew I had to do something about my expanding waistline besides taking my meds. I'm living proof that it's possible to get to Type-2 diabetes remission, managing diabetes with diet and exercise instead of medication," he says.

This, he says, is a mistake diabetic people make. "We faithfully take the medication but don't change our lifestyles. Sooner or later, we find ourselves dependent on them." Instead, he explored the body's ability to heal itself. In 2019, he lost his father to a stroke. When the reality of his death sank in weeks later, he decided to change his life.

"You can say the death of my father was the beginning of my life," Mr Wachira. He started filling his plate with vegetables and torching



Munge Wachira on June 9, 2021.

calories with short daily walks. He also saw a doctor who advised him to monitor his sugar levels closely.

A year later, he was at 78 kilos. Inspired, he decided to jump into this lifestyle with both feet, completely changing his diet to eliminate visceral fat. A doctor put him on a Keto diet to help him achieve his ideal weight of 60 kilos.

"Keto diet helps one drastically cut down carbohydrate intake, prioritising healthy fats, non-starchy vegetables, proteins, and low carbohydrate fruits. The diet drives your body into ketosis: a state where the body uses fat as its primary source of fuel as opposed to external carbohydrates which we consume," he explains.

Research shows even a loss of just five percent to 10 percent of body weight can often control the disease in people who are overweight. Knowing that he had more than enough visceral fat in his body, he took the

challenge and did a diet spring clean to create a low-carb-high-fat-and-fiber diet.

A typical meal for him comprises meat, stir-fry vegetables, and greens seasoned with pink Himalayan salt. He eliminated all carbs, grains, and sugars. That is, all flour products such as bread, chapati, and ugali, and rice; replaced his cooking oils with healthy alternatives like animal fat, olive, and coconut oil and gets his fats from fatty meats, avocados, and nuts.

He upped his protein intake by eating steak, eggs, and bone broth. These are washed down with water, herbal teas, bone soup, or bullet coffee made from lactose-free high fat milk, cinnamon, ginger, and coconut oil. For fruits, he ate strawberries. In addition to his daily 10-kilometre walks, he incorporated cardio workouts. The change was tough.

"I had withdrawal symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, fatigue, frequent bladder emptying, constipation, dry lips, and the dreaded keto breath. But there was no way I was going to back down," he says. To manage these symptoms, he took painkillers, rested, drank ginger-garlic water which acts as a diuretic and helps in manage constipation.

Eight months later, he was at 68 kilos with a waistline of 31 inches. His weight plateaued but under the guidance of his doctor, he went on an OMAD (one-meal-a-day) diet in March 2021 and by June 2021, he had lost six more kilograms.

Currently, he weighs 62 kilos – only two kilos shy of his goal. But this is not his greatest accomplishment. With his new lifestyle, he says he has so much energy.

"I walk to Maragua or Muranga thrice a month from my home in Nairobi's Kahawa Wendani," he says. [He covers about 60 to 70 kilometres.] People have nicknamed him "Munge the Walker." During his walks, he carries water, almond nuts, a glucometer and strawberries, and eats nyama choma and avocado.

"My recent readings confirm my diabetes is in remission. My energy levels and concentration span have improved. I sleep better and

don't need medicines. Walking has also built my physical and mental endurance," explains the outdoor lover. Healthful recipes do not have to be bland. He has become creative in his cooking ability, that he has learned to bake bread using flax seeds and coconut flour.

He now strives to inform people about how to counter this health- and life-robbing disease, which is increasing in Kenya drastically, even among children. On his social media platforms, Mr Wachira shares his journey, food recipes, and fitness tips. His live walks to Karura and Murang'a walks have gathered a following.

"These diseases are called lifestyle diseases because they are a result of our lifestyles. If we change our lifestyles, we will change our health outcomes." He is currently doing a course on diabetes remission to gain certification that will enable him to support people. Next month, he will be turning 45. How will he celebrate this incredible milestone?

"I don't know yet. What I do know is I won't die of diabetes," he says. Dr Daniel Katambo, the founder of Klinik Reversa, one of the few diabetes remission clinics in Kenya says that the first mode of treatment, especially for Type-2 diabetes lies in lifestyle change.

"If you have Type-2 diabetes and change your lifestyle to include a better diet and exercise, you can put diabetes into remission. This is the most cost-effective way to deal with the disease," he says. Such a diet focuses on reduced amounts of carbs and high intake of proteins and dietary fats. Carbs are mainly targeted because they are converted to sugar in the body.

But why this method? "Science is driven by data. Ten years ago, we thought that Type-2 diabetes was a chronic progressive disease yet it's a lifestyle disease. Clinical trial studies have showed immense success in managing diabetes to a point of remission by making lifestyle adjustments," he says. So far, 20 percent of his patients are in remission.

He is quick to mention that weight loss does not cure diabetes. "If you go back to an unhealthy lifestyle, you'll go back to using medication. Hence the term remission," adding that "before anyone starts cutting out carbohydrates, get medical advice on how to regulate medication."

FEMINISM

A female riding group that is fit and all friendly

CAPE TOWN

Team Barrier Breakers comprises a group of passionate women with the aim of growing female cycling in South Africa – and not only by racing.

If you want to do endurance touring, which can be deeply rewarding, that can be even more rewarding, than a finisher's medal. The Team Barrier Breakers mission statement? Simple, really. They wish to create an environment where women, with a variety of cycling aspirations, are supported in order to reach their goals and try new things.

Started by Erika Harmzen-Pretorius and Tyla Setzkorn this is not a pro-team. Team Barrier Breakers is for women of all backgrounds, fitness levels and interests. A gap existed between pro women teams and female fun riders, those who were not necessarily pro but take cycling seriously.

Big ambitions – beyond traditional events
Goals and projects include participation in regular cycling events like the Double Century and Sani2C, as well as less conventional projects like Sheveresting or racing to the Namibian Border. Team member Tegan Phillips is planning a number of crazy adventures. In partnership with Strava, Phillips is planning to ride 500km, around the block of her parent's house as quickly as possible.

Phillips sees this as a unique yet fun challenge and great preparation for her future plans, which include cycling from Cairo to Cape Town and hopefully being the fastest female to do so. The Cape to Cairo FKT attempt is planned for early next year and will see Phillips ride her bike around 280km a day, every day, for six weeks.

Looking beyond conventional cycling interest groups
These extreme adventures are not all about personal fulfilment. During the team's Sheveresting event, the ladies raised R40 000 which allowed them to donate 12 bicycles to women through the Culture Cycles programme in Khayalitsa.

In an environment where sponsors are increasingly difficult to source, Team Barrier Breakers has managed to secure an incredible amount of support from the cycling industry. An example is their title sponsor, Winter Green. This success is due to their pure passion as well as being more relatable to a wider cycling audience.

Cycling has more lifestyle focussed and less about racing, influenced in no small part, by the lockdown regulations. People are interested in the stories of real riders, who are often more accessible or relatable, than pro riders. The power of social media is immense and the team has seen incredible engagement during some of their adventures, as they have chosen to tell a story, rather than race for a podium.

The team is not afraid of disrupting the status quo and challenging traditional cycling norms. "I believe that there are many male and female cyclists with eating disorders due to the emphasis placed on factors like power to weight. Comments like you don't look like a cyclist or you don't look like a climber are very often assumptions based on looks alone, but these hurtful comments very often lead cyclists to think those statements are true," according to Phillips.

When Phillips started taking cycling seriously last year she found herself waiting to fit into a mould. "Culture needs to change and as cyclists we create the culture, we are choosing to speak out through our actions and the things we achieve on the bike."

EQUALITY

Women working in mining tunnels face hurdles, but happy

NIGALI

Women mostly single mothers who work for around seven hours in mining tunnels in Ngororero District are accumulating savings from the work despite facing some hurdles.

Christine Nyiransabimana, a single mother with three children living in Nyange Sector of Ngororero District said that she has switched from tilling land as a casual labourer to work in mining tunnels as the latter pays more.

"I used to till land to earn only Rwf500 per day. It is also impossible to get tilling casual labour every day but in the mining sector I earn Rwf1,000 per day from Monday to Saturday. This has enabled women to get savings every week," she said.

She said that after finishing work in mining tunnels, she can also undertake domestic work, farming and keeping livestock. Nyiransabimana started the work in mining in April this year after mining works resumed amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The women's works include transporting extracted minerals by using spades-to the facilities that rinse them. "Many women shun working in mining sites but I have found income opportunities in it. We gather every week and each saves Rwf1,000 from the earnings in a saving group of 20 members.

