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JPM unveils plans for yet another Great North Road

By Henry Mwangonde, Kasulu

CCM presidential candidate John Magufuli has promised to transform Kigoma into a strategic economic region in the next five years if re-elected as his government set aside over 400bn/- for road infrastructure.

Addressing a rally at Kiganamo grounds in Kasulu District, Dr Magufuli said upon re-election he will begin with the construction of a road which will see one travel from Kasulu all the way to South Africa.

The road which starts in South Sudan through Uganda connects at Mtukula and proceeds to Biharamulo, Kakonko, Kasulu, Kigoma, Uvinza, Mpanda, Sumbawanga, Tunduma, and then into Zambian cities up to with Zimbabwe and then South Africa.

"This region has been left behind in development for a long time. I want to turn this region into an important destination for our country where vital investments can be made," he said.

The CCM presidential candidate told the gathering that he appointed three ministers from the region ask he wants to transform the region at a rapid pace.

“This region has been left behind in development for a long time. I want to turn this region into an important destination for our country where vital investments can be made”

Ministers from Kigoma appointed by Dr Magufuli in his first five years are Dr Philip Mpango (Finance and Planning), Prof Joyce Ndalichako (Education Science and Technology) and Atashasta Nditwe (Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communication).

Earlier, the president had whistle stop campaign rallies at Nyakanazi, Kakonko, Kibondo, Mvugwe, Busunzu, Nyakitonto and Kasulu, then proceeded to Buhigwe.

He said his government has worked on various challenges including insecurity like killings, abductions and banditry which enveloped the region for many years.

"We need to work on maintaining peace and security here in Kigoma, as being at the border you bear witness on what the absence of peace can bring to your lives," he said.

Despite that the government has done a lot for the region in these five years, a lot needs to be done including assuring water supply and electricity, among others.

Challenges derailing development in the

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TIC in consultations on SGR boundary zone investments



Queen Cuthbert Sendiga, Alliance for Democratic Change's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency, exchanges greetings with Pemba Island residents before addressing a campaign rally on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC), has said it is consulting other public institutions, with a view to jointly identifying investment opportunities along the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line.

To facilitate the plan, TIC executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi held a meeting with heads of public institutions to forge a strategy on how such opportunities could be utilized.

The meeting held in Dodoma was attended by top officials of Tanzania Railways (TRC), Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA), Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement, among others.

Dr Kazi said that implementation of the SGR project brings up a number of investment opportunities which can be grabbed to accelerate development for communities and the nation at large.

As one of the TIC's responsibilities is to identify, promote and market investment opportunities in the country, and mindful that the SGR project is accompanied by investment opportunities for various sectors, the meeting aimed first to bring the public sector top management officials to have a common understanding with TIC on this project.

Institutions which are directly involved in investment in the SGR project were also involved, so as to prepare to convene a meeting of various stakeholders and the government to

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Treasury financial sector plan focuses on inclusion

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday launched a ten-year Financial Sector Development Master Plan aimed at creating a stable, sound, efficient and inclusive financial sector.

The plan envisages a more resilient, competitive and dynamic financial sector model that will contribute significantly in resource mobilization for economic growth.

Launching the master plan,

Treasury Deputy Permanent Secretary Mary Maganga said that the master plan embraces new thinking and innovative ways of institutional coordination to support in realization of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

The plan supports and contributes positively to the growth of the economy and poverty reduction, she said, noting that the master plan

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“SGR implementation has positive impacts on the surrounding communities as they are primary beneficiaries of the various investment opportunities intended for development along the project”



Muttamwega Mghaywa, Sauti ya Umma's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency, addresses a campaign rally at Tegeta in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Farmers will sell cloves, all spices freely, says Seif

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ACT-Wazalendo's Zanzibar presidential candidate, Seif Sharif Hamad, has said if elected he will ensure that growers of cloves and other spices are free to sell their crops wherever in the world they may find a good market.

The one time Isles chief minister and later first vice president gave the remarks at midweek at a campaign rally in Micheweni district, Pemba.

He said the responsibility of the government will be to collect small taxes to make farmers reap higher

incomes from their labours for their own needs and the country's development.

Seif said the government will provide the farmers with an expertise friendly environment for farmers of cloves and spices to spur Isles economic growth.

"We want to nurture our spice farmers to enable them advertise Zanzibar at international markets so as to woo traders to come to Zanzibar to buy the products themselves," he said.

He said as of now spice farmers are tired due to their being subjected to big

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Treasury financial sector plan focuses on greater inclusion

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2020/21 to 2029/30 aims at creating a stable, sound, efficient and inclusive financial sector.

The areas addressed include capital markets, microfinance, insurance and social security, in which case it provides a comprehensive framework to guide the direction of the sector as well as ensuring stability, soundness, efficiency, increasing access and using financial sector services, she stated.

The government wants to have in place a financial sector that will contribute significantly in resource mobilization for economic growth, she said, elaborating that despite achievements in financial sector reforms, the sector is still facing challenges and limitations including inadequate access to financial services for urban and rural population segments."

Other challenges include an inadequate legal framework and supervisory cadre for client protection, limited supply of long-term development finance, financial system vulnerability and risks associated with money laundering.

"To address the challenges, the ministry has developed the financial sector development master plan which will be implemented for a decade, from

2020/21 to 2029/30," the Treasury official affirmed

The master plan focuses on financial inclusion, financial consumer protection, financial stability, long term development finance, financial sector regional and international cooperation, financial integrity and a policy, legal and regulatory framework, she further noted.

It embraces new thinking and innovative ways of institutional coordination to support the realization of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025 designed for reaching middle-income status tied with a semi-industrialised economy, she emphasized..

Dr Charles Mwanjwa, the commissioner for financial sector development, said financial sector change is essential for stimulating economic growth and reducing poverty.

The government has introduced a series of reforms since the 1990s to develop a sound, market oriented financial sector to support economic growth, he said.

The major reforms were the first and second generation changes, establishing a conducive environment for the development of a vibrant financial sector contributing to building a sustainable economy, he specified.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene presents a gift in Dodoma city yesterday to Fabian Shija, a student at St Charles Primary School in Iringa Region, for emerging top in an international essay writing competition on the environment organised by the Vice Presidents' Office. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JPM unveils plans for yet another Great North Road

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region includes land conflict between residents and a National Service

Brigade in the region, and the finalization of a 44bn/- rural electrification project supposed to have been finalized by next month but

is not yet.

Dr Magufuli is expected to hold a campaign rally here today, one of the last stages in the region which by the

2012 national census it had a population of 2.1m people.

It is a busy port on north eastern Lake Tanganyika as historically it had a

functioning railway which is functional up to now, officials noted.



Tribal chiefs from various parts of Mbeya Region hold prayers deep inside an Igawilo ward forest yesterday for peace to reign during the upcoming (late October) General Election. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

TIC in consultations on SGR boundary zone investments

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promote opportunities associated with the project, he stated.

SGR implementation has positive impacts on the surrounding com-

munities as they are primary beneficiaries of the various investment opportunities intended for development along the project, he said.

Masanja Kadogosa, the TRC di-

rector general, commended TIC for bringing the responsible officials together, underlining the corporation's intention to extend support to ensure that the SGR project brings

up all intended outcomes.

Dr Edwin Mdehe, Commissioner General of the TRA, said this plan should also engage the private sector and other stakeholders. "Every

institution should be given its responsibilities to accomplish and the government side should be ready to support TIC initiatives for best results," he added.

RC orders expansion of dam to increase water storage, supply

By Correspondent George Sembony,

Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner Martine Shigella has directed the Rural Water Supply Authority (RUWASA) in the region to use Pay for Result Funds (PFR) to expand Horohoro dam to enable it store more water for supply to the border increasing population in the border

center.

Speaking after inspecting the implementation of a 366mm/- water infrastructure project at the border town, Shigella said that the region is planning to turn the border town into an international business hub that would attract businessmen and traders from the neighbouring country of Kenya.

"This is a regional strategic area so a reliable water supply is essential

to serve an expected increase in the number of people at the fast developing town," Shigella said.

Over 1,600 people are expected to be served by the project executed by RUWASA and the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA).

He further directed RUWASA to begin the process of educating villagers on the formation of effective Water Users Committees

in compliance to the Water act of 2019 that directs such committees to employ respective experts to supervise the activities of water operations.

The RC who also opened a Sh. 471 water project implemented by the World Vision Tanzania with funds from the Government of Japan said that the government is determined to increase coverage of clean and safe water to all the people.

He said that the region has received between Sh 11 and 12 billion for implementation of water projects in the region.

He counseled Tanga regional residents to protect water sources to insure themselves against water scarcity caused by depletion of forest cover.

Earlier, the Regional Ruwasa Manager, Engineer Upendo Lugongo said that construction

work involving water refining and treatment facilities has been completed by 85 percent.

According to the Tanga UWASA Managing Director, Engineer Geoffrey Hilly, the project would be completed by October. He said that they have started trial runs and were now putting final touches on the treatment facility to make sure that Horohoro residents get clean and safe water.

Farmers will sell cloves, spices freely, declares Seif

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levies at every stage. Seif, who is also the party's national chairman, said he would ensure Zanzibar has quality livestock and reliable markets for meat and beef.

The government will ensure all livestock services are made available so as to enhance the quality of livestock products for the market.

"We shall ensure veterinary drugs and livestock feed are produced here in Zanzibar to enable livestock keepers service their animals," he stated.

Many poultry keepers in the Isles have abandoned the business due to unavailability of drugs and chicken feed in the Isles, he told the crowd.

Humud Muhammed Said, a poultry farmer from Mtambile village in Pemba South Region said had chicken feed been available, poultry keepers would make big profit from the business.

During the October 28 polls, registered voters will cast ballots for the Union president, the president of Zanzibar, members of Parliament and of the Zanzibar House of Representatives, along with ward councilors.

Official data indicates that about 29m people are registered to vote in this year's election, compared to some 23m voters in 2015.

Council lays stress on ethical reporting

By Lydia Sospeter, TUDARCO

THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has decried a trend by a section of the media of publishing obscene materials and biased coverage of the ongoing election campaigns.

MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said in a statement yesterday that the council was saddened to see media out-

lets being shut down or fined by the regulator. However, he said all media houses and individual journalists must uphold professional ethics as they discharge their duties.

"There should be no excuse for publishing unethical content or one-sided story. Journalists must always strive to ethical and fair," he said.

Of recent, he said, there has

been a bad trend by a section of the media publishing content of sexual nature without regard to its consequences to the audiences. On the other hand, he said there are also media outlets that cover campaign rallies of only certain political parties or candidates.

While it is true that media outlets are owned by people or entities with political alienations,

best practice requires that they serve the public for the sake of public interest and not interest of the owners.

He said all of this is what is causing the current confusion, especially during this election period. He urged the media to adhere to ethics as well as being at the forefront of advocating for the rights of journalists, the council has also been issuing reg-

ular guidelines on ethics, including ethics publications, ethics for information professionals.

"We should never reduce media profession as work of humor, slander, fabrications and humiliation to other people. That is not journalism," he said.

He said that journalism is a noble and dignified profession so people should not play with it and take it for granted because it

is not hooliganism but a decent work. It is therefore important for media executives to focus on the importance of ethics and to ensure that at all times broadcasters or journalists pay attention to those factors.

Mukajanga said that news should aim at informing, educating, contemplating, entertaining and questioning. He said, "The council values the importance

of talent but talent does not take you all the way but gives you a good start." But talent without values or professionalism is meaningless and every media owner should be aware of it. He concluded by saying that it is important for journalists to remember that media freedom must go hand in hand with the integrity and social responsibility of the media.

Avoid used refrigerators to save environment - VP

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has cautioned traders and the public against the importation and use of second-hand appliances that contain ozone-depleting chemicals such as refrigerators and air conditioners.

The VP made the appeal in Dodoma yesterday during national commemoration of the International Ozone Day in a speech read on her behalf by Minister for Home Affairs George Simbachawene.

She said that Tanzania has so far reduced more than 216 tonnes of ozone-depleting chemicals, equivalent to 86 per cent of the amount available in the country and has set a target to eliminate the chemicals by 2030.

Ozone depletion is caused by chemicals found in used appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, fire extinguishers, metal cleaners, mattresses, and pesticides used to burn soil or store grain in warehouses.

"I urge the public to buy products labeled Ozone friendly (CFC-free) indicating that it does not contain or made of chemicals that deplete the Ozone Layer, to avoid dumping old refrigerators or fire extinguishers containing chemicals that deplete the Ozone Layer," she said.

This year's celebration has the theme Ozone for Life - 35 years of Ozone Layer

Protection which reminds the public of the importance of protecting and preserving the Ozone Layer by reducing the production and use of harmful chemicals.

Samia also called on development partners to support conservation efforts in conserving the ozone layer adaptation and resilience to climate change, biodiversity conservation and sanitation.

Also, involve young people and enable them to participate in environmental activities in order to have an understanding generation that values environmental protection.

In addition, the Vice President said that training for more than 500 air conditioners and refrigerators technicians on the best ways to handle such equipment without affecting the Ozone Layer.

The training was conducted in phases in seven regions of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar between 2009 and 2014 and the result of this training is the strengthening of the profession of servicing refrigerators and air conditioners especially the use of alternative chemicals allowed.

"Since some of the chemicals that deplete the ozone layer also contribute to global warming, efforts to reduce the use of these chemicals will also contribute to lessen global warming impact and climate change," he said.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald speaks at an event organised by the Vice President's Office in Dodoma on Wednesday to mark the 35th anniversary of the Vienna Convention and the global protection of the ozone layer protection. Vodacom Tanzania donated computers and various other items worth 13m/- in total in awards to essay writing winners. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



Expression of Interest (EOI)

African Underground Mining Services, AUMS (T) Ltd invites eligible, qualified and experienced Tanzanian companies to express their interest in the supply of the following.

- Three Minearc MS-CD2-06-ELVP-36 six man refuge chambers with IT hitch supplied to the AUMS standard options.
- One Minearc MS-SD4-20-SIV-36 twenty man refuge chamber supplied to the AUMS standard options.

At AUMS (T) Ltd operations at Geita Gold Mine in Tanzania.

1. Schedule and deadline for submission

The contract is to be awarded through a competitive tender process. If your company wishes to be considered for pre-qualification please submit an EOI by email to Contractstanzania@aumsg.com by not later than 16:00HRS Local Time on 24/09/2020 quoting "EOI Supply of Refuge Chambers" in the subject line of your email.

Please submit an EOI on your company letterhead with the following mandatory information:

- Company Profile, Shareholder details, Directors list, Organogram, Number of employees with a foreign to national ratio indicated
- Valid Tax Compliance, VAT Registration & TIN certificates
- Certificate of Incorporation, Valid Business Permit/Licenses
- Industry Regulatory Compliance Licenses, Manufacturer Authorizations, Exclusive Distributorship Certificates. Along with other relevant Industry Specific Documentation
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgments and /or insolvency/bankruptcy proceedings if any, against your company and or any of your shareholders, directors and/or senior leadership/management team over the last 3 years
- Occupational, Health, Safety and Environmental Requirements
- Trade references, previous contracts to supply Remote Control Technologies equipment.
- Key Employees CV & Certificates
- Compliance to Tanzania's Mining Local Content Requirements as per the Mining Local Content Regulations 2018.

Any response received beyond 16:00HRS Local Time on 24/09/2020 shall not be considered.

2. Assessment criteria

The mandatory information requested at paragraph 1 will be evaluated and scored to shortlist pre-qualified companies.

The pre-qualification of any company submitting an EOI shall be at the sole discretion of AUMS (T) Ltd.

The bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of the companies EOI. AUMS (T) Ltd shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

For more information on African Underground Mining Services and its operations please refer to the following website: www.aumsg.com.

TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVES LTD (TIPER)



INVITATION TO TENDER

TENDER NO: TP/09/2020/NCB/W/009-PROVISION OF ANNUAL CIVIL MAINTENANCE WORKS

18th September, 2020

1. Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Ltd (TIPER) is a bulk storage facility for Petroleum Products with its shares divided equally between the Government of Tanzania and Oryx Energies SA of Switzerland. The Company office is located at Kigamboni Industrial Area, Depot site-plot 1, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania.
2. The Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER) has set aside funds for the Provision of Annual Civil Maintenance Works in Kigamboni Depot Site-1/2, Dar-Es-Salaam.
3. The Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER) now invites sealed Tenders from eligible Civil Local Contractors registered in Class V and above with the Contractors Registration Board for Provision of Annual Civil Maintenance Works, In Kigamboni Depot Site-1/2, Dar-Es-Salaam. The works are located in Kigamboni area in Dar es Salaam.
4. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English can be obtained at Procurement Office, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), Kigamboni Depot Site, Plot 1, Kigamboni Industrial Area.
5. Interested and eligible bidders must submit their application letter for the Tender Documents at the Procurement Office, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), Kigamboni Depot Site, Plot 1, Kigamboni Industrial Area. Application letters should be attached with certified copies of CRB Registration Certificates and sent to the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz.
6. Interested and eligible bidders may request and obtain electronic copy of tender document through the following email: tiper.procurement@tiper.co.tz from 18th September, 2020 to 1st October, 2020, Monday to Friday between 10:00AM and 4:00 P.M.
7. Tenderers are invited to attend pre-bid and site visit but it does not bind one from bidding. Pre-Bid Site Visit at TIPER Kigamboni Depot Site-1 on 25th September, 2020 at 10:30A.M.
8. During the site visit all Tenderers will be required to come with their own PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment) which meets TIPER standards. This includes as a minimum: face mask, steel toe safety boots, cotton overcoat or overall and hard hat (workers helmet). Tenderers without the PPE's and those with static reflective vests will not be allowed onto the site.
9. All Tenders in one original plus one copy, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes marked Tender No. TP/09/2020/NCB/W/009 for Provision of Annual Civil Maintenance Works must be delivered to procurement office for the attention of The Secretary, Tender Committee, Tanzania International Petroleum Reserves Limited (TIPER), P.O. Box 2608, Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam before tender closing on 2nd October 2020 at 10:30AM. TIPER will strictly scrutinize eligibility of bidders based on instructions in the invitation to tenderers and criteria set in tender documents.
10. Softcopies of tender must be submitted only in a USB Flash Disc Drive attached/ inserted in the "COPY" enveloped
11. Late Tenders, portion of Tenders, electronic Tenders, shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
12. TIPER reserves the right to accept/reject any bid.

SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE
TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM
RESERVES LIMITED (TIPER),
P.O. BOX 2608,
KIGAMBONI, DAR ES SALAAM.

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EALA speaker challenges research institutions to invest in innovative and more solution-based ventures

By Getrude Mbago

SPEAKER of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Martin Ngoga has challenged research institutions to invest in innovative and solution-based researches which will be able to address challenges facing communities in the EA region.

He made the remarks yesterday in Dar es Salaam when he paid a visit to the country's top think-tank-REPOA.

According to him, if researchers would focus mostly on the solution-based studies, EA community will enable governments to plan better for their people.

"It is high time now for our research institutions to focus more on innovative researches with solutions so as to ensure that the evidence they accumulate is also used in the policy-making process," he said.

He wanted researchers to ensure that their studies shows how they should focus on what the EAC and its leaders should do to ensure

that it last forever and benefit people of the region.

Ngoga said that REPOA is a very strong institution and they believe that it will continue providing support to the region through research. "We also emphasise using our local experts in conducting researches instead of those outside the EA region because using experts from outside the community may not bring clear picture of the challenges that we are facing," Ngoga added.

He urged REPOA to seek partnership with other major research institutions in the region so as to work together and come up with more researches which address challenges and stimulate economic growth.

Ngoga also said that the community is also working to establish an East African Parliamentary Institute which will be building capacities of people in the region.

The Speaker said that REPOA is currently working to formulate curriculum which will be used by the institute.



Geita regional commissioner Robert Gabriel addresses small small-scale miners and owners of small and medium businesses when opening a three-day seminar for entrepreneurs on the sidelines of a gold and technology fair. He underlined the need to observe national and international standards. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SMEs, artisanal miners drilled on efficient mining business

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

ENTREPRENEURS and small-scale miners in Geita Region have started a special capacity building training aiming at helping them on how best they can run their businesses by observing international standards and efficiency, thanks to the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and other stakeholders.

The three-day training was officially launched yesterday by Geita regional commissioner, Robert Gabriel during the Geita Gold and Technology Exhibi-

tions held in the region.

Speaking at the event, Eng Gabriel called on SMEs and artisanal miners in the region to adhere to the principles of financial management and spending in order to protect and boost their capital.

"We believe that at the end of this training, beneficiaries will be in a good position to put up proper strategies on how they can improve their businesses, how to look for markets locally and internationally, things that banks consider before loans issuance as well as the reasons

that make businesses to perish." He said.

He said if the SMEs and artisanal miners in the region will make good use of mineral resources, especially gold, it is easier for them to succeed, citing policy and practical changes that have increased revenue.

He further mentioned that key important topics to be undertaken during the training were best mining methods, the importance of paying tax and payment procedures, how to capitalize on financial institutions, the importance of reg-

istering with social security funds as well as best methods of using chemicals during mining activities.

NBC's Products and Banking Services Manager, Jonathan Bitabaje said that apart from introducing business opportunities provided by his bank, including Club Biashara, Internet Banking as well as non-collateral loans, the training will help entrepreneurs and small scale miners to introduce their business opportunities that can benefit Geita residents and those from the neighbour-

ing regions. "As NBC, we have come up with this rare plan to provide training after various researches showed that over 70per cent of businesses that are introduced face a natural death within a single year, and this is caused by lack of business skills as well as management," he noted.

He mentioned other reasons that affect businesses as inadequate of expertise in key strategic areas of businesses as well as Lack of adequate financial understanding.

Apart from thanking coordi-


nators of the training including NBC, training participants were optimistic that the training would add up their capacity as well as efficiency in conducting their businesses.

"Through this training I believe that we will benefit in different areas including how best we can keep business records, as well as intensifying customer service and business advertising," said one of the entrepreneurs, Elia Manga.

Apart from NBC, the training is being carried out by experts from Tanzania Trade Develop-

ment Authority (Tan Trade), Mining Commission, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Office of the Chief Government Chemist, Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST) and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

Others are from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), among other institutions.



THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA
 Plot No 772 Block F, Vijibweni Area
 P.O.BOX 36246, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA
 Phone: +255 684 505 012 E-mail: hr@uaut.ac.tz.

VACANT POSITIONS

THE UNITED AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA (UAUT) is a private Institution of Higher Learning Institution founded by the Registered Trustees of Korea Church Mission (KCM), with the objective of alleviating poverty and promoting growth through raising Tanzanian Christian leaders who are equipped with excellence in wisdom, knowledge and Christian virtues. The responsibility of the day to day running of UAUT is vested upon the University Council with the Vice Chancellor as the main link between the Board of Trustees and University Council. UAUT obtained The Certificate of Full Registration (CFR) from Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) since 2012.

The following vacant positions are available for application at UAUT:

A: In the College of Business Studies

1. ASSISTANT LECTURER (2 POSITIONS)

(a) Qualifications

- i) Holders of Master's degree with a GPA of 4.0 or above and a GPA of 3.5 or above for Bachelor degree majoring in **Marketing (1 position – re-advertised), and Accounting & Finance (1 position).**
- ii) Working experiences in Higher Learning Institutions
- iii) Teaching language proficiency

(b) Duties

- i) Undergoing training to PhD level
- ii) Undergoing induction course in pedagogical skills for those who had none before
- iii) Conducting lectures, tutorials, seminars and practical for undergraduate programmes
- iv) Assisting senior staff in practical sessions, seminars and tutorials
- v) Preparing case studies
- vi) Working in cooperation with senior members on specific projects
- vii) Supervising special projects for undergraduate students
- viii) Mentoring junior staff in all relevant academic matters
- ix) Participating in curriculum development
- x) Participating in developing and managing of various university projects
- xi) Undertaking research and publishing research results
- xii) Preparing teaching manuals and compendia
- xiii) Attending/organizing workshops, conferences and seminars
- xiv) Any other relevant duties that may be assigned by the management

Please Send your detailed application pack with CV, Cover letter, Certificates (PDF) and Testimonials if any to; hr@uaut.ac.tz, copy to dvc_admin@uaut.ac.tz and visit our website www.uaut.ac.tz

Deadline 1st October 2020



Zanzibar Higher Education Students' Loans Board director Idd Khamis Haji (C) holds talks with Higher Education Students' Loans Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru (R) in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. With them is ZHELBS loans manager Aboud Iddi Khamis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

We did not pick Hussein Mwinyi by chance - Dr Shein

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

CCM on Wednesday launched its election campaign in Pemba after it did so in Unguja on September 12.

