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AfCFTA likely to lift EAC textiles

By Guardian Reporter

THE Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is set to boost Eastern Africa manufactured exports to the rest of Africa, particularly textiles and clothing exports that could even double in the coming years.

Denis Karera, the East African Business Council (EABC) vice chairman, said yesterday that under the agreement, exports of heavy manufacturing will increase by 63 percent, light manufacturing (61 percent) processed foods (54 percent), livestock and meat products by 39 percent.

"Political will to duly implement the agreed commitments in AfCFTA is the cornerstone to actualise the benefits of the continental agreement," he said, urging the EAC partner states to finalise and submit tariff offers applicable under the pact.

This will enable the EAC bloc to tap into

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Mobile money frauds reach 1bn/- per day, says minister

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MOBILE money frauds now range from 500m/- to 1bn/- per day in what the government says is a threat to the national economy.

Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene told reporters here yesterday that the pace with which scammers attempt to swindle unsuspecting people "has reached the threshold of economic sabotage."

He said although digital space is a new frontier for economic advancement, some white collar criminals use it to impoverish others and many are now poorer.

Directing the police force to launch an online manhunt and dismantle the racket of criminals who enrich themselves without sweat, he declared that there are people who use online platforms to gain, while others go online to take others down.

One of the most affected groups are would-be retirees who are tricked by scammers and lose their hard-earned money upon receiving pension money, he stated, elaborating that in response to the surge, all mobile money scam reports

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Uswege Mwahesya (R), head of Kwitanga Prison in Kigoma Region, updates Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday on the oil palm tree the PM planted in the prison's farm during a May 23, 2020 tour. Left if the PM's wife, Mary Majaliwa. Photo: PMO

MNH in modernised blood cells exchange

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) yesterday successfully conducted red blood cells exchange transfusion using the recently-acquired apheresis machine, in a clinical

procedure to relieve sickle cell patients of chronic pains.

Previously, the procedure was being performed manually, taking six to seven hours but with the machine it takes around two and a half hours.

Dr. Yonazi Mbonea, a hematologist at MNH, said that this operation is a milestone. "We have conducted the exercise on a pregnant

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Small traders commonly known as machinga go about their day-to-day activities as usual yesterday alongside the pavement of the Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's recently rehabilitated and expanded Bagamoyo Road. This is despite the conspicuous presence of the large-size Kinondoni Municipal Council placard prohibiting the conducting of business in the area. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

'District experts crucial in investment permits chain'

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

NATIONAL bodies that issue investment permits must in-

volve experts in local authorities in areas where the ventures are to be put up to avoid environmental drawbacks.

Hamad Hassan Chande, the deputy minister in the Vice

President's Office (Union and Environment) said here yesterday that a good number of pro-

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Mobile money frauds reach 1bn/- per day, says minister

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will start being uploaded on a cybercrime database for ease tracing and prosecution.

The minister directed relevant authorities to track and bring to book all those who bully and slander other persons at some online platforms. "There are people who go online not to do something useful but to insult others," he said, ordering authorities to do their job and bring the habit to an end.

Online scams appear to be a hard nut to crack with various efforts to ensure that online transactions - hailed for enabling financial inclusion - are safe.

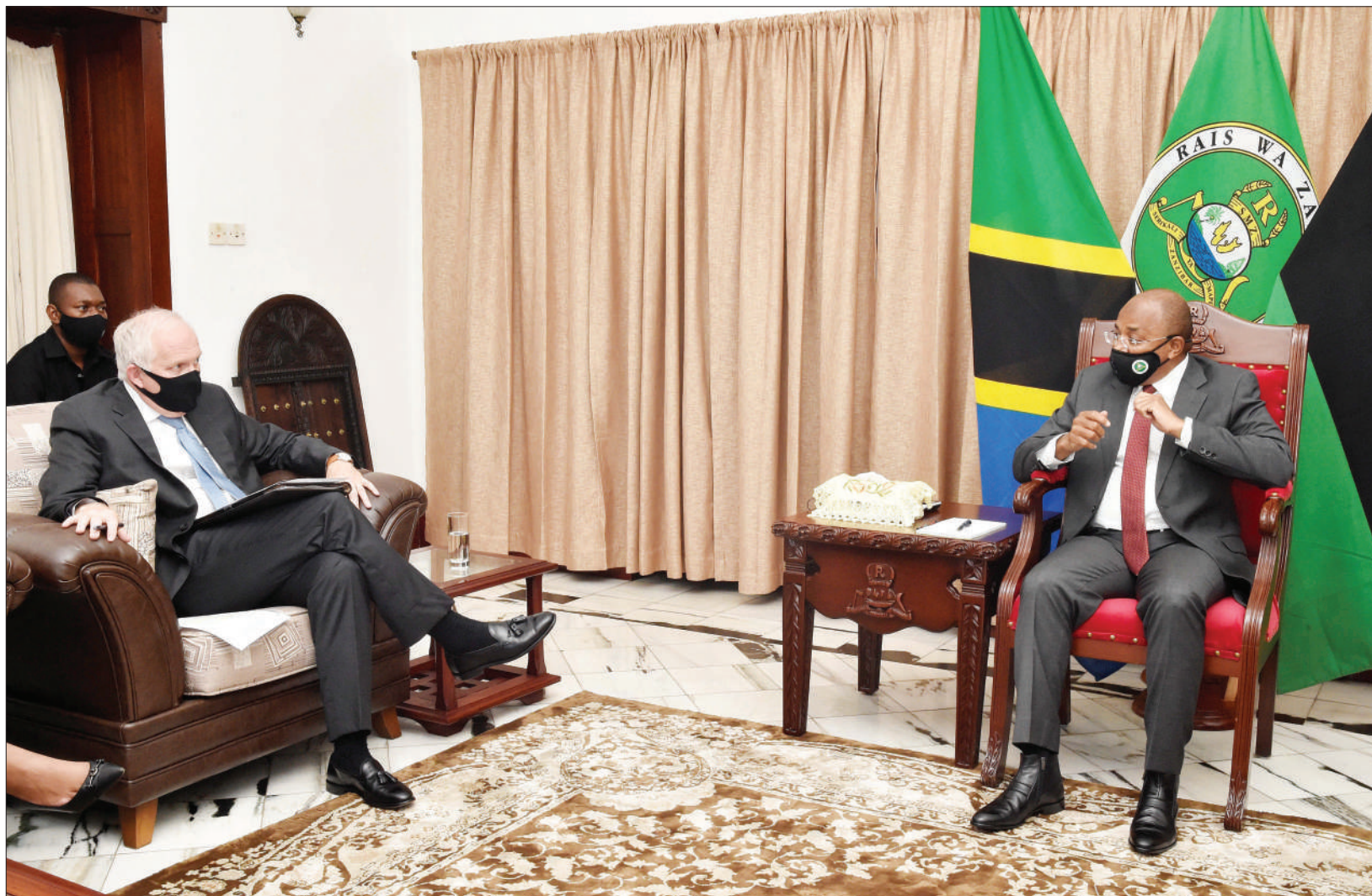
A recent effort is mandatory registration of mobile phone simcards initiated in May 2019 by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in collaboration with the National Identification Authority (NIDA) so that every user is known by authorities.

The move also aimed at getting rid of mobile money scammers at a time when fraudulent messages to redirect some cash already sent or to be sent, to a number provided with the message, confusing a number of people to send cash to a fraudulent phone address.

Debating the 2021/22 budget estimates for the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) back in May, lawmakers admitted to have been targeted by fraudsters, wondering why such acts increased instead of declining.

A number of MPs said their constituents were increasingly being subjected to the fraud intentions, and some MPs had also lost money to such frauds.