I spend the balance on feeding my family and satisfying other needs. I am also a member of another saving group where I save Rwf5,500 every month," she said. Each member can buy more shares in the group. She said that weekly savings in the group are loaned to members and share the revenue after one year.

This savings and loan group of 20 members saves at least Rwf20, 000 every week meaning Rwf80,000 per month for four weeks. The group is set to accumulate about Rwf1 million in 12 months and with part of the savings loaned to members, the group is set to share increased revenue after one year.

CONTROVERSY

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock offers apology for hugging and kissing close aide

LONDON
UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock has apologised for breaking social distancing rules after pictures emerged of him hugging and kissing a close aide.

The Sun published CCTV photos of Hancock embracing Gina Coladangelo, allegedly in his Whitehall office last month. The pair are friends from Oxford University and are both married with children to other people.

Mr Hancock, who is facing calls for his resignation, apologised for breaking social distancing rules. "I accept that I breached the social distancing guidance in these circumstances," he said. "I have let people down and am very sorry." He said he had no intention of stepping down.

"I remain focused on working to get the country out of this pandemic, and would be grateful for privacy for my family on this personal matter," he said. The main opposition Labour Party, which has ac-

cused the government of "cronism" in awarding millions of pounds of contracts related to the pandemic, said Mr Hancock's position was untenable.

"If Matt Hancock has been secretly having a relationship with an adviser in his office - whom he personally appointed to a taxpayer-funded role - it is a blatant abuse of power and a clear conflict of interest," said Labour's chairwoman Annaliese Dodds. "The charge sheet against Matt Hancock includes wasting taxpayers' money, leaving care homes exposed and now being accused of breaking his own Covid rules."

"His position is hopelessly untenable. Boris Johnson should sack him." Earlier, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps called it a personal matter. "What somebody does in their private life is their private business," he told Times Radio, during Friday's ministerial media round. "We're living in the 21st century."

Asked on LBC radio whether the health secretary had been "ignoring social distancing" with Ms Coladangelo, Mr Shapps said: "I'm quite sure that whatever the rules were at the time were followed. You'll recall that there was a point at which social distancing rules were changed but, as I say, I don't want to comment on somebody else's private life - that is for them."

Ms Coladangelo, a former director at lobbying firm Luther Pendragon and current shareholder, was appointed by Mr Hancock as an unpaid adviser to the Department of Health last year. She was later made a non-executive director at the department, a role that pays £15,000 (\$21,000) a year, reports suggested. Mr Hancock chairs the departmental board. "Ministers, like everyone, are entitled to a private life," a Labour spokesman said.

"However, when taxpayers' money is involved or jobs are being offered to close

friends who are in a personal relationship with a minister, then that needs to be looked into." The Sun did not say how it obtained the security camera images, but it cited a whistle-blower as commenting on the relationship.

The revelations will pile pressure on Hancock at a delicate time, following repeated criticism over his handling of the coronavirus pandemic. It emerged this month that Mr Johnson branded Mr Hancock "hopeless" last March in a private message to his then aide Dominic Cummings.

Mr Hancock defended his response to the coronavirus pandemic in a parliamentary hearing this month, saying he had acted with "honesty and integrity" throughout the crisis. The health secretary was also accused of "cronism" in April after NHS Wales awarded two contracts to a company in which he owns shares. His sister is a director of the firm.



Health Secretary Matt Hancock leaves 10 Downing Street with his aide Gina Coladangelo earlier this year.

BREAKTHROUGH

Doctors invent \$14 straw they claim is a cure for hiccups

TEXAS

There are many old wives' tales claiming to have the cure for hiccups. From holding your breath, drinking water upside down or getting a fright, people have tried many ways to rid themselves of hiccups, but none have ever been proven to work.

Scientists have now developed what they claim to be a guaranteed way to cure the spasm - caused by the diaphragm and intercostal muscles suddenly contracting - and it comes in the form of a \$14 plastic straw.

The "forced inspiratory suction and swallow tool" (Fisst), or HiccAway, as it's patented, is a solid, L-shaped device that has a mouthpiece at one end and an adjustable cap with a small pressure valve at the other. When someone has hiccups, they simply place the device into a glass of water and sip through it.

This sipping motion, with the added pressure valve, engages the phrenic nerve to trigger a contraction of the diaphragm, while swallowing engages the vagus nerve, which are both needed for the body to hiccup. The idea behind the Fisst is that, by keeping both nerves busy, the body is unable to produce hiccups.

"It works instantly and the effect stays for several hours," said Dr Ali Seifi, associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Centre, co-author of a study into the device. The study used 249 volunteers from around the world, the majority of whom said they suffered from hiccups at least once a month.

The results of the study, published in the Jama Network Open journal, found that the device stopped hiccups in 92 per cent of cases, with more than 90 per cent of participants saying they found it much more convenient than home remedies used before.

Authors found the results to be consistent across all participants, regardless of demographics, hiccup frequencies or hiccup durations. However, the report relied on self-assessment by participants via an online survey, which places some limitations on results.

"Many home remedies consist of physical manoeuvres designed to stimulate contraction of the diaphragm and/or closure of the epiglottis. These manoeuvres lack clear, standardised instructions and can be cumbersome to perform, and there are few, if any, scientific studies of their effectiveness," the study states.

"Fisst is an easy-to-use tool to relieve transient hiccups. The sample of participants who responded to the online questionnaire associated the device with superior results compared with home remedies. Future studies will need to assess the efficacy of Fisst in randomised clinical trials."



SATURDAY 26 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Rebeca
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Igizo: Rebeca
21:30 Art and lifestyle
22:00 ITV TOP 10
22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 27 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt
11:35 Bongo Movie rpt: Deception
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Rebeca
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:10 Mizengwe
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Vodacom
22:00 Mjue Zaidi
22:15 Bongo Movie:
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 28 June

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 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
12:30 DWTW: Kesh Leo
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Albu yakoko rpt
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 DWTW: Kesho leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW

TUESDAY 29 June

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 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Igizo rpt: Rebeca
12:30 Afya ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt: Wamachinga na Miundombinu
13:40 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa

14:00 Shika Bamba rpt

14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
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 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Siku 100 za Mh. Rais Samia S. Hassan
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW

WEDNESDAY 30 June

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 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Ripoti Maalum: Ardhi Kuzama Mtwara

22:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW

THURSDAY 1 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Siku 100 za Mh. Rais. Samia S. Hassan
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Siku 100 za Mh. Rais. Samia S. Hassan
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

FRIDAY 2 July

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 Soap: Uzalo
9:55 Habari za saa

10:00 Watoto wetu rpt

10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
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
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kisilam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Soap: Uzalo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTW

SATURDAY 3 July

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
13:00 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Rebeca
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Igizo: Rebeca
21:30 Art and lifestyle
22:00 ITV TOP 10
22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo
23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt
00:30 DWTW



HiccAway devices.

WORLD

More than 750 graves found near former Canadian school

OTTAWA

THE Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada, on Thursday announced a preliminary discovery of 751 unmarked graves at a cemetery near a former indigenous residential school.

The school named Marieval Indian Residential School operated from 1899 to 1997 in the area where Cowessess is now located, about 140 km east of Regina, the capital city of Saskatchewan province.

Cowessess Chief Cadmus Delorme told a virtual news conference Thursday morning that technical teams started using ground-penetrating radar early this month to locate unmarked graves in an

area of 44,000 square meters.

Delorme said it was not immediately clear if all of the unmarked graves belonged to children, but that there were oral stories within Cowessess First Nation about both children and adults being there.

He noted that there may have at one point been markers for the graves, saying the Roman Catholic church, which oversaw the cemetery, may have removed markers at some point in the 1960s.

He said technical teams were unable to confirm if there were more remains but said there were 751 "recorded hits" at the site and noted there could be more than one set of remains at each "hit."



In this file photo taken on June 4, 2021 people from Mosakahiken Cree Nation hug in front of a makeshift memorial at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School to honour the 215 children whose remains have been discovered buried near the facility, in Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. (COLE BURSTON / AFP)

Delorme said the technical teams will be able to provide a verified number in the coming weeks and his community wants to put names to the people in the graves in the coming months and will treat the site "like a crime scene."

Canada's Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Chief Bobby Cameron said on Thursday that what happened was a "crime against humanity" and that the findings were just the start in terms of finding unmarked graves in Saskatchewan province.