Addressing thousands of people including party supporters at Gombani Stadium in Chake Chake, the outgoing Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein said their presidential candidate Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is the party's nominee and he was not picked up by chance.

Dr Shein (pictured) said CCM will score a landslide win in Zanzibar in the October 28 elections hence Zanzibaris should not make mistakes by not voting for the party.

He praised Dr Mwinyi, saying he has great ability to lead Zanzibar, and he is a hard worker. "I'm not merely overpraising him, but he possesses these qualities - he is disciplined and respectful," he added.

Speaking on behalf of CCM candidates for parliament, and councillorship positions in Pemba, Prof Makame Mbarawa said Zanzibaris, in particular Pemba people want development and for CCM this year's election will be historical.



CCM Zanzibar Presidential candidate Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said if elected, he would work to improve lives of all Zanzibaris.

He said he would develop all the goods done by his predecessor, including free education and health as well as other basic social services.

He said improving the lives of Zanzibaris needs economic growth in fishing, tourism and industrial sectors.

He said Pemba has many such opportunities including tourist attractions, but the number of tourists visiting Pemba was still small, hence he will strengthen the sector to spur economic growth.

"Economic growth must go in tandem with the strengthening of social services such as education health and clean and safe water," the candidate said.

He noted that economic growth will provide many opportunities for employment hence called upon the youth to be ready to integrate themselves in the new opportunities.

In regard to agriculture, he said the tonnage from cloves and seaweed production was small hence he will direct his efforts in the area to improve production.

He said development cannot be achieved without peace and tranquility therefore he urged for the maintenance of peace.

"We should not provide room for discrimination, we must fight the vice and stay united," he said.

He also pledged to stand by the national interests in various international fore including in the East African Community.

"We should not allow complacency, we must come up in great numbers on the polling day and this time there should not be any reasons for complaints," he said.

SAT embarks on new project to strengthen ecosystem resilience

By Getrude Mbagi

THE Sustainable Agriculture Tanzania (SAT) is implementing an Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience (EBARR) project in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region so as to strengthen ecosystem resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people to climate change.

The project involves construction of energy saving stoves, establishment and distribution of tree nurseries to communities as well as preparation and use of bio briquette made from char dust.

According to Janet Maro, the executive director of SAT, the project which is implemented in two wards of Melela and Lubungu will benefit a total of 460 households by being constructed with non-moveable energy saving stoves.

"Residents in the villages of Melela, Magali, Lubungu B and Mingo are the primary beneficiaries of the project," Maro told The Guardian in an interview.

She said that the project commenced in March this year and will go until November, 2020. It is financially supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF).

Maro said with the ongoing climate change associated with problems such as deforestation, the production and use of energy saving stoves, biogas, cob-ovens and production and use of briquettes made out of char dust is a potential solution to reduce deforestation and en-

sure alternative livelihoods for the people who depend on the tree wood to produce and sell charcoal.

She noted that many livelihoods such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry have been impacted by climate impacts thus needing serious efforts to train people on the importance of protecting the environment.

"In this project we have some activities to reach project goals to the communities which is training and preparation/construction of energy saving stoves, establishment and distribution of tree nurseries to communities, preparation and use of bio briquette which is made from char dust, training and preparation of biogas digester for two wards," she said.

She said that energy saving stoves are innovative stoves that significantly reduce the use of wood by using these stoves and based on the design of the stoves we teach the community using them to cook two meals at the same time using less wood and to save time, these stoves are made of brick and clay, cow dung and decorated by cement.

For his part, the project facilitator Mohamed Hussein said in the establishment and distribution of tree nurseries to the community, SAT coordinates and provide training to communities to prepare and to maintain tree nurseries and to distribute them in their fields.

This meant to improve the environment by planting trees as well as controlling environ-

mental degradation through deforestation.

"We also facilitate preparation and use of bio briquette, this is a type of charcoal made from char dust, in reducing the use of charcoal as one of the activities that stimulates environmental degradation, we teach the community to manufacture and use this type of environmentally friendly charcoal as it is easy to prepare and availability of biomass used to prepare this charcoal is from our environment," he said.

Hussein further said that the project also facilitates the construction of biogas digesters to control the use of non-renewable energy so as to reduce environmental degradation.

"We will conduct sensitisation and awareness to 2000 people on renewable energy and energy saving stoves as well as construction of biogas digesters. We will also train groups of people in the villages on tree nursery establishments with an aim of producing at least of 20,000 seedlings," he said.

He said that the implementation of the project will have a big impact in communities in the coming years as people will be able to harvest firewood, timber and other building materials from the tree project.

"The communities will also improve their health by eating different fruits from the trees planted during the project, economically they will get money after selling their products from trees," Hussein added.



In this project we have some activities to reach project goals to the communities which is training and preparation/construction of energy saving stoves, establishment and distribution of tree nurseries to communities, preparation and use of



Godbles Lema, the opposition Chadema's candidate for the Arusha Urban constituency parliamentary seat, addresses a campaign rally at Kilombero market grounds yesterday. He is seeking re-election. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Industries will create jobs, fast-track prosperity - SIDO

By Guardian Reporter

THE Small Scale Industries Organisation (SIDO) yesterday appealed to Tanzanians countrywide to relentlessly struggle to start micro- and small industries in their areas because Tanzania will have enough electricity and industries which will create jobs, unearthen modern life opportunities and prosperity.

SIDO Director General Professor Sylvester Mpanduji said in Dar es Salaam that President John Magufuli's government was doing a great job in generating and spreading electricity to all parts of Tanzania, adding that it was pointless to spread electricity to villages while villagers, especially primary, secondary and college leavers failed to start micro- and small industries that would change their lives, create jobs and uncover hidden modern opportunities that go with industrial processes.

Tanzania is set to generate 3000 MW in the next three years, meaning the country will have a lot of electricity and surplus would be sold to neighbours. Industries need electric-

ity to operate smoothly.

Prof Mpanduji called on Tanzanians to consult SIDO offices for ideas of starting agro-processing and light industries, explaining that SIDO had industrial sheds (demonstration industrial sites) for training enterprising people right at regional level. Industrial sheds have been established in Dodoma, Mwanza, Simiyu, Kagera, Geita, Mtwara and Katavi Regions.

SIDO, he said, had accumulated experience, explaining that in the five years of President Magufuli's government some 8,477 industries have emerged, creating 500,000 jobs. Out of the total, 201 are big industries, 460 medium, and 3,406 small and 4,410 micro-industries.

The professor said because of the serious industrial drive it was no wonder Tanzania achieved the middle-income economy status well before the projected 2025 target.

Prof Mpanduji said SIDO would strengthen the technology and innovation department to match the expectations of Tanzanians in starting industries. He said SIDO consolidated its gains during the last five years and would confidently move forward in future.

HALMASHAURI YA
MANISPAA YA ILALA



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Ilala Municipal Council is hereby informing **SAMSON ANDERSON TWELVE OF P.O. Box 90028 DAR ES SALAAM**, and anyone else who claims to have any interest. We have received application of transfer of plot No. 247 block G Tabata, from **ASIA MUSA**.

By this notice your given thirty days to inform us if there is any court dispute, caveat to the Land Officer in Ilala Municipality otherwise the office will continue with transfer as required.

SALE OF ASSET



Invitation for Bid

Stanbic Bank Tanzania welcomes you to open bid.

Bids to be opened on 25th September 2020. Bidders are free to attend or choose their representative for the opening ceremony that will take place at 15.00hrs at Stanbic Bank board room, Stanbic Head Office, junction of Ali Hassan Mwinyi/Kinondoni road.

- Bids to be addressed to the Managing Director, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam. Bids should be clearly marked as Bid for purchase property on Plot number 10 located at Pugu Road Industrial Area.
- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 121000TZS5108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Assets can be inspected at the mentioned location through contacting our Bank staff through the contacts indicated at the end of this advertise.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
- The bank reserves the right to accept any bid and is not obliged to explain the reasons thereto.
- All assets will be sold on the condition of "as is basis".
- The highest bid is not necessarily considered as the winning bid. The bank's decision is final.
- Bidding is open to the general public.

Details of the property location is as below:

Location	Block	Plot	L.O. No	Size of the plot
Pugu Road Industrial Area	EP LOT 20	10	177172	2.42 Acres

Contact: Manager, Business Solution and Recoveries on +255 (0) 222196652 or +255 (0) 767210979.

Stanbic Bank **IT CAN BE..**



**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL
CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES LTD**
A member of the Hutchison Port Holdings Group

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST STAFF TRANSPORT SERVICES

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) is a member of Hutchison Ports. Hutchison is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator, with a network of 52 ports in 27 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Over the years, Hutchison Ports has expanded internationally into other logistics and transport-related businesses including cruise terminals, airports, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair facilities. In 2019 the Hutchison Ports network handled a combined throughput of 86.0 million TEU worldwide.

1. Background:

TICTS is inviting expression of interest from established and reputable companies for providing Staff Transport Services at Port Container Terminal.

2. Scope:

The provider should be able to supply a minimum of 20 staff buses with drivers, in three shifts per day in 7 days a week. The staff bus should have a seating capacity of 25-30 seats. The provider should have financial capacity to provide the service on credit and be paid on monthly basis. The contractor should have proven experience to operate staff transport with reputable organizations of similar size.

The basic documents required are;

- Tax clearance certificate
- LATRA License

Interested vendors are required to submit their expression of interest with details of their capability and experience in a sealed envelope to TICTS finance office at PSPF building along Sokoine drive before or on **2nd October 2020 at 3:00pm**, with the title Staff Transport Services and addressed to:

**Tender Committee
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019
Email: ticts@ticts.com**



Members of Judiciary trained on wildlife crime protection

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 60 members of judiciary from southern regions have received seven-week training on how to effectively prosecute and sentence wildlife crimes.

A statement released by the organisers yesterday said the drilling which ended on Wednesday took the participants through wildlife policy and legislation, the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crimes, and interagency collaboration.

The training was supported by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Institute of Judiciary Administration (IJA), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and TRAFFIC. The training was implemented as a component of USAID's Promoting Tanzania's Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (PROTECT) activity.

It was facilitated by Judge (rtd) Robert Makaramba and Linah Clifford, a Legal Officer from TRAFFIC East Africa.

After successfully taking part in seven weeks of virtual training, 67 legal and judicial professionals received a certificate of completion. "By improving the judiciary and law enforcement's ability to properly investigate and sentence wildlife crime cases, we hope to deter criminals from continuing to traffic animals," said Thadeus Binamungu, Chief of Party, USAID PROTECT.

The increasing demand for wildlife products, especially in Asia, is threatening animal and plant species in Tanzania, such as black rhinoceros and African pangolins, to extinction. Between 2009 and 2014, Tanzania lost 60 percent of

its elephant population due to wildlife poaching and trafficking.

"The U.S. Government is determined to prevent illegal wildlife trafficking in Africa and around the world," says Terhi Majanen, Director of the USAID Economic Growth Office in Tanzania. "As an inter-agency coalition, we are pleased to assist our partners in the Government of Tanzania achieve their goals to reduce wildlife crime and promote justice."

Illicit wildlife trade is driven by criminal networks with organized and complex value chains that require high political will, coordination, cooperation, and active community engagement to dismantle. Every year, illegal wildlife trade displaces billions of U.S. dollars of national revenue from developing countries to the criminal individuals and networks involved in these crimes.

The training, which commenced in July, brought together stakeholders and external partners such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the African Wildlife Foundation, the Environmental Law Centre of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and the Judiciary of Uganda. Representatives from these organizations gave participants a wider understanding of their roles in fighting wildlife crime, the gaps in wildlife enforcement legislation, and current weaknesses in investigations and prosecutions. Participants also heard from judges of the High Court of Tanzania, the National Prosecution Service, the Office of the Director of Criminal Investigation, TRAFFIC, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.



Rose Mahendeka, a principal officer with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (Taxpayers Education), briefs and sensitises members of the business community in Mtwara Region yesterday on recent changes to the country's tax laws. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Ngorongoro primary school get help from UK

By Guardian Correspondent, Ngorongoro

A UK-based non-government organisation, Robin & Sylvia Goodall Charitable Foundation, has provided items for hygiene valued at \$1m/- to primary schools in Ngorongoro District,

Arusha Region.

The institution which is owned by the UK's three billionaires, has provided the assistance so as to have clean and safe environment for students to study.

The assistance is part of the NGO's activities in working together with the government to

solve education challenges in the district whose majority of residents are Maasai pastoral community.

Handing over the equipment to Ngorongoro Acting Executive Director Peter Lahechi, Robin & Sylvia Goodall Charitable Foundation Education Advisor

in Tanzania, Peter Manjala said they have provided the items in recognition of the importance of friendly studying environment for students in the district.

He mentioned the equipment provided as hand sanitizers, eight water containers for every primary school, and modern tempera-

ture guns.

Manjala said his organization the assistance provided was for 11,400 students in 81 primary school in Ngorongoro District including 72 state-owned primary schools and nine privately owned.

Speaking after receiving the

equipment, Lahechi thanked Robin & Sylvia Goodall Charitable Foundation saying they will be provided to the said schools.

He called on students to learn about personal hygiene from their childhood and directed the District Primary Ed-

ucation Officer Joackim Mgoja to ensure the items are distributed to all primary schools.

Mgonja thanked the organization and called on teachers to take care of the items provided while calling on the students to abide by personal hygiene when at school.

Dr Mwinyi pledges to establish seaweed factory in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR CCM presidential candidate Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has assured seaweed farmers that if elected his government will establish a seaweed factory so that they fully benefit from the crop.

Dr Mwinyi was speaking to residents of Paje in Zanzibar South Region as part of his election campaigns and listen to people's various challenges in the region.

He assured seaweed farmers that he will establish a factory just like the one in Pemba to ensure they improve their economic wellbeing, adding that he would also ensure seaweed farmers get expertise in better seaweed farming that is mostly done by the womenfolk.

He also praised the government for the good work for implementing the party manifesto for various social services to the community including water and electricity and pledged that his government will continue with that good work.

"When you want to build the economy anew you must have good road and building infrastructures, which the outgoing President, Dr Shein started, and I pledge to finish them," he said.

He said he will assist those who want to establish small fruit processing factories to enable other people get employment and markets for their products.

He also said if elected, his government will review the taxation system and some taxes that are a nuisance to the people will be removed and also said the 'bodaboda' operators will be officially recognised.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority technicians clear drainage system at the DDC Mlimani section of Mlalakuwa Street in Kinondoni municipality yesterday. Photo: Florida Raymond of Turdaco

Improve product packaging to lure buyers, women entrepreneurs urged

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

WOMEN entrepreneurs in Zanzibar have been urged to work hard and ensure that their products are well packaged to attract buyers, hence boost their businesses.

Nairat Abdalla Ally, women economic empowerment officer of the Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA)-Zanzibar made the call here during the one-day training session given to entre-

preneurs.

The training aimed to capacitate the group with skills and knowledge on how to improve their business by investing in value addition and quality packaging materials so as to win markets.

According to her, majority of traders have been failing to win international markets due to poor packaging materials, so it is high time now for entrepreneurs to work hard and make sure that their products are well arranged.

"We brought together 30 entrepreneurs from 12 Shehias of Unguja with an aim of taking them through various key things which they need to consider when doing business, for any product to perform well in the market, it should consider quality as well packaging materials and promotion," she said.

She said that the training will open doors for more entrepreneurs to shun away old practices and embark on modern ways of doing business to earn more

money and fight poverty.

Ally urged the participants to ensure that they utilize well the knowledge acquired from the training so as to bring economic changes in their families.

Sanje Lifwelo, training facilitator said that due to competition in the local and international market, entrepreneurs have to be innovative by decorating their products and packaging materials.

Lifwelo said that good packaging will help them to do business smoothly, attract

more customers and earn extra income.

"Packaging plays an important role in marketing, this is a very secret power in business, through this, you will see your business expanding and thus earning more," he noted.

Participants commended Tamwa-Zanzibar for organizing the training saying that the skills and knowledge will enable them to improve their business by investing in branding and packaging their products.



NMB Bank Plc's Central zone manager, Nsolo Mlozi (in tie), pictured in Dodoma on Wednesday presenting to Dodoma Regional Medical Officer Dr Best Magoma desks for use by Mnadani Secondary School. The bank also donated 180 bed sheets and 50 buckets, the total value of the consignment coming to 11m/-. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanga's RC gives ultimatum on implementation of water project

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkinga

TANGA regional commissioner Martine Shigella has given 30 days to the region's water authority officials to ensure the provision of clean water at Horohoro village in Mkinga District.

Shigella gave the ultimatum during his one-day inspection visit mid this week at various ongoing water projects implemented by Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (UWASA) in Mkinga district.

He said the project was supposed to be completed in time to do away with acute water problems facing the people.

"The government plans to make Horohoro part of a trading centre hence it is in my belief that this project will be concluded in time to assist the

people who spend a lot of their valuable times fetching water," he said.

TANGA UWASA Managing director Geoffrey Hilly said the project is 95 percent completed and as for now it is on trial basis.

"The contractor has completed much of the work and people have started receiving clean and safe water from their pipes in various border areas including customs offices," Hilly said.

However, some of the areas' residents said at Duga Maforoni only heard that people in other areas in the country were getting piped water, adding that now it is their turn, hence they will have ample time to conduct their economic activities with ease.

Fatma Salim, one of the residents said girls used to be late to school,

sometimes they don't go to school at all until they finish filling house containers with water.

However, Shigella called on the residents of the area to take care of the project for its sustainability.

He said the government was spending a lot of money in the water projects hence it was the responsibility of the citizens to take care of them.

Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Manager said they will make sure they educate the people on how to take care of the projects including water sources.

RUWASA Manager for Tanga Region Upendo Lugongo said already they have begun implementing water policy that requires people not to walk too far in search of water.



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PROJECT

Pact is an international non-governmental organisation registered in Tanzania since 2002 with a certificate of registration number 11679 and certificate of compliance number 1790. Pact's work in Tanzania focuses on supporting the government in enhancing health and welfare of vulnerable populations, safety and market linkages for artisanal and small-scale gemstone miners, renewable energy solutions to rural areas and strengthening capacity of local organizations

In line with Regulation 12 of the Government Notice 609 on Financial Transparency and Accountability, Pact Tanzania hereby discloses to the public of award of a new project, per details below:

Name of project	The Adolescents and Children, HIV Incidence Reduction, Empowerment, and Virus Elimination (ACHIEVE)
Funding agency	USAID
Purpose of project	1) To improve national- and community-level social welfare systems in order to sustain support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and families affected by HIV 2) To strengthen the capacity of local organizations to deliver OVC services
Duration of project	October 01, 2020 - September 30, 2024
Budget for FY 2020/21	USD 6,042,000
Implementation area	Health systems strengthening

For more details, kindly contact us at tanzania@pactworld.org

Marianna Balampama
Country Director

215906401

Work on vital Sibiti bridge is now complete - Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBER of CCM Central Committee and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said construction of the vital Sibiti Bridge has been completed.

"I have just passed on the bridge to inspect construction work which has been completed and what remains are minor works to strengthen livestock's trail under the bridge," he said.

Majaliwa was speaking at an election campaign rally on Wednesday at Mwanhuzi Ward in Meatu District, Simiyu Region.

"When we started constructing the road, we began joining up regions and now we are at the stage of joining districts at tarmac level," he

added. Here at Meatu we have a road from Busega to Bariadi via Maswa and Shinyanga that also joins Shinyanga and Simiyu Regions, but also joins Maswa and Meatu districts," he added.

"Today I have inspected the Bariadi-Meatu-Mkalama road that goes to Singida Rural District at Iguno. This road is in the CCM Election Manifesto at page 75 and reads Bariadi-Kisesa-Mwandoya-Ngoboko-Mwanhuzi-Sibiti-Mkalama-Iguno road."

He said the 289 road that will be built at tarmac level will join Bariadi and Meatu districts, Meatu and Mkalama districts and Mkalama and Singida Rural district.

He said countrywide improvement to the infrastructure enables

a Tanzanian to select a means of transport to use when travelling.

Majaliwa also used the occasion to ask for votes to the CCM presidential candidate John Magufuli, Meatu parliamentary candidate Leah Komanya and councillorship candidate for Mwanhuzi Ward, Iguno Gambaani. Meanwhile, the outgoing Meatu MP Juma Salum said he supports candidates nominated by CCM and he would never tell people to vote otherwise.

"I appeal to you to overwhelmingly vote for Magufuli. We should express to him our thanks for all the good he has done for us, Meatu people. Today the PM passed over the bridge which Magufuli built for us, hence we have every reason to thank him by voting for him," he added.

ICAP
Empowering Health
Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health

MSPH Tanzania LLC, 7th Floor, Jangid Plaza, Plot No. G6, Chaburuma Road (Off-Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road) P.O. Box 80214, Dar es Salaam, email: icap-tz-info@columbia.edu phone: +255 (0) 22 270 0719+255 (0) 22 270 0725

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) MSPH-TZ-RFP-004

Introduction:
ICAP at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health is the recipient of a five-year cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide community-based HIV prevention services to key populations (KP) and priority populations (PP) in Tanzania. Services to these and other vulnerable populations relevant to the context also include expanded community-based HIV testing and counselling (CBHTC), comprehensive harm reduction and HIV prevention through individual and small group HIV prevention interventions delivered to a broad range of communities in Tanzania. Known locally as the FIKIA project, it spans in numerous districts in a total of seven regions including Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Geita, Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Kigoma.

SN	Description of requirement
LOT 1	In Year 5 of the FIKIA project, ICAP will establish service agreement with local vendor/organization to design, supply, transport, install, maintain and refill 47 condoms vending machines in Dar es salaam, Mwanza, Kagera and Geita regions to expand condom services to key and priority populations.
LOT 2	Procurement of PrEP Pill Bottles – 10,000 units
LOT 3	Procurement of Remote temperature monitoring system for Tanzania PHIA minus 80 freezers – 10 units

- FOR LOT NO. 1:**
Eligibility Criteria:
- Eligible companies within and outside the country with extensive experience in installation, service and maintenance of Vending machine will be highly considered or any other machine similar to vending machine with capability to dispense designed product.
 - Eligible companies should prepare and submit technical proposal by addressing all factors as indicated in Term of Reference (TOR)
 - Shortlisted companies should be able to provide proof by evidencing similar work being performed by providing physical address of a location the machine installed.
 - Eligible companies might conduct physical verification at MSPH/ICAP office in Dar Jangid Plaza building 7th floor to confirm supplies to be dispensed in vending machine
 - Provide Detailed budget for each line as indicated TOR
 - Attach Audited Financial Statement

- FOR LOT NO. 2 & 3**
- Shortlisted Companies will be contacted to provide samples and should clearly indicate availability and delivery period of the products.
 - Eligible companies should request for a full specifications and picture sample from ICAP Tanzania through TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu
 - Attach Audited Financial Statement
 - Submit financial Proposal

- General Criteria for Submission**
- Submitted Financial Proposal should be valid for at least 90days and delivery period should clearly indicated.
 - Current and updated company profile must be submitted
 - Copies of registration certificate and address of their registered office, valid business license, VAT, TMDA, TIN Number, and other relevant documents
 - Evidence of similar work/assignment with at least three reference from clients served must be submitted
 - Payment terms must be indicated
 - Manufacturer authorization should be attached for all distributors (if Any)
 - The public tender opening will be made in presence of all bidders or their official representatives. We encourage all bidders to attend through zoom conference meeting and Zoom conference Link will be sent to all applicants.
 - MSPH Tanzania reserve the rights to disqualify any offer based on failure to follow solicitation instructions.
 - MSPH reserves the rights to waive minor proposal deficiencies that cannot be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition
 - The evaluation of bids will be conducted as per MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP Procurement Guidelines.