"I have just received a message asking me to send money to a scammer. Why is this continuing if all lines have been registered?" asked Festo Sanga (Makete).



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience with the US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright, at the Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

MNH in modernised blood cells exchange

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sickle-cell patient, as sickle red blood cells destroy pregnancies and they can often cause death," he stated.

Red blood cell exchange in sickle-cell patients varies from one patient to another as there are those who need the service frequently, while others tolerate lengthy gaps after first treatment, he said, urging pregnant patients to seek medical attention for advice on their condition.

A sickle-cell patient experiences pain when sickle-shaped red blood cells block blood flow through tiny blood vessels to the chest, abdomen and joints, he said, elaborating that sickle-cell disease is the commonest globin gene (blood cells structure) disorder.

Across the world, about 300 000 children are born with the condition each year, he pointed out, while client Ester Gabriela told journalists that the service has helped her. She has been relieved from pain which appeared to be putting her life at risk, she stated.

"Honestly this has saved my life, I was in deep pain but now I feel better," the patient explained.

MNH announced last week that it was starting to provide services related to blood complications following the installation of two

modern machines for bone marrow transplants.

Spectra Optia is one such device, also used in harvesting haematopoietic stem cells, platelets, granulocytes and plasma.

Blood related diseases pose a major threat to lives of large numbers of people due to ignorance as many turn to traditional medication, fearing witchcraft acts, and risk ending up losing lives when blood related complications lead to over-bleeding.

Hemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding.

In a country where people suffer from a variety of blood disorders - including inherited blood diseases such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia and thalassemia - there is an increasing need for experts effectively tackling such conditions at all operational levels, from district and regional hospitals to referral and national hospitals.

Researchers say the shortage of experts in haematology and blood transfusion services has a far-reaching impact on patients' healthcare provision needs. This is especially in relation to early detection of blood diseases, laboratory diagnosis and blood transfusion, a Muhimbili expert underlined last week.

Rescission application dismissed with costs

JOHANNESBURG

THE constitutional court yesterday dismissed former President Jacob Zuma's application for a rescission of his 15-month sentence for contempt with costs.

Acting Deputy Chief Justice, Sisi Khampepe said Zuma had failed to meet statutory requirements in that he did not establish "a

reasonable and satisfactory explanation for his failure to oppose contempt proceedings" and that he did not prove he had a bona fide case.

Zuma had asked the court to set aside both the contempt order and his 15-month prison sentence, meted out after he failed to respect a directive to appear at the Zondo commission probing state capture.

'District experts crucial in investment permits chain'

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jects get approved for implementation without involving environment experts in the relevant districts.

In a meeting with environment officers for Babati town council and the district council in a working tour of Manyara Region, he said that environment officers have not been involved in the issuing of permits for construction of major commercial infrastructures.

This makes the experts feel unappreciated and unable to undertake their responsibilities, he stated, citing the purchase of land earmarked for housing but later its use

is changed and is turned into a fuel station.

It turned out that neither the environmental officers nor the council were involved, he asserted.

"For us to develop as a nation we have to be careful with how we handle the environment as all life depends on it, as part of our lives. So we must focus on protecting it so that it also protects us," he declared.

He warned about rising environmental pollution with culprits hiding under the cover of investment, insisting that pursuing economic activities should not endanger the lives of other people.

Chande visited the Manyara sugar factory in Babati, commending the investor for complying with environmental regulations, plus making alternative charcoal from sugarcane husks.

He urged the factory operator to distribute renewable energy produced at the factory to the public at a lower charge to help reduce improper deforestation.

Lewis Nzali, the zonal manager for the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), said that key environmental challenges there include the lack of protective equipment for factory staff and visitors,

putting them at risk of contracting diseases.

The factory operators need to hire an occupational safety specialist to render advice on protecting the environment and ensure the safety of workers in general.

Public relations officer John Geu, said that as sugarcane growing uses a lot of water, so they use water from wells instead of the river as it is the main source of water for residents in the area.

In ensuring they protect and conserve the environment, the company has been planting trees along the river, he added.



Kongwa District nutrition officer Maria Haule (R) briefs National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (2nd-L) and former Speaker Anne Makinda (L) at a pavilion under the charge of the district's Medical Officer. It was part of an exhibition held on the sidelines of a development forum hosted by the district. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

AfCFTA likely to lift EAC textiles

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the market of the 1.3bn inhabitants of the continent, with a gross domestic product of \$3trn, he said.

Karera was speaking during a webinar on the African Continental Free Trade Area - Opportunities for the Private Sector, organized by EABC in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), its Eastern Africa office.

The webinar explored and charted out priorities set to reposition the East African private sector in order to benefit and drive the implementation of the AfCFTA.

Karera focused on protectionism and

non-tariff barriers as blocking the growth of intra-African trade, appealing for embracing the Pan-African mindset to push the AfCFTA agenda.

Involvement of the private sector in negotiations was vital, and EABC is committed to harmonizing private sector positions to hasten the execution of the agreement, he stated.

John-Bosco Kalisa, the EABC

CEO, appreciated Tanzania's ratification of the AfCFTA agreement, pointing out that the EAC bloc will soon start trading under AfCFTA "and builds back better the regional economy amid the COVID-19 drawbacks."

Mama Keita, sub-regional director for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said AfCFTA is a game-changer in economies of the region and Africa as a whole.

It is a change for economic growth, food security, poverty reduction, underemployment, unemployment, decent jobs, deepening and organising value chains, improving investments, exports and imports in the continent, she declared.

Dr Rodgers Mukwaya, an ECA consultant said the Eastern Africa region recorded 0.7 percent real growth in 2020, the highest growth push in Africa

amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Complex negotiations, poor inter-country transport infrastructure or insufficient networks, excessive red tape and NTBs at border points, protectionism and reluctance to liberalise certain sectors are key challenges to AfCFTA actually taking off.

AfCFTA is a game-changer likely to create 14m decent new jobs in manufacturing,

52percent increase in intra-regional trade and a \$450bn boost to continental GDP, he stated.

It will also increase trade diversification and improve livelihoods of women cross border traders and SMEs, the consultant projected.

AfCFTA is expected to improve competitiveness of the regional private sector, reduce the cost of doing business in the EAC, create innovative support for youth and women partaking in cross border trade or supply in the AfCFTA context and improve productive capacities of SMEs, he added.

Vietnam to build cashewnut processing plant in Mtwara

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

VIETNAMESE Ambassador to Tanzania, Nguyen Namtien says his country was satisfied with the investment climate in Mtwara Region and that they plan to construct a cashew nut processing plant in the region to add value to the crop.

He said apart from the factory, his country has provided opportunities to Mtwara region authorities to write up a document for the construction a college that would provide training for experts to serve in cashew nut processing factories.

Ambassador Namtien made the remarks on Wednesday this week at the Port of Mtwara during his three-day visit to the region aimed at identifying trade opportunities for his country.

"Apart from being Tanzania's major cashew nuts buyer, we have also decided that we must add value to the crop here in Tanzania and we will start with the construction of a processing plant here at Mtwara, our plans have been spurred by the improvement of the Port of Mtwara," said the envoy.

He said as for now, he was certain traders from Vietnam will increase especially during the current buying season as the export of cashew nuts has been made much easier via the Port of Mtwara.

Mtwara District Commissioner, Dustan Kyobya who represented Regional Commissioner Marco Gaguti said Mtwara Region is set to welcome various foreign investors including those from Vietnam.

He said coming of the Vietnamese envoy has advertised the region to woo in more investors.