"There are thousands of families across our Treaty territories that have been waiting for their children to come home. Sas-

katchewan had the highest number of residential schools and highest number of survivors."

He said FSIN will work to get every site in Saskatchewan – schools, sanatoriums and other such locations – searched and victims in those locations identified.

Last month, the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia province of the country announced the discovery of a burial site near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School that preliminary findings indicate contains the remains of 215 children.

Russia, US discussing work of commissions under New START Treaty – senior diplomat

SOCHI

MOSCOW and Washington are actively working on the issue of resuming inspections within the framework of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, also known as the New START Treaty, but no agreements have been reached so far, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters yesterday.

"Work on the issue is in progress. It is clear that the COVID-19 situation is changing quite dynamically, but some time ago, we started discussing this issue, there are no agreements yet," he said.

"Sanitary and epidemiological norms are, of course, the most important thing in this situation, but it is clear that the pause has been long," the senior diplomat added.

According to Ryabkov, it is necessary to find the right balance in taking measures that would make it possible to ensure the normal implementation of the treaty in terms of its verification. "That's what we are doing in rapport with our American counterparts," Ryabkov concluded.

On January 26, Moscow and Washington exchanged diplomatic notes on reaching an agreement to extend the New START Treaty. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Joe Biden expressed their satisfaction with the fact in a telephone conversation.

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Over 2m people in England may have had long virus - study

LONDON

MORE than 2 million people in England may have had long COVID-19, data from a British research showed Thursday.

The Imperial College London's REACT-2 (Real-time Assessment of Community Transmission) study showed that more than one third of people who had COVID-19 reported symptoms, such as tiredness and muscle aches or shortness of breath, tightness in the chest and chest pain, lasting for at least 12 weeks.

The findings are based on data from 508,707 adults who took part in the study between September 2020 and February this year.

It was noted, however, that the study was based on people reporting their own symptoms and it might overestimate the prevalence of long COVID-19 because many of the symptoms are common and not unique to coronavirus.

Britain wants to allow people to travel abroad again for a foreign holiday but new variants of the novel coronavirus are complicating plans to relax its rules, Environment Secretary George Eustice said.

Transport minister Grant Shapps will publish an update on Thursday showing whether any other countries have been added to England's green list for safe travel, Eustice said.

Britain reported on Wednesday 16,135 new coronavirus cases, the highest since early February, bringing the cumulative caseload to 4,667,870, according to official data.

The country also recorded 19 more deaths, taking the toll to 128,027.

The Delta variant, first identified in India, is still a major concern in Britain. And now researchers are worried that the so-called "Delta plus" variant may cause more trouble. The latest updated report from the Public Health England indicated that 41 of the 75,953 Delta cases identified in Britain were "Delta plus", which has the K417N mutation.

Global tally

Coronavirus cases worldwide exceeded 179.6 million while the global death toll topped 3.89 million, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Africa

Africa is not winning its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as a third virus wave sweeps the continent and countries struggle to access enough vaccines for their populations, Africa CDC director John Nkengasong said on Thursday.

The COVAX programme co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) for fair distribution of vaccines is planning a shake-up as it has been shunned by rich countries and failed to meet the needs of the poorest, internal documents seen by Reuters show.

Africa's third wave is spreading faster and hitting the continent harder, the WHO's Africa head Matshidiso Moeti said at a later briefing on Thursday.

"The latest surge threatens to be Africa's worst yet," she said.

China issues white paper on its political party system

BEIJING

CHINA'S State Council Information Office yesterday issued a white paper titled "China's Political Party System: Cooperation and Consultation," elaborating on the distinctive characteristics and strengths of the country's political party system.

The system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is a basic element of China's political framework, according to the white paper.

In this system, in addition to the CPC, there are eight other political parties: the Revolutionary Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China National Democratic Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, the China Zhi Gong Party, the Jiusan Zhi, and the Taiwan Democratic Self-

Government League. The system also includes prominent individuals without affiliation to any of the political parties.

Following the principles of long-term coexistence, mutual oversight, sincerity, and sharing the rough times and the smooth, the CPC and the other political parties have created a multiparty cooperation system in which the CPC exercises state power and the other parties participate fully in the administration of state affairs under the leadership of the CPC, according to the white paper. Calling the system a new model grown out of the soil of China, the paper said it learns from other countries and absorbs the fruits of their political achievements.

The CPC has worked together with the non-CPC political parties over the years, advancing side by side, withstanding all kinds of tests, and forming a new type of relationship featuring cooperation, unity and harmony, according to the document. The CPC upholds equality, democratic consulta-



A man carries the hammer and sickle flag outside of the Memorial of the First National Congress of the Communist Party of China, on June 17, 2021 in Shanghai, China. /CFP

tion, and sincere cooperation to support other participants in jointly building state power at all levels of people's congresses, governments and judicial organs.

China's political party system is a structure of enormous strength, creativity and vitality. It embodies the essence of Chinese traditions, reflects the intrinsic requirements of socialism, and conforms to China's realities and its needs in state governance.

As a basic component of China's political system, it contributes to China's development, national rejuvenation, and social progress, and is of great benefit to the people's wellbeing, according to the paper.

Over the past seven decades and more, China's political party system has grown and matured, providing Chinese ideas to the world in terms of modern party politics, and offering a new model for global political progress, according to the document. *Xinhua*

Child soldiers executed Burkina Faso massacre - UN

OUAGADOUGOU

A MASSACRE in northeast Burkina Faso in which more than 130 people were killed this month was carried out mostly by children between the ages of 12 and 14, the United Nations and the government said.

Armed assailants raided the village of Solhan on the evening of June 4, opened fire on residents and burned homes. It was the worst attack in years in an area plagued by jihadists linked to Islamic State and al Qaeda.

Government spokesman Ousseni Tamboura said the majority of the attackers were



Yemeni child who fled fighting between Yemen's armed rebels, known as the Houthis, and pro-government forces in Hodeida, is pictured at a makeshift camp in the district of Abs, in Yemen's northwestern Hajjah province. (File photo)

children, prompting condemnation from the UN.

"We strongly condemn the recruitment of children and adolescents by non-state armed groups. This is a grave violation of their fundamental rights," the UN children's agency UNICEF said in a statement on Thursday.

Despite interventions from UN peacekeepers and international armed forces, attacks by Islamist extremists continue unabated across West Africa's Sahel region, including neighbouring Mali and Niger.

Local officials in Burkina Faso's north, where jihadists control large areas, said child soldiers have been used by

Islamist groups over the past year, but this month's attack was by far the highest profile case.

It represented a new low for the impoverished West African country that since 2018 has seen a sharp rise in attacks on civilians and soldiers.

Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 1.2 million are displaced, UNICEF said, many of whom have been forced into makeshift camps dotted across the arid north, east and centre. Over 2,200 schools have been closed - about one in ten - affecting over 300,000 children.

'China's proposal of building community with shared future for mankind far-sighted'

UNDER the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese people have made remarkable achievements in development and made China the world's second largest economy, said Andrzej Szejna, vice president of Poland's New Left political party and member of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, in a recent interview with People's Daily.

Szejna pointed out that the CPC has traveled a glorious journey in the past century and is still bursting with vitality, and its successful experience is the precious wealth shared by the world.

On a bookshelf in Szejna's office lies a copy of the Polish version of the first volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China", a book that he has read carefully for many times. He believes the book contains the secret of China's development achievements.

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has had deep thinking on China's future, Szejna said, adding that the Chinese leader pays great attention to people's well-being, and has put a lot of effort into improving the quality of life for the Chinese people, promoting the stability and devel-

opment of the society, and balancing economic development and environmental protection.

Szejna has paid many visits to China and been deeply impressed by China's accomplishments in eradicating poverty.

The CPC has seen notable results in advancing social fairness and balanced development, according to Szejna, who pointed out that the central and western regions of China have amazed people for their rapid development in recent years, and that Chengdu, Chongqing and other cities in central and western China are becoming new frontiers

in China's opening-up and have improved the quality of life for local people.

Based on the reality of China, the CPC and the Chinese government have formulated development goals for different development stages and realize their commitment to the Chinese people step by step, according to Szejna.

Many countries are troubled by the huge gap between the rich and the poor. The CPC has strived to tackle the issue and achieve fairness and justice by staying close to the people, observing the "people first" governance philosophy, struggling

for the benefits of people, and fully considering the rights and interests of the poor, the needy and the weak in development, Szejna said.