How to Apply:
Interested, eligible Companies should request for a Full TOR and Detailed specifications via email to procurement department at TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu

**The Tender Committee,
MSPH Tanzania LLC – ICAP,
Jangid Plaza 7th Floor – Chaburuma Road
P.O Box 80214, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
All quotes must be in Tanzania Shillings**

The deadline for the submission is 11:00am East Africa Time on 01st October 2020.
All tenders should be electronically submitted to TanzaniaProcurement@cumc.columbia.edu
No tender fee charged for this invitation

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The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Public justifiably speechless after school fire tragedy, so what next?

NEWS spreading on Monday first in social media and then officially on Monday that a school dormitory had caught fire in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region, left many people speechless, aware how it is nearly impossible to ensure that such tragic incidents don't occur.

While ten pupils aged between six and twelve years died on the spot, the death toll was likely to rise as three of the 70-plus pupils taken to hospital were in critical condition.

President John Magufuli sent condolences to those directly affected by the tragedy, from the school to the families and well beyond, and used part of a campaign rally on Monday to observe a minute of silence in remembrance of the deceased.

Those hearing the news and being put to the details got a feel of the tragedy of it all - young pupils in a spacious hall sleeping on their own, without an adult person trained in handling any such danger being around. By the time people from the neighbourhood knew what was happening, the fire was too intense for most children to be taken to safe ground.

Authorities on the spot, from the school authorities to district and regional authorities, now wish - and need - to know how all this happened, to examine the possibility of dereliction of duty and especially to clarify if there is any possible criminal intent in how the fire broke out and raged.

It will not do merely talking about accidents every time such incidents happen, as society also has bad elements, and the cost of what they do can obviously be catastrophic.

So far, the probe team formed to

look into the incident has focused on involving police and fire department officials in thorough investigations into the tragedy, at least going by the regional authorities' word.

Without jumping the gun and in the spirit of making helpful contributions towards avoiding such disasters, first it is the instructions that Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa issued in June to school authorities and inspectorate departments.

A second aspect is organisational, if there is anything like a duty master in boarding facilities involving young children and whether such a person would fall sound asleep like the pupils, which would be indefensible.

Unfortunately, the absence of a duty master with children sleeping on their own can be smelt here.

Similarly, this incident adds food for thought as to handing young children to boarding schools before they can even do anything on their own on a routine basis.

Placing pupils as young as six in a hall of residence amounts to denying them parental care, and when a large number of such pupils are put together without close regard from those supposed to take care of them, the tragedy is all the more difficult to absorb. It is one thing for a fire outbreak among adults or adolescents, and another with little children as in this case, with early teens being the more adult in that group. Indeed, it makes the situation all the sadder.

These children were helpless, with a raging fire having engulfed the building where they were trapped. That boarding services at the school have since been suspended as precaution is too little, too late. The public needs to know a lot more, and the authorities concerned need to take more precautions.

Other NGOs, experts can accompany endorsed General Election observers

TIME is running out for those interested in being part of electoral observer missions or accredited groups for last next month's General Election.

The government has already endorsed observers sourced from 15 countries, mostly in the European Union, ahead of the polling day in around six weeks' time.

This is as per Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, following a meeting with the head of the European Union delegation to Tanzania, Ambassador Manfredo Fanti. Their talks largely covered the EU part in the observer missions.

The minister said accredited persons come from countries that applied to send election observers by following diplomatic channels, though it wasn't clear if any applications are pending, being reviewed and still expected.

Chances are that the curtain is more or less being drawn, for when one takes note of the Covid-19 pandemic and what it means for displacement for election observing, the possibility of entering new applications at the moment is quite negligible. So, we have observers from 15 other countries.

As the minister said, there is no doubt that in adherence to national laws and principles of international election observation, the government invited applications and had so far approved as many as 15 countries' NGOs or international organisations.

That makes the level of presence of observer missions credible, in which case the government runs no risks of being associated with holding secretive polls.

When one opens doors to observers, it means that there is intent to do what is right on the basis of the protocols the minister referred to, as this is

minimally the logical position.

In his remarks, the top EU envoy expressed keen interest in the bloc's effort, saying they were closely watching the ongoing electioneering, similarly expressing satisfaction with the way campaigns were moving.

He said the EU was observing the critical state of the democratic process - namely, the voting as well as the counting and announcement of results.

It was clear that scarcely any problems could be cited in that direction, but some open-ended issues remained in relation to cataloguing local observers so far accredited for the purpose.

It appears that plenty of preparatory work went into that regard early enough such that two months ago the government listed civil society bodies approved.

As the tally was given, they are as many as 96 registered organisations, but that might not be adequate as there are influential stakeholders who haven't been 'incorporated' in the task.

They are doubtless influential NGOs that influence the attitudes of major development partners like the EU, and it would be worth the effort finding ways of endorsing them too.

One way is to have a situation where the 96 local institutions approved by the National Electoral Commission proceed to work on their own, while those not included - like the Tanzania Legal and Human Rights Centre, the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition and the Tanzania Constitution Forum are given other options.

One way is to have their experts allowed to accompany any of the accredited agencies (NGOs) if they so wish and make proper applications in that regard. Just a well-meaning thought.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

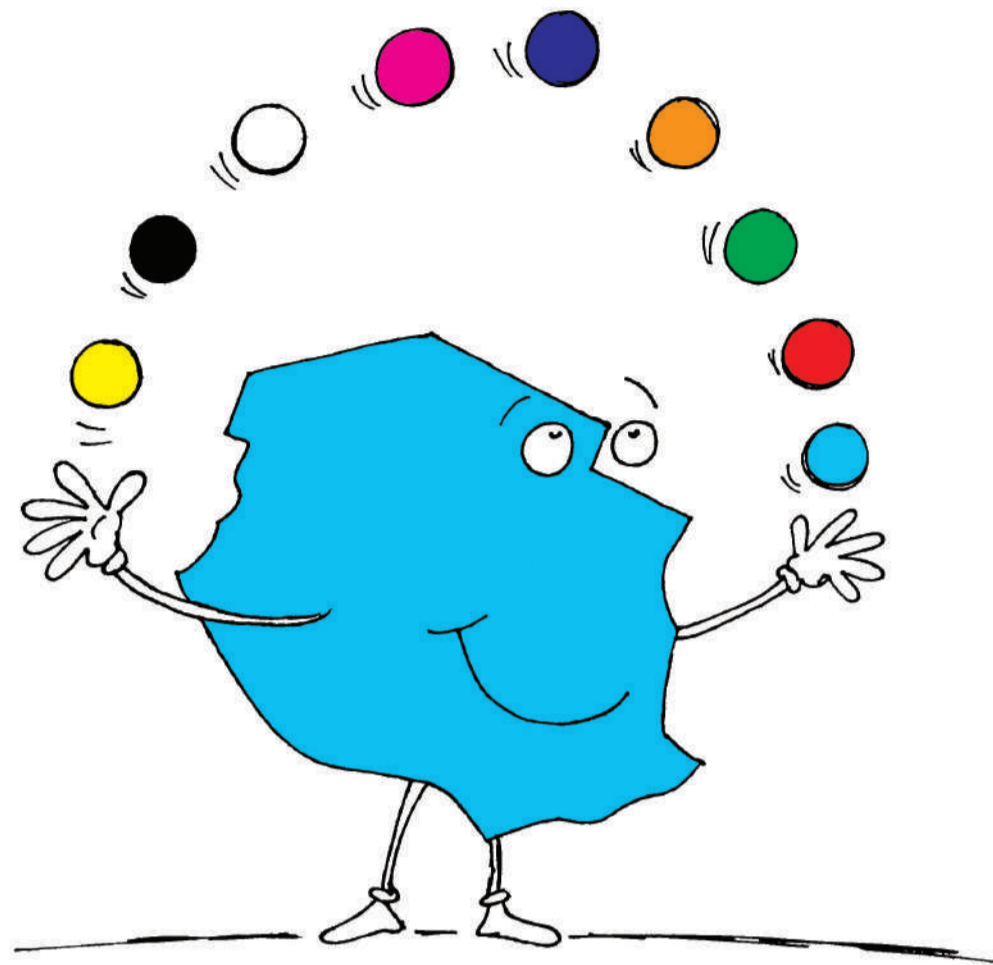
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COVID-19 is a turning point for infectious diseases



A nurse in Ghana teaches her team how to conduct a malaria rapid diagnostic test.

By Peter Sands

We ended 2019 with a palpable sense of excitement and expectation. More people were receiving lifesaving treatment for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria than ever before. And a record-breaking fundraising conference meant we had the resources to get the world back on track to ending the epidemics by 2030.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and everything changed.

The Global Fund's latest annual "Results Report," released Monday, reveals how high the stakes are. Health programs supported by the Global Fund - a partnership made up of governments, civil society, technical agencies, the private sector, and people affected by the diseases - saved 6 million lives in 2019 alone. That represents 20% more than the previous year and brings the total number of lives saved since 2002 to 38 million.

However, our 2019 results predate the emergence of COVID-19. The reality is that the results from 2020 will look very different. In addition to direct deaths from the new coronavirus itself, the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria could be catastrophic. In 2020, we could lose all we have achieved in the previous decade.

Recent modeling studies by the World Health Organization, UNAIDS, and the Stop TB Partnership indicate deaths from the three epidemics may as much as double in the coming year as health and community systems are overwhelmed, treatment and prevention programs are disrupted, and resources are diverted. Our own surveys in 106 of the world's poorest and most vulner-

able countries show that approximately three-quarters of lifesaving services for HIV, TB, and malaria have already been moderately or significantly disrupted this year.

We cannot let this happen. To protect hard-won gains and to sustain momentum, we must massively increase collaboration, resources, and innovation. We must also apply the lessons we learned from fighting HIV, TB, and malaria to maximize our effectiveness in combating the new virus.

The fights against these three diseases show how a united world, led by strong communities, can drive even the most formidable infectious diseases into retreat. The deaths they have caused have dropped by nearly half since the peak of the epidemics in countries where the Global Fund invests.

But we still had a long way to go, even before the impact of COVID-19. In 2019, there were 690,000 AIDS-related deaths and 1.7 million new HIV infections - far too many.

Stigma, discrimination, gender inequality, and human rights barriers to accessing health care services continue to impede progress, making key populations and adolescent girls and young women much more vulnerable to infection. In sub-Saharan Africa, adolescent girls and young women ages 15 to 24 accounted for 24% of HIV infections in 2019 - more than double their 10% share of the population.

TB remains the world's leading infectious disease killer, affecting the poorest and most marginalized communities.

The percentage of people with TB "missed" by health systems - people who go undiagnosed, untreated, and unreported - dropped significantly from 46% in

2013 to around 30% in 2018. But approximately 1.5 million people still died from this preventable, treatable disease in 2018 - a shocking number. Even before COVID-19, we were not making fast enough progress on deaths or infections to achieve a significant shift in trajectory.

In the fight against malaria, the number of deaths worldwide continues to decline - from 585,000 in 2010 to 405,000 in 2018. However, after making massive gains in malaria control in the earlier part of the decade, progress has slowed significantly, and the disease continues to take a heavy toll on pregnant women and children.

Today, the world is grappling with an extraordinary global health crisis that has already destabilized the global economy and threatens to derail the fight against HIV, TB, and malaria, as well as the entire Sustainable Development Agenda.

We are at an inflection point. We can surrender the gains we have made and allow our progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals to be sharply reversed. Or we can act with speed and scale, investing far greater resources than have yet been committed, to counter both the direct impact of COVID-19 and to mitigate the consequences for these three diseases. The Global Fund was created as a response to the biggest infectious disease threats, and as the latest "Results Report" demonstrates, the partnership has proven remarkably successful.

Leveraging its capabilities and experience, the partnership has reacted decisively to the emergence of COVID-19. Since March, it has approved more than \$700 million to 103 countries and 11 multicountry programs to fight COVID-19; protect

front-line health workers; adapt existing HIV, TB, and malaria programs to protect progress; and reinforce systems for health.

It is also playing a key role in the Access to COVID-19 Tools - or ACT - Accelerator, an unprecedented global coalition to accelerate the development and equitable deployment of new tools to fight COVID-19, including tests, treatments, and vaccines.

To continue to fight COVID-19, funding is essential. A total of \$5 billion over the next 12 months will help the Global Fund support this work, protect health workers and systems for health, and defend progress in the fights against HIV, TB, and malaria. The battle against COVID-19 cannot be considered in isolation. We must view this not just as a fight against a specific virus, but as a catalyst to finish the fights against HIV, TB, and malaria and to strengthen preparedness against future pathogens by building resilient and sustainable systems for health. In the fight against infectious diseases as formidable as these, no one is truly safe until everyone is safe.

Peter Sands became executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in March 2018. A passionate advocate for global health, Sands leads work at the Global Fund to end epidemics and build stronger health systems. Sands served as chief executive of Standard Chartered Bank from 2006 to 2015, and in recent years has immersed himself in global health issues. He supports more international and domestic investments for greater global health security, and he often highlights the economic impact of infectious diseases.

Building sustainable news media requires balance between tradition and innovation

By Jacob Granger

JOURNALISM needs to move with the times. Not just now with the economic challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic but also in the long term as the media seek to stay relevant to their audiences.

Both legacy and digital-first news organisations are thinking deeply about their long-term survival. But this should not come at the cost of editorial integrity.

His according to Gary Liu, CEO of South China Morning Post (SCMP), speaking at the just-ended International Press Institute's World Congress 2020.

"Balance is still sacrosanct. I am afraid that we are throwing away the fundamentals of how to get the story," he said.

Liu noted that in a world of polarised opinions and 'alternative facts', news organisations have a great responsibility to make sure they are getting on the phone to sources to double-check information and doing all they can to bust their own assumptions and get all accounts of the story.

"We can't lose the cornerstone of what we do," added Lauren Williams, senior vice president and editor-in-chief of Vox, the digital-first US media company. Being overly friendly with advertisers and cozying up to politicians are amongst the concerns she shared for this generation of news companies.

In the US, Williams said, balance and objectivity around reporting on race will be crucial in the times ahead. Accordingly, she challenged news organisations to consider what neutrality means beyond the white, male perspective.

"There's this perception that to be neutral, you have to lose your history, cultural knowledge, experiences and ancestral history, and that is something at tension right now in the US," said Williams.

According to Liu, sustainability in the long term means "doubling down on your mission and translating it to new mediums". For SCMP, a 116-year-old newspaper, its USP has always

been its 'unique vantage point' on China.

USP - or unique selling proposition - is the one thing that makes one's business better than the competition. It's a specific benefit that makes one's business stand out when compared to other businesses in your market.

"Our value is that we are a window into a closed information system," Liu says, adding: "China is going to be the biggest story of our lifetime, with its rising impact and influence."

Liu targets video, audio, data and evergreen knowledge as a way of carrying forward its mission as an international specialist title on the country. The newspaper has also returned to a digital subscription model earlier than anticipated.

"If we can express our value to the world through all those information channels, then it presents an opportunity to make money across all the channels," he notes.

While SCMP did not have the "luxury of a blank page reinvention", digital-first organisations have the ability to reimagine journalism from the get-go.

Williams said Vox has done that through its stance on explainer content. The coverage on recent California wildfires, for instance, focused on what caused the fire, rather than the fire itself. This way it was distinct from local news organisations but also the big nationals.

"We can coexist with any competitor, with the New York Times or The Washington Post because we provide something different," she said.

In recent years, Vox has launched the Netflix science and nature documentary series Explained and more recently a coronavirus explainer series, Answered, on streaming service Quibi.

Add to that a contribution platform as a first foray into consumer revenue and virtual events throughout the Covid-19 period and it appears that Vox is using as many digital tools at its disposal as it gets.

But not everything is a flying success, and admitting mistakes can help you create better news products. Vox, for instance, had invested heavily into



a Snapchat Discover account but as teams were not used to vertical video, the content did not fit.

"It ended up being a diluted Vox product," says Williams, adding that she learned to appreciate when teams do - and do not - have the bandwidth to commit to a project, and how to time decisions better.

Sometimes you do also have to trust your gut. The oft-cited failure of pivoting to video was ignored by SCMP, which instead chose to commit heavily. It recently announced having surpassed 1 billion lifetime YouTube views - 970 million in three years.

"We always felt explaining that China to the world required visuals," said Liu, adding that it appeals because many people do not get to go to China and certain contexts are easier and quicker to grasp in a video format.

Nearly every innovation is met with some form of resistance, and managing

people's expectation is part of the success. "News organisations are defined by their skepticism," said Liu, noting that SCMP moved into a purpose-built brand new office a few years ago to support more creative forms of journalism.

He says employees were quick to question the outlay but, after seeing how it contributed to a better work environment, they have since come around.

As for Williams, when met with a lack of enthusiasm from her colleagues, it is worth taking time to spell out the benefits of the decision.

"You have to help people feel that these decisions are strategic and explain why we are doing it and how it matters to their job," she argues.

Women in Yi ethnic group in SW China lead better better through embroidery

By Zhang Wen

EMBROIDERY skills have changed the life of impoverished women of Yi ethnic group in Yi autonomous county of Mabian, Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Qiaojin Shuangmei, a Yi embroiderer of a professional embroidery cooperative in Yi autonomous county of Mabian and a deputy to the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, is always dressed in handmade costumes of Yi ethnic group made by her and other embroiderers of her cooperative on important occasions like the annual meetings of China's top legislature and its top political advisory body.

Because of the influence of her mother, Qiaojin Shuangmei has been fond of embroidering since she was a child.

In 2015, she and four other embroiderers raised more than 20,000 yuan (about \$2,956) and established a professional embroidery cooperative in Yi autonomous county of Mabian. Qiaojin Shuangmei then extended invitations to residents of poverty-stricken households in the county, hoping more poor people could learn embroidery skills at the cooperative.

In an effort to make embroidery play a bigger role in poverty alleviation, Qiaojin Shuangmei purchased a number of embroidery works of embroiderers from impoverished households.

She then told a white lie when she said to the embroiderers that she sold one of the scarves at a really good price of 1,000 yuan, while the truth was she didn't sell the product for 1,000 yuan, not even 10 yuan.

"I wanted them to have confidence in the business. I wanted to help them change their life," she explained.

"A scarf sold for 1,000 yuan" has now become a reality in Yi autonomous county of Mabian.

The local women's federation has provided free training courses for embroiderers in Qiaojin Shuangmei's embroidery cooperative, and financial institutions have rolled out



Yi ethnic minority women make embroidery at the cooperative workshop in Chuxiong Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan province. File photo

loans with interest subsidies for the cooperative.

With the help of the local government, the cooperative has signed agreements with companies in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan

Province, so that they can help sell the embroideries.

Today, the embroidered high-quality scarves made by embroiderers in the cooperative are sold for as much as over 1,000 yuan

in Chengdu.

Meanwhile, the number of embroiderers in the cooperative has increased to nearly 300 from five, and some of them could even earn more than 10,000 yuan

per month.

In November 2018, Leshan Electric Power Co., Ltd. under the State Grid, which provides partner assistance for Yi autonomous county of Mabian, held an embroidery contest in the locality.

During the final of the contest, more than 30 female embroiderers walked the runway in characteristic clothing of Yi ethnic group they made themselves, which made them more enthusiastic about making embroideries.

The company has also helped contact livestreaming platforms for the cooperative and provided the embroiderers with training in online marketing skills in a bid to promote embroideries through e-commerce platforms.

Industrial development, skill training and market-oriented assistance have inspired Qiaojin Shuangmei to better perform her duties as a deputy to the NPC.

She has constantly submitted proposals to the NPC and advocated introducing leading enterprises and cultivating foregoers in achieving prosperity for poverty alleviation relocation projects, so as to ensure the relocated residents live and work in peace and contentment.

The State Grid, as a partner assistance provider for the cooperative, has not only helped the latter with processing of embroideries, exhibition and the sale of products, as well as promoting business in brick-and-mortar stores, but helped sell embroidery products to faraway cities like Beijing, Hong Kong and Shenzhen via e-commerce platforms, according to Qiaojin Shuangmei.

As a female deputy to the NPC, Qiaojin Shuangmei has a profound understanding of the status and role of women in poverty alleviation.

"Women hold up half the sky. Women of ethnic minorities have shown great potential in the cause of poverty eradication," she said.

During the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic, Qiaojin Shuangmei initiated an activity with the help of local media outlets to provide online embroidery courses and encourage local embroiderers to make embroideries at home. She also promised to purchase their works.

So far, more than 1,000 local embroiderers in the county have been able to take care of their children while supporting their family by making embroideries.

More policies should be rolled out to support women of ethnic minorities in starting their own businesses and securing jobs, Qiaojin Shuangmei suggested in her proposals to the NPC.

People's Daily

More Covid-19 patients are surviving Intensive Care Unit - & this is why...

By Chris Baraniuk

MATT Morgan, an intensive care doctor at the University Hospital of Wales in the UK, vividly remembers his first Covid-19 patient. It was a busy day at his hospital, and the patient was so ill upon arrival at the intensive care unit (ICU) that they needed life support almost immediately.

Back then, in late March, Morgan knew that Covid-19 had already caused havoc in Italy and begun spreading in the UK. Doubling as Wales' lead for critical care research, he had expected that the disease would reach his hospital, but it was only when he and his team began treating patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 that they realised how serious Covid-19 can be.

"It's fair to say that in those early days we thought Covid-19 was a lung disease," he says. The virus is now known to cause problems in other organs, including the heart, kidneys and brain. In some cases, patients who survive are left with long-lasting symptoms.

That first patient Morgan treated spent a long time in intensive care - but the attention they received there meant that they survived.

Around the world, ICU physicians like Morgan have battled Covid-19 doggedly from day one, even as some ICUs have been stretched to - or beyond - capacity.

Responding to the pandemic has meant adopting new procedures, such as isolating patients from their families and adapting to changing guidelines regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Hospital staff have worked interminable hours. Some have died from Covid-19 themselves. And many have watched patients slip away as others pulled through.

Now, six months into the pandemic, there is growing evidence that the Herculean effort made by ICU staff has made a real difference in Covid-19 survival rates, which have significantly improved for intensive care patients since the start of the pandemic.

One study in the journal *Anaesthesia* found that Covid-19 death rates in ICUs around the world had fallen from more than 50 per cent in March to around 40 per cent at the end of May.

That is still roughly double the mortality one would expect from cases of viral pneumonia in intensive care, which again indicates how dangerous a disease Covid-19 is. But the improvement is clear - and it has happened relatively quickly. How did it come about?

Trying drugs, rethinking ventilators

For one thing, some intensive care staff have been involved in trials to find out whether certain drugs can help severe Covid-19 patients pull through. Three drugs in particular have gained attention: remdesivir, dexamethasone and hydrocortisone. The latter two, corticosteroids, have been shown to cut the risk of death in critically ill patients by one-third.

All ICU doctors interviewed for this article mentioned the importance of these pharmaceutical treatments. And yet none of these drugs is a miracle cure.

Doctors working in ICUs think other factors have also been important, including what other treatments they offer to patients, and when.

Take ventilation, for instance. When someone whose lungs have been ravaged by Covid-19 is struggling to get enough oxygen into the blood, ICU staff can choose from various interventions to try to help.

One technique is high-flow oxygen therapy, which involves blowing oxygen up a patient's nose via tubes. Another option is to use a CPAP machine, which provides oxygen via a tight-fitting face mask.

These are relatively noninvasive methods - but early in the pandemic, many ICU physicians avoided using them because they feared that this could help spread the virus around hospital rooms, potentially infecting staff.

Nuala Meyer, professor of medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, recalls that in the first few weeks of the pandemic, she and colleagues more commonly opted for ventilator systems instead.

Although air flow can be carefully controlled with these devices, ventilators are more invasive. They require putting patients into chemically induced comas and inserting tubes deep into their airway. This can cause complications, and it may be harder for patients to recover once they are taken off such systems.

As the pandemic unfolded, it became clear that appropriate PPE actually did do a sufficient job of protecting healthcare workers from the aerosolising effects of less invasive therapies. It was one reason ventilators were used less over time.