Mtwara port manager, Eng Juma Kijavara said the port management have warmly welcomed the intention of the Vietnamese government to build a cashew nut processing factory in the region, as the move will enhance the port's activities.

He said as for now the region has only one large factory, the Dangote Cement factory whose cargo and equipment are handled at the port, hence, he said, any additional factory means more activities for the sea outlet.

“Apart from being Tanzania's major cashew nuts buyer, we have also decided that we must add value to the crop here in Tanzania and we will start with the construction of a processing



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (R) briefs journalists yesterday on the Kibaha District Council building (in the background) which reports say stands in a Ruvu Valley wetland area, where it was put up without Environment Impact Assessment certification. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SIDO, TEA initiative to boost country's mushroom production

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE newly established initiatives by the government through Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) would boost the country's mushroom production and processing.

Speaking during a closing ceremony of training on mushroom production and food processing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, SIDO Regional Manager for Dar es Salaam, Ridhiwani Matange emphasized on trained participants

to make sure they produce quality products that meets international standards.

A total of 400 small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) have completed the course, he said.

He said the training organised by SIDO with support from TEA was meant to equip SMEs with modern mushroom cultivation methods as well as processing following an increased demand for the products in both local and foreign markets.

In the past, mushrooms

were traditionally been picked from the wild and farmers did not grow them commercially.

"We are thankful to TEA for sponsoring this important training, it is our belief that it will boost production of the product as most SMEs can now establish their own mushroom farms," he said.

He urged them to formalize their businesses with the government agencies and get licenses that would enable smooth operations of their activities including exportation of the products.

Matange said entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in the development of small and medium scale industries; hence more efforts are needed to develop the sector.

He urged trained participants to make use of the acquired knowledge and share it with other mushroom growers to ensure quality of products.

A representative from TEA, Lusungu Kaduma, encouraged private and government organisations to seek the skills support from the authority. He said the government se-

mented to expand their farms and boost productions.

"We have formed a group where we grow mushrooms for commercial purposes, but we do not have enough capital to purchase some needed equipment. We have customers at different hotels and some few individuals who buy the product for export," said Shayo.

Mushrooms are a rich, low calorie source of fiber, protein, and antioxidants. They may also mitigate the risk of developing serious health conditions, such as, heart disease,

Shayo appealed for financial support from the govern-

ment to expand their farms and boost productions.

"We have formed a group where we grow mushrooms for commercial purposes, but we do not have enough capital to purchase some needed equipment. We have customers at different hotels and some few individuals who buy the product for export," said Shayo.

Mushrooms are a rich, low calorie source of fiber, protein, and antioxidants. They may also mitigate the risk of developing serious health conditions, such as, heart disease,

Shayo appealed for financial support from the govern-

cancer and diabetes. Mushrooms are also a good source of vitamin B, C, and D, including niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, and folate, and various minerals including potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium, iron, and copper. They provide carbohydrates, but are low in fat and fiber, and contain no starch. They are also a source of income to farmers.

Mushrooms are also an essential part of the planet's ecosystem and the life cycle as they recycle nutrients, keeping forests healthy.

Capitalise on the on-going technology and investment exhibition, artisanal miners told

By Guardian Reporter

PARLIAMENTARY Committee for Energy and Minerals has advised artisanal miners to use the on-going technology and investment exhibition in the mining sector to learn new technologies

The committee's vice chairman, Seif Gulamali made the remarks on Thursday when he visited the ministry of minerals pavilion at the exhibitions held at Bombambili grounds in Geita Region.

He said that small scale miners should take advantage of the exhibition to learn and improve their mining activities. He said exhibitors must showcase their technologies for Tanzanians to understand and be aware of various technologies applied in minerals execution.

Commenting on the use of mercury in gold processing, Gulamali said there is a need for the government, ministry and stakeholders to make sure those affected with the use of mercury are assisted with better medical treatment.

He said gold mining companies should engage in provision of social services including improvement of medical services especially for cancer patients. He said there should be efforts to bring cancer treatment services closer to the people as most patients are required to travel for over 1,000 kilometres to get treatment at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

"Bringing cancer treatment closer would save many people who cannot travel to Dar es Salaam. Stakeholders must provide support to the Bugando Referral hospital for completion of its constructed structures meant for provision of cancer treatments," said the committee's vice chairman.

Deputy Minister for Minerals, Prof Shukrani Manyasa said the government introduced the exhibition to showcase various technologies in the mining sector. He said the minerals' technology fair also provides opportunities for stakeholders to learn new technologies and share experiences.

"Small scale miners can learn from big players in the sector, miners are likely to share experiences to further improve their activities," said Prof Manyasa.

Geita Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule called upon residents in Lake Zone regions to visit the exhibition at Bombambili grounds to broaden their scope of the minerals sector. She said the exhibition will last ten days.

Senyamule added that stakeholders will be linked with large mining companies as well as markets. He said miners can use the fair to get modern mining equipment and learn on new minerals refining methods.



Selemani Jafo (C), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) participates in the 18th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held virtually in Nairobi yesterday. He is with Juma Limbe (L) and Daniel Sagata from his Office's Environment Department. Photo courtesy of VPO

Confer with NEMC when preparing city plans, district councils, municipalities urged

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has advised district council and municipalities across the country to consult the body when preparing city plans to be instructed appropriately on environment matters.

The call was made yesterday in Mlandizi, Coast Region by NEMC Director, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, after he visited the Kibaha Rural District Council structure which has been built along the Ruvu valley without the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) certification.

He said construction of the building was not supposed to be done at a wetland area because it is against environment laws and may cause water shortage in Dar es Salaam and Coast Region

in the future.

Dr Gwamaka said the Ruvu valley is among the wetland places with water reserves expected to serve residents in the above mentioned regions, hence the need to preserve it. He said no construction activity is allowed to take place at the basin without environment assessment.

The NEMC boss asserted that the area preserves a huge amount of water during rain seasons which can be helpful during drought seasons. He said the dry seasons normally results in decreased water levels at the Ruvu River.

He added that in 2011/2012 the government handed over the area to Kibaha District council but NEMC was not aware that authorities have resolved to construct industries and office buildings.

"This is a wetland area and according to our environment laws, it has to be protected because of its huge amount of water reserves," he said highlighting the importance of protecting the country's ecosystem so that they are used during drought.

He said when wetland areas like Ruvu valley are developed with industries and other structures without conducting environment assessment, there are dangers of people experiencing water shortage in future.

He expressed worries that if the trend continues, Dar es Salaam and Coast Region will experience serious water shortage in the coming 10 to 20 years.

Recently, the Wami/Ruvu Basin Water Board (WRBWB) banned issuance of permits for water harvesting urging

those residing near the basin to stop human activities following continued decrease in water levels.

Water levels at the basin have decreased to 7,500 compared to 12,500 meters recorded in September last year.

Wami/Ruvu Acting Director Elibariki Mmasi said the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA) sources water from the basin (5,000 cubic meters) per second.

Mmasi said technicians from DAWASA are now applying alternative innovative methods to force water into its plants following improper flows.

DAWASA sources water from the Ruvu River for its daily productions that are distributed to its industrial and home-based customers in the two regions.



Patrobas Katambi (in suit), Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment) and Shinyanga Urban legislator in jovial mood alongside people with disabilities moments after presenting them with ten tricycles, as many white canes and 60 crutches in Shinyanga municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

Govt approves 3bn/- for payment of health workers who served during Covid-19 crisis

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has approved 3bn/- for payment of health sector workers who served during the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr Godwin Mollel, Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children made the statement on Thursday when speaking to health workers at Tumbi Referral Hospital in Coast Region, during a working visit to inspect service delivery at the hospital.