He noted that China has taken account of both efficiency and fairness and formed a solid social foundation in the past decades of development, which he considers a key factor behind the country's fast economic growth.

China has exhibited strong capabilities of mobilizing and organizing people, and constructing facilities in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, a mirror of the strength of the socialist system with Chinese

characteristics, according to Szejna. He stressed that the pandemic is the common enemy of mankind, and solidarity and cooperation is the most powerful weapon for combating the pandemic. While containing the spread of the virus at home,

China has cooperated with many countries in controlling the pandemic, provided vaccines and other materials and shared anti-epidemic experience, making important contributions to promoting global cooperation on fighting against the pandemic, Szejna said.

People's Daily

Russia ready to rebuild relations with EU as much as Europe itself is – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is ready to go as far down the path of rebuilding relations with the EU as Europe itself is, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

"The conceptual position of President Putin is that we are ready to go as far in this rebuilding as our vis-a-vis are, and this position, of course, remains unchanged, and Putin talked about it repeatedly," Peskov said.

When asked which side has to make the first step, the spokesman said that "it would be perfect if it were a movement towards each other".

"A mutual political will is needed here," Peskov said, underscoring that the position of the Russian leader in this matter is perfectly clear and consistent, while the position of the Europeans "is multiple, not entirely consistent, and sometimes incoherent".

"Of course, the European will have to go a long way before they formulate this position definitively," Peskov concluded.

Peskov also emphasized that Putin sent positive signals for establishment of dialogue to the Europeans in his article for Die Zeit.

"Just recently, Putin published an article in Die Zeit, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, in which he sent rather positive messages to the Europeans regarding the re-activation of our relations and the necessity for eventual establishment of an atmosphere of dialogue," the spokesman said.

According to Peskov, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron share this position and, moreover, voiced an initiative to begin such dialogue. **Xinhua**

UNECA announces initiative to spur role of AfCFTA in Africa's post-COVID-19 economic recovery

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) has announced an initiative to assist African countries to craft national African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement implementation strategies in line with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

The assistance to African countries will be underpinned by an assessment of the environmental impacts that could result from increased economic and trade activities under the AfCFTA in order to devise mitigation actions, the UNECA said in a statement.

As part of the initiative, the UNECA's African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) on Wednesday launched a complementary research project in partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the African Centre for Economic Transformation (ACET).

The joint research initiative is expected to determine how climate change-related risks could alter comparative advantages and trade patterns or affect infrastructure, and identify adverse effects on particular sectors such as agriculture and tourism, a UNECA statement quoted David Luke, coordinator of ATPC, as saying.

The research, with a focus on the role of the AfCFTA in promoting resilient recovery in Africa, is expected to guide how the Green Recovery Action Plan (GRAP) of African Union (AU) can be better aligned with the AfCFTA negotiations and implementation to put Africa on a more sustainable and resilient economic recovery path.

The research outcome is expected to be tabled at the World Trade Organization (WTO) public forum in September and on the sidelines of COP26 in November, where the UNECA and its partners will review and discuss how the findings and recommendations can be taken forward.

Trading under the AfCFTA started on Jan. 1, 2021. On Wednesday, Algeria submitted its instrument of ratification of the AfCFTA agreement to the AU Commission, making it the 37th African country to have done so.

The AfCFTA is set to create the largest free trade area in the world, with a market of more than 12 billion people and a combined gross domestic product of 2.5 trillion U.S. dollars, according to the UNECA. **Xinhua**

World Bank provides 113m USD to boost food production in South Sudan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan has received a 113.2-million-U.S.-dollar grant from the World Bank to support local farmers to boost production to mitigate food insecurity in the country.

Josephine Joseph Lagu, minister of Agriculture and Food Security, said the money under the Resilient and Livelihoods Project and Emergency Locust Response Project will boost the capacity of farmers to efficiently manage their farms and adopt new technology to improve their yields. "The two projects were crafted to help increase agricultural production to restore rural livelihood and contribute to ending food and nutrition insecurity," Lagu told journalists in Juba on Thursday.

Ousmane Dione, World Bank Country Director for South Sudan, said that the projects will provide direct income to the most vulnerable households to enable them to produce more food.

"South Sudanese deserve to be able to produce enough food, they deserve to be able to eat enough and they deserve to stock enough harvest," said Dione. He revealed that successful implementation of the projects will help restore hope and confidence to South Sudan's development partners to avail more support to the country.

The recent Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) said that the deficit in South Sudan's cereal production is estimated at an all-time high of 465,600 metric tons in 2021. **Xinhua**

White House, GOP reach deal on infrastructure, final passage uncertain

WASHINGTON

AFTER much wrangling with Republicans, U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Thursday that a deal has been reached on a nationwide, once-in-a-lifetime U.S. infrastructure plan.

"We have a deal," Biden said after emerging from a meeting with a bipartisan group of senators. "They have my word. I'll stick with what we've proposed, and they've given me their word as well," the president said. "None of us got all that we wanted."

I didn't get all that I wanted. But this reminds me of the days we used to get an awful lot done up in the United States Congress," he said.

Indeed, the bill, if signed into law, could be a big win for a president who campaigned on bringing the nation together, at a time of bitter partisanship in Washington and political divisions nationwide.

While the price tag is far less than the 2-trillion-U.S.-dollar package he initially wanted, the bill, if passed, could open the door for Biden's more ambitious proposals that total around 4 trillion dollars.

Thursday's agreed-upon framework comprises 579 billion dollars in new spending, according to NBC News, a U.S. broadcaster.

Around 300 billion dollars will be spent on transportation, with around 100 billion for roads and bridges and 66 billion for railways, reported CNBC, a U.S. business news outlet. Despite Thursday's handshake deal, it remains unknown whether the bill will get enough votes in Congress to become law.

Some progressive Democrats slammed the legislation on Thursday as not being anywhere near the size and scope of the plan they had hoped for. That would include investments in climate change, human resources and



President Biden speaks to members of the media with a bipartisan group of senators to announce a tentative deal on infrastructure.

elsewhere. "We have to have the whole thing, not just cleave off a little piece of it," Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren was quoted as saying Thursday by CNBC.

The clock is ticking, and Biden wants to get a deal completed soon, as a president's ability to keep the momentum going can quickly diminish, experts said.

At the same time, Democrats have their eye on the calendar, knowing their slim majority could be overturned after next

year's Midterm elections.

"Some version of the infrastructure bill will pass because America's highways and bridges are crumbling, and both Republicans and Democrats like to bring federal money back to their states," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

This bill is a high priority for President Biden, so he will do what it takes to pass it," West said.

While both parties agree that the nation

is badly in need of a major infrastructure upgrade, the two sides have had many disagreements on what should be included in the bill, as well as how to pay for it.

Republicans define infrastructure the traditional way, sticking to roads and bridges, while Democrats maintain a broader definition of the term, to include investments in climate change and a laundry list of other concerns.

Republicans have blasted much of this as a progressive wish list that has nothing to do with infrastructure, while Democrats contend that investments in climate change and human resources are needed to make the nation competitive in the 21st century.

Still unresolved is how to pay for the plan, which has been a serious source of contention between the two parties since the previous administration, and Republicans will not permit any new tax increases.

WELLINGTON

NZ plans stronger hate speech laws after Christchurch attack

NEW ZEALAND said yesterday that it plans to strengthen its hate speech laws, and increase penalties for inciting hatred and discrimination, in response to the attack by a white supremacist in Christchurch two years ago that killed 51

Muslims.

The move comes after a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch attack on March 15, 2019 recommended changes to hate speech and hate crime laws, which it said were weak deterrents for people targeting

religious and other minority groups with hate.

New Zealand's hate speech laws have resulted in just one prosecution and two civil claims so far, the Royal Commission had noted.

"Protecting our right to freedom of expression while

balancing that right with protections against 'hate speech' is something that requires careful consideration and a wide range of input," Justice Minister Kris Faafoi said at a press conference.

The government proposed new criminal offences for

hate speech that it said would be clearer and more effective.

Under the proposal a person who "intentionally stirs up, maintains or normalizes hatred" would break the law if they did so by being threatening, abusive or insulting, including by inciting violence, the government said.

China employs 546 'fish guards' to protect ecology in Qinghai Lake

QINGHAI province in northwest China, known as the country's "water tower," is where multiple major rivers start flowing. It boasts rich ecological resources and serves as a shield that protects the country's ecological security.