"One of the more dramatic changes is being less worried about that spread," Meyer says. That had benefits for patients, too: "If you can avoid the ventilator, you avoid sedatives, and maybe



there is a benefit there," she adds.

It's a balancing act, though, Morgan says, because it can also be detrimental to keep a patient on less invasive methods should they prove ineffective. The patient only becomes more exhausted, and switching to the ventilator at that point can be even more of an ordeal for them.

Overall, though, the consensus among ICU staff seems to be that being able to opt for CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) or high-flow oxygen therapies is a good thing. In time, clinical studies may prove that this has had an impact on mortality.

Proning

It has also become more common for ICU doctors to put patients in what's called the prone position, where they lie on their front rather than on their back. In this position, the patient's lungs are slightly freer to expand and absorb more oxygen, which is crucial for those with Covid-19 pneumonia.

"Usually we had withheld it for the more severe patients," says Meyer, who explains that over time it became customary to ask patients in the ICU to "self-prone", so long as they were not in shock or had low blood pressure, for instance. In many of these cases, oxygen levels improved. "I think that allowed us to not escalate to the ventilator," she says. Some small studies have found an association between proning and improved outcomes, but no large clinical trial has yet verified this - though one is currently under way.

Yet another example of altered treatments is the practice of reducing blood

thinners for patients on ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation) life support systems, which continually extract blood from a patient's body, remove carbon dioxide, introduce oxygen, and then pump it back in.

This is a therapy that adds oxygen to a person's blood and pumps it through his or her body like the heart. The process takes place outside the body.

Anecdotal evidence shared on Zoom discussions has supported the hypothesis that lowering blood thinners in such patients can stop fatal bleeding in the brain.

Global communication

Things have evolved so quickly during the Covid-19 pandemic that there hasn't been time to review ICU practices via medical conferences or studies backed up by long-term clinical trials. Physicians have had to move much more swiftly, all while trying to maintain high standards of safety for patients. One way they have managed to do this is by talking to each other - across the globe. The emergence of Covid-19 was followed by a blossoming of electronic communications between ICU physicians.

Doctors and nurses routinely found themselves attending Zoom conference calls, chiming in on Twitter discussions, scrolling through email chains, and getting plugged into WhatsApp groups with their counterparts at other hospitals worldwide. Via these outlets, they have shared valuable insights about what approaches seem to be working.

"It's been great to have a whole host of other units at our fingertips," says Liz

Thomas, a consultant in intensive care medicine and anaesthesia at Stockport NHS Foundation Trust in the UK town of Stockport and chair of Women in Intensive Care Medicine.

Thomas is referring to a WhatsApp group used by around 250 ICU staff from around the UK that sprang up during the Covid-19 pandemic as a portal for knowledge sharing.

The group allows staff to check up on medical guidelines, share treatment approaches and swap notes about the distribution of medical equipment around the country so that a particular ICU can find out when to expect a new shipment of ventilators, for example.

Patient communication and support

Technology has helped tackle other problems as well - perhaps most significant being the issue of separation created when patients with severe Covid-19 are moved to isolation rooms.

Catherine Bonham, an intensive care doctor at UVA Health in Virginia, says that staff at her hospital have tried to reduce the number of visits they need to make to patients inside these rooms.

The staff have repositioned some ventilator controls outside the door, for instance. Initially, they found it difficult to read information on monitors by patients' bedsides when viewing them through the window to the room. One even brought in a pair of binoculars so that they could make out the small numbers on the devices from afar.

"We had to get extra screens that made the numbers literally bigger so that you could see them just looking

through the glass," Bonham says.

Not being able to allow family members into Covid-19 units for visits has been the biggest upheaval - something Morgan describes as "alien" for ICU staff. Bonham agrees: "Part of being an intensive care doctor or provider is that you are always both minding your patients and minding their families," she says. Over time, ICUs have begun offering tablet computers to patients who are well enough to use them so that they can have video calls with their families. Thomas notes that a charity donated 16 such tablets to her ICU for this very purpose.

At other times, doctors and nurses have had to step in themselves. They have held the hands of dying patients and tried to make them as comfortable as possible. Morgan remembers one patient whose condition had deteriorated beyond recovery. He telephoned the patient's family to tell them the news. Morgan reports that the family pleaded the hospital play the patient's favourite song - and the request was granted. "It's those kinds of things we carry with us into the future," says Morgan.

Many stories like this one have unfolded in intensive care units over the past few months. And yet the data show that things continue to improve for patients who find themselves requiring that level of critical care. All of the above efforts have played some role.

Prof Meyer also points out that in some hospitals, including hers in Pennsylvania, fewer patients seem to be requiring treatment in ICUs at the moment, lowering the load on staff - which has likely also helped.

Ultimately, intensive care as a field is no stranger to taking on sudden challenges. Morgan points out that the very ICU concept arose during a different viral epidemic - the polio outbreak of 1952. An ICU physician is trained to respond with little or no notice, sometimes experimenting with treatments and, on occasion, bringing crisis situations under control. So, perhaps it is not surprising that ICUs have been flexible enough to adapt in the ways described above. But it is inspiring.

Morgan aptly puts it: "In a strange way, yes, of course it was a new disease and loads to learn, but that's kind of what we do every day."

A piece originally published in Elemental, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Chris Baraniuk is a science and technology journalist based in Northern Ireland.

Getting children back to school: 'We are in a hurry'

By Jaime Saavedra

"WE were in a hurry!" That is what Jerrick Mortensen, an education leader from Denmark, said recently at an event organised by UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank.

He said Danish authorities were in a hurry to re-open schools even back in May, adding: "Attending school is critical for the most vulnerable children."

Worldwide, a quick critical measure to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic was to close schools. Closing was easy. However, as the world has found, the process of re-opening schools is hard. But the sentence "we are in a hurry" reveals a commendable sense of urgency.

Why the urgency? To cope with school closures, most countries rushed to implement remote learning plans. These have generally been multiplatform programmes that combine online, TV, radio and paper material.

However, while remote learning can be a great complement of in-person education, it is not a replacement. As a result, learning poverty - meaning being unable to read and understand a simple text by age 10 - could increase in low and middle-income countries up from the 53 per cent pre-pandemic level to a record 68 per cent. That is, unless we do more.

Even affluent children who might be having a decent remote learning experience and are able to advance in their academic skills, and even learning some socioemotional skills, are losing out on other elements of the social experience of in-school education.

But it's the millions of children from more disadvantaged backgrounds that are suffering from a poorer learning experience - at least in that their home environments might not be conducive to learning and they may not have a device or internet connectivity, or even any reading material.

Many more might suffer from stress and mental health issues, particularly if parents do not have the skills or mental space during an economic crisis to provide a supportive environment. Many will end up dropping out of the system completely (7 to 10 million, according to World Bank estimates).

Children with disabilities find it even more difficult to access the services they need, while others might suffer from various forms of abuse. We were already living in a world where inequality of opportunity was intolerably high. But the schools have always played an important role in reducing inequality of opportunities - giving everyone, including the poor, a space for learning.

For many, that is now gone, and the un-equalising impact of the pandemic is potentially immensely large. By mid-2020, almost 900 million children were still out of school.

The closures are meant to protect the children's health, and protect their relatives' and teachers' health from the pandemic. But the cost in terms of the future of many of those children is extremely high and the



price being paid in terms of further inequality in our societies is enormous. Can a balance be found?

We live in extraordinary times where the only certainty is uncertainty. As time passes, some school systems are opening successfully, others with more angst and confusion.

Countries where the pandemic does not seem to be under control yet are struggling to decide if it is safe enough to return, and they will have to manage a protracted period of unknown scenarios with unknown probabilities, particularly since a widely available vaccine is still several months away.

Regardless, it is essential to share Mortensen's sense of urgency - the urgency in defining a flexible and adaptable path to a return to a richer educational experience and of putting in-school learning back into the

lives of all students.

How to return to school safely must be an urgent priority for all nations. In many cases, high levels of community transmission rates of the coronavirus mean that re-openings are still impossible. However, systems must be prepared for a careful return to schools as soon as sanitary conditions allow. Preparation is key because the return will be - and in some cases already is - quite complex.

If local virus transmission rates go down to manageable levels, schools and communities should be prepared to enforce strict hygiene practices and other transmission control measures - physical distancing and others - in order to get children back into school.

Ideally, authorities test, trace and isolate anyone who falls ill, and schools are ready to return to remote learning if Covid-19 cases go up again.

The decision to reopen schools is a combination of a public health/science question, balanced with the urgent need to bring children back.

Schools may be able to open only in some areas, in a staggered way, some grades at a time, or for only few days a week or a few hours per day, and in smaller classroom sizes (as some countries are already doing). Not all teachers might be able to work on a presentational basis.

In other cases, if community transmission rates are not yet going down, it is wise to design creative and pragmatic alternative learning processes:

First, it is useful to pragmatically simplify the curriculum, and define a minimum set of essential competencies that can reasonably be expected of students for this year and next.

The fundamental skills and socioemotional support might be the priorities, with online, TV and radio programming

supporting that simplified curriculum.

The school calendar could be adjusted creatively, the 2020 school year might be extended, the 2021 school year might be compressed and vacation periods adjusted, all in order to cover an essential curriculum within each year.

Second, teachers require support to continue adapting to a remote environment and continue developing ways of maintaining the communication and the ability to coach students in their learning process as well as find ways of remotely assessing how much learning is happening.

Third, the home environment is as important as ever. Hence, so too are policies aimed at drastically improving the conditions at home, such as expanding connectivity, facilitating cheaper - or free - access to the internet for educational purposes, expanding the use and availability of technological resources, and providing printed learning material at home.

Across the board, the home environment is extremely unequal, so investing in improving opportunities of the poorest is essential.

Fourth, continuous and intensive support to empower parents and caregivers is needed so that they can provide a safe and nurturing environment to their children.

This is a complex management challenge that requires a lot of creativity, planning and resources. Fortunately, many of the investments needed to manage this situation will help build many of the traits that will be critical for the schools of the future.

Education needs to be more resilient, providing a continuity of the educational experience between the school and the home. Thus, investing in improving the home environment and providing more support to parents is critical for the future. Investing in technology at school and supporting better connectivity at home will make the work of the teacher more effective. Investing in teachers - supporting them in becoming learning coaches and growing their digital skills - is an opportunity. These investments can bring the future to today.

Each country is defining its own path. Countries should be prepared to manage the uncertainty. In some cases, it will mean returning to classrooms under certain conditions and, where that is not possible, improving remote learning conditions as much as possible.

The objective is not to "lose" a generation of students and avoid making the already intolerable levels of inequality even larger.

Jaime Saavedra is Global Director, Education Global Practice, with the World Bank.

Geita hosting this year's mining, technology expo

By Guardian Reporter

GEITA is hosting third mining technology exhibition, which has brought on board mineral stakeholders from within and outside the world.

Theten-day event, which enables miners and suppliers to learn advanced technology to improve their day-to-day operations started from September 17 to 27, this year.

It is being sponsored by Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) at the tune of 200m/- and the sponsorship comprises in kind support of preparing the exhibition grounds as well as paying for 100 tents, a standby generator and its fuel to cover the exhibition period.

The exhibition will be hosted at the newly constructed state of art External Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) premises in Geita town, a facility funded by GGML through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Plan.

"GGML is proud to support this event for a third consecutive time. This year, we intend to share expertise on the use of different mining equipment to other mining companies as well as to small-scale miners. Indeed, it is timely that we also use the occasion to commemorate 20 years since GGML commenced

its operations in the country. It is fitting that we can mingle with the community around us to create exposure for local businesses seeking to work with us," said Simon Shayo, GGML's Vice President - Sustainability.

"We are also pleased to see our support to the establishment of the EPZA facility in Geita now coming to fruition and being put into proper use," he added.

Consistent with its core value of providing the Geita community with sustainable socio-economic development that outlasts mining activity, GGML has carried out various projects in the local Geita community including fully funding the 800m/- construction of the EPZA administration block next to the exhibition grounds.

The mining expo will see various mining companies, small-scale miners, investors and other business people in Tanzania and beyond display various technologies used in the mining industry.

In the 2019 expo, GGML won the first prize for demonstrating outstanding performance in educating small-scale miners and the public on the best technology used in the mining industry as well as the different safety and rescue systems applied in mining operations.



GGML staff (L) exchange views with guests visiting their booth at the 3rd Mining Technology Exhibition in Geita Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Veronica: A mother for orphans in Kisarawe

By Correspondent Amri Lugungulo, Kisarawe

VERONICA Kilango is one of few women in the country who have dedicated her life to support orphaned and vulnerable children who have lost their parents in the area.

Living in Kisarawe District, Coast Region, Veronica who started her journey of being a 'caretaker' started 17 years ago, when she started supporting orphans and vulnerable children with basic necessities—food, shelter and clothes including education under the home centre

dubbed "Kisarawe Orphanage House."

The idea, she says came after witnessing several challenges that orphans were facing in and outside Kisarawe District. Her idea was supported by her father George Killango, who advised her to fulfill her long-time goal of supporting vulnerable children.

According to her, all children have the right to live. They have to be loved and well cared for their development.

A mother of six says she developed the passion of assist-

ing the needy children since her childhood and in 2003, her dream became true when she started with four orphans.

At one time, the number of orphans who were accommodated and supported by Veronica rose to more than 100 children. The supported children are being accommodated in a six -bed room house.

However, she attests that the number has decreased after some of the children proceeded with further education as of now there are some orphans who are pursuing different studies in different universities in the country.

Veronica says: "It wasn't a simple task. I had nothing, but due to my ambition of helping the needy children in the community, I started with four orphans and after a while I had 110 children."

"To me, these children are part and parcel of my family," says Veronica, a Form Four school leaver. Cost of running the centre comes from different donors from within and outside the district.

Most of the children, she says are found from the district Social Welfare office and local government leaders.

Mwandili Rang, is a

Kisarawe District Social Welfare Officer, who commends the efforts made by Kilango, encouraging others to emulate the spirit.

"Our office works closely with mama Kilango by providing advice on how to run the children' home," she says adding: "children who reach the age of 20 are allowed to join their homes."

Michael Holowa, a chairman of Kibaoni Street, where the centre is located commends the house for saving children who would have become street children in the town, vowing that his leader-

ship would continue supporting the centre.

An 18-year-old boy, an orphan who came from Dodoma Region says: "I'm happy here rather than in the streets. Here I have the opportunity to go to school."

He is now undergoing motor vehicle mechanic training at Gongo la Mboti area in Dar es Salaam.

Currently, Veronica is the District Women Platform Chairperson that stands for empowering women economically in the district and also is a member of Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA).



Our office works closely with mama Kilango by providing advice on how to run the children' home," she says adding: "children who reach the age of 20 are allowed to join their homes

COVID-19 sees 37 million people sink into poverty - Gates' report

By Guardian Reporter

THE COVID-19 pandemic has pushed some 37 million people into extreme poverty, a majority of them in developing countries, a report released by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation shows.

The Goalkeepers 2020 report shows that after 20 straight years of poverty numbers coming down, the disease has reversed the trend.

"The pandemic has pushed almost 37 million people below 1.9 US dollars a day extreme poverty line. The poverty line for lower-middle-income countries is 3.20 dollars a day, and 68 million people have fallen below that one since last year," says the report.

Apart from fanning poverty, the disease has disrupted food access and exacerbated child and maternal mortality.

"Due to the COVID-19 economic crisis, local food markets are less busy and consumers have less money to buy food, which means small-scale farmers are selling and earning less. This is on top of climate stresses that have been getting worse in recent years as well as this year's locust infestation in East Africa, both of which threaten their livelihoods," says the report.

It adds that COVID-19 is causing more women than men to suffer and die, in large part because the pandemic has disrupted healthcare before, during, and immediately after childbirth.

"Preventable, treatable complications such as severe bleeding, infection, and high blood pressure cause the vast majority of maternal deaths. Many healthcare workers who used to manage these emergencies, including experienced



nurse-midwives, are being diverted to COVID wards," says the report.

According to the report, HIV/Aids and tuberculosis patients are the other groups that are worst affected by the pandemic, according to the report. "Current evidence shows that people living with HIV are at increased risk of death due to COVID-19. Before COVID-19, there were already three million 'missing cases' of TB: people with

active TB who didn't know it and were passing the disease to others while going untreated themselves. Now, that number will grow even larger as people either cannot go to health facilities for diagnosis or choose not to go to avoid the possibility of exposure to COVID-19," notes the report dubbed COVID-19, A Global Perspective.

But many countries have responded to the crisis well, notes the report, investing 18 trillion

dollars in economic stimulus proving that the world understands how massive the COVID-19 crisis is. "Many developing countries are doing impressive work on digital cash transfers that put money directly in people's hands. According to the World Bank, 131 countries have either implemented new programs or expanded existing ones since February, reaching 1.1 billion people," says the report.

In Africa, the eight members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, allowed people to open accounts by text message or telephone and follow up later to verify their identity in person.

"More than 8 million West Africans signed up for accounts while their countries were in lockdown," says the report.

Despite the bleak projections, Bill and Melinda Gates describe a path to ending the pandemic and resuming progress toward the Global Goals. In the report, which they co-author every year, they call on the world to collaborate on the development of diagnostics, vaccines, and treatment; manufacture tests and doses as quickly as possible; and deliver these tools equitably based on need rather than the ability to pay.

"The response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us some of the best of humanity: pathbreaking innovation, heroic acts by frontline workers, and ordinary people doing the best they can for their families, neighbors, and communities," Bill and Melinda Gates write. "This is a shared global crisis that demands a shared global response."

The report makes clear that no single country will be able to meet this challenge alone. Any attempts by one country to protect itself while neglecting others will only prolong the hardships caused by the pandemic. Developing and manufacturing vaccines will not end the pandemic quickly unless they are delivered equitably.

According to Odhihambo, the 16.5 bn/- initiative was planned to boost maize and rice production and supply in line with Tanzania's food security programme.

Jailus Kibona, maize small holder farmer from Mbozi District cherished the programme, saying that YARA's fertilizers would make his dreams come true since he predicted more harvests next season.

The initiative seeks to increase use and proper application of fertilizer in Tanzania as a whole. Proper and timely use of fertilizer by smallholders will increase their disposable income and savings would be invested in changing their lives.

Africa's climate change fight gets a boost as GCA sets up regional centre at AfDB

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN leaders welcomed the opening of a regional office of the Global Center on Adaptation on Wednesday, voicing hopes it will spur the continent's efforts to combat climate change.

In speeches marking the virtual launch of GCA Africa, the leaders said the Center could also provide an impetus for a more resilient recovery after COVID-19, which they said had compounded climate-induced vulnerabilities.

"In the post-COVID period, our objective should not only be to recover and build better but to do so in a climate-conscious

way," said Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde.

"There is no (more) stark reminder of the need for us to take urgent action than the devastating impact of climate change that we are witnessing now. We have no other option but to mobilize ourselves more than ever before to safeguard the planet. Time is not on our side," Zewde noted.

Hosted by the African Development Bank at its headquarters in the Ivorian commercial capital, Abidjan, GCA Africa will work with partners across the continent to accelerate adaptation action that protects African communities from climate change.

Several regional and global leaders attended the high-level launch. Key speakers included the 8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, co-chair of the Global Center on Adaptation, Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo; Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, Ak-inwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group and Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA.

There were also speeches by representatives from the African Union Commission, Dutch businessman and co-chair of the GCA Feike Sijbesma, United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed, Gabonese

President Ali Bongo, who is also chairperson of the African Adaptation Initiative, Dag-Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development for Norway, and Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation for Sweden.

Welcoming the opening of GCA Africa, President Akufo-Addo expressed the hope that it will work to scale up the "bright spots" of adaptation on the continent, including Ghana, where development partners have kicked off a project to enhance the resilience of national infrastructure systems against threats of climate change.

"We look forward to working

with GCA and its partners to meet the challenges of climate change and ensuring resilience is built into Africa's economic recovery plans."

President Kenyatta noted that the climate change challenge is no longer a projected crisis. "It's indeed a reality that we need to control urgently," he said, citing the incidence of El-Nino-triggered floods and droughts in parts of East Africa, which has also been hit by a locust invasion.

He commended the partnership between the Bank and the African Adaptation Initiative under the GCA. "I am optimistic that through this partnership Kenya and other African coun-

ties will attract more financing and other resources that we need to implement our various national adaptation plans."

Opening the regional office, Adesina said the occasion marked a major milestone in the Bank's drive to build climate resilience for Africa. Adesina, who began his second five-year term as Bank President this month, said one of his key priorities over the next five years is for the Bank to drive investments in green growth and climate finance for Africa.

"As a Bank, we are committed to helping Africa build back from the COVID-19 crisis, better, stronger and with greater health and climate resilience," he said,

adding that the Bank's financing for climate had quadrupled, from 9% of its total portfolio in 2016 to 36% by 2019. "By the end of 2021, we will reach our target of 40% of the total portfolio."

Also, the Bank has committed to providing \$25 billion in climate financing by 2025, Adesina stated.

The GCA Africa programs include improving the food security of one billion people in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030 through a program on rural well-being and food security, as well as projects to support communities through water for urban growth and resilience; using nature for more resilient infrastructure; adaptation finance and building

Tracking the social and economic impacts of Covid-19 in Nigeria

By Gbemisola Oseni, Amparo Palacios-Lopez, Kevin McGee & Akuffo Amankwah

NIGERIA has been hit hard by both the spread of the coronavirus and the decline in the prices of oil – a sector on which the economy is heavily reliant. The government has thus been laden with the challenging task of managing a health crisis in an already weakened economy. To monitor the socioeconomic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), with support from the World Bank, is conducting the Nigerian Covid-19 National Longitudinal Phone Survey (Covid-19 NLPS).

To capture the evolving nature of the pandemic, the Covid-19 NLPS is being implemented monthly over the course of 12 months, with each round measuring the impact of the pandemic on employment and livelihoods, food security and access, and human development.

The first round was implemented between April 20 and May 11, 2020, the second between June 2 and June 16, and the third between July 2 and July 16.

The survey sample of 1,950 households was drawn from the regionally representative General Household Survey (GHS) Panel fielded in 2018-2019, and is well distributed across urban (39 per cent) and rural (61 per cent) areas.

Knowledge of preventative measures is almost universal and most respondents report engaging in safe practices. During the baseline round



The pandemic is already radically worsening the economic outlook for Africa, with growth expected to collapse to a negative 1.6% and a real per capita fall of 3.9%, making 2020 the worst year since records began in 1970 for the continent's economic growth.

of the survey in April/May 2020, when a federally mandated lockdown was in effect, respondents were largely well-informed about important preventive measures against coronavirus, such as handwashing (97 per cent), avoiding gatherings (90 per cent), and social distancing (89 per cent).

By June, certain restrictions in movement had been lifted, but the majority of respondents continued to engage in safe practices as mitigation

against infection – with 73 per cent of respondents wearing masks and 77 per cent of respondents washing their hands all or most of the time after being in public.

While significant recovery in employment was registered in latest rounds, a high rate of households reported income loss, and many are still moving in and out of work.

During the first round of the survey, 42 per cent of overall job loss could

be traced directly to Covid-19, with a higher percentage of lost employment among the poorest (49 per cent) and urban (48 per cent) households, relative to the wealthiest (39 per cent) and rural households (38 per cent).

The commerce, service, and agricultural sectors were hit hardest by the spread of the virus.

However, the second and third rounds in June and July showed significant recovery in employment, es-

pecially for rural households, as well as those in the agricultural sector.

As of July, even though the overall share of respondents who are working had recovered, there was some evidence of people moving in and out of work. Only 34 per cent of respondents have been working continuously since mid-March, while 66 per cent have experienced some period of time out of work.

Economic shocks continue to affect Nigerian households, and the share of households reducing their food consumption as a coping mechanism has increased since April/May. The most widely experienced shocks in the country continue to be increases in the prices of both major food items consumed (affecting 90 per cent of households) and farming/business inputs (affecting 64 per cent of households).

Distressingly, the share of households experiencing these two shocks has increased since April/May.

As of July, many households were resorting to coping mechanisms that can have further longer-term negative impacts, such as reducing food consumption (69 per cent of households who experienced shocks) and drawing down their savings (29 per cent of households who experienced shocks).