He said health workers had raised the issue of finance while battling Covid-19, and confirmed that President Samia Suluhu Hassan had already approved the funds for those who volunteered and sacrificed to save lives of patients who contracted the disease.

"We expect to complete this within two weeks where all rightful employees who are entitled to the money will have received their payment," Mollel said.

Dr Mollel added that the government has allocated 187bn/- for the construction of a factory to produce vaccines for various diseases including Covid-19.

"In an on going effort by the government to facilitate smooth ac-

cess of health services for the people, President Samia has provided 149.7bn/- to fund poor people who are unable to access medical services at health facilities in the country," he added.

He also said that they also hope that all people in the country will have health insurance which involves Tanzanians who can afford to pay by themselves and those who cannot because the government has already paid for them.

"For more than eight years, the process of submitting a universal health insurance bill has been facing various challenges; thus, the government is planning to present it in the November parliamentary meeting," Mollel said.



We expect to complete this within two weeks where all rightful employees who are entitled to the money will have received their payment

Majaliwa bans livestock keepers from grazing in oil palm farms

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Kigoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has prohibited livestock keepers from entering and grazing their cattle in the oil palm farming areas in Kigoma region.

Speaking at Kwitanga prison service when inspecting the progress of oil palm farming, he warned that from today, cattle are not allowed to enter oil palm farming areas.

He also warned Kigoma residents to

stop setting fire in the oil palm farming areas instead they should protect the crop and develop it for the benefit of the people of Kigoma and the nation at large.

The prime minister advised Kigoma residents to gradually start uprooting the old dura variety of oil palm which have low yield and plant the new tenera variety which have higher yield.

The new tenera variety produces 5. Metric tonnes per acre compared to

dura variety which produces 1.6 metric tonnes per acre.

For his part, Kwitanga prison service officer in charge Dr Uswege Mwakaheya said the prison is expected to grow a total of 6,000 acres of oil palm tenera variety.

"So far we have grown more than 475 acres and the work is still going on. We have already set aside reasonable amount of funds to implement the government directive of growing all 6,000 acres," he said.

He said some of the produced seedlings

have already been sent to Kalila, Nkuluku and Kimbiji prison services in Katavi and Dar es Salaam respectively.

The Ministry of Agriculture said all plans and strategies of ensuring all improved oil palm of tenera variety are adequately available for the farmers at all times.

The ministry called on Kigoma residents to heed the government directives and stop grazing in the oil palm farming areas.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey

Mkamilo said the oil palm seedlings of tenera variety should be managed well because they are expensive to produce.

"If these oil palm seedlings of tenera variety were sold, the farmers would buy at 10,000/- each but the government has decided to provide them for free.

It's their duty to manage them well by stopping cattle into the farms so that together we can increase production and achieve our main goal of addressing shortage of edible oil in the country," he said.

Govt working to ensure friendly environment for traders - Sengati

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

SHINYANGA Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has appealed to traders to be patient as the government works to ensure they conduct their activities at safer environment.

He said the government is aware of the importance of their businesses and contribution to revenues, that's why it has decided to establish a special trading area as per directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

The president directed regional commissioners to ensure that they properly control small traders, popularly known as 'machinga', and organise them so that they conduct their activities properly.

She however demanded that leaders implement the exercise in an appropriate manner without harassing the traders. President Samia said the government has provided a huge opportunity for petty traders to pursue income generating activities.

The petty traders need to adhere to the country's laws and regulations and always follow directives issued by districts and regional officials, she stated.

Dr. Sengati made the statement when he held talks with traders shortly after he visited them at newly established market. He said the government is working on the various challenges they face to facilitate their businesses to grow.

"We want your businesses to grow and contribute to the country's economy. The sixth phase government has been thriving to ensure a conducive business and investment climate," said the RC appealing to traders not to return to the previous market which has been closed over security issues.

He said the government will also construct a new market for petty traders in the region as plans are to make Shinyanga a city.

One of the traders, Derick Bugumba commended the government for creating such a good trading area, appealing for improvement of social services including water.

Josephat Simiyu said: "We don't have reliable water and power services, installing electricity at the market would enable us to conduct businesses until late hours."



Works and Transport Prof Makame Mbarawa (L) is updated yesterday on the ongoing construction of Dar es Salaam's Chang'ombe Road/Nyerere Road junction flyover. Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

Dar authorities announce plan to move traders from undesignated areas

By Guardian Reporter

AUTHORITIES in Dar es Salaam Region have announced a strategic plan to move all people who have installed small business huts in pedestrian walkways, road reserves and in front of public institutions such as schools.

Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla made the statement on Thursday when he met and held discussion with various traders and leaders in the city.

He said the plan is not aimed at removing the petty traders but their purpose is to see that traders including 'machingas' and food vendors contin-

ue to conduct their income-generating activities in legal places without affecting other people's activities.

"We have been in our joint meeting and I believe we now all have a common understanding on the importance of conducting businesses in designated places," Makalla said.

He asked petty traders to show cooperation to the authorities as they had agreed during the meeting.

"We expect there will be an official launch of the region's plan to show how we have planned to create a conducive environment for business in Dar es Salaam," he said.

Makalla said the plan would identify

various areas where the traders will be sent as well as to see the possibility of temporarily closing some of the streets to be used for business purposes with the power being under the leadership of district councils and his office remaining as coordinator of the exercise.

In addition, the preparation will go hand in hand with the launch of petty traders (machingas) desks in each council that will be used to listen to their grievances and know how to resolve them.

The desks will also be there to know and access the data that will be used in setting up good business arrangements in the specific area.

"I firmly believe that we will have a well-run Dar es Salaam if people are organized in doing their income generating activities," Makalla added.

Steven Lusinde, vice chairman of the machingas commended the regional commissioner for involving them in their planning as they had the opportunity to air their views and suggest ways to best implementation of the plan.

"We are so happy with how you have treated us, by engaging us in this because this issue affects us directly and we pledge to provide full cooperation," he said.



GSM communication and marketing manager Smart Deus briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday shortly after donating over 100 reflective jackets to Temeke district administrative secretary Bupe Mwakibete (R) in support of road safety enhancement campaigns. Left is Temeke Regional Traffic Officer Sulle Africanus. Photo: Correspondent Theresia Victor

We cannot fail millions of children who need better education, says new GPE chair Kikwete

By Special Correspondent

FORMER President Jakaya Kikwete has taken over as leader of the Global Partnership for Education, which has helped millions of the world's most vulnerable and marginalised children into school.

Kikwete - who was honoured by Theirworld for his outstanding contribution to global education - succeeds Julia Gillard as Chair of the GPE.

It works with more than 70 partner countries to transform their education systems and has helped 160 million children, more than half of them are girls to go to school.

Kikwete said: "I will seek to build on the legacy handed to me. But I will also fly with my own wings to support the GPE Board and the partnership in meeting the ambition that it set out for itself both in the GPE 2025 Strategy and at the Global Education Summit."

"We owe this to the millions of children - boys and girls - around the world who now, more than ever, are facing immense challenges in accessing quality educa-

tion. We should not and cannot fail them."

Kikwete was President of Tanzania from 2010 to 2015. He became a special envoy for the influential Education Commission, leading high-level delegations to 14 African countries.

In 2017, Theirworld and our initiative, the Global Business Coalition for Education presented him with a Certificate of Inspiration award at an event in New York.

As he took over at GPE this week, Kikwete paid tribute to former Australian Prime Minister Gillard, who served as the organisation's Chair for seven years.

Kikwete said: "Julia Gillard has flown with remarkable wings as she led the GPE Board through a period of transformative change. There is no doubt in my mind that, because of her leadership, GPE is now seen as a key - if not "the" - player in the international education aid sector."