Recently, 546 people in 40 townships of nine counties in the province's Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Yushu prefecture and Golog Tibetan autonomous prefecture, were registered as "fish guards" to protect the ecology along the Yangtze River.

The "fish guards" will patrol along the river course for publicity of fishing-ban policies. Besides, they will also search for, report and stop illegal fishing and other illegal practices that hurt aquatic plants and animals and the ecology of fisheries areas.

A ten-year fishing ban has officially taken effect since the very beginning of this year in key waters of the Yangtze River.

From April, 3.4 million fish fry of native species, including naked carp, have been released by the province into the Qinghai Lake, the Yellow River and the Yangtze River. As planned, the province will release a total of 21.15 million fry this year.

On June 3, the Qinghai Lake naked carp started their annual migration in Quanji River, an inflow river of Qinghai Lake in Gangca county, Haibei Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Qinghai province. They gathered at the estuaries of major inflow rivers around the Qinghai Lake, and traveled up rivers to spawn.

"In the old days, people built dams on rivers for irrigation, as a result of which massive broodfish were stranded and died as they were not able to go upstream to spawn," said Qi Hongfang, researcher of a center dedicated to protecting the naked carp in the Qinghai Lake.

According to her, the gonad development of naked carp needs stimulation of the streams, and shortened migration distance could directly undermine the reproduction of the species.

To protect the migration of naked carp, Qinghai province has dismantled the dams on Shaliu River, Quanji River and Ha'ergai River since 2010,



Brown-headed gulls, which feed on fish, are sporting and foraging on the Qinghai Lake, May 20, 2021. (File photo)

and built and reconstructed seven migration channels for the fish.

Qi introduced that each of the stepped channels is 100 meters long, and there are a 30cm stair and a pool every 1.6 meters along each channel where the fish can rest. "Most of the fish are able to go up rivers along the channels," she said.

"Naked carp is the most fundamental part of the water-fish-bird-grassland ecology of the Qinghai Lake.

They are a critical link on the ecological chain and vital for the protection of biodiversity in the region," said Tseten, deputy director of Gangca county's agrarian husbandry bureau.

According to monitoring data in December, 2020 from Yangtze River Fisheries Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, the Qinghai Lake had 100,400 tonnes of naked carp, 38 times the figure in the initial days of preservation, and over 30 percent of the original reserve.

Bird species also benefited from the efforts. From 2015 to 2019, the total population of water birds around the Qing-

hai Lake reached 250,000 to 370,000. The number of bird species kept growing and there was also an obvious increase in biodiversity and species richness.

The Qinghai Lake has become one of the breeding places that sees the largest reproduction of migratory birds and the highest concentration of migratory bird population.

Apart from building migration channels, Qinghai province established a center dedicated to protecting the naked carp in the Qinghai Lake.

It protects germplasm resources of naked carp, tests and monitors germplasm resources in fishery eco-environment, monitors naked carp populations and releases and enhances naked carp resources.

The center is a "kindergarten" of naked carp. It has 18 outdoor fisheries that cover a total of 15,000 square meters.

More than 20 million naked carp fry spend the winter there. So far, the center has released 100 million naked carp fry, contributing 23 percent to the recovery of the species.

People's Daily

WHO says Africa's COVID-19 caseload at historic high amid third wave

NAIROBI

THE number of COVID-19 cases in Africa has surged at an unprecedented pace as the continent grapples with a third wave that has posed a dire threat to public health infrastructure, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday.

Matshidiso Moeti (pictured), WHO regional director for Africa, said the continent is grappling with a surge in COVID-19 infection fuelled by the easing of containment measures, cold weather and the presence of new variants.

"The third wave is picking up speed, spreading faster, hitting harder. With rapidly rising case numbers and increasing reports of serious illness, the latest surge threatens to be Africa's worst yet," Moeti said in a statement.

She said the continent can avert the worst outcome as it struggles with the third COVID-19 wave of infections, subject to strict adherence to public health protocols combined with speedy vaccine roll-out.

Statistics from Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) indicate the continent had 5,288,323 COVID-19 cases and 139,226 fatalities as of Thursday.

Five countries including South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Ethiopia accounted for 62 percent of all cases reported in the continent as three major variants drive the uptick.

Moeti said that COVID-19 infections have been on an upward trajectory in Africa in the last five weeks since the onset of the third wave on May 3 adding that a 21 percent increase could delay flattening the curve.

She said the pandemic was on resurgence in 12 countries citing unrestricted social interactions and the presence of mutated versions for powering the virus's spread.

According to Moeti, the delta variant that was initially reported in India has been detected in 14 African countries and in the last one month, it has been identified in the majority of samples sequenced in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

She said WHO has deployed experts to some of the countries experiencing unprecedented surges including Uganda and Zambia to boost mitigation measures including timely diagnosis and treatment.

Moeti said boosting the capacity of the continent's laboratories to monitor and sequence variants of concern has been prioritized in a bid to reduce the intensity of the third wave. **Xinhua**



SPORT

Athletics Tanzania leadership appreciates stakeholders for supporting national team

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

THE Athletics Tanzania (AT) president Silas Isangi has said the support provided by stakeholders for the national team, which is preparing for various competitions including the Olympics, will be used as intended.

Isangi made the statement while handing over the certificate of appreciation to China and Dubai's Shipping and Dubai freight forwarders for supporting the team's camp.

Isangi thanked the stakeholders who supported and are keeping on supporting the team on Tuesday while presenting the certificate of appreciation to Silent Ocean Company's Marketing Director.

He said Silent Ocean Company has been at the forefront of supporting athletics and especially the national team preparing for the Olympics which will start on July 23 in Japan.

He said they will ensure that the support provided by the company is used effectively

for the intended goals to bring progress in the game.

Mohammed Kamilagwa, a representative of Silent Ocean Company, said they have been forced to support athletics because it is doing well in the country, much as the game is not getting the attention of the stakeholders properly.

"Athletics has brought our nation more fame than any other sport through these heroes and others, but they do not get the sponsorship they deserve and that is why we have decided to help them," Kamilagwa noted.

He said they will continue to support the sport and if the coronavirus crisis subsides, then they hope to send the national athletics team to China for a long-term camp.

The coordinator of the charity, Nelson Mrashani, said he had been successful in securing the aid after being satisfied with the efforts made by the new AT leadership to develop the game.



Mwadui Football Club

Who will be joining Mwadui in Premier League relegation?

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL

MWEBE

THE top of the Vodacom Premier League standings, in contrast, seems to be rudimentary as Simba looks on course to lift the fourth consecutive league crown.

The defending champions are six points clear at the top with three games in hand. They are one victory from being crowned champions.

As we head into the final 2-3 league fixtures, all of the drama is unfolding in the bottom half of the table with teams involved in or nervously looking over their shoulder as relegation looms.

Mwadui FC who have been rock bottom since round seven have already seen their relegation back to the First Division League confirmed, but there are still three more teams who will face the automatic drop yet to be confirmed.

Seven points separate ninth from 17th and it only takes one round of games to swing momentum one way or another.

The remaining fixtures

throw up some exciting match-ups as we head for a photo finish in the season's conclusion.

The big question now is which three other teams will be joining Mwadui FC in the automatic relegation race

Coastal Union, which is placed second-bottom, has been on a disastrous run of results with no wins in their last five to emerge as a suspenseful late plot twist in this relegation thriller.

With a game in hand, the Tanga-based side is on 34 points after 31 matches.

In their next assignment they face a daunting trip to Simba, a likely run of seven games without a win will see confidence at rock bottom by the time their two last home fixtures come around.

Given their remaining fixtures, Gwambina FC is certainly favourites for the drop, but we've seen miraculous escape.

The Misungwi District-based side closes out the season with a trip to Mbeya.

They face a relegation six-pointer with Mbeya City FC and then take on Prisons in their final game.

Ihefu SC which occupies

the last automatic relegation spot faces a huge task if they are to avoid relegation and stay in the Vodacom Premier League.

They have lost only one of their last seven, but their two away fixtures against Yanga and KMC FC put them in real danger.

Mbeya City FC, occupying the relegation play-off spot-36 points after 32 matches-but home fixtures against Gwambina FC and Biashara United give them real opportunities to get enough points to avoid relegation.

Army side, JKT Tanzania, occupying the other relegation playoff spot, have had chances to pull themselves above the waterline, but they have not taken enough of them.

They now need to beat Mtibwa Sugar at home, whilst hoping to get at least a draw away to KMC FC to avoid automatic relegation.