More children have had contact with teachers but the share of those engaging in educational activities remained stable, with a higher rate among urban children.

In April/May, 38 per cent of households with school-age children reported that their children had not engaged in any educational pursuits in the seven days before the interview took place.

Children in urban households were more likely to engage in educational activities (73 per cent of households with school-aged children) compared to those in rural households (57 per cent of households with school-aged children), though no similar urban-rural gap was found for contact with teachers.

Gbemisola Oseni is a senior economist with the World Bank's Development Data Group, where Amparo Palacios-Lopez is an economist. Kevin McGee is meanwhile also an economist and Akuffo Amankwah an economist with the LSMS team at the World Bank's Development Data Group.

China issues white paper on employment, labour rights in Xinjiang

BEIJING

CHINA'S Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region fully respects workers' job preferences, according to a white paper released yesterday by the State Council Information Office.

Xinjiang takes the facilitation of employment as the most fundamental project for ensuring and improving people's wellbeing, according to the white paper titled "Employment and Labor Rights in Xinjiang".

According to the white paper, workers' job preferences have always served as an important reference for the local government of Xinjiang in designing its employment policies, expanding employment channels, creating jobs, organizing vocational training sessions, and providing placement services.

The region has taken a variety of measures to ensure that workers' job preferences are guaranteed. It has formed a comprehensive picture of the local labor resources, and kept track of the job preferences and needs of workers in a timely manner, according to the white paper.

The government has also actively built employment information platforms and continuously bolstered public employment services, while resolutely preventing and punishing any incidents of forced labor.

Through its proactive labor and employment policies, Xinjiang has continuously improved the people's material and cultural lives, and guaranteed and developed their human rights in every field, according to the document.

There are six chapters in the white paper: employment in Xinjiang, proactive employment policies, full respect for workers' job preferences, labor rights protection, better jobs for better lives, and application of international labor and human rights standards.

Boosting employment

Xinjiang has achieved significant progress in increasing employment and ensuring public wellbeing while implementing COVID-19 control on a regular basis, according to the white paper.

Xinjiang's registered urban unemployment rate has remained below 3.5 percent in recent years, according to the white paper.

The local government has taken multiple measures to alleviate economic difficulties and stabilize and boost employment, according to the document.

It has built a well-defined, five-tiered public employment service system for employers and employees. It has also expanded its services in areas such as policy advice, employment and unemployment registration, career guidance and recommendation, and skills and business startup training.

Meanwhile, the region has adopted policies offering periodical and targeted cuts in taxes and other employer contributions, aiming to facilitate the resumption of production and business activities as well as to increase employment generated by investment and industries, according to the document.

Equal rights

Xinjiang has formulated and implemented a series of autonomous regional regulations based on local conditions, providing a solid legal guarantee for citizens to enjoy equal rights to work, according to the white paper.

The region ensures that there is no discrimination against workers on the basis of ethnicity, region, gender, and religious belief, and that no individuals' rights are restricted because of their urban or rural status, profession or position, according to the white paper.



A student practises welding during a vocational training class in Zhaosu county, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Dec 14, 2019. XINHUA

The region has fully implemented the national plan to ensure that everyone has access to social security and all those in need are covered, according to the white paper.

In ensuring women's rights, Xinjiang strives to remove barriers to employment and formulates policies to support women in starting their own businesses.

To protect the labor rights of persons with disabilities, Xinjiang puts in more efforts on their vocational training, promotes their employment at public welfare enterprises and institutions, offers them flexible and less demanding jobs and public service positions, and advances their proportional employment.

International standards practiced

Xinjiang has become a successful example of practicing international labor and human rights standards in underdeveloped areas with large populations of ethnic minorities, according to the white paper.

The region's policies and practices concerning employment and job security comply with China's Constitution and relevant laws, conform to international labor and human rights standards, and support the will of all ethnic groups to live a better life, according to the document.

Vocational training

To improve employability, Xinjiang has developed a complete system of

vocational education and training, aiming to raise the basic quality of trainees and organize training oriented to specific demands, jobs and employers, according to the white paper.

Through vocational training, Xinjiang has built a large knowledge-based, skilled and innovative workforce that meets the requirements of the new era. Every year from 2014 to 2019, Xinjiang provided training sessions to an average of 1.29 million urban and rural workers, of which 451,400 were in southern Xinjiang.

Meanwhile, enrollments in various kinds of education in Xinjiang have all reached the highest level in history, according to the white paper.

In 2019, there were 453,800 full-time students studying at universities and colleges in Xinjiang, an increase of 146,200 over 2014, and 1.84 million students studying at secondary schools, an increase of 147,600 over 2014, according to the white paper.

Higher income

The income of residents and workers in Xinjiang has increased steadily from 2014 to 2019, according to the white paper.

The per capita disposable income of urban residents in Xinjiang increased from 23,200 yuan (US\$3,314) in 2014 to 34,700 yuan in 2019, with an average annual nominal growth of 8.6 percent, while that of rural residents rose from 8,724 yuan to 13,100 yuan, with an average annual nominal growth of 8.9 percent, according

to the white paper.

Eliminating poverty

Xinjiang has worked out new approaches to address some of the global challenges, such as protecting human rights while combating terrorism and extremism, and pursuing sustainable development while eliminating poverty, according to the white paper.

Xinjiang effectively prevents and strikes out at terrorism and extremism, and at the same time maintains social stability and improves people's lives, with its impoverished population and poverty incidence markedly reduced, according to the white paper.

Xinjiang will completely eliminate poverty by the end of 2020, according to the white paper.

From 2018 to 2019, 155,000 people from registered poor households in southern Xinjiang and in four impoverished regimental farms of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps found employment outside their hometowns and subsequently emerged from poverty.

From 2013 to the end of 2019, Xinjiang wiped out poverty in 25 poor counties and 3,107 poor villages, and the poverty incidence dropped from 19.4 percent to 1.24 percent.

From 2014 to the end of 2019, a total of 2.92 million people from 737,600 households shook off poverty. By the end of 2020, poverty will be completely eliminated in Xinjiang, according to the document.

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 137 00--

WORD-FIT

U H U R U F R E E

3 letters: GOD, AOR, ACT, SAD, ARE, FREE, ROOM, EVEN, AMEN, HIDE

4 letters: RARE, ORES, STUD, UHURU, EVOKE, ASHET, GRAPE

5 letters: PLATE, ATTAR, TAMED, REACH

6 letters: UNESCO, ELEVEN, ENDEAR, SEVERE

7 letters: SCREAM, CURIOUS,

8 letters: UN EARNED

CROSSWORD

1 the first black president of S. Africa

2 flightless bird in New Zealand

3 Islamic canonical law

4 the star

5 make a bleating sound

6 citrus fruit

7 a small restaurant

8 a minister in charge of a Christian church

9 an instrument for writing

10 an American

11 a narrow horizontal surface projecting from a wall, cliff

12 citrus fruits

13 celebrity

14 an official order or proclamation

15 Russia's capital

16 Former name of Malawi

17 an open area of grassy

18 a woman's loose sleeveless cloak

19 Valletta is her Capital

20 flee

21 gather in or together

22 the deep-freezing of the bodies of people who have died of an incurable disease, in the hope of a future cure

SOLUTIONS

U H U R U F R E E

1 MANDIBALAZI

2 KAKAPO

3 SHARIAH

4 STARBUCK

5 BLEAT

6 LEMON

7 CAFETERIA

8 BISHOP

9 QUILL

10 AMERICAN

11 BALCONY

12 CITRUS

13 CELEBRITY

14 DECREE

15 MOSCOW

16 NIASHA

17 PLAZA

18 KIMONO

19 FLEE

20 GATHER

21 EMBALM

22 REANIMATION

GEITA GOLD MARKET FETCHES 58.9BN/- IN AUGUST AS ANNUAL FAIR GOT GOING

By Property Watch Reporter, Geita

The government's decision to establish Geita Minerals Trading Centre is paying off handsomely with 58.9bn/- earned from gold sales last month compared to 55.88bn/- in July this year.

Geita Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel said this week during the official commencement of a 10 days third Mineral Exhibition being held here that President John Magufuli's order that mineral trading centres be established has improved state revenue significantly.

"We have seen rapid improvement in earnings from gold trading from 51.3bn/- in June to 55.88bn/- and 58.9bn/- last month," Eng Gabriel said explain further that the government received 4.12bn/- last month with Geita District Council earning 176m/-.

"In July, the government received 3.9bn/- as tax and the district council got 167m/- while in June, Treasury got 3.59bn/- and district council earned 150m/-," he added. He pointed out that this year's exhibition and mineral fair is basking in success made following President Magufuli's bold decision to curb smuggling of minerals.

"In Geita Region, small scale miners are very happy due to the fact that the market is no longer a problem and middlemen are not beneficiaries," the Geita RC noted while revealing that currently there are nine trading hubs.

The RC noted: "More than 420 exhibitors are participating at the third mineral exhibition in Geita this year, the largest single gathering of mining stakeholders in the market." The annual Geita Mineral Exhibition is now revolving into an international mining trade fair involving both local and foreign players.



Exhibitors showcase their wares at the ongoing 3rd Geita Minerals Exhibition. Photo courtesy of Geita RC.

foreign players.

The region has already established a 24 hours export processing zone, the first in East Africa, which comprises economic and export zones as well as the gold trading centre.

Eng Gabriel underscored that with the theme, 'Mining is

economy, 2020 choose visionary leaders for development of the country', the exhibition will help stakeholders showcase their potential in mining activities and explore trade and investment opportunities.

The exhibition is organized by office of Geita Regional Com-

missioner's office in collaboration with Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade), Small Industries Development Organization (Sido) and Mining Commission as well as the Geita Town Council.

The gold region accounts for 35 percent of total gold production

in the country annually. The gold is one of top foreign exchange earners for the country contributing more than 90 percent of mineral exports annually. Tanzania is the fourth largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

Upmarket rent declines 6.6pc on exit of foreigners

NAIROBI

Rent on Kenyan high-end property has fallen by 6.55 percent over the last six months as foreigners returned to their countries during the coronavirus pandemic, dragging down the value of the real estate.

According to Knight Frank's Africa Residential Dashboard for the first half of 2020, upmarket rental property have been losing tenants as expatriates leave the country pushing a decline in rents. Coupled with oversupply of housing units, the valuations for the property in lavish Nairobi neighbourhoods is down 2.9 per cent in the six months to June.

"There has been a surge in the exit of expatriates from the continent due to pre-existing economic challenges but enforced by the Covid-19 pandemic which has resulted in subdued demand in the prime residential sector," Tilda Mwai, Knight Frank Researcher for Africa said.

Governments imposed restrictions on foreign travels prompting foreigners to exit so as not to end up locked up away from home for uncertain periods of time. Foreign governments including the European Union countries and the United Kingdom, organised for charter flights from firms, including Kenya Airways and Ethiopian airlines, for a one way ticket out of the country.

Tourists who usually take up residence in holiday homes and Airbnb have stayed away further hurting occupancy. Knight Frank reckon that a quarter of high-end homes are vacant given the average occupancy of 73 percent in the six months to June.

Knight Frank said the decline in both prime residential rents and prices is mainly attributed to the continued oversupply of residential developments, unfavourable economic climate, low liquidity and expatriates returning to their home countries.

The real estate consultants say they expect prime residential rents to decline in the second half of 2020 due to the reduced economic activity, tighter liquidity, continued relocation of expatriates and less disposable income from potential tenants. Prime residential prices are also expected to decline at a slower rate.

The situations is an indication that lower segments of the market remain unserved even as high end real estate runs out of steam. The firm says there is an increasing number of young professionals in African cities and the need for space in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic who will anchor affordable housing market even as we see renewed government interventions towards ensuring affordable housing delivery.



Apartments in Nairobi's Kileleshwa upmarket estate

Airtel financed Uhuru Hospital due for completion in October

By Property watch Reporter, Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION work of a 2.3bn/- Bharti Airtel financed Uhuru Hospital in Chamwino District of Dodoma Region is due to end in October this year, Suma JKT's Project Manager, Engineer Giritu Kanansi has said.

Briefing an Airtel Tanzania Plc's delegation that visited the area last week, Eng Kanansi said that construction work which has reached 87 percent of completion has been delayed by heavy rain which pounded the region earlier this year.

"Initially the hospital was supposed to be completed in May this year but it was delayed by heavy rains which destroyed infrastructure," he said when Airtel Tanzania's Public Relations Manager, Jackson Mmbando and his delegation visited the site.

He paid tribute to President John Magufuli's administration for ensuring that such mega infrastructure projects are implemented by local contractors. "Formerly such big projects were undertaken by foreign contractors but now we are showing that local contractors can also deliver," Eng Kanansi noted.

The Suma JKT Project Manager further noted that currently they are working on floor finishing, electrical system installation and plastering. "I would like to commend the Fifth Phase Government in collaboration with Airtel Tanzania Plc for support-



Construction work of Uhuru Hospital in Chamwino District is in progress. Photo courtesy of Airtel Tanzania.

ing construction of this hospital which upon completion, will not only serve Chamwino residents but all Tanzanians," he added.

Airtel Tanzania's Mmbando said the telco which is a subsidiary of Indian based Bharti Airtel Plc, is closely following the con-

struction of the hospital to see progress being made by the contractor. "As Airtel we are proud to be associated with this hospital which we are sponsoring," Mmbando said noting that the financing is part of Airtel's corporate social responsibility, which

among other areas, also focuses on investment in the health sector.

He said the telco recognizes the importance of a health community so that it can effectively do business and earn profits past of which is invested in social ser-

vices including health and education. The Airtel Tanzania PR Manager explained that in order to improve its services in Chamwino District, the company has already opened four Airtel Money branches including at the hospital's construction site.

Africa needs to do a better job to attract exploration investment

KAMPALA

Africa needs to do a better job of attracting exploration investment as the global competition increases.

While the continent's geology and highly-promising sedimentary basins offer relatively low risks for explorers, the above-the-ground risks linked to red tape and the sanctity of

contracts remain major obstacles to increasing investments into exploration.

Unfortunately, other global frontiers continue to perform better in offering attractive terms and jurisdictions for explorers and investors, especially in South America. In comparison, several African markets remain seen as risky and promoting legislations that deter investments.

Terms and local content regulations especially

need to adapt to new realities. While upcoming or frontier markets such as Senegal, Niger, Chad, Kenya or Uganda need to adopt progressive local content regulations taking into account the emerging status of their local industry, other established markets like Nigeria need to adjust their terms to new market realities.

Finally, the promotion of African acreages and blocks need to be accompanied by better quality

data and information. Unfortunately, African governments have shied away from putting in the kind of efforts and money that would ensure the gathering of high quality data to support licensing rounds across the continent. While Africa's risk profile deteriorates, the continued lack of access to reliable and quality data further complicates investment promotion efforts.

However, the outlook remains positive with

extremely promising wells planned for drilling in major frontiers such as South Africa, Namibia or Angola. With its extremely abundant natural resources, African can quickly reposition itself as an attractive and competitive destination for exploration investment if it is willing to implement quick policy gains that would ensure a sustainable and quick recovery of its oil & gas industry.

JKCI, ISRAELI-BASED SACH AND MICROSOFT PARTNER IN DIGITISING HEART TREATMENT

By Property Watch Reporter

CHILDREN suffering from heart conditions being treated at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute are now subjected to world class treatment thanks to a partnership between the Dar es Salaam based hospital Israeli based Save A Child's Heart (SACH).

With a footprint spanning over 60 countries across the Middle East and Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the America's, SACH has treated more than 5,000 children for congenital and rheumatic heart diseases.

Founded by Dr Ami Cohen in 1995 at the Wolfson Medical Centre in Holon, Israel, SACH aims to improve the quality of paediatric cardiac care for all children; creating local centres of competence in developing countries. Working with JKCI, the Israeli non-profit organisation is reaching new frontiers in the treatment and care of children across the country.

The organisation has deployed two main modes of operation to support the diagnosis, treatment and recovery of children who are admitted to the JKCI. After diagnosis at the Institute, selected children and their caregivers are flown to the Wolfson Medical Centre in Israel for final diagnosis and subsequent surgery.

In these cases, the Medical Centre's Legacy Heritage Children's Home, a fifteen-minute drive from the Centre, provides



JKCI main block in Dar es Salaam.

both counsel and accommodation to the children, escort nurse and their caregivers during this time. To date, 65 cardiac paediatric patients have benefited from this programme.

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is the leading cause of acquired heart disease and is an ongoing concern in sub-Saharan Africa, affecting especially the younger population. Proper treatment is essential to improve the outcomes for these children, as both conditions contribute substantially to morbidity and mortality during infancy and childhood. However, treatment for conditions like CHD and RHD can be prohibitively expensive for

families without governmental or humanitarian organisations being involved.

Microsoft Israel has been working closely with the entire healthcare industry to provide new cloud-based solutions to meet the hospitals and HMO's specific needs, with activities including everything from collaboration to Data, Machine Learning and AI solutions.

The solutions provide better collaboration, facilitate remote work, making information accessible for healthcare workers, patients and citizens, and innovating the entire healthcare system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been

a focus on providing remote work as well as remote patient care for healthcare facilities.

"Once implemented, this innovative approach will allow us to help deliver more precise diagnoses, and will help to limit the number of children needing to fly to Israel for treatment. On the social side, there are also added benefits for the children at JKCI, who will be able to enjoy the comforts of familiar surroundings and family networks in their home country," said Dr Lior Sasson from the Wolfson Medical Centre.

JKCI's CEO, Professor Mohamed Janabi has applauded the partnership with SACH saying it leverages use

of technology in treating patients easily from anywhere. "Our surgeons are in constant contact with our Israeli counterparts for consulting, coaching and mentorship. We are excited that this partnership with SACH and Microsoft will allow more precise diagnosis using remote, real-time digital collaboration tools that will immensely benefit the children in our care," said Prof Janabi. He added, "We are stepping boldly into medical collaboration in the digital era, and we look forward to being at the leading edge of this innovation."

Microsoft for Africa Business Development Lead, Gustavo Raiter also cherished the partnership with SACH and JKCI. "As Microsoft, we are encouraged by the collaboration and drive shown by the Wolfson Medical Centre and the Jakaya Kikwete Medical Institute in the area of paediatric cardiac treatment," Raiter said.

Raiter noted that the US software giant is glad to be part of the digital transformation journey and is confident that such efforts will serve as a template for similar partnerships in other countries, paving the way for innovation that drives collective action.

For treatment in Tanzania, SACH also sends surgeons, nurses, surgeons, anesthesia, doctors and perfusionists to the JKCI for a months-long deployment to fast-track the surgical treatments for children most in need. SACH also provides scholarships for nurses, surgeons, anesthesia, doctors and perfusionists from JKCI who are going to Israel for further study.

Construction starts on Foster + Partners-designed Cairo hospital

CAIRO

Construction has begun on the new Foster + Partners-designed Cairo hospital, featuring soft and warm colours and shell-like roofs, located within a lush, verdant landscape. The new hospital will overlook a calming lake that seeks to optimise the overall patient experience and decrease recovery times.

Named Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre Cairo, the building is the newest outpost of the Aswan Heart Centre founded by renowned Egyptian surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub and will provide free state-of-the-art treatment for the people of Egypt and beyond, in particular those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The design will be a 300-bed capacity hospital that responds to the needs of patients, their families and the staff that care for them. The site for the new hospital borders the Zewail City of Science and Technology, forming part of an integrated health and medical research zone.

Free-of-charge medical services "New Aswan Heart Centre offers state-of-the-art, free-of-charge medical services to the Egyptian people, particularly the underprivileged. Lush and verdant, this oasis of paths and parks promotes wellbeing," said Norman Foster, founder and executive chairman of Foster + Partners.

"With its passive design strategy, it is an exemplar of sustainability, responding to the needs of patients and to its locale. We are delighted to be working with Sir Magdi Yacoub and his foundation for such a noble cause."

"The main access to the site is from the south through a pedestrian plaza with an intimate shaded route that leads to a welcoming canopy that marks the entrance," said Foster + Partners. On the ground level, there will be comprehensive diagnosis and treatment facilities, including an accident and emergency department, a large outpatient clinic and rehabilitative departments.

Co-located surgical department, intensive care units The complex, which will include several courtyards, bring natural light into the deep plan building, while also aiding orientation. Supporting the innovations of the centre, the surgical department and intensive care units are co-located. "This minimises the distance between 'bed and bench', maximising collaboration between researchers and caregivers working to deliver advanced, innovative care," added Foster + Partners.

"Cardiovascular disease is currently the most important cause of disability and death with 80% of the burden affecting low- and middle-income countries. This demands urgent action with emphasis on quality and excellence at every level," said Sir Magdi Yacoub.

"The new Global Heart Centre designed by Lord Foster and Foster + Partners exemplifies the ultimate facilities capable of achieving the objectives of the Magdi Yacoub Foundation in terms of care, training and research at the highest level, directed at people who need it the most. "We are all proud to be part of this important and meaningful partnership," Yacoub added.

Key energy deals in Mozambique move forward with major support from US

MAPUTO

On September 9, the Board of Directors of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) approved a loan of up to \$200 million to Central Térmica de Temane and agreed to provide up to \$1.5 billion in political risk insurance to support the commercialisation of natural gas reserves in Area 4 of Mozambique's Rovuma Basin.

Together, the two deals represent a substantial investment by the United States that will improve access to energy, lay the foundation for transformational growth in Mozambique fuelled by the natural gas sector, and deliver on the U.S. Prosper Africa pledge announced last year in Maputo to increase U.S. investment in Africa.

DFC's loan of up to \$200 million to Central Térmica de Temane (CTT) will finance the development, construction, and operation of a 420-megawatt power plant and 25-kilometre interconnection line, which will diversify the country's energy supply and reduce the cost of electricity. As around 33% of Mozambique's population has access to electricity, this project will help Mozambique advance toward its goal of achieving universal access to energy by 2030.

DFC's provision of \$1.5 billion in political risk insurance will support the development, construction, and operation of an onshore natural gas liquefaction plant, along with supporting facilities. This energy project will provide a significant boost to Mozambique's GDP as the country emerges as a top global gas exporter. Combined with forward-looking partnerships between the government and the private sector - the project has the potential to grow the economy to meet the needs of the Mozambican people.

U.S. Ambassador Dennis Hearne welcomed the news. "These projects will have a significant development impact in Mozambique, improve lives, and create a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the country to build a more prosperous future for all Mozambicans," he said.

These projects and funding build on a foundation of more than \$500 million in annual assistance the U.S. Government provides to improve the quality of education and healthcare, promote economic prosperity, and support the overall development of Mozambique.

Danish agency gives LSF 700m/- electioneering grant

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to ensure free and fair elections this year, Denmark through its international development cooperation has given Legal Services Facility a 719.5m/- grant.

The Dar es Salaam based not for profit organization that works to increase access to justice for all citizens particularly women through legal empowerment, will among other things conduct voter civic education and election observation during the general election process scheduled for October 28.

Speaking after signing the grant agreement this week, Danish Ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Norgaard Dissing-Spandet said, "For over than 50 years Denmark through DANIDA has cooperated with the government and non-governmental organizations. The LSF is one of our key partners enhancing access to justice for all in particular for women."

Ambassador Dissing-Spandet noted that the grant which is offered to LSF is a result of the not for profit organization being accredited by National Electoral Commission to undertake voters' education and election observation for the general elections. "Through this grant it will be possible for the NGO to reach marginalized communities and increase awareness and promote active participation in the democratic process by the people," she added.

In her remarks at the same event, LSF's CEO, Lulu Ng'wanakilala extended her sincere gratitude to Danish taxpayers for continued support to the NGO for the past nine years. Ng'wanakilala applauded Danish International Development Agency for seeing it necessary to set aside a grant specifically for enabling the vital voter and civic education exercise along with election observation across the country.

"LSF expects to work with at least 31 organizations that benefit from its funding in 17 regions. Every one of these organizations has already been licensed by the National Electoral Commission to engage the general public in voter and civic education as well as provide observation dur-



Dnmark's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mette Norgaard Dissing-Spandet (R), and Legal Services Facility's CEO Lulu Ng'wanakilala sign a grant contract worth almost 720m/- in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

ing the voting process in accordance with election laws," she noted.