Gillard said: "As a result of the work of GPE and so many across the global education community, we have seen the focus on education grow over time."

RC promises investors free surveyed plots

By Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson, Babati

MANYARA Regional Commissioner Makongoro Nyerere has promised to provide free surveyed plots with all infrastructures to foreign and local investors interested to establish projects in any of the sectors.

Makongoro said this yesterday shortly after his tour at a

soft drinking factory—Malt Super Brands Limited in Babati District. He said the government in the region has allocated surveyed land plots with all the required infrastructures to be given to potential investors.

RC Makongoro promised to provide another 10 acres of surveyed land to the soft drinking factory for expansion of its industry. He said the government

is ready to provide them with all the needed support to ensure they contribute to the region's development. "Doors are open for potential investors in the available opportunities; one can choose to invest in agriculture, livestock and tourism. Our plots have been installed with water and electricity services," he stated calling upon investors to make sure they adhere to country laws which in-

cludes payment of government taxes.

The factory's executive director David Mulokozi said the industry has so far employed 250 people who are paid some 400m/- in total every month.

According to Mulokozi said government's decision to provide investors with free surveyed plots encouraged them to establish the factory which will bring in the

market new products. "I would like to thank the government for providing us with the land; our plans are to expand to factory and employ many more people, thus improve the livelihood of Manyara residents," he said.

He said presence of reliable water and electricity services would increase productivity and efficiency.

The factory's sale manager,

Gwandumi Mpoma said: "Our business is set to grow further as we plan to expand the industry and increase production. We will be ambassadors to other investors interested to start businesses in Manyara."

Mpoma said they have been producing quality products as per required standards, the thing that has enabled them to penetrate the markets easily.

Research conducted by the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO) in Manyara showed the region has a number of investment potentials in agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors.

Statistics indicates that only 33 per cent of land earmarked for investment purposes has been used with 67 per cent remaining unutilised.



Charles Zwaaneveld (L), a 'green officer' with Arusha city's Rotary Club of Njiro, pictured on Thursday explaining to Oldonyowas Secondary School officials and teachers the benefits of planting fruit trees. He had shortly earlier handed over 100 fruit and 900 other tree seedlings at the event. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Meatu residents decry acute shortage of water

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

LACK of safe clean water to residents of Mhanhuzi Town, the headquarters of Meatu District in Simiyu Region continues to affect residents every year especially during dry seasons.

The town is affected by water woes caused by drop of water level at Mwanahina Dam, the main source for its water supply.

Speaking here mid this week at a public meeting, Simiyu Regional Commissioner David Kafulila received the call from the residents for assistance.

One of the residents, Bulolelo Daud said the challenge they face is mainly during dry seasons.

"Hon RC, our problem here is water, water, water... has the government failed to supply us with water from Lake Victoria?" he lamented, adding that the water they get is muddy and very unfit for human consumption. Before speaking, RC Kafulila called on the Director of Mhanhuzi-WSSA, Makongo Stephano to give an explanation.

"It is true there is this big problem, and last year the problem was very acute after our water source dried," he said and added that the water treatment plant is overwhelmed due to long age, saying it has been in use for 12 years without repairs as normally needed.

He said the plant was constructed in 2009 targeting 24,000 residents and it was to be overhauled in 2015, especially when the number of resident has grown to 38,624. He said his office has been making efforts to solve the problem and has reported the issue to the ministry of Water, but it has not been supplied with funds.

Tree planting programme gains momentum in southern highlands

By Correspondent Emmanuel Onyango

THE Finnish government has injected Euros 9.4 million (25bn/-) for the second phase of the Private Forestry Programme (PPP) that benefits thousands of tree farmers in Southern Highlands regions.

Since it was launched in 2014, the programme has facilitated the establishment of about 12,000 hectares of pine tree, eucalyptus and teak plantations that are owned by about 9000 households in Iringa and Njombe Regions.

Finland Ambassador to Tanzania Riitta Swan told The Guardian in an interview in Dar es Salaam that her government has injected 9.4 million Euros to be paid in phases up to 2022.

She said that the second phase

aims to strengthen the initiatives and achievements of phase one and to ensure their ongoing sustainability.

She said the aim of the programme is to support the development of the Tanzanian plantation forestry sub-sector, with focus on small-holder forestry and related value chains targeted in seven districts within three regions of the Southern Highlands.

The beneficiary districts are Kiloilo, Mufindi, Njombe, Makete, Ludewa, Madaba and Wang'ing'ombe and three towns of Mafinga, Njombe, and Makambako.

The long term programme which is currently named Participatory Plantation Forestry Programme (PPFP), is a bilateral development cooperation centered through a government agency in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

The programme is made workable by the help of district extension officers who help farmers to implement the best cultural practices without compromising the food crops' management.

"Finland does not acquire land rather it supports sustainable forest investment through facilitating village land use planning that allocates village land to different agreed land-use classes within the village," she said.

Therefore, the programme supports farmers who are willing or engaging in plantation forestry using their land. The plantations established or supported belong to the villagers and are established on the villagers' own lands, she said.

"To ensure the security of tenure to villagers involved in tree planting,

the programme is facilitating the issuance of Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) in collaboration with the relevant district councils and the National Land-use Planning Commission."

Ambassador Swan said the second phase is facilitating the application of best silvi-cultural practices in the already established plantation through support from external sources and natural regeneration to support small scale farmers involved in tree farming or plantation establishment and management in Southern Highland regions.

In addition, the programme aims to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups who are the beneficiaries and supports their participation in the forestry value chains.

Elaborating more on climate change,

she said that the on-going forestry programme promotes afforestation that increases the carbon sink to sequester more carbon from the atmosphere. Moreover, the programme promotes efficient use of land through village land-use planning.

Thus, tree growing and the development of the forestry value chains can give the smallholder farmers alternative income sources to farming and thus offer a means of adaptation to climate change.

She however, noted low infrastructure development in many of the rural areas makes most of the farmers' plantations not easily accessible. This affects their access to extension services, access to markets and hence the quality and pricing of their wood and wood products.



Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander Jumanne Muliro shows journalists on Thursday what he said was hashish seized in a recent police crackdown. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Schools still closed for roundabout 77 million students 18 months into pandemic - UNICEF

NEW YORK

EIGHTEEN months into the COVID-19 pandemic, schools for nearly 77 million students in six countries continue to be almost completely closed, according to analysis data released on Thursday by UNICEF.

In total, an estimated 131 million students in 11 countries have missed more than three-quarters of their in-person learning.

Around 27 per cent of countries worldwide continue to have schools fully or partially closed.

According to the analysis, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Panama are among the countries that kept schools closed the longest.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said: "As classes resume in many countries around the world, millions of students are heading into a third academic year without stepping foot in a classroom. The losses that students are incurring from not being in school may never be recovered."

Fore said: "The education crisis is still here, and with each passing day that classrooms remain dark, the devastation worsens."

She said that every community everywhere must re-open schools as soon as possible. She said schools must be the last to close and the first to reopen.

"We have to start putting the best interest of every child first. In all, but the most extreme cases, this means getting students back into the classroom," said Fore.

School closures have created a shadow crisis for children. Beyond falling behind on their education, many children are missing out on school-based meals and routine vaccinations, experiencing social isolation and increased anxiety, and being exposed to abuse and violence.

For some, school closures have led to drop out, child labour and child marriage. Many parents have been unable to continue with their employment while balancing their children's care and learning needs. Some have lost their jobs entirely, pushing their families into poverty and creating a deeper economic crisis.

While remote learning has been a lifeline for millions of school children, access to technology and the quality of the curriculum have been uneven even within communities and school districts.