Sitting just outside the relegation zone, Kagera Sugar fans will be very worried about the coming weeks.

A change in coaches midway through the season has not seemed to have much of an effect on Kagera Sugar,

and new head coach Francis Baraza has done a good job in preventing a downward spiral.

Kagera Sugar's last weekend home draw against Ihefu SC was a big missed chance.

The Kenyan coach will now look upon two crucial away games to secure safety.

Kagera Sugar has to win away to Polisi Tanzania to avoid making their last game away to Coastal Union a relegation shootout.

Victory would, at the very least, rule out automatic relegation.

Former giants Mtibwa Sugar have endured a terrible League campaign by their standards.

Sitting just outside the relegation zone, but three wins in the last four games have given them some momentum heading into the crunch period.

They will finish the campaign with a trip to Dodoma to face JKT Tanzania and Dodoma Jiji FC.

A win removes any reliance on other results. Matching the teams below them will also see them over the line.



Athletics Tanzania (AT) president, Silas Isangi (R), hands over a certificate of appreciation to Silent Ocean Company's representative, Mohamed Kamilagwa, for supporting the national team's camp in Dar es Salaam mid this week. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

Betting firm seeks to nurture women through sports

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

A sports gaming brand, Betika, unveiled a new community engagement program seeking to nurture women and youths through other sports disciplines.

The campaign's ethos is locally dubbed 'Inspire to finish strong, not pressured to win'.

The brand that operates in Tanzania and six other countries across Africa has launched a unique program that will sponsor and support athletics in the mentioned countries.

In an official statement released recently, the firm disclosed it has offered USD

800,000 to one all-female rally team, led by Maxine Wahome.

The support has also been extended to seven other Kenyan rally teams participating in this year's World Rally Championship (WRC).

After more than 19 years, WRC Safari Rally makes its comeback to Kenya and the grand event was slated to begin on June 24 and come to conclusion on Sunday.

What the brand started in Kenya, the firm revealed, will be implemented in Tanzania, shortly.

Betika! Tanzania's Head of Finance and Administration,

Deodata Kalumia, said: "We focus on improving other local sports talent and champion women empowerment by focusing on women's sports teams."

Deodata added: "Women face several barriers in participating in entertainment and sports. Furthermore, both sports and technology are drivers of gender equality and women's empowerment."

She stated: "It is befitting for us who are champions of both technology and sports to leverage and improve women's lives."

Morogoro music band now lauds concert

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

MOROGORO's Waluguru Original Music Band has revealed a recent show, known as 'wafia dansi', has boosted the troupe's popularity and helped it gain more followers.

The show, which took place in Morogoro, brought together three dance music bands seeking to bring back the enthusiasm in domestic dance music.

Waluguru Original Music Band's Director, Deogratius David, revealed his troupe has, since the show took place, got plenty of invitations to stage shows in several parts of the region.

He disclosed: "We fully exploited the show, which had targetted to see to it that local dance music regain its lost glory, by entertaining the genre's followers."

"A lot of the genre's followers are as of late attending our events."

The vocalist said much as the event had brought together three troupes, namely Bogos Musica from Dar es Salaam, Dodoma's Sky Melody, and other troupes, he is confident the concert has helped his troupe get more followers.

He disclosed: "We made good use of the show, seeing to it that dance music followers appreciate ours is a good troupe and this music genre is still attractive, much as it is not enjoying much backing as was the case in the past."

David moreover pointed out Waluguru Original Music Band is looking into staging shows in several other parts, which include Dar es Salaam.



Waluguru Original Music Band's Director, Deogratius David (C), in action with the troupe's other artists at a special show, known as 'wafia dansi', which took place in Morogoro recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

According to the artist, they will seek to host a bonanza, which will be held every Sunday in the city.

David noted his troupe is now enjoying fame with a new album, titled 'Kikao cha Wahenga'.

The 'Kikao cha Wahenga' has six tracks, 'Morogoro Yetu', 'Mwanzo wa Mapeenzi', 'Cha Kupewa', 'Ngalile Mwanangu Ndole', 'Supu' and 'Nataka

Nilewe'.

The vocalist pointed out the 'Morogoro Yetu' song issues attractions that are found in Morogoro, which include captivating hills.

The singer was adamant the 'Kikao cha Wahenga' is part of his band's efforts to see to it that dance music crawls back to popularity.

Best quotes of Euro 2020 group stage

LONDON

THE group stage of Euro 2020 came to an end on Wednesday, and with the last 16 starting at the weekend, AFP Sport looks at some of the best quotes from the tournament so far ahead of the knockout rounds:

“Thankfully John McGinn gave me some tips. He said: ‘If he comes on you need to get nibbling in his ear. But don’t be critical, be complimentary.’”

“So the full time he was on I was telling him how good-looking he was, and I loved his calves, and asking him how he got his hair to look like that.”

– Scotland wing-back Stephen O’Donnell, speaking to the Scotland-HQ, on how he managed to nullify the threat of England’s Jack Grealish, an Aston Villa teammate of John McGinn, in a 0-0 draw.

“It’s an old player who is working in the studio, isn’t it?”

– Sweden’s 21-year-old forward Alexander Isak after former England great turned TV presenter Gary Lineker called him “an exceptional talent”.

“I think everyone was waiting for it. There was a little pressure on me from all over the country but I’m a footballer, a professional – I need that pressure.”

– Karim Benzema after ending a near six-year wait for an international goal.

“I promise you it won’t be 23 years till the next one.”

– Scotland coach Steve Clarke, whose side finished bottom of Group D on their return to a major international tournament for the first time since the 1998 World Cup.

“We managed to get Christian back.”

– Denmark team doctor Martin Bosen after midfielder Christian Erik-

sen had to be revived on the pitch in the team’s opener against Finland.

“It’s insane that we’re through. That team, these players... It’s fantastic to be part of this. Totally amazing to hear people get crazy.”

– Denmark winger Mikkel Damsgaard after scoring in an emotional 4-1 victory over Russia in Copenhagen which saw the team reach the last 16.

“I have a feeling that we are like a bottle of cava that is about to be uncorked.”

– Spain coach Luis Enrique on his team after drawing their first two group games. The three-time champions then thrashed Slovakia 5-0 to go through.

“I wanted to look like (MMA fighter) Nate Diaz, who is usually covered with blood after each fight. I was just imitating him.”

– Czech striker Patrik Schick on his celebration after scoring against Croatia. He netted a penalty after being caught by Dejan Lovren’s elbow and celebrated by flexing his biceps, while sporting tampons up his bloodied nose and blood smears on his face.

“It’s nice to have equalled a legend like Pozzo. But he has more important trophies than the 30 games.”

– Italy coach Roberto Mancini after his side matched their country’s record unbeaten run of 30 matches, set under two-time World Cup winning coach Vittorio Pozzo between 1935 and 1939.

“I always said if I played at Wembley in a major tournament, I’m scoring. I had to score in my back garden and delighted to do that.”

– England’s Raheem Sterling after scoring the winner against Croatia at Wembley, close to where he grew up.

AFP

Euros up for grabs as main contenders wobble

SEVILLE, SPAIN

THE European Championship is well and truly up for grabs as the tournament enters the knockouts after a compelling group stage in which some top nations fell short of expectations while two fallen powers staged a resurgence.

Italy and the Netherlands, who both failed to qualify for the last World Cup, have played some of the best football and made up two of the three sides to win all their group games.

Belgium, the number one ranked team in the world and the only top side to have fully lived up to expectations, were the other to accrue nine points.

World champions France, meanwhile, are yet to catch fire and were involved in one of the shocks of the tournament when they drew 1-1 with Hungary, only for Group F rivals Germany to suffer even more against the minnows before snatching a 2-2 draw to sneak into the last 16 and avoid another major tournament humiliation.

More superpowers have struggled, such as holders Portugal, who were overwhelmed 4-2 by Germany and needed a flurry of late goals to beat the dogged Hungary.

Euro 2008 and 2012 winners Spain were booted off the pitch by unhappy fans after drawing their first two games and derided as “horrible” by former Dutch player Rafael van der Vaart before eventually lifting off by hammering Slovakia 5-0.

England coach Gareth Southgate meanwhile has faced criticism for deploying conservative tactics, in particular after a surprise 0-0 draw with Scotland, while his captain Harry Kane has had a tournament to forget and is yet to score.

England must have no regrets in ‘special’ Germany clash: Henderson

LONDON

JORDAN Henderson has urged England to have no regrets when they face Germany in a “special” Euro 2020 last-16 clash.