The grant is intended to increase awareness among citizens regarding the need to participate fully in the election process later this year as part of LSF's strategic objec-

tives which aim to nurture a society that is cognizant of its basic rights including participating in elections and increasing the number of voters especially women.

Furthermore, she said that voter and civic education and election observation will be

carried out by paralegal organizations across the country along with other LSF partners duly licensed by NEC all coming together to enhance civic awareness and participation of eligible voters in the upcoming polls.



An artist's illustration of the Foster + Partners-designed Cairo hospital.

CONSTRUCTION

UK HOUSE PRICES JUMP 3.4 PCT AS DEMAND UP AFTER LOCK-DOWN

LONDON

UK average house prices jumped 3.4 per cent over the year to June as the market recovered from lockdown-related falls, according to new government data.

An increase in buyer demand, sales and fresh listings led the surge. The average house price at the end of June was £237,834 - £8,000 higher than the same month last year - HM Land Registry's House Index Price Index found on Wednesday, with London's house prices increasing by 4.2 per cent over the year.

"The increase may partly reflect the unusual conditions in the housing market during the coronavirus pandemic and movement restrictions put in place from March 23 2020," the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. "People were advised not to move house during the tightest restrictions. As such, property transactions completed during that time may have been more concentrated than usual among those without complicating factors such as a chain."

The increase in prices in June came before UK chancellor Rishi Sunak rolled out his temporary Stamp Duty Land Tax holiday on property purchases up to £500,000 to help stimulate the market in the wake of the lockdown. Andrew Weir, the chief executive of investment prop-



Luxury homes on sale in central London.

erty management company LCP, said it is advising clients to act now to secure good quality stock and benefit from the holiday.

"To be eligible, and save up to £15,000, buyers must complete their purchases by midnight on March 31 2021. We also expect that from April 1 2021 the previously announced additional 2 per cent stamp duty surcharge will be payable by overseas buyers," said Mr Weir. "We expect to see a rise in the volume of transactions in Prime Central London as we did in March 2016, the month before the introduction of a 3 per cent SDLT surcharge on additional property purchases."

The UK's property market saw the highest number of exchanges in the week ending August 29 since the end of last year as offers translated into transactions, according to global property consultancy Knight Frank. UK exchanges were 69 per cent higher than the five-year average, with the rate rising to 94 per cent in London where the housing market took longer to gain traction after the movement restrictions were lifted.

"We have seen higher levels of demand from Middle Eastern investors looking at London and the UK since the market re-opened" said Henry Faun, partner at Knight Frank Middle East. "Underlining how active the market has become, which has also been partly driven by a stamp duty holiday, the Bank of England ... said that mortgage approvals were 66 per cent higher in July than June."

Earlier this month Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey said it was too early to say if the UK's housing market resurgence was anything more than a release of pent-up demand following lockdown, helped by the temporary cut to property taxes.

Dubai property prices maintain investor interest

DUBAI

Property prices in Dubai helped underpin transaction levels during the typically quiet month of August, with demand strongest in the affordable section of the market, according to a new report.

Property prices in Dubai were 1.4 per cent less in August, reaching Dh807 per square foot, an 11-year low. Rents also came down at comparable rates, meaning gross rental yields remain "relatively stable" at 6.49 per cent, the Property Monitor report said. "Yields remains considerably higher in Dubai compared to other global cities, increasing its appeal as a safe haven for investors," the report said.

Prices in Dubai have been gradually declining since September 2014, owing in part to an oversupply of units but also to a pivot to building more affordable units. Sales of homes priced under Dh500,000 comprised 23.9 per cent of the market last month - up more than 2 per cent from July. Sales of homes below Dh1m made up 52.8 per cent of last month's transactions.

Although August is usually a quiet month for deals, pent-up demand from earlier in the year when buyers were unable to complete purchases and continued low interest rates meant activity remained robust. There were 2,462 transactions during the month, which was 1.3 per



The Town Square project by Nshama on Al Qudra Road was the area with the highest number of transactions last month, according to Property Monitor.

cent lower than in July. By comparison, sales volumes in August 2019 were 48.5 per cent lower than the previous month, and in August 2018 they were 39.9 per cent lower.

"Historically, August has been a slow month for transactions being the peak of summer in Dubai with many residents and citizens travelling overseas and visitors waiting

until the cooler months to travel. Nevertheless, the figures this year are much better than might have been expected," the report said.

A shift in the market is also emerging with more completed homes being sold than off-plan, which have been the most popular segment over the past five years. This is due to a number of develop-

ers now delaying project launches to address the oversupply issue, and to projects finishing with units still available, meaning more are sold on completion.

The most popular areas for completed homes sales were the Town Square development and Dubai Marina, while for off-plan it was Jumeirah Village Circle. A similar

report by ValuStrat last week reported a 1.6 per cent monthly price decline, but also highlighted strong activity levels. "Since the lifting of movement restrictions, home sales transaction volumes in Dubai continued what looked like a V-shape recovery trend," ValuStrat's report said.

Facebook buying REI's headquarters indicates demand for offices intact

SEATTLE

Outdoor sporting goods retailer REI surprised the real estate world last month when it put its never-been-used headquarters in a Seattle suburb up for sale, a striking example of how the pandemic is reshaping office demand. The property didn't sit around for long.

On Monday, Facebook bought it for \$368 million delivering a profit to REI and adding to a trio of buildings the social media giant has already leased nearby. The quick listing and sale highlights the tippy-turvey nature of commercial property markets six months after Covid-19 forced people to work from home, leaving skyscrapers and office parks vacant.

It also shows the wide variation among employers as they weigh their future real estate needs, said Greg Johnson, president of Wright Runstad, which developed the headquarters as part of its Spring District in Bellevue. Wright Runstad bought an undeveloped two acres from REI as part of the deal for \$22m.

While REI chose to scatter workers across multiple sites, Facebook "has said we're hiring like crazy and we want to have places for people to sit in close proximity", Mr Johnson said. "Everything in between is going on, as well."

Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg projected earlier this year that as much as half of his company's employees would work remotely in the next decade, which many real estate investors took as a bearish omen for the industry. But since then, Facebook announced a major lease in New York, a clear sign that it still wants physical offices for employees to gather and collaborate.

Mr Johnson remains bullish about office demand, especially in the Seattle area where large, expanding companies like Amazon and Microsoft are based. Facebook, which first opened a Seattle office in 2010 with three engineers, now has more than 3 million square feet of commercial space in the area of its latest purchase. "There are growing employers in this region and they continue hiring," said Mr Johnson. "And, with hiring, that drives demand for residential and office space."

United Airlines to add flights to India and Africa to offset slump in business travel

CHICAGO

United Airlines will add new nonstop flights to Africa and India to serve customers visiting friends and relatives, as the carrier revamps an international network beset by weak business traffic.

Destinations such as Lagos, Nigeria, and Bangalore, India, will focus on large diasporas living in the US and will give United greater network diversity, said Patrick Quayle, vice president of international network and alliances.

Traffic from trips to see friends

and family has withstood the coronavirus pandemic better than other segments, particularly corporate travel, he said. "It's us rebuilding our network in a new way," Mr Quayle said. "We're not just going to put the chess pieces back on the board the way they used to be."

Most of the new routes reflect United's plans for a smaller North Atlantic schedule in summer 2021, given heavy travel restrictions imposed by the US and European governments. The airline expects that its European schedule next

summer will largely reflect the capacity it has deployed this fall, Mr Quayle said. Internationally, United will fly about 40 per cent of its 2019 schedule next month.

United in December will begin a daily nonstop from Chicago to New Delhi followed by a daily San Francisco-Bangalore flight in early 2021, the company said in statement on Wednesday. American Airlines also plans a new flight to the southern India tech hub in 2021, from Seattle.

Next year, United plans new service three times a week from

Washington to Lagos and to Accra, Ghana, as well as a new daily flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Johannesburg. That flight will complement seasonal service from Newark to Cape Town that United began in December 2019.

Delta Air Lines serves Johannesburg nonstop from Atlanta and both Accra and Lagos from New York's John F. Kennedy International. In October, Delta will add a seasonal one-stop Cape Town flight on its service from Johannesburg to Atlanta. State-owned South African Airways is

insolvent and hasn't operated for more than five months.

On Thursday, United will also begin its first nonstop from Chicago to Tel Aviv, operating three times a week. El Al Israel Airlines had planned to start that route in March, just as the pandemic began decimating international travel. For the summer of 2021, United expects that Hawaii will become a favoured destination and will add four weekly nonstops from Chicago to Kona on the Big Island and from Newark to Maui.



Recreational Equipment Inc's corporate campus was sold to Facebook for \$368 million.

WORLD

Biden warns UK on Brexit: No trade deal unless you respect Northern Irish peace deal

LONDON

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden warned the United Kingdom that it must honour the Northern Irish peace deal as it extracts itself from the European Union or there would be no U.S. trade deal.

"We can't allow the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit," Biden said in a tweet.

"Any trade deal between the U.S. and U.K. must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period."

Johnson unveiled legislation that would break parts of the Brexit divorce treaty relating to Northern Ireland, blaming the EU for putting a revolver on the table in trade talks and trying to divide up the United Kingdom.

He says the United Kingdom has to have the ability to break parts of the 2020 Brexit treaty he signed to uphold London's commitments under the 1998 peace deal which ended three decades

of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland between pro-British Protestant unionists and Irish Catholic nationalists.

The EU says any breach of the Brexit treaty could sink trade talks, propel the United Kingdom towards a messy exit when it finally leaves informal membership at the end of the year and thus complicate the border between Northern Ireland and EU-member Ireland.

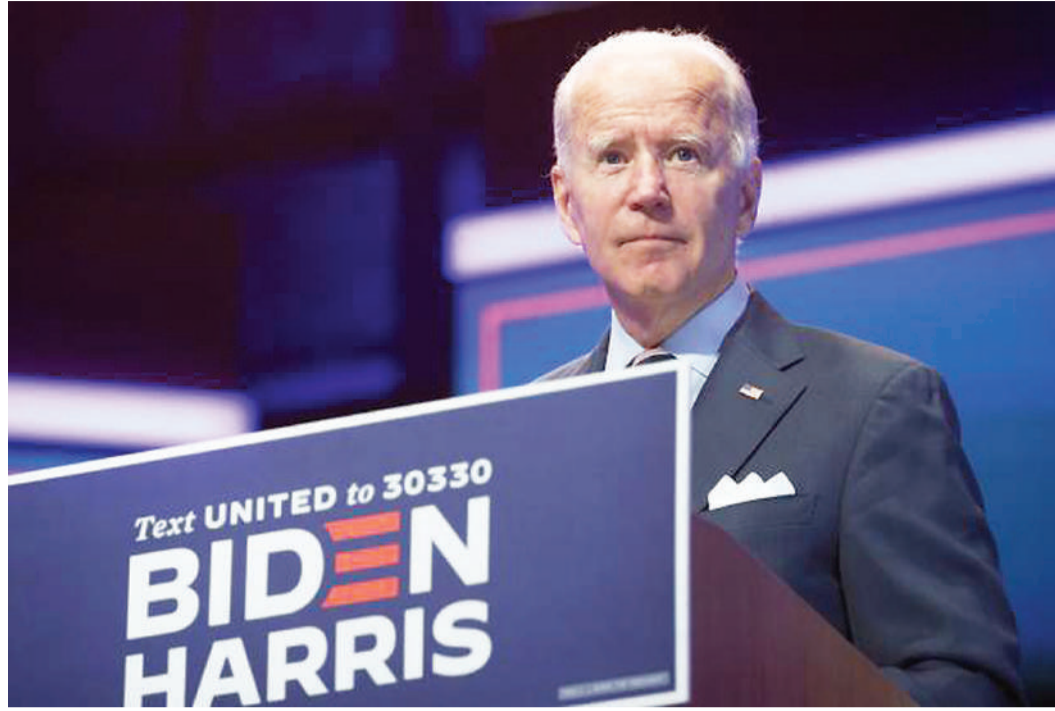
NO DEAL?

The EU's Brexit negotiator told the bloc's 27 national envoys that he still hoped a trade deal with Britain was possible, stressing that the coming days would be decisive, three diplomatic sources told Reuters.

Michel Barnier addressed the gathering on Wednesday and the three sources either participated in the discussion behind closed doors or were briefed on its content.

"Barnier still believes a deal is possible though the next days are key," said one of the EU diplomatic sources.

Johnson told The Sun that the EU was



Democratic U.S. presidential nominee and former Vice President Joe Biden

being "abusive" to Britain and risking four decades of partnership.

He said the UK must "ring-fence" the Brexit deal "to put in watertight bulkheads that will stop friends and partners making abusive or extreme interpretations of the provisions."

Societe Generale analysts said on Thursday they now see an 80% chance that Britain and the EU will fail to strike a trade deal before the end of the year.

BIDEN

Biden, who has talked about the importance of his Irish heritage, retweeted a letter from Eliot Engel, chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, to Johnson calling on the British leader to honour the 1998 Good Friday peace deal.

Engel urged Johnson to "abandon any and all legally questionable and unfair efforts to flout

the Northern Ireland protocol of the Withdrawal Agreement."

He called on Johnson to "ensure that Brexit negotiations do not undermine the decades of progress to bring peace to Northern Ireland and future options for the bilateral relationship between our two countries."

Engel said Congress would not support a free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom if Britain failed to uphold its commitments with Northern Ireland.

The letter was signed by Representatives Richard Neal, William Keating and Peter King. Johnson is pushing ahead with his plan.

His government reached a deal on Wednesday to avert a rebellion in his own party, giving parliament a say over the use of post-Brexit powers within its proposed Internal Market Bill that breaks international law.

China to strengthen ties with region on security - Wang

BEIJING

CHINA and its regional counterparts will continue to strengthen cooperation to maintain regional security amid renewed threats and challenges facing the region, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday.

China, in particular, will strengthen cooperation with Russia in four areas, Wang said.

Despite the generally sound relations between China and its neighbors, international terrorist groups and the three forces of terrorism, separatism, and extremism tend to resurge in the region, Wang said in an interview with Xinhua after attending the meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries in Moscow.

Some external forces have also intervened in the internal affairs of Asian countries under various pretexts, and even tried to instigate a new round of "color revolution." They fabricated different kinds of lies to smear emerging economies including China and Russia, he said.

Such bold acts, Wang said, go against the common interests of

Asian countries, which will be rejected by the international community and leave a shameful record in human history.

In the face of the new threats and challenges, he proposed that China and other Asian nations enhance security cooperation in three aspects, he said.

Firstly, they will actively carry out a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, deepen security cooperation in traditional and non-traditional sectors, so as to jointly deal with risks and challenges.

Wang added that the Asian countries are an interdependent community of shared interests and security, and are willing to make greater efforts to safeguard world peace and security, as well as jointly build a community of shared future for mankind.

Secondly, the Asian countries will constantly elevate the level of their security cooperation and work together to fight the three forces, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime. China is ready to join hands with all nations to push ahead with the China-proposed Global Initiative on Data Security, which is widely seen as conducive to formulat-



ing universally-accepted global data security rules and building a global data space featuring peace, security, openness, cooperation and order.

Moreover, the Asian countries firmly support each other to follow a development path that suits its national conditions and is chosen by its own people, and oppose anyone or any force to interfere with other countries' internal affairs using any excuse. China is ready to boost exchanges of experience on governance with all its regional counterparts, so as to safeguard each other's political and government security.

Boosting China-Russia ties

On ties with Russia, Wang said the two countries will strengthen cooperation in four areas: supporting international anti-

pandemic cooperation, setting an exemplar of major-country peaceful coexistence, enhancing cutting-edge technological innovations and safeguarding international justice and equity.

He and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, following face-to-face talks during Wang's stay in Moscow, have reached a series of important consensus on strengthening bilateral ties and dealing with international and regional challenges, Wang said.

On a joint statement by the two ministers, Wang said it has interpreted the common position of China and Russia on almost all international issues, showing the two countries have become the key stabilizers in the current international landscape.

As the world is undergoing changes unseen in a century, accelerated by the onslaught of COVID-19, Wang said that in a bid to maintain and consolidate the sound development of China-Russia ties, the two ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in the four areas.

First, the two countries will support international anti-pandemic cooperation, and in particular, support the World Health Organization in playing a coordinating

role, support various countries in accelerating drug and vaccine research and development, and call for efforts to stop politicizing the pandemic and virus.

Second, China and Russia will set an exemplar of major-country peaceful coexistence, and constructive major-country coordinative relations are indispensable to solve global problems.

Third, the two sides will strengthen cutting-edge scientific and technological innovations. China and Russia have complementary advantages in science and technology, and will implement the projects of the Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation, improve applications of scientific and technological advances, promote two-way exchanges of talents, and encourage investment in high-tech, internet and other fields.

Fourth, they will safeguard international justice and equity. China and Russia will firmly safeguard the core position of the United Nations in international affairs, defend international laws and the basic norms governing international relations, and actively reform and improve the global governance system.

Xinhua

Kremlin dismisses rumours claiming Russia will re-introduce self-isolation

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov thinks that there are no grounds for the rumors claiming that Russia will re-introduce the self-isolation regime soon, he told reporters on Thursday.

"There are no grounds for such

rumors currently," Peskov said.

The Kremlin spokesman added that the mobilization of the Russian healthcare system would help manage the rise in new COVID-19 cases. He dismissed claims that Russia plans to reintroduce quarantine measures soon.

"There is no discussion of that.

Why not? Because during the acute phase of the fight against the coronavirus, all Russian regions without exception introduced preemptive measures to mobilize the healthcare system for the needs of the pandemic.

This mobilization has taken place," he stressed. Peskov reminded that the work was carried out under strict control of Russia's government headquarters tasked with com-

bating the spread of the virus.

"The Russian president personally took part in this work on a weekly basis. Those efforts have provided results," Peskov noted.

When asked to comment on the situation in the Stavropol Region, which is still at the first stage of lifting quarantine restrictions, Peskov said that this matter in the jurisdiction of the governor. "They [the governors] make the corresponding decisions," he said.

Agencies

China's retail sales return to growth in August, signaling healthy momentum

CHINA'S retail sales returned to growth in August for the first time this year, and a slew of August economic data released on Tuesday indicated potential for stronger growth for the nation in the fourth quarter, shoring up the world's second largest economy to head for an annual expansion despite a global economic recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent to about 3.36 trillion yuan (\$490 billion) in August year-on-year, according to data released Tuesday by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), showing domestic demand has accelerated the recovery. Retail sales fell 1.1 percent in July year-on-year.

Liu Xuezhong, a macroeconomics expert at the Bank of Communications gave credit to improving auto sales and the reopening of the entertainment industry in August.

Maoyan, a Chinese movie-ticketing platform, told the Global Times on Monday that more than 95.5 million moviegoers contributed to China's August box office, which hit 3.4 billion yuan (\$500 million) - about 43 percent of the year-earlier level.

However, Wan Zhe, chief economist at the China National Gold Group Corp, told the Global Times that inflation posed a negative influence on retail sales as consumer consumption is experiencing slow recovery.

China's consumer price index (CPI), the key indicator of inflation, stabilized at 2.4 percent increase in August, down from the 2.7 percent in July.

"Currently, production is recovering faster than consumption. While consumption is recovering in some other countries, production still remains sluggish. That's why China's exports maintained a strong growth rate of 11.6 percent year-on-year in August," said Wan.

This shows the resilience of China's manufacturing industry and integrity of the structure of industrial chains, Wan noted.

Last month's manufacturing activity remained in the expansion range, as indicated by the Purchasing Managers' Index reading of 51, and the industrial added-value of enterprises above designated scale rose 5.6 percent in August year-on-year. NBS noted the country's industrial added-value in the first eight months returned to 0.4 percent growth for the first time this year.

The fixed-asset investment fall has slowed in August, partly fueled by the government's "new infrastructure" initiative in tandem with the speeding up of the manufacturing sector, said Liu. In the first eight months, China's fixed-asset investment dropped 0.3 percent year-on-year, narrowing the decline compared with the first seven months.

Global Times

Japan's new prime minister begins work as nation's leader

TOKYO

JAPAN'S new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga began work as the nation's leader yesterday vowing to "meet people's expectations."

Speaking to reporters at the prime minister's office, Suga (pictured) said his Cabinet would be results oriented. "I want to meet people's expectations by creating a Cabinet that works for people and achieves results," Suga said.

Newly appointed Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato, meanwhile, reiterated the former administration's commitment to fighting the coronavirus pandemic and preventing an explosive rise in infections.

"The important thing is to prevent infections and bring economic and social activities back to normal and revive them," Japan's new top government spokesman said. Kato added that under Suga's stewardship, the government will continue to tackle the nation's demographic crisis and forge deeper ties with Japan's closest neighbors.

Suga, the new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, was chosen as Japan's new prime minister to succeed Shinzo Abe in an extraordinary parliamentary session on Wednesday.

The parliament formally chose Suga as the nation's 99th prime minister in an extraordinary session convened at which he was elected by both chambers of Japan's bicameral parliament, winning 314 votes in the more powerful 465-member lower house and 142 votes in 245-member upper chamber.

Late last month and just days after becoming the nation's longest-serving leader in terms of consecutive days in office, Abe abruptly announced that he planned to step down because of the same intestinal disease and ulcerative colitis that forced him to relinquish his role as prime minister during his first stint as leader beginning 2006. Suga has formed a Cabinet comprising of a number of ministers who served under Abe in a bid to maintain continuity.

Xinhua

Sally weakens to tropical storm, brings 'historic flooding' to US Coast

PENSACOLA

Hurricane Sally uprooted trees, flooded streets and cut power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses on Wednesday as it brought what the US National Hurricane Center called "historic and catastrophic" flooding to the Alabama-Florida coast.

Sally, which made landfall early on Wednesday near Gulf Shores, Alabama, as a Category 2 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale of intensity, was downgraded in the afternoon to a tropical storm as maximum sustained winds dropped to 113 kph.

The storm is believed to have

killed one person in Alabama.

"We had a body wash up, we believe it was hurricane-related, but we have no definitive proof of that right now," said Trent Johnson, a police lieutenant in Orange Beach, Alabama.

Some parts of the Gulf Coast had been inundated with more than 46 cm of rain over the previous 24 hours, with more precipitation expected as the storm's winds slow further, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

The coastal community of Pensacola, Florida, experienced up to 1.5 m of flooding, and travel was cut by damaged roads and bridges. More than 500,000 homes

and businesses across the area were without power as the storm knocked over stately oak trees and tore power lines from poles.

Several residents along the Alabama and Florida coasts said damage from the slow-moving storm caught them off guard.

Jordan Muse, 35, was working the 3-11 a.m. shift at the downtown Holiday Inn in Pensacola, Florida, when flooding peaked at about 8 a.m. The hotel was without power and water.

"Our manager didn't think it was gonna be this bad. It was just so much rain and the winds were tremendous," she said. The hotel had some supplies, but Muse said

people quickly took everything that was available.

A section of the Pensacola Bay Bridge, known also as the "Three Mile Bridge," was missing a "significant section," Florida Governor Ron DeSantis told a news conference.

"The rain is what stands out with this one. It's unreal," said Cavin Hollyhand, 50, who left his home on a barrier island and took shelter in Mobile, Alabama, where he viewed the damage on Wednesday. Some isolated areas could see up to 89 cm of rain before Sally is done, the NHC said.

"We got it for 12 hours" On landfall at Gulf Shores, Sally's

winds were clocked at 169 kph. Along the coast, piers were ripped away by the storm surge and winds.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey told residents not to go outside to check on damage unless necessary, and to stay away from live power lines and fallen trees.

"We had strong winds for a long period of time," said 38-year-old Grant Saltz as he took a break from clearing debris outside his Mobile restaurant. "Instead of a few hours, we got it for 12 hours."

In Pensacola, where wind gusts were clocked at 124 kph at one point, images on social media showed major floods. One witness

reported hailstorms in the city as well and the NHC warned of possible tornadoes.

Pensacola police warned of high winds and urged residents not to drive around looking at damage.