Experience shows that schools are not the main drivers of transmission and that it is possible to keep them open for in-person learning.

UNICEF urges governments, local authorities and school administrations to reopen schools as soon as possible and take all possible steps to mitigate against transmission of the virus in schools, such as implementing mask policies for students and staff in accordance with national and local guidelines, providing hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitizer, frequently cleaning of surfaces and shared objects and ensuring adequate and appropriate ventilation.

WHO: Africa will get 30pc of COVID vaccines it needs by February

By Cara Murex

THE World Health Organization (WHO) and its partners said they do hope to provide African countries with 30 per cent of the vaccines the continent needs by February.

Most of the 5.7 billion vaccine doses administered globally so far have been in just 10 wealthy countries, as the U.N.-backed COVAX initiative has missed all of its tar-

gets. COVAX is now begging rich countries to share their vaccine doses.

In Africa, only 4 per cent of people have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Leaders had once hoped to have 60 per cent of people living on the continent vaccinated this year.

Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of vaccine alliance Gavi, told the AP that COVAX expects to have 1.4 billion doses ready for delivery by the end

of 2021, about one-quarter fewer than its original goal.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Tuesday the disparity between rich and poor countries in terms of COVID-19 vaccine distribution is a 'solvable problem'.

He asked pharmaceutical companies to share their vaccines globally. Tedros has also called for a moratorium on booster shots in healthy people until the end of 2021.

Richer countries appear to be ignoring his plea. The United Kingdom announced on Tuesday that it will offer boosters to people over age 50, as well as younger, vulnerable individuals, joining Israel, France and Germany, who have already started booster efforts.

An advisory panel to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will meet to consider the issue of boosters for Americans this week.

The move in some countries towards a rollout of boosters is happening even as new reports cast doubt on the need for third shots in healthy people. In fact, earlier this week two top officials from the FDA and senior WHO scientists helped write an opinion piece in The Lancet voicing opposition to boosters.

The question of boosters in Africa is an expensive one that would require \$500 mil-

lion to \$600 million more "on the conservative side," said Afreximbank President Benedict Oramah, and with logistics \$1 billion a year.

The African Union's envoy for COVID-19 vaccines, Strive Masiyiwa, said export restrictions and intellectual property rights should be lifted to allow vaccine production within Africa. The WHO and partners prepared for this in June by launching a hub in South Africa that could

make the vaccines produced by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

However, neither of the companies has agreed to share the vaccine recipes and they show no indication that they will do so, according to the AP.

"It's not an unreasonable call, because our neighbours in the U.S. supported these companies to produce some of these vaccines," Masiyiwa said.

Govt says newly installed surveillance radars reason for improved collection of revenue, safety of airspace

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE government has said that all new four surveillance radars installed in four major airports in the country have greatly helped increase the number of landing planes and revenue collections as they enable the country to smoothly monitor its entire aviation airspace.

The Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Mwita Waitara, made this announcement when he visited and inspected Mwanza airport to oversee progress of various activities.

He said the government has instead spent billions of money to purchase the radars which have been installed at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), Mwanza Airport and Songwe Airport.

Previously, Tanzania was using old aviation radar which was installed at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in 2002, monitoring only 25 per cent of its aviation airspace.

He said the installation of the modern radars is part of the government's strategy to improve the civil aviation industry in the country.

"Safety of our skies is of paramount importance. With the four radars we will be able to monitor our entire airspace and beyond and this will help all the planes to pay required levies and thus improve our revenue collections," he said.

He hailed Tanzanian youth who are patriotically working and guiding the radars and now the country is re-regulating itself instead of depending on experts from outside the country.

"I have been in Songwe, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and now in Mwanza, I am so happy to see how the government is doing great investments to boost the aviation industry," he said.

He further said that despite impacts brought by Covid-19, revenue collections in the aviation industry have increased.

Pascal Kalumbate, Mwanza Airport manager said tourism sector has regained power and is now improving as they now serve a number of planes taking off and landing at the airport.

"Security has also been strengthened due to the installation of the surveillance radar," he said.



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo (L) has an audience with fish sellers at a Muheza town mixed-goods market yesterday, chiefly to listen to their grievances. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Tourism actors count losses, discuss recovery

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOURISM stakeholders are meeting here for stocktaking of the devastating impact of Covid-19 pandemic to the sector and devise recovery plan as skies gradually re-open across the globe.

The event is organized by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) through the Safe Trade initiative, the training sessions are meant to empower tourism-related businesses with practical resilience strategies and skills for recovery and sustainabil-

ity. Speaking at the gathering yesterday, Director of TPSF Zacky Mbena said most tourism and hospitality-related businesses were either folded or on the brink of total collapse.

"In the hospitality industry alone, at least 183,000 stakeholders went out of business," said Dr Mbena, pointing out that, when it comes to falling, tourism is not just about the suffering economy but also the issue of national prestige going down the drain.

Dr Mbena was speaking at the threshold of Tourism and

cross-border trade stakeholders' workshop taking place in Arusha.

Mentioning three related studies on the effects of the pandemic, the TPSF Director said other sectors that suffered includes the transport and logistics, productive industries, especially those dependent on imported raw materials.

Tanzania gets an average of 1.5 million tourists per annum, but that was before the pandemic struck. With the industry being pivoted in the Northern Zone circuit, the country has over 900

tour companies. Marigoreth Mushi, the Tourism Officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, said the government had already laid down plans for industry recovery, including ensuring that all necessary safety steps are taken in order to build trust among visitors.

At Regional levels, the six East African countries, Tanzania alone lost US \$ 4.8 billion in 2020, due to the pandemic hitting the regional Tourism Industry, according to the East African Business Council.

At least 2 million jobs melt-

ed down when the East African Region recorded a 65 per cent decline in international arrivals.

Tourism contributes an average of 17.2 per cent to East African Region's total exports, while also accounting to 7.1 per cent of employment.

"The coronavirus has heavily hit the tourism sector; this is an opportune time to collaborate to provide the much-needed boost to help sustain our region's many businesses. The partnership will be a key driver of tourism business recovery in the short to medium term."



Apple Premium iStore dealer Vipul Shah (L) exchanges ideas with stakeholders at an event organised for customers held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Majaliwa to lay foundation stones for ten development projects in Kagera

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is today expected to lay foundation stones for ten development projects worth 855bn/- in five districts within Kagera Region.

The premier (pictured) will be in Kagera for a five-day official tour whereas he is expected to visit and inspect implementation of development projects in Kyerwa, Karagwe, Biharamulo, Bukoba-Urban and Ngara districts.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Kagera Regional Commissioner, Charles Mbuge said that while in the region, Majaliwa will also inspect implementation progress of two privately owned projects.

"The premier will inspect eight state-owned projects and another two owned by private companies. The state-owned project worth 845bn/- in total," he said.

Mbuge said that in Biharamulo District, the prime minister will launch and lay a foundation stone for construction of a dry dock worth 2.6bn/- at the Nyakanazi area. In Ngara District he will launch a coffee processing factory worth 6bn/- and an 816bn/- hydropower project at Rusumo ward.

He said in Kyerwa District there are a number projects including a minerals pro-

cessing factory worth 4bn/-, Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) building worth 483.4bn/- as well as a project for construction of a 703m/- house for the district commissioner.

While in Karagwe District, Majaliwa will inspect two projects worth 6.9bn/- which includes rehabilitation of the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) College.

In Bukoba-Urban District, Majaliwa will launch the Kemondo water project (15.8bn/-) and hospital construction project worth 2.3bn/-



Covid-19 bars 721 Tanzanians from pursuing studies in India

By Beatrice Philemon

A TOTAL of 721 beneficiaries of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) who were selected to pursue different studies in India missed the opportunity due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The programme is being sponsored by the Indian government through ITEC and started in 1972.