Gareth Southgate’s side will renew their historic rivalry with Germany at Wembley on Tuesday.

Since the 1966 World Cup final, England and Germany have produced some of international football’s most iconic moments.

England midfielder Henderson is well aware of the significance of next week’s eagerly-anticipated tie and has told his team-mates to do everything they can to be fully prepared.

“It’s a special game for the players,

“It will be tricky to bet who’s going to win this Euro because sometimes it’s obvious to see a team going through playing so well,” said former France player David Ginola on BBC radio.

“But at this stage nobody can say because everyone is still on the same level. There’s not one team going through the roof.”

Italy have been perhaps the best side overall thanks to a remarkable tactical shift from Roberto Mancini, who has turned the nation famed for defensive ‘Catenaccio’ into a relentless pressing side capable of scoring from all areas.

Italy have benefitted from some kind fixtures though and should also make light work of Austria to make the quarter-finals, where their mettle will be truly tested by either Portugal or Belgium.

The same is true of the Netherlands, who are the top scorers with eight goals but have looked vulnerable at the back and were fortunate not to concede against rank outsiders North Macedonia.

The Dutch have a kind path in the knockout rounds too, facing the Czech Republic next for the chance to play the winner of Wales against Denmark in the quarters.

Two last-16 fixtures stand out in particular: England face Germany in a repeat of the 1996 semi-final at Wembley and Portugal meet Belgium in a showdown between two of the outstanding strikers of the tournament in Romelu Lukaku and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Spain v Croatia is another fascinating fixture, with Luka Modric proving a peerless midfielder in their final outing against Scotland, even at 35 years old, and he will be relishing the chance to face many of his La Liga rivals.

REUTERS

for the fans. It’s a big game and that’s what you want to be playing in at these tournaments,” Henderson told reporters on Thursday. “You enter the knockout stages, if you win you go on and if you lose you’re out. We just have to stay focused.

“It’s very exciting. Everybody will be looking forward to it. We need to stay focused and have no regrets. It would mean everything to use to get into the next round. Of course to beat Germany is special as well because they are a fantastic team and it is always a big game.”

While unbeaten England advanced as Group D winners, Germany’s place in the last 16 was only secured at the death as they a rescued a 2-2 draw with Hungary to finish second in Group F.

‘Little owl’ Verratti gives new impetus to high-flying Italy



(L to R): Italy’s Jorginho, Marco Verratti and Federico Bernardeschi plot victory against Wales. (Agencies)

ROME

MARCO Verratti’s return from injury has given new impetus to an Italy side looking increasingly like title contenders at Euro 2020.

The Paris Saint-Germain midfielder returned after a six-week knee injury layoff to help the Azzurri make it three wins out of three in the group stage against Wales last weekend.

Next up for Italy is a last-16 game against Austria in Wembley today.

It was a free-kick from Verratti, known as the ‘Little owl’, that set up Matteo Pessina for the only goal against Wales.

The 28-year-old took the captain’s armband when defender Leonardo Bonucci was substituted in the second half, with regular skipper Giorgio Chiellini sitting out the game with a muscular problem.

A delighted Roberto Mancini hugged Verratti as he left the pitch at the Stadio Olimpico, having surpassed expectations by playing the entire match in midfield alongside

Jorginho.

“(Verratti) showed that they are all starters,” said coach Mancini, who left in-form midfielder Manuel Locatelli on the bench in favour of the PSG player.

Verratti and Jorginho are Mancini’s first-choice midfield pairing, and having the duo in the driving seat again is a boost to Italy’s hopes of lifting a trophy they have won once, back in 1968.

Both are experienced on the European stage, with Verratti a runner-up in the 2020 Champions League with PSG, while Brazil-born Jorginho, 29, lifted the trophy with Chelsea last month.

Mancini made eight changes for the Wales game with 29-year-old Jorginho, just one of three players to remain, having played all three group games.

Locatelli played in Verratti’s absence in the first two games and scored a brace against Switzerland.

But while Verratti may be back, Locatelli can still hope to play a role, with the pair rotating in team training in Coverciano, outside Florence.

“When we say that this team is for everyone, we’re not just saying that,” said Verratti, who has played 41

games for Italy since making his debut against England in August 2012, scoring three goals.

“There are 26 of us and all of us are proud to represent our country and ready to give our best.”

He added: “I’m very pleased (to be back) and thank Mancini for waiting for me. It was tough, as at the start I wasn’t even sure if I could play this tournament after the injury.”

“It happened in 2016 and I feared it was going to happen again. I thank the medical staff and the coach who waited for me. It was a special day and I’m very happy.”

- Record beckons -

Mancini took over after Italy’s failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

And they have lost just twice in 35 games under the former Manchester City manager – with 26 wins and seven draws.

Verratti and Jorginho were absent in both those defeats – by France in a friendly in June 2018 before they won the World Cup, and European champions Portugal in the Nations League the following September.

Since then they are unbeaten and a 31st game without defeat against Austria would see Mancini’s men overtake two-time World Cup winning

coach Vittorio Pozzo’s side’s all-time Italian record in the 1930s, which was matched against Wales.

Mancini has used 25 of 26 players available, with the exception third-choice goalkeeper Alex Meret.

Goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma helped make it 11 consecutive victories without conceding a goal.

A 12th straight win would match the run of the team under Ferruccio Valcareggi, who led Italy to their only European title in 1968, and a runners-up spot in the World Cup two years later.

The last goal scored against Italy was in October 2020 against the Netherlands.

“So far the Azzurri have shown the best football of the Europeans,” former England captain Sol Campbell told Gazzetta Dello Sport.

“Mancini is doing a great job. Even in the last game against Wales, despite eight changes the script has remained unchanged.”

“I like Verratti, he has really important shots. Pessina is a discovery, (Rafael) Toloi too.”

Italy have won all four of their previous meetings against Austria at major tournaments.

AFP

Bale and Wales swimming against the tide in Denmark clash at Euro 2020

AMSTERDAM

GARETH Bale and Wales may have been the neutrals’ favourites during their rousing run to the semi-finals of the last European Championship, but as they prepare to face Denmark in the last 16 at Euro 2020 in Amsterdam today the goodwill is likely to all be for their opponents.

The Danes managed to qualify for the knockout phase in second place in their group despite the enormous emotional impact of Christian Eriksen’s cardiac arrest during their opening game against Finland in Copenhagen.

After the trauma of seeing their star player require CPR on the pitch, Kasper Hjulmand’s team lost 1-0 to their Nordic neighbours and then went down 2-1 to Belgium, but a thrilling 4-1 win over Russia was enough for them to advance.

And so they come to the Netherlands with the aim of winning a knockout tie at the European Championship for the first time since they stunned the continent to win the trophy itself in 1992, defeating Germany in the final in Gothenburg having famously only qualified because war-torn Yugoslavia disintegrated.

Saturday marks exactly 29 years since that game, and

this time the Danes, now ranked as the 10th-best side in the world, should be favourites against Wales as they look to go as far as possible for Eriksen, who spent six days in hospital after his collapse, undergoing surgery to have a defibrillator implanted.

“It’s hard to describe what this team has been through the past four weeks. We’re thinking about Christian all the way,” said Hjulmand after the victory over Russia.

When the teams met twice in the Nations League in late 2018 Denmark won on each occasion, including a 2-0 home victory in which Eriksen scored twice.

Locals going to the game in Amsterdam will certainly have Eriksen on their minds – the playmaker made his name at Ajax after joining them as a fresh-faced teenager.

He made his first-team debut for the Dutch giants prior to turning 18 and won three Eredivisie titles before being sold to Tottenham Hotspur in 2013.

Eriksen, who left London for Inter Milan in January last year, arrived as part of the wave of signings made by Spurs in the same summer they sold Bale to Real Madrid.

- Welsh fans to miss out -

Bale went on to experience the highest of highs at club level in Madrid and has helped propel his country back to the forefront of the international game.

Scorer of three goals on their run to the semi-finals in France five years ago, this time Bale has skipped Wales through Group A, although he missed a penalty in their crucial win over Turkey in Baku.

“Watching him for years and being lucky enough to play with him now, I know Gareth can do whatever he wants on the pitch,” said Joe Rodon, his teammate at Spurs as well as with Wales.

There will be club teammates in each goal on Saturday: Denmark’s Kasper Schmeichel will come up against Danny Ward, who is very

much his understudy at Leicester City but the number one for Wales.