Electrical crews from other states arrived in Pensacola as utilities began restoring power to about 570,000 homes and businesses in Alabama and Florida, according to local utilities.

"This year we've just got hurricane after hurricane," said Matt Lane, 23, a member of a crew from New Hampshire Electric Coop, who arrived late on Tuesday directly from Hurricane Laura recovery efforts in Texas.

Sally was the 18th named storm in the Atlantic this year and the eighth of tropical storm or hurricane strength to hit the United States. There are currently three other named storms in the Atlantic, highlighting one of the most active Atlantic hurricane seasons on record.

"We've only got one name left," said Jim Foerster, chief meteorologist at DTN, an energy, agriculture and weather data provider, referencing the procedure to name storms and the prospect of running out of letters. "That's going to happen here soon, Wilfred, and then we'll be into the Greek alphabet."

Agencies

US plans to enforce UN sanctions on Iran with its own action

WASHINGTON/UNITED NATIONS

THE United States said on Wednesday it plans to impose sanctions on those who violate a UN arms embargo on Iran, which Washington says will now stay in place instead of expiring in October as agreed under a 2015 nuclear deal.

US Special Representative for Venezuela and Iran Elliott Abrams said Washington could deny access to the US market to anyone who trades in weapons with Iran, which President Donald Trump's administration accuses of seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran has denied it is developing nuclear weapons.

In 2018 Trump quit the Iran nuclear deal - under which Tehran limited its

nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief - and reimposed US sanctions. Washington also says it has triggered a return of all UN sanctions on Iran, which would take effect this weekend.

But the other parties to the nuclear deal - Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia - and most of the UN Security Council have said they do not believe the United States can reimpose the UN sanctions.

"It's like pulling a trigger and no bullet comes out," a senior UN Security Council diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "There will be no snapback, the sanctions will remain suspended, the JCPOA (nuclear deal) will remain in place."

Asked if Washington is "making concrete plans now for secondary sanctions" to enforce the arms em-



US Special Representative for Venezuela and Iran Elliott Abrams speaks at a news conference at the State Department in Washington, DC. AFP

bargo, Abrams told reporters: "We are, in many ways, and we will have some announcements over the weekend and more announcements on Monday and then subsequent days next week."

Diplomats say few nations are likely to reimpose UN sanctions on Iran.

Earlier on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters, "We'll do all the things we need to do to ensure that those sanctions are enforced."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday described the opposition to Washington as a "victory of the Iranian nation and the disgraceful defeat of the United States in activation of the snapback mechanism."

Agencies

Russian senior diplomat warns US envoy against meddling in Belarus

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko underscored the unacceptability of attempts to meddle in Belarus's internal affairs and to destabilize the country during his phone call with US Ambassador John Sullivan yesterday.

"A special attention was paid to the latest events in Belarus, as well as the situation with the Nagorno-Karabakh peace settlement," the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in its statement.

"The Russian side underscored the unacceptability of any interference in the internal affairs, destabilization attempts and imposition of unilateral mediation services."

Rudenko also pointed out the promise of the constitutional reform, aimed at the liberalization of the Belarusian political system, which would involve the representatives of the civic society, labor collectives and business circles.

Nationwide demonstrations have engulfed Belarus following the August 9 presidential election.

According to the Central Election Commission's official results, incumbent President Alexander Lukashenko won by a landslide, garnering 80.10% of the vote. His closest rival in the race, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, came in second, with 10.12% of the ballot.

However, she refused to recognize the election's outcome, and left Belarus for Lithuania.

After the results of the exit polls were announced late on August 9, mass protests erupted in downtown Minsk and other Belarusian cities. During the early post-election period, the rallies snowballed into fierce clashes between the protesters and police.

The current unrest is being cheered on by the opposition's Coordination Council, which has been beating the drum for more protests. In response, the Belarusian authorities have castigated the ongoing turmoil and demanded that these unauthorized demonstrations be stopped.

Agencies

Algerian referendum looms as test for president and opposition

ALGIERS

A VOTE on a new constitution in Algeria in November marks a turning point for a country that has been rocked by huge protests and political upheaval and which is now struggling to move on from the tumult.

For President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, adoption of the charter would be a welcome new beginning after his predecessor and many top officials were toppled by mass demonstrations last year.

For the "Hirak" opposition movement, the Nov 1 referendum will show what clout it still has, after its protests ended the 20-year rule of veteran leader Abdelaziz Bouteflika but failed to achieve its ambitions of deeper change.

The weekly mass protests, which sought to sweep away the entire ruling elite, were put on hold when the coronavirus pandemic reached the north African country in March.

Abdelaziz Djerad, the prime minister appointed by Tebboune in January, recently told parliament the referendum should be a "day for consensus" among all Algerians.

It fits with Tebboune's narrative of the mass demonstrations as a moment of national renewal that ousted corrupt officials and, its ends achieved, is now over.

"Hirak demands are in the new constitution. It is important to pass it," Abdelhamid Si Afif, a senior ruling party member, told Reuters.

However, though it is now six months since they last paraded through the boulevards of central Algiers, prominent figures in the leaderless opposition do not see it Tebboune's way.

Their goal was to force from power the entire generation of officials that has ruled since independence in 1963, along with the military and security figures in the background who, they say, pull the strings.



President Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Influential people in the Hirak, such as Islam Benatia, see the constitution as doing little to answer their demands and the referendum as a tactic to sideline their movement.

"We are in a state of obstruction. There is a lack of consensus over the constitution that will be submitted to referendum without any real debate," he said.

The disquiet among Hirak activists was only strengthened on Tuesday when an appeals court confirmed the jailing of journalist Khaled Drar-eni, only reducing his sentence from

three years to two, for his role in the protests. Several other prominent Hirak supporters have also been imprisoned. Some in the movement see it as a signal from the authorities that they will not tolerate any resumption of protests.

Internally, Hirak supporters seem unsure whether to push for more street demonstrations or seek other ways of pressing their case.

Turnout key

Tebboune's proposed constitution gives parliament more rights to open inquiries into government work and limits the president to two terms in office.

It has passed a vote in parliament despite some opposition. "We boycotted the vote... because there has been no debate. It is unacceptable to pass it without discussion," said Lakhdar Benkhelaf, a leading member of the Front for Justice and Development, an Islamist party.

Subway brings vitality to northern Xi'an

By Di Guanglong

I live in the northern part of Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province. Subway is a major way of transportation for me. It takes less than 10 minutes of walk for me to arrive at the nearest subway station, so it's also convenient to go to the places along subway lines.

At present, Xi'an has opened four subway lines, and two of them pass through the northern part of the city. Zhangjiabu, on the northern outskirts of the city, is now a transfer hub where passengers can take the Line 2 to go to the Xi'an North railway station and get to an intercity rail for the airport after only one transfer.

I moved to the northern part of Xi'an 20 years ago from a small county outside Shaanxi province. I still remember that when I first arrived here, the residential complex that I lived in was surrounded by cropland and livestock farms. A rapeseed field was also near it.

Besides, there was a roundabout in Zhangjiabu, the "north gate" of Xi'an, where out-of-town truck drivers always lost their way. Therefore, guiding even became a business for some local residents.

Gradually I came to realize that the northern part of the city was usually not a choice for people to settle in due to its slow development. Even some stayed, but it was just temporary.



Passengers keep social distance on Metro Line 2 of Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province for COVID-19 prevention and control, Feb. 27. File Photo

I remember going down town to watch my first movie in the city since I came here, but when the movie was over, many taxi drivers refused to pick me up when learning I lived in the north. They did so because they were afraid that their cabins might be left empty when going back, which was obviously a bad bargain.

The demand for transportation depends on economic vitality, passenger flow and gathering of people. When Xi'an gradually completed its gridded planning for the north, the region started to gain popularity. The increasingly prospering commerce there also promoted the improvement of infrastructure. A developed road network has been established, and three bus stations were around my residence.

Weiyang Road, which leads to the north, is a two-direction multi-lane arterial road that is always jammed today. To alleviate the traffic pressure, the use of private vehicles has been restricted based on even- and odd-numbered license plates. I used to sigh for the lack of vigor in the region, but now I'm pleased to see its prosperity.

Therefore, to build a transportation channel in the north under the ground became urgent, and the city's decision to launch a subway project was sensational. I used to imagine that Xi'an might have its own subway one day when I was taking Beijing metro, so I was surprised as I learned a subway line was about to be constructed in the city, from Zhangjiabu. The con-

struction of the subway line also became a hot topic for chinwags among friends and neighbors.

The subway line lies on the central axle of Xi'an and connects the northern and southern parts of the city. The stations along it are all places that I always go to. Thanks to the subway line, I don't have to wait for buses any more.

The line started operation in 2011, and three new lines were later put into use in the city. Now, the city is planning to build more routes. As I learned, several new lines are expected to be opened before the end of the year. For instance, the Line 10 will stretch further north to the bank of the Weihe River.

Today, taking subway is not a fresh experience for me anymore, but the importance of subway has never been reduced in my life.

Zhangjiabu, where Xi'an's subway project started, also has a "turnabout" under it that transfers passengers. With magnificent commercial complexes standing on it, the place has become a magnet for young people.

When the subway was constructed, an overpass was also newly added to the north. Today, the northern part of Xi'an has developed into a prosperous area that has a number of landmark sites, including Xi'an's municipal stadium and library, as well as the Xi'an North railway station.

People's Daily

'Middle East settlement issue remains acute'

MOSCOW

THE Palestinian problem remains acute despite normalizing ties between Israel and a number of Arab states, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"Taking into account the ongoing progress in the process of normalizing relations between Israel and a number of Arab countries, we state that the Palestinian problem remains acute. It would be wrong to think that without its settlement it will be possible to achieve reliable stabilization of the Middle Eastern region," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The ministry called on the world community to step up coordinated efforts in this direction. "In this regard, we call on regional and international partners to intensify coordinated efforts in this important area. Russia is ready for such joint work, including within the framework of the Quartet, a mechanism recognized by the UN Security Council for negotiations on a Middle Eastern settlement, and in close cooperation with the Arab League," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

A fair and sustainable solution

According to the ministry, in its efforts on achieving stabilization in the Middle East, Rus-



sia as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a participant of the Quartet of international mediators, has always been guided by the importance of reaching a comprehensive Middle Eastern settlement.

"But with the understanding that its [the settlement's] integral part should be a fair and sustainable solution to the Palestinian problem in accordance with the UN-approved international legal framework, including the Security Council resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the fundamental principle of "two states" - Israel and Palestine, which peacefully coexist within internationally recognized borders," the ministry stressed.

"We proceed from the fact that, as the leaders of Bahrain and the UAE declare, these states remain fully committed to the settlement of the Palestin-

ian problem on the above mentioned international legal basis, as well as in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative, which was approved by the heads of Arab states in 2002," it said.

The ministry also highlighted the need to focus major efforts now on resuming direct talks between the Israelis and Palestinians without preconditions "because, as historical experience shows, the parties could reach sustainable solutions to conflict situations only when they acted on a mutually acceptable negotiating basis."

On Tuesday, in Washington D.C. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, signed deals on normalizing ties.

Agencies

'Pentagon Papers' leaker defences Assange at his extradition hearing

LONDON

THE man who leaked the Pentagon Papers about the Vietnam War defended Julian Assange at his London extradition hearing on Wednesday, saying WikiLeaks had acted in the public interest and warning Assange would not get a fair trial in the United States.

Australian-born Assange, 49, is fighting to stop being sent to the United States, where he is charged with conspiring to hack government computers and violating an espionage law over the release of confidential cables by WikiLeaks in 2010-2011.

Daniel Ellsberg, who in 1971 leaked documents known as the Pentagon Papers to the New York Times and other papers, told the court that WikiLeaks' disclosures had shown Americans how they had been misled about US action in Iraq and Afghanistan just as his leaks, which also revealed previously secret information, did about the Vietnam War.

Ellsberg cited a US military video, which WikiLeaks published in 2010 under the title "Collateral Murder", showing a 2007 attack by Apache helicopters in Baghdad that killed a dozen people, including two Reuters news staff.

"I was acutely aware that what was



depicted in that video deserved the term murder, a war crime," he told London's Old Bailey court via videolink. "I was very glad that the American public was confronted with this

reality of our war."

James Lewis, the lawyer representing the US authorities, said Assange was not wanted for publishing the 2007 video but for disclosing a small number of documents with the unredacted names of sources or informants.

Lewis said many of these had suffered harm or threats because they had been named. He said some had disappeared, although he conceded that there was no evidence this was directly linked to the WikiLeaks' publication.

"How can you possibly say ... that there is no evidence that Mr Assange's publication of WikiLeaks put

anyone in danger. That's just pure nonsense," Lewis said.

Ellsberg, who was himself charged with breaking the espionage law in a case that was later dismissed, said there was no evidence of physical harm or deaths because of the leaks. The exchange with Lewis led to an outburst from Assange in the courtroom, with the judge warning him to remain silent.

Redactions

Earlier, John Goetz, an investigative reporter who worked for Germany's Der Spiegel magazine on the first publication of the documents in 2010, said Assange was careful to en-

sure that the names of informants in hundreds of thousands of leaked secret US government documents were never published.

He said the US State Department had been involved in a conference call suggesting redactions, and WikiLeaks had agreed to hold back about 15,000 documents for publication.

"There was sensitivity and it was one of the things that was talked about all the time," Goetz told the court. Assange was concerned that the media should take measures "so no one would be harmed", he said.

Agencies



Simba's information officer Hajji Manara

Manara pays TFF fine

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

SIMBA Sports Club information officer, Hajji Manara, has become the first to pay a fine imposed on him by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for indiscipline.

Manara was asked to pay the fine, amounting to 5m/-, by the national soccer governing body after he had provoked the federation via his comments on the transfer crisis involving former Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison, who has been roped in by Simba.

He thanked all Tanzanians and Simba members for supporting him and helping him pay the fine.

Manara has been the first soccer official to pay the fine.

Two other soccer officials, Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, and Simba's official, Zakaria Hanspope, have as well been asked by TFF to pay fine for committing the same offense.

Pope was also found guilty of issuing unkind remarks to TFF's Ethics and Players' Status Committee on the Morrison issue.

The issue had come about after Morrison had signed a two-year contract with Simba, Yanga then claimed they still have a running contract with the winger, which ends in 2022.

Morrison disclosed he did not sign a new contract with Yanga after the completion of the six-month contract he had signed with the club.

Manara said that he paid the fine to show courtesy to soccer and set an example for the sport's fraternity at the domestic level.

He insisted his decision to pay the fine signals sportsmanship.

He also expressed desire to see his side notch victory over Biashara United in a top flight match, to be played at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

He also described Simba's camp as calm, with all of the squad's players being fit to take on Biashara United.

Simba will be eager to secure three points in the coming tie after the club managed 1-1 draw with Mtbwa Sugar in the previous duel.

La Liga, betting firm to develop Tanzania's soccer players, coaches

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

SPAIN'S La Liga Santander have entered into an agreement with a betting firm M-Bet Tanzania to develop junior soccer players in Tanzania.

The two companies signed a three-year contract which will see them organize coaching courses for domestic coaches, as well as conduct training for junior players.

The La Liga will present soccer instructors for overseeing the project.

The M-Bet Tanzania's Marketing Manager, Allen Mushi, disclosed that Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC that is sponsored by the firm will as well benefit from the contract.

The contract, Mushi disclosed, mainly focuses on developing soccer in Tanzania.

Mushi pointed out the M-bet Tanzania had began supporting soccer promotion in Tanzania two years ago and the firm has now opted to invest in junior soccer development.

"We are aiming at benefitting our customers that are our pillar, after the La Liga had opted to let fans attend

soccer matches, our customers can now participate in betting and winners can have opportunity to head to Spain to watch the league's games," he noted.

"The agreement will play pivotal role in promotion of talents in Tanzania and fulfill domestic junior soccer players' dreams, given they are the basis of our country's development in the sport," he noted.

The La Liga Santander's representative in Tanzania, Alvaro Paya, noted they are delighted that they have signed an agreement with M-Bet Tanzania.

The betting firm, he noted, has become La Liga's second partners in Tanzania after the domestic soccer big guns Yanga had entered into a partnership with the Spain top division soccer league organizers several months ago.

Paya stated that La Liga targets to see to it Tanzania's soccer makes progress, given they have found out most of domestic soccer players are eager to develop their talent but they do not have means for fulfilling their dream.

'Big decisions' at Claret and Blue: Why Samatta's time at Aston Villa is running out

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

IT has been a romantic spectacle for Mbwana Samatta to play for the English Premier League side, Aston Villa, having briefly appeared in the Europa League and UEFA Champions League primary stages with his old club, KRC Genk.

Moving to an English Premier League side at 26 years of age was not going to be easy but he did some good work in helping to secure the club's place in the new season, even if he did not quite meet the club's expectations.

In any case they did not take many risks as his signing was around 8.5m pounds, much lower than several past - and current - spectacular signings the club has been intimidating.

Reviewers on the outlook in the 'claret and blue' club that Mbwana plays for say that signing up Bertrand Traore from Olympic Lyon and Ollie Watkins from Brentford FC, while Mbwana was already facing the rising position of Keinan Davis as preferable for contract as he is only 22, despite that Mbwana was a more dependable choice for point striker.

Things are now rapidly changing as the club has been looking at options for a point striker who can arguably make a difference upfront, and they have a number of choices and expected signings already.

Oliver Watkins for instance cost the club 33m pounds, which indicates the level of investment Aston Villa are making on the player, while they rapidly signed Mbwana in January.

Speculation already has it that the number one striker up front is now in the lap of Davis, ousting Mbwana Samatta for a starting shirt in games against Sheffield United and Chelsea.

Those are games expected in the coming weeks, while Mbwana was not on the starting line up in the



Aston Villa's Mbwana Samatta

Carabao Cup second round tie with Burton Albion and it was Watkins who gave the club the benefit of any doubt with a goal in around 35 minutes.

Again the local sports analysts there suggest that with Samatta's deal having just months to run, Villa decided to back the youngster (Davis) with a new contract, which evidently rules Samatta out.

He could thus leave as a free player at the end of the season, and as he will be drawing towards 28 years of age at that time, his best signing chances would lesser premier leagues like Belgium, from which he came in the first place, at his playing peak.

It can be said that Mbwana has had his best playing days in Belgium, apart from his earlier stint at DR Congo's TP Mazembe, and his joining Aston Villa at the start of the year was like a lap of honour, that he could have belonged there as well. But it is easy to see why it was not so.

There are also chances that Divock Origi of Liverpool may be lined up for Aston Villa signing, a player whose approach to the game compares with Samatta, especially his opportunism as

point striker and brilliance with the head if there is a floating ball.

If one takes note that Watkins for instance was an award winner as Championship Player of the Season (English Football League) golden boot award, it is easy to scale the competition for a starting lineup position that Samatta faces, and why he must call it a day there.

Emiliano Martinez for instance moved to Aston Villa from Arsenal at a fee of 20m pounds, well above the figure that KRC Genk received for Mbwana earlier, while Bertrand Traore moves from Olympique Lyon on a 176m pound transfer fee plus what was said to be 2m pounds of 'add ons.'

In that context, it is evident that when Aston Villa sought out the then Genk player on a short window transfer move, the idea was to fill in technical gaps at their striking line up especially at the point striker position.

This kind of move is different from a strategic transfer aimed at building up a team, where the future outlook is the main consideration, in which case it can be said that as he helped Aston Villa in some

competitions, the deal was definitely worth it.

The idea now is not that Mbwana cannot play well but the competition is high.

That is why local fans will have a lot of listening and discussion or speculation to conduct on what career options are best at present for Samatta, whether it is a return to Belgium, African upper club outfits, or further east in UEFA Champions League circuit.

Some are even suggesting he may be put on loan to Turkey right away as few playing chances look evident, as he does not appear so much on Villa plans at present.

This finale of the Taifa Stars captain's playing days in the English Premier League is an illustration of how we constantly look at our own football standard.

In a sense this has been illustrated by the manner in which the spate of involvement of the captain at Aston Villa and our lavish expectations were really off the mark.

It is a lesson in football but not the most sympathetic for ourselves.

Yanga face Kagera Sugar test in VPL

BY ISMAIL TANO, TUDARCO

THE 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, will on Sunday take part in their first home match, when they host Biashara United at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba's age old rivals, Yanga, will be taking part in two away games, the first of which will see them lock horns with Kagera Sugar in Bukoba tomorrow.

Yanga will thereafter come up against Mtbwa Sugar in Morogoro.

The two away assignments stand to be a tough test for Yanga, the games could either give them plenty of strength or weaken their resolve in the Premier League title race this season.

After playing their first two matches at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and reaping four points, the new-look Yanga will be given a chance to taste away venues, which are not as good as the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Yanga had hosted Tanzania Prisons and Mbeya City FC in the first two games.

Simba have come up with a slogan, 'It is time for us to annoy them, let's meet at Mkapa Stadium', as the outfit returns to the familiar venue.

Simba had participated in two away games and amassed four points.

They will now play two home matches, one of which will see them entertain Biashara United and the other will pit Simba against Gwambina FC, to be played on September 26.

Although Yanga have a better head-to-head record in the team's clashes with Kagera Sugar, the previous season saw the former suffer 3-0 loss at home to the latter.

Much as Yanga avenged for the defeat with 1-0 victory over Kagera Sugar in the reverse fixture, which was held in Bukoba, the Dar es Salaam squad faced stiff opposition



Yanga striker, Yacouba Songne (R), negotiates his way past Prisons' defender, Nurdin Chona, in a Vodacom Premier League clash, held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. The sides settled for 1-1 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

throughout the clash.

Simba started by playing Ihefu FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya, edging the latter 2-1.

The defending champions were later held to 1-1 draw by Mtbwa Sugar at the Jamhuri Stadium in Morogoro.

Simba have a record of winning both matches against Mtbwa Sugar in the previous season, starting with an away win which was followed by the 3-1 victory at home.

Unlike Simba, Yanga will likely not have difficulties facing Kagera Sugar at the Kaitaba Stadium, which has artificial grass.

The venue will certainly not affect Yanga's performance, given they are familiar with taking part in duels on artificial grass.

After the Kagera Sugar tie, Yanga will head to Morogoro to confront Mtbwa Sugar at the Jamhuri Stadium, which does not have a good playing field.

Yanga will be forced to come up with different approach due to the venue's pitch condition.

Simba, who are famed for displaying scintillating performance, struggled against Mtbwa Sugar at the Jamhuri Stadium because of, among others, the venue's pitch condition.

Less impressive results Mtbwa Sugar and Kagera Sugar registered in their previous games moreover stand to motivate them to play their hearts out when they lock horns with Yanga.

Both Mtbwa Sugar and

Kagera Sugar did not have good results in their respective first two outings, therefore, the two sides will be seeking to work on their shortcomings before facing Yanga.

Kagera Sugar lost 1-0 to JKT Tanzania in the opening match, and, in the second clash, the Kagera side managed a 0-0 draw with newly promoted Gwambina FC.

Mtbwa Sugar were held to 0-0 draw by Ruvi Shooting in the first match, the Morogoro squad later settled for 1-1 draw with Simba.

Simba have never lost a game against Biashara United, while Gwambina FC will be playing for the first time at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the top flight.

Neymar banned two matches as league opens racism probe

AFP

NEYMAR received a two-match ban Wednesday for his red card against Marseille as the French league announced it would open an investigation into accusations of racism by the Brazil forward against Alvaro Gonzalez.

Angel Di Maria will also be summoned to the league's next disciplinary commission meeting on September 23 over claims he spat at Marseille defender Gonzalez during PSG's 1-0 loss which ended with a mass brawl and five players sent off.

Neymar was sent off for slapping Gonzalez on the back of the head and accused the Spaniard of calling him a "monkey". Gonzalez denies the allegation.

"We know there was an exchange of words. But right now, there isn't enough certainty to call in the players," said Sebastien Deneux, president of the disciplinary commission.

He said the investigation would study the footage further to determine whether there was enough evidence to substantiate the claims of racist abuse.

The goal will be to establish "what was actually said and what was actually heard", Deneux added, while insisting the commission would only rule on "objective, tangible elements."