Education, Science, and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako revealed this on Wednesday evening when speaking in Dar es Sa-

laam at the function of marking the 57th ITEC Day.

Prof Ndalichako said that in the 2018/19 and 2019/20 fiscal years, a total of 721 opportunities were issued, but due to the pandemic most of the beneficiaries missed those chances.

According to Prof Ndalichako, most of the beneficiaries are civil servants from different units including the Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) and lawyers.

More than 3,000 Tanzanians are currently pursuing short and long-term courses in India, the minister said,

adding Indian government has been supporting Tanzania in different development endeavors including technical support that in turn helped the country to obtain highly qualified experts.

Indian government provides scholarships in ICT, engineering, health professionals, accounting, manpower training, computer studies, rural development, diplomacy, and many more and the number of beneficiaries has been increased.

She expressed thanks to the Indian government for

the ITEC because the programme has brought in significant development in both countries because "We share development and expertise in different sectors."

Tanzania has been able to strengthen ICT technology at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha and Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and they have been able to offer IT technology that copes with the fourth industrial revolution," she said, pledging to continue working closely with India in various aspects.

Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Pradhan said: "We celebrate the ITEC Day every year to bring ITC scholars together and interact with them and share their experiences in India."

"Last week I visited Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology where an ICT centre with an Indian Supercomputer named Param Serenagati has helped training more than 10500 students in ICT," he said.

"In 1972, we started with 24 slots, which has increased to about 500 annual slots at present," he noted.

"We have also 70 Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) long-term scholarships every year for Tanzania for undergraduate and higher courses. Meritorious students may apply for this," the ambassador said.

The endeavor to partner with Tanzania is an important pillar of India's foreign policy.

"In our own limited way, it is our endeavor to share with you our technologies, academic and technical knowledge, and experience and remain with you as a partner in your march to

making Tanzania a middle-income country by 2025," he said.

One of the programme beneficiaries, Elibahati Kimario, said that through the knowledge and skills gained from ITEC has made him to establish organic compost fertilizer plant and fish pond at Kimashuku village in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region.

The plant has capacity to produce 1.5 tonnes of organic compost fertilizer for three weeks and the money he get from selling fish, he use it to invest in producing organic compost fertilizer.

International farmers warn of climate change impact

By Special Correspondent

THREE farmers from Tanzania, Australia and United Kingdom have shared their experience of dealing with the effects of climate change and how they remain resilient despite it.

In the lead up to COP26 in Glasgow, the farmers joined an Oxford Farming Conference (OFC) event to highlight the harsh realities of climate change and its impact on the industry.

Martin Lines from Cambridgeshire, Ellen Litchfield from South Australia and Tumaini Elibariki from Tanzania each spoke about the day-to-day realities of dealing with adverse weather patterns.

Martin, who is Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN) Chair and an arable farmer, said that there was a need to work with the landscape's natural capacity to improve resilience.

"Climate change isn't coming, it's here now," he warned, "Within my arable business, I'm being greatly affected by the seasons changing and from being too dry, too wet with weather patterns disrupted and we only know that this is going to get worse."

"For me, my number one asset as a land manager and farmer is my soil. And if I can improve the soil quality, biodiversity and landscape around me, I can stay profitable and viable into the future."

"To do this, we've moved away from cultivation into direct drilling and cover crops. We've also welcomed back livestock to fertilise and feed off the cover crops."

In Australia, Ellen Litchfield farms in the most rainfall volatile area of the country, on a sheep and cattle station that spans 600,000 hectares.

"For us, dealing with climate extremes has been a constant issue - but it's getting worse," she warned.

"The 2019 drought saw some parts of the country experience the driest and hottest year on record. Rainfall was down 40% and average temp up 1.5 degrees."

Despite the droughts and associated economic impact, Ellen said that productivity had significantly increased across livestock and cropping sectors.

This, she said, was because farmers on the front line of climate change could increase their resilience by investing in natural capital, climate adaptive breeds, solar energy and sharing their story to maintain social license. "One thing that I think that is important is sharing our story and recognising that as farmers, we are going to have to speak up and tell the world what we are actually doing and how we are mitigating and adapting to climate change."

Tumaini Elibariki has worked for Farm Africa since 2012 and has managed a number of their projects in northern Tanzania.

He supports farmers to identify issues they face, solutions and training, utilising his background in agricultural technology. He is also Programme Manager for the Sunflower Project, growing drought-tolerant varieties.

"In Tanzania we have a challenge where most farmers rely on small-scale farming in rural areas, but around 35 per cent of the population does not have enough nutritious food to eat," he said.

"Another challenge is deforestation with some of the population turning to selling timber products such as firewood and charcoal to make money, resulting in soil erosion."

In northern and central Tanzania, he said climate change was making weather patterns increasingly unpredictable, limiting smallholders' ability to plan for the future.



A member of the Iringa Municipal Council militia pictured on Thursday demolishing a Miyomboni suburb small trader's business stall said to block a strategic pathway. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Farmers must plant newly developed oil palm variety, officials told

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Kigoma

THE government has directed district commissioners and district executive directors of all district councils growing oil palm to work around the clock to ensure that farmers plant the newly developed oil palm variety called tenera for crop's high production and country's self-sufficiency of edible oil.

Promising government support to the farmers especially supply of agricultural inputs and processing facilities, the premier directed that from now onwards all the DCs and EDs are sup-

posed to identify oil palm farmers in their respective areas, keep records and data base and ensure they supervise them effectively to increase production.

The Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa gave the directive at 821 KJ Bulombora National Service in Kigoma yesterday when inspecting the progress of oil palm farming in Kigoma region saying all extension officers are supposed to work with farmers in rural areas on their farms to ensure good agricultural practices are adhered to.

The directive also goes to the government's military institu-

tor saying military institutions' farms should be centers of excellence to attract other people to go and learn how to farm the crop.

The government has moved extension officers from urban areas to rural areas so that they can educate farmers on good agricultural practices.

"The government wants to see every farmer participates fully in oil palm production and the government will support them."

He said the institutions should keep up the same spirit of increasing production and multiplication of improved seeds and supply to the farmers on time.

The Prime Minister urged farmers to establish new oil palm farms for themselves and for their children saying it is sustainable, a long term investment and profitable.

"This country today is spending more than 470bn/- per annum to import edible oil in the country. We import tones and tonnes of palm oil for processing, but it is possible to farm the palm oil and get good local and international markets," he said.

He said it is possible to meet the demand of edible oil and produce more other palm oil related products.

He said as of now, the direc-

tion of the country is to be self-reliant in terms of edible oil and food security.

"You need to sensitise farmers, educate them, promote the crop. This is the direction of the country to be self-reliant, this is the direction of the nation that loves its people," he said.

Earlier, while briefing the premier, the National Service Chief Major General Rajab Mabele said the national service has been implementing the government's directives since 2019 and in a very short time the oil palm trees will start producing bunches of fruits.

"We have a target of grow-

ing 2,000 acres by 2024/25. We have been working very closely with TARI and SUA to ensure improved seedlings and soil testing respectively," he said.

He said the seedlings are not sold but given for free to the farmers. So far a total of 125,524 improved seedlings of tenera variety have already been distributed to AMCOS and district councils for free.

For his part, TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo assured the prime minister that his research institute is working hard to ensure there is no shortage of seedlings for the farmers, the district councils and other

stakeholders.

He said TARI which is under the ministry of agriculture, will make sure that all directives are fully implemented on time.