It hints at the challenges facing Robert Page’s side, who will also be denied a proper travelling support in Amsterdam with fans barred from entering the Netherlands from the United Kingdom.

Welsh media reports have picked up on fans making it to Amsterdam having come from watching the team play in Azerbaijan in the group stage – without returning to Britain – only to be turned away at Schiphol airport.

The travel ban does not apply to supporters coming from Denmark, which like the Netherlands is in the European Union.

“I think 99 percent of the world are going to be supporting Denmark,” Wales defender Connor Roberts told the BBC as his side target a return to Baku and a tie against the Netherlands or the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Little owl' Verratti gives new impetus to high-flying Italy

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Hockey Association hosts 2021 junior tournament

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Hockey Association (THA) has stepped up efforts to promote hockey at the domestic level as the association has hosted a tournament for junior players at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam.

The association's secretary general, Kaushik Doshi, said that the tournament, which has brought together U-14 and U-18 players, has been jointly organized by Twende Foundation, JMK Youth Park, and THA.

According to Doshi, the showdown's teams, made up of boys and girls, come from schools, which are closed for holidays, along with the community teams.

The JMK Youth Park is a venue used for the tournament, which started on June 22 and will come to an end today.

The THA leader noted that each team had registered seven players in the tournament, which had seen more than 200 boys and girls in action.

He disclosed that the 5-a-side hockey tournament, which has been named 'Likizo Hockey Cup', is sponsored by ORYX Gas Tanzania Company.

Fourteen sides took part in the U-14 event, which had 10 boys squads and four girls' teams.

The U-18 event was made up of 10 boys' outfits and four girls' squads.

The U-14 category for boys had Amani Panda, Mzambarani Heroes, Kigamboni B, Buza, and Chang'ombe in Pool A.

The boys' Pool B was made up of Amani Lion, Mzambarani Stars, Kigamboni A, Kibondemaji, and Al Madrassa.

In the category's girls' event, participating squads are Simba Queens, Simba Princess, Buza, and Kibondemaji.

The U-18 category saw Kigamboni A, JMK Winners, Buza, Juhudi Strikers, and Al Madrassa battle it out in Pool A of the boys' event.

The boys' Pool B brought together JMK Hockey Rangers, Juhudi Fighter, Kibasila, Kigamboni B, and Majani Ilala.

The JMK Best, Buza, Dar Queens, and Ilala Majani locked horns in the girls' event.

Doshi appreciated all parties, especially the sponsors, ORYX Gas Tanzania Company, for backing the showdown.

The THA boss, moreover, expressed regards to JMK Youth Park and Twende Foundation, who are always at the forefront of developing the sport of hockey.

The official noted: "Alice Ongoro is the tournament's coordinator, she has worked alongside a team of coaches who are playing a great role in coaching."

He disclosed: "The teams have been drawn into two pools and played each other, with pool winners making it to semi-finals."

"Each game is played for a total of 20 minutes (10-10 minutes). This format of 5-a-side is also recognized worldwide."

Doshi said the tournament gears towards encouraging youths to demonstrate their skills and more so championing development of the sport at the grassroots level.

He disclosed: "This is the second time such a tournament was held in 5-a-side format, the last such event was held in 2019 at the same venue."

Doshi further said that plans are also underway to have the junior hockey leagues in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, and Lindi.

He maintained well-wishers and firms are most welcome to sponsor the league

Hefty cash prize now awaits Wydad Casablanca's Msuva

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MOROCCO'S Wydad Casablanca president, Said Naciri, has promised to hand over more than 18m/- as a bonus to each of the outfit's players if they knock South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs out this season's CAF Champions League's last four.

The promise to the Wydad Casablanca players has come out following the challenge they face in their quest for progression to the final of the premier continental soccer competition at the club level.

Wydad Casablanca, which has Tanzanian forward Simon Msuva, lost 1-0 to Kaizer Chiefs in the first leg of the last four, played in Morocco last week.

The North African football big guns therefore must emerge victorious, when the squad faces Kaizer Chiefs today if the former needs to book a place in the final.

In the first leg match held in Casablanca last weekend, the club conceded 1-0 to Kaizer Chiefs.

Kaizer Chiefs' only goal in the game, which was not attended by fans, was scored by their Serbian striker, Samir Nurkovic, in the first half.

Wydad Casablanca should be looking for either a 2-0 victory or more than the mentioned scoreline, to secure a place in next month's Champions League final.

This season's tournament final is scheduled to be played at King Mohamed V Stadium, which is used by Wydad Casablanca as their home ground.

This means if they succeed to make it to the showpiece's final, they will have the advantage of playing at home against winners of the other semi-final pitting Egypt's Al Ahly against Esperance de Tunis.

In the two outfits' first leg, which took place at Esperance's backyard, Al Ahly posted a 1-0 victory over the former.

The second leg match, which is to take place today, will take place at the Al Salam Stadium in Cairo.

In another development, Kaizer Chiefs' CAF Champions League semi-final second leg tie against Wydad Casablanca, slated for today, will be handled by yet another referee from Francophone Africa.

Jean-Jacques Ndala Ngambo is from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country with the largest French-speaking population on the continent.

Aged 34, he has been blowing the whistle on the international stage since 2013 and was one of three referees from Africa at the 2019 FIFA Under-20 World Cup in Poland.

On the continent, he has officiated at AFCON, CHAN, U-20 AFCON, and has run the rule in numerous CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup matches.

The CAF has already included his name in the six referees pre-selected for next



Simon Msuva

year's FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

Ethiopian referee, Bamlak Tessema Weyesa, will be the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) on Saturday, taking over from Bakary Papa Gassama from English-speaking Gambia, who oversaw the VAR in Casablanca.

It was Gassama's VAR that overturned the match officials' decision to initially rule out Samir Nurkovic's goal which ultimately made the difference.

Weyesa, who holds a degree in sociology from Addis Ababa University, is a popular figure on the continent for

the way he has always handled games since becoming a FIFA accredited official in 2009.

Chiefs' game away at Wydad last Saturday was also handled by a cast of officials from Francophone Africa-Senegalese referee Maguette Ndiaye was assisted by countrymen El Hadji Malick Samba and Nouha Bangoura, with Issa Sy as the fourth official.

Through the years, officiating on the continent has been a subject of much controversy.

Mwagalla only candidate for BD presidency

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

KURASINI Heat basketball outfit's head coach, Shendu Mwagalla, is the only contestant for the Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association, Basketball Dar es Salaam (BD)'s presidency after other members of the sport's fraternity had failed to turn up and vie for the post.

He turns out to be the position's only contestant despite the BD election committee having warned and emphasized that the interview for candidates in the association's election will neither discriminate against anyone nor favour any candidate.

Mwagalla, who led Kurasini Heat to lift the RBA League title last season, will for that matter turn out to be the only con-



Dar es Salaam's junior basketball players feature in drills at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

stant in the July 10 election, if he successfully enters the polls this week.

The BD election committee's chairman, Gosbert Boniface, said the committee seeks justice ahead of July 3, with the preliminary stages based on qualifications and non-discrimination.

"We will not allow any unqualified candidate to contest for the vacant position outlined, all we want is for BD to get good leadership, so the interview process will not discriminate or favor anyone," he said.

He said the voting process in the by-elections would also be different from the previous ones.

He noted: "In the past, we used anyone was allowed to

come and vote, but now voters will be from only from the clubs that are registered with the National Sports Council of Tanzania (NSC) and play basketball in Dar es Salaam no matter what division he or she played in."

"Other voters are board members who are the president, the secretary general, and the outgoing commissioner and the chairman and secretary general of referees' association whereby the total number will be released in July," he said.

He said several posts are contested by individual candidates, including the presidential candidate, vied by Mwagalla, who seeks to succeed the outgoing president Okare Emesu.

According to the rules, if Mwagalla wins, he will be forced to step down as the head coach of Kurasini Heat, which is preparing to represent the country in the African Basketball League (BAL).

Another post with one candidate is the vice-president, vied by Malale Masanya of the Outsiders Club, and the Women's Commission which is contested by Fatuma Yasoda.

The post of secretary general has two candidates, equal to those in the planning and development commission, while the majority candidate commission is for children and school sports development with three candidates.



Al-Madrassa Tus Saifen hockey squad's player (C) attempts to get the better of Buza Secondary School squad's players as this season's Likizo Cup tournament, organized by Tanzania Hockey Association, raged on at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