The probe could also potentially interpret whether Neymar made homophobic remarks to Gonzalez, as reported by Spanish media.

PSG defender Layvin Kurzawa incurred a six-match ban for kick-

ing out at Marseille left-back Jordan Amavi, who was hit with a suspension of three games after he too was dismissed.

Leandro Paredes was banned for two games after he was sent off for a clash with fellow Argentine Dario Benedetto, who was also red-carded and will be suspended for Marseille's game with Saint-Etienne on Thursday.

Neymar watched Wednesday's 1-0 win at home to Metz from the stands as PSG registered their first points of the season courtesy of a stoppage-time Julian Draxler goal, after successive opening defeats for the first time since 1984/85.

He will be free to return to face Reims on September 27 but will miss Sunday's trip to Nice.

The suspension adds to a growing list served by Neymar since his arrival in Paris in 2017 as the world's most expensive footballer.

He was banned for three games by UEFA -- eventually reduced to two -- following a foul-mouthed rant at officials following PSG's Champions League exit at the hands of Manchester United in March 2019.

A couple months later he lashed out at a Rennes supporter following PSG's defeat on penalties in the French Cup final, earning himself a three-match ban from the French FA.

Neymar was also sent off in a 2-2 draw against Marseille in October 2017 for two petulant yellow cards late in the game.

AFP

Spurs' Mourinho: I've tried to sign Bale before

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur boss Jose Mourinho has said he tried to sign Gareth Bale for Real Madrid but refused to comment on Spurs' pursuit of the winger.

Sources have told ESPN that Spurs are locked in talks with Real over a deal to bring the 31-year-old back to north London seven years after he moved to Spain in what was then a world record £85.3 million fee.

Speaking ahead of Tottenham's Europa League second qualifying round match with Lokomotiv Plovdiv on Thursday, Mourinho said: "Gareth Bale is a Real Madrid player, I don't comment on players from other clubs."

"I tried to sign him for Real Madrid which was not possible. There is no secret on that. I think even Gareth knows that."

Sources have told ESPN that Madrid are pushing for a permanent transfer with Bale having two years remaining on his contract but Spurs are seeking an initial season-long loan.

Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett told the BBC late Wednesday that talks are "slowly progressing," but added that "Gareth is closer to leaving Madrid than at any time in the last seven years."

"We are still negotiating. We shall see how it goes."

The two clubs are compromising over Bale's £600,000-a-week wage, according to ESPN sources, with Tottenham ready to pay around £250,000-a-week to sign the Wales international.

Reports in the UK claimed midfielder Dele Alli has been suggested as a possible makeweight in the

deal to sign Bale amid rumours of a deterioration in his relationship with Mourinho given he was taken off at half-time in Tottenham's 1-0 Premier League defeat to Everton on Sunday.

However, Mourinho played down the significance of that decision, adding: "The change at half-time was not the first time in my career, will not be the last time."

"I did even more than that not many times. The last one was with Eric Dier against Olympiakos [last November] where I took him off with 25 or 30 minutes in the game."

"When I do these kind of things, I always do for the team. I never do it against a player. In some cases, the option was proven right. In some other cases the options is proven wrong. In this case, it didn't work. The team in the second half was not better than in the first half but that is my job: to make decisions. There is no story, no case."

"Dele is a very polite guy, he is very calm. I think he is a bit introspective, when you think a lot about things. So I think the way he reacted was Dele. He was quiet, he was sad but in the end after the game he was just one of many. But again I repeat: He is a good boy. He is very, very polite and I never saw a strong reaction from him. He is a good boy, a really good boy."

Tottenham have moved ahead of Manchester United in the race to land Bale from Madrid, sources told ESPN, with United still pursuing Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund as a priority signing.

Bale scored 56 goals in 203 appearances for Spurs between 2007 and 2013 after arriving from Southampton in a deal worth an initial £5m in May 2007. (Agencies)

Werner: 'Best decision' to reject Liverpool

LONDON

TIMO Werner has said he made the right decision to choose Chelsea over Liverpool as the two clubs prepare to face each other in the Premier League this weekend.

Werner, 24, moved to Stamford Bridge this summer in a deal worth £47.6 million after months of speculation linking Werner with a move to Anfield.

Reports in Germany suggested Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp spoke directly with Werner in an attempt to convince him to move to Merseyside, only for the club to opt against putting in a formal offer

due to concerns over the financial implications of COVID-19.

Chelsea pounced on Liverpool's hesitation and rather than wait for a change of heart, Werner agreed to the transfer, declining to play in the Champions League knockout stages for RB Leipzig in an effort to make a strong start in English football.

The striker is set to lead the attack when the teams face each other on Sunday.

"When I decided to leave Leipzig, I talked to different clubs, of course," Werner said in a news conference.

(Agencies)

Why so many top clubs are appointing former stars as managers

BY TOR-KRISTIAN KARLSEN

On Sunday, Andrea Pirlo leads Juventus for the first time at home against Sampdoria (2.30 p.m. ET, stream live on ESPN+). Early last month, the 2006 World Cup winner, and one of the most iconic players of his generation with a glittering career at AC Milan and Juventus, was surprisingly named as Maurizio Sarri's successor.

This being Italy, qualifications, experience and coaching badges matter more than anywhere else, though it's hard to imagine that Pirlo's exploits from his playing days were totally ignored when he was chosen for the job. In fact, he only received his coaching diploma (with flying colours), which enables him to officially take charge of a Serie A team, earlier this week. Yet sources close to the Turin giants are pointing to Pirlo's tactical and perceptual understanding of football -- in addition to the rather obvious idea that he's suited to managing the club's star-filled, high-maintenance dressing room -- as the main reason for why he was appointed. His enthusiasm for analytics, sports science and a "360-degree approach to the head coach role" were also said to have made an impression on the Juventus hierarchy.

However, while Juventus are obviously a well-functioning club with a strong winning culture -- for all their recent Champions League disappointment, they've won nine Serie A titles on the trot -- it's clear that the appointment of the former midfield maestro has generated an excitement around the club which extends far beyond Italy's borders -- something Sarri never managed to produce.

The idea of appointing a big-name ex-player whose name is not just recognised, but also tied to the club's recent history and modern folklore, even though he had little -- or frequently no -- experience, has always been a tempting Plan A for clubs looking to kick on from a traumatising sacking. As well as the glamour, charisma and attention it brings, it can help to get the media onside and definitely creates a positive buzz among the fans. With a knowledge of the club's traditions and culture, there's also the hope that these club



Mikel Arteta and Frank Lampard have successfully transitioned from legendary players to well-regarded managers. (Agencies)

legends can instill the memories of yesteryear into the current team.

Yet, perhaps wise from the memories of failed "emotional" appointments of the distant past such as Alan Shearer's stint as Newcastle manager, there's been a waning appetite for the romantic temptation of placing a former legend in the hotseat. For instance, Manchester United resisted popular calls for Ryan Giggs to be named manager on a permanent basis following a brief period as caretaker in 2014.

Now, however, the trend seems to be returning -- but these days the early signs are that there's a big difference in the attitude of the ex-playing stars to the role. Fascinatingly, many of these big names -- Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Mikel Arteta (Arsenal), Simone Inzaghi (Lazio) and Zinedine Zidane (Real Madrid) immediately come to mind -- are now becoming much more committed to the whole process of coaching, embracing the methods of the more dynamic, modern breed of head coach that has come to the fore.

Often young, usually with a curtailed footballing career or even, increasingly, no professional playing career at all, these coaches are associated with clear tactical concepts, a passion for technology and innovative thinking and the ability to improve a player through creative and stimulating methods. They also tend to be great man-managers and motivators, giving the lie to the idea that someone who's won trophies as a player is the most capable of leading those who are fighting for them.

Take Jurgen Klopp's ability to deal with Liverpool's Champions League and Premier League title-winning squad, or the manner in which Thomas Tuchel has admirably kept

in check what's possibly the trickiest dressing room in European football at Paris Saint-Germain. Though they're household names now, those are just two recent examples of head coaches who ended up managing a group of world beaters after reaching the top of the game the hard way, and without the benefit of an illustrious playing career to trade on. The RB Leipzig head coach, Julian Nagelsmann, is expected to follow the same path.

These days, it seems that the big-name players entering management at the top level are taking inspiration from these progressive new coaches. Where previously they may have jumped the queues on the merits of their active playing days they are now displaying the curiosity and open-mindedness that was traditionally associated with the "pure" coaches.

And that provides a double whammy for a chairman -- not only is he appointing a modern coach with progressive ideas, but also by promoting a recognised name, with or without prior coaching experience at the very top level, it hands those responsible for making the appointment a free pass if it doesn't work out. If a promising, yet comparatively lesser-known, head coach fails, fingers tend to be pointed at other people in the organisation, from sporting directors all the way up to board members, owners and presidents.

One influential club executive neatly summed it up to me: "If it doesn't work out with a big-name manager or a big-name former player, nothing really changes -- you get another chance. To put it bluntly: having someone with a familiar face that the fans and media can relate to in charge is like an insurance policy. If it's successful then great, we're all

happy. If it's a failure, then it's his name that's dented, not mine."

Hiring a club legend was often seen as a populist and short-term manoeuvre for all those reasons; one could argue that this also applies to the appointments of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United and Ronald Koeman at Barcelona, both on the surface catapulted into leading two of the biggest clubs in the world on the basis of past association with the club, rather than being the next great thing or necessarily representing a new generation of coaches. And while it's true that the presence of a club legend in itself can help bring stability and unity to a club under pressure, albeit to a lesser degree than before, the new generation of ex-star players bring much more into the bargain as they are visibly changing their approach to the profession.

Nowadays the likes of Pirlo, Zidane, Arteta and Lampard are displaying a higher degree of competence, curiosity and humility towards the job. They're happy to do more than simply obtaining their coaching licence, which these days are taken much more seriously. For the top diploma, the UEFA Pro Licence, it usually takes a minimum of a year's work -- on top of the two years required for the "A Licence," which allows a person to go into professional coaching (though fast-tracking of high-profile name still goes on) -- to complete and covers a broad spectrum of skills and tools, from tactics to psychology to new technology and analytics, which are being readily embraced by today's more progressive and committed players-turned-coaches.

Recognising that the impact of their name can only take them so far, they're prepared to delegate and head a team with other skilled coaches and support staff who complement one another. There's also a real willingness to develop individuals and young players -- something that "Gen Z" players and the stars of tomorrow are extremely conscious about -- rather than just being good at putting pressure on the owner/board (often through the media) to spend money. They tend to have a more long-term and loyal approach to the head coach position and the club's sporting structure than was previously the case.

(Agencies)

Why La Liga's stagnation is Real Madrid's opportunity

BY LEANDER SCHAERLAECKENS, YAHOO SPORTS

SOMETHING is off. Something is different.

Take a look at the transfer balance of La Liga's 20 clubs. No, really, go and take a look.

As of this writing, 11 La Liga teams have either a zero or positive balance, meaning they have broken even or sold players for more money than they have spent themselves. And of the nine teams that are running a deficit, five have spent less than \$11.8 million. Getafe and Granada barely made it into eight figures. Atletico Madrid is the biggest spender at \$97 million. Sevilla follows at \$52 million.

Mighty Barcelona has spent only \$10 million, although Lyon's Memphis Depay is reportedly on his way for much more. Real Madrid, the defending champions, are running a profit of \$78 million. Zinedine Zidane's side hasn't bought a single player, although a few have returned from loans. Instead, it has offloaded a few burdensome contracts like that of James Rodriguez, who left for Everton.

By universal consensus, La Liga is one of the world's best and most popular leagues. Its financial might, fueled by the top-heavy oligopoly of Barca, Real and Atletico, is surpassed only by that of the Premier League. Certainly, La Liga was hit hard by the pandemic, but so was everybody else. And the lack of activity in the Spanish market is conspicuous given that the biggest clubs reportedly still made profits last season.

At present, La Liga as a whole is running a transfer surplus, while the Premier League is \$591 million in the hole, as you would expect. Then again, Spain's transfer deadline isn't until Oct. 4.

Still, one of the foremost buying leagues seems to have become a



Zinedine Zidane (left), Sergio Ramos and Real Madrid have an opportunity to win the first consecutive La Liga titles for the club since 2006-07 and 2007-08. (Agencies)

world's biggest spenders, smashing transfer records again and again. But there might be an upside to the lack of activity.

The only major title Real Madrid has successfully defended in the last 12 years is the biggest trophy of them all, the Champions League. From 2016 through 2018, Real were European champions three seasons in a row, the first team to pull that off since Bayern Munich in the mid-1970s. Perhaps you consider the Club World Cup to be a major prize; if so, Real won that in those same three years as well.

But Real Madrid hasn't managed to win La Liga in consecutive seasons since 2006-07 and 2007-08. Since then, it has won the Spanish championship three times, finished second six times and placed third three

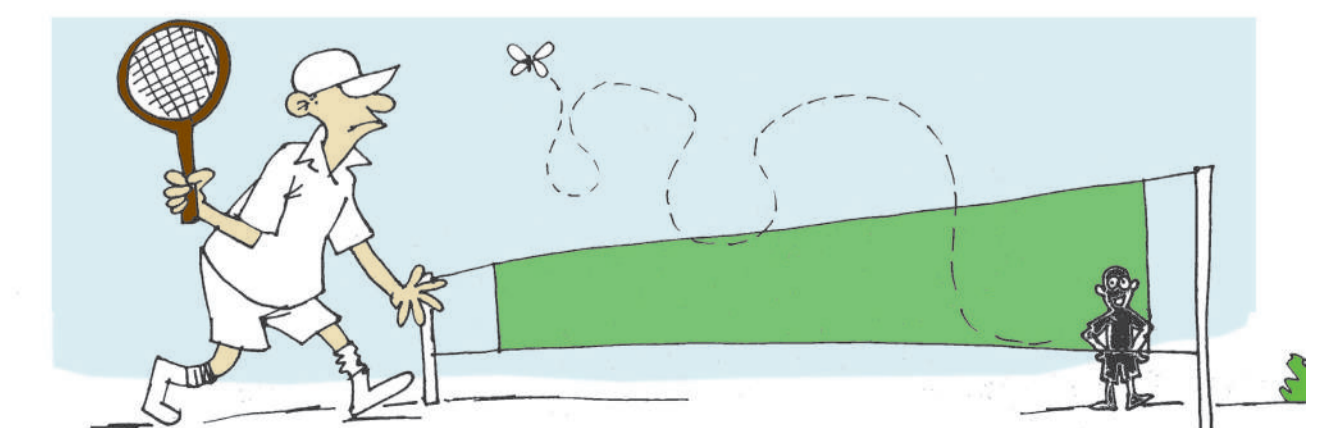
times. In that span, arch-rival Barcelona has won consecutive titles on three different occasions.

The status quo that seems to have settled over La Liga with the first few games already played favors Real Madrid. Certainly, Real has issues, namely that the 32-year-old Karim Benzema is still leading the front line, the 34-year-old Sergio Ramos continues to anchor the defense and the 35-year-old Luka Modric still pulls the strings in midfield. That's problematic for a team perpetually fighting for three or four different trophies.

But then Martin Odegaard has returned from three loan spells a fully formed footballer and still only 21. Fellow midfielder Fede Valverde, at 22, continues his growth into a world-class player.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Why so many top clubs are appointing former stars as managers

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Promising athletes excel in National Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonda

THE just ended National Athletics Championships held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam saw many unknown athletes shine by beating top established athletes.

The two-day championships, sponsored by Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) that pumped in 60m/,-, attracted 250 athletes from 28 regions.

The championships took place after five years of absence and TOC sponsored the event with funding from Olympic Solidarity (OS) and Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Mbaraka James from Tanga, one of the budding athletes, was the winner in men's 1500m race, beating national team's athletes Gabriel Geay and Epimak Boniface.

James won the 1500m race in 3:47.12 and said he is ready to represent the country at international events.

"The win today has motivated me to work hard and I'm ready to represent my country at any international event, I thank organizers of the championships, Athletics Tanzania (AT), National Sports Council (NSC) and sponsors TOC, this championships was very marvelous," he said.

Arusha athlete Angelina Tsere, who won the women's 400m race, promised to use her performance at the National Championships as a springboard for good performances in future events.

"Competing at this track against top athletes from other regions was not that easy, but I'm happy that I have performed well and I'm looking forward to representing my country at international events," she said.

Grace Charles, who won women's 1500m race, hailed the organizers for professionally organizing the championships and promised Tanzanians to expect a lot from her.

"Due to the full involvement of TOC, the championships was very competitive and attractive, it was not easy to win but because I prepared well I have won and I'm looking forward to representing the country at international events," the Arusha-based National Service (JKT) athlete said.

Athlete Katemi Iselema, aged 19, who won the men's shot put event by throwing 32.32, hailed the championships' organizers but was quick to remind the regional athletics committees to prepare their athletes before the national championships.

"The National Championships was well organized, everything was in place, I have won today in the men's category but my advice to regional athletics committees is that they should prepare their athletes before big events," the Mwanza-based athlete noted.

Iselema is as well the reigning champion of the inter-secondary schools games, Umisetta.

The TOC sponsorship was described as motivational factor which saw many regions perform well and win medals.

Ombeni Zavalla, AT Acting Secretary General, and AT Vice President (Administration), William Kallaghe, hailed the support from TOC and promised that they will, next year, come back stronger.

"After five years of absence, we are back in action, we really thank the support we got from the government and TOC to successfully host this event, I promise that next year we will host this championships more successful than this year," Ombeni disclosed.

The two-day championships was officially opened by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Ally Possi.

He reminded the gathering that athletics has brought many medals to Tanzania hence the need to value and appreciate the sport.

"First of all, I thank AT for hosting this event after five years of no show, I'm asking athletics lovers and stakeholders to value and appreciate that the sport brought the first medal to our nation," he noted.

He stated: "We will continue working with AT and all stakeholders for the sport to develop."

He challenged the sport's stakeholders to be innovative and creative so as they can be self-reliant economically.

"Time has come for sports associations to be self-reliant, with the government and other stakeholders we must come up with plans which will see sports generate their income," he disclosed.

"We are committed at developing the sector as we fully know that if well managed it can be a source of income to many families," he said.

Ihefu FC braces for Mtibwa Sugar battle



Ihefu FC players take part in training in Mbeya recently to prepare for this season's Vodacom Premier League.

five goals to match leaders KMC FC goal difference, Ihefu FC would go top of the league so there is a lot to play for here.

Ihefu FC's Enock Jiah scored against Ruvo Shooting while the former's other forward, Omar Mponda, struck against Simba as the newly promoted side looked comfortable playing at home.

Ihefu FC's head coach Maka Mwalwisi has assembled a youthful side blended with a couple of experienced players.

Mtibwa Sugar are in the 11th place and have also played two games so far, a goalless draw against Ruvo Shooting was followed by an impressive one-all stalemate with Simba last weekend.

Football enthusiasts should see a very open and exciting game, Ihefu FC might feel confident of scraping another win but, at the same time, Mtibwa Sugar have not lost yet, even if two games have been played.

Mtibwa Sugar head coach Zuberi Katwila will feel this is a good opportunity for his team to take maximum points after matching Simba pound for pound last weekend.

There will be no record for either of the two outfits to fall back to as in head-to-head stats, Ihefu FC and Mtibwa Sugar have never met in the top flight league.

Ihefu FC's XI line-up from their 1-0 victory against Ruvo Shooting:

Andrew Kayuni, Omary Kindamba, Emmanuel Kichiba, Geoffrey Raphael, Michael Masinda, Sudi Mlindwa, Cyprian Kipeny/Tepsi Evance 53', William Mgaya, Joseph Kinyozi, Omary Mponda and Enock Jiah.

Mtibwa Sugar's XI line-up from their 1-1 draw against Simba:

Abdultwalib Mshery, Salum Kanoni, Issa Rashid 'Baba Ubaya', Geoffrey Luseke, Dickson Job, Baraka Majogoro, Haroun Chanongo, Juma

Nyangi, Ibrahim Ahmada Hilika/Salum Kihimbwa 78', Boban Ziritusa/Ally Yussuf Makarani 61' and Joseph Mkele/Jaffar Salum Kibaya 68'.

Meanwhile, Polisi Tanzania will be aiming to secure back-to-back wins in the Vodacom Premier League when they host JKT Tanzania at Ushirika Stadium in Moshi today, with kick-off set for 1400.

The hosts' head coach Malale Hamsini's boys picked up their first win of the season in their last league outing, defeating high-flying Namungo FC 1-0 away from home on Monday.

A second half goal netted by on-loan youngster Rashid Juma saw Polisi Tanzania emerge victorious in the match.

The Kilimanjaro-based side have played twice away from home this term. Their first was a 1-0 loss to Azam FC on the opening day and their second, the above-mentioned win against Namungo FC.

The JKT Tanzania will look

to bounce back after suffering their first loss of the 2020/21 season when they were beaten 1-0 at home by city rivals, Dodoma Jiji FC, on Saturday.

The results denied the military side the chance to come into this round at the top of the standings.

They have claimed three points away from Dodoma this season and will be hoping to get back on track and replicate the kind of form they showed on the opening weekend of the season when they defeated Kagera Sugar 1-0 at Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba.

Last season saw Polisi Tanzania take four points off JKT Tanzania, winning away and settling for draw in the home fixture.

They notched a 1-0 away win thanks to a goal netted by midfielder, Jimmy Mwaiondola, in the first half of the campaign before settling for 1-1 draw at home in the reverse fixture.

Polisi Tanzania striker Matheo Anthony's opener in the first half was cancelled by a goal netted by JKT Tanzania forward, Edward Songo, in the second half.

Polisi Tanzania's line-up in their 1-0 win over Namungo FC on Monday:

Geoffrey Msafiri, Datus Peter, Yahya Mbegu, Iddy Mobby, Mohamed Kassim, Pato Ngonyani, Daruweshi Saliboko, Hassan Maulid, George Mpole/Tariq Seif 71', Marcel Kaheza/Rashid Juma 53' and Pius Buswita.

JKT Tanzania's XI line-up in their 1-0 loss against Dodoma Jiji FC:

Patrick Munthali, Michael Aidan, Frank Nchimbi, Abdallah Selemani, Edson Katanga, Kelvin Nashon/Ally Mwale 74', Mussa Said/Daniel Lyanga 5', Shaban Mgandila, Adam Omary, Mwinyi Kazimoto, Kelvin Sabato/Said Luyaya 84'.

National U-19 cricket squad resumes preps for ICC Africa competition

By Nassir Nchimbi, TUDARCo

TANZANIA's national U-19 cricketers have resumed preparations for the ICC Africa U-19 Division 2 tournament that will be held in the country in January next year.

The tournament had earlier set to take place in July this year but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it was cancelled until next year.

The national U-19 team's youngsters are currently taking part in the preparations at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam, as they hunt for the showpiece's silverware.

The side's head coach, Kenyan Steven Tikolo, said he is pleased with the standard of his team.

He stated that he is confident his boys will have improved tremendously by the time the competition starts.

He also noted he has worked on the team's weaknesses, which had cost the squad in previous competitions.

"We are trying to improve all departments of the game, batting, bowling and fielding, but so much work is put in batting," he disclosed.

"The team did not perform well in the department in the past."



National U-19 cricket team's head coach, Steven Tikolo (standing 3rd R) poses for a photo with his players before training at Annadil Burhani oval in Dar es Salaam recently.

He said his side's players are lately taking part in the TCA Dar es Salaam Development League and have so far been displaying impressive showing.

The coach noted that with the national U-19 team's Abdullah Jabir scoring 146 runs in the competition, the youngster's performance shows he has improved tremendously.

Namibia are the ICC Africa U-19 Division 2 tournament's defending champions.

They lifted their fifth overall silverware in the tournament, and the third consecutive title of the tournament, consequently qualifying directly for the 2016 ICC U-19 World Cup, which was held in Bangladesh.

Uganda, who finished as the tournament's runners-up, qualified for the following season's ICC U-19 World Cup Qualifiers, along with other regional tournaments' runners-up.

Winners of the ICC U-19 World Cup Qualifiers secured progression to the ICC U-19 World Cup.

Tanzania's U-19 cricket team clinched 2014 ICC Africa Division Two tournament.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