"TARI is working very closely with the government's military institutions such as Bulombora, Kwitanga Prison service, ASA, palm oil private companies to ensure that all directives are implemented on time," he said.

"In the past, here in Bulombora we were talking about farm preparations, but today we are talking about 500 acres already grown palm oil and we have reached out all district councils in Kigoma region," he added.

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

Vigilance a price we must pay to protect our wildlife

THERE are now, admittedly, much fewer reports of cases of poaching, illegal logging and other crimes relating to invasions of nature reserves in our country than obtained as recently as three years ago.

In all honesty, it is hard to say whether apparently positive development suggests that all our forests and parks are now much safer wildlife sanctuaries than they have previously been - or it is merely that any "transgressions" there are elicit less media coverage.

Some three years ago we quoted sources blaming part of the pillage of our wildlife reserves on corruption by dishonest officials, with village officials and other residents of areas surrounding the sanctuaries crying foul but too scared stiff to help.

For instance, surveys in several forest reserves in Tanga Region showed that security at some entry points where there were supposed to be rigorous checks was no longer watertight and village "informers" remained tight-lipped even while knowing for a fact that corrupt law-enforcement agents were routinely found wanting when it came to identifying both suspects and confirmed culprits.

As happened, officials at some village bordering forest and other nature reserves said openly that they had long stopped reporting cases of illegal logging because they were afraid of finding themselves in danger.

The reserves cited included Amani and Derema, which lie some 30 kilometres from Muheza Town and have for decades served as catchments of several rivers such as Zigi - on which Tanga City heavily depends for its domestic and other water needs.

The river is also home to thousands of butterflies, which were those days

exported to Europe and the Americas to earn residents of the area much-needed income.

Illustrating the gravity of the situation, one village chairman said: "We once arrested illegal loggers inside Amani Nature Reserve. I took him to the police station but, surprisingly, he was back on the streets as a free man even before I made it back home. He was walking just behind me, cruel-faced. I was shocked and decided to flee for my life."

But a member of a national network of community groups involved in participatory forest management swore that illegal logging would end if all dishonest district forest officials and security officials posted at strategic checkpoints were made more accountable or were shown the door.

It is possible that there are still self-serving officials dragging their feet on cooperating with village environmental committees as expected in ensuring observance of laws and regulations governing the conservation of forest reserves.

So, the war must continue, without the slightest tolerance of repeats of cases of illegal loggers being intercepted and subsequently being taken to police stations, only to be set free on the flimsiest of pretexts.

Luckily, we know of public agencies and officials who see a solution in the citizenry's appreciation of the need to safeguard and promote the wildlife we are blessed with - and are acting accordingly.

This will call for years of vigorous and relentless public sensitisation, and it might mean spending hefty amounts of money. But it would surely be worthy investment going into a worthy cause.

Striving for equal pay is hugely relevant and mostly achievable

THERE is a relatively new international commemoration, for equal pay between the genders, which started in the US in 1996 before being adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The adoption of a resolution proclaiming September 18 as International Equal Pay Day added official voice to widespread concern over slow progress in women's economic empowerment, the undervaluing of work traditionally held by women, and the difficulties in tackling pay inequality.

The list of the issues then at stake was long and complicated, involving different types of work, and it is difficult to realise the set goals - for instance, equal pay for domestic work and bona fide job, if you will.

Equal Pay Day is a symbolic event dedicated to raising awareness on the gender pay gap.

This would look somewhat surprising in most societies which don't usually compare what they pay mothers or even grandmothers who enable many households to stand.

These usually see what these particular people do merely as a role that is tied to reproduction and to responsibility as keepers of households.

If we look at the Equal Pay Day issue simply in terms of employment outside the home, it is unlikely that there will be much to complain about in countries that have never had statutory discrimination on the work women can do, or the sort of pay they can get.

If anything, there are instances where some sort of privilege was created or an implicit right recognised, such as in the armed forces, where soldiers' wives are often consulted in

relation to some payments to their husbands.

It is viewed as some form of psychological safeguard meant to help in keeping order at the family level.

The West has usually tended to focus on equal pay as the most important issue, given the fact that there is nearly universal employment among those wishing to work.

But many other countries have mostly focused on empowering women, where the concern is more with their getting feasible means of income rather than what it compares with what men get.

Reports say that the global Covid-19 pandemic has seen women lose more job openings than men, while other marginal groups have also lost their position or openings in work. But the situation differs from one sector or country to another, with most people who live by seeking work forced to make adaptations on what they can do.

Chances are that the plight of women will be more challenging than obtained earlier and, in such situations, holding some families or households close together could prove especially tricky.

So, as the world reflects on equal pay between the genders, this developed societies' matrix leaves much to be desired.

Many relatively educated youths have little that is identifiable as career paths, and this could ruin their ability to found families at an appropriate age so that they bring up children when still youthful.

When that stage of enthusiasm is gone, commitment fades. And what a tragedy that would mean!

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Reputable publishers devise, implement creative strategies for boosting revenues

By Josephine Tay

DURING a session at recent Digital Media Asia conference organised by the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), speakers from Vice and Mediagroup discussed their creative strategies for driving higher revenues.

Vice Digital's Myki Slonim told the conference that branded content makes brands more interesting than banner and display advertisements, adding: "When it comes to Gen Z and millennials, we know that a brand that has something interesting to say is a brand that's going to win."

Slonim, President of Vice Digital APAC & Middle East, launched Canadian-born Vice magazine into the Australian market in 2003.

Initially an underground magazine, Vice has now a global footprint in more than 30 countries across mobile digital media platforms.

Slonim shared how Vice worked with brands in the digital publishing space, reporting that close to 80 per cent of young people expect brands to align with their values - and to entertain them.

Authenticity is the key to capturing audiences, with 90 per cent saying "authenticity is important when choosing a brand. Incidentally, only 5 per cent of branded content drives 90 percent of total consumer engagement."

Citing the same study that yielded these data, Slonim also said branded content sees a 50 per cent higher brand lift when aligned with premium publishers.

Covering unique stories

Authenticity means covering unique stories and immersing audiences in those stories regardless of their format or platform.

"We really talk to young people in much the same way they talk to each other - honest, smart, funny," Slonim said, adding: "The more you try to polish things up, the more they end up watering down the realness, so it's good to leave sort of the rough edges around it."

In relation, Vice's methodology in working with brands is to integrate them with what they do best. This refers to showing audiences a world unknown to them, telling stories that no one else can, and championing voices that no one else will.

Key ingredients for the secret sauce

Slonim also shared several of his "secret sauce ingredients", saying brands ought to think and act like media companies by entertaining audiences and drawing them in

rather than pushing messages out.

It is essential to think of viewers or readers as audiences, instead of as consumers or target markets. This means that content has to be "really, really good and stop things in their tracks".

"The third thing is that we try to find out what's the right cultural space or passion point to play in rather than thinking about campaigns," said Slonim.

"This is a two-punch push - having the creativity, innovation, interests or entertainment factor of the idea but really twinning it with distribution across all the platforms that are at our disposal," he added.

Slonim also said it was essential to note that assets take time, energy and investment to create, and should be used to the fullest.

Programming should be specific for different platforms such as Instagram, TikTok or YouTube. Instead of trying to draw audiences into a generic customer journey, each platform should carry a unique entertainment experience.

Unique storytelling

Vice's India team created a video with Godrej Locks, who identified their business problem, "that nobody really pays attention to home safety measures".

Using their expertise in documentary storytelling, Vice approached the issue from a unique angle and created a story entitled "Inside A Robber's Mind - How to safeguard your home according to ex-robbers."

The video garnered 3 million views on YouTube, with high engagement rates. It was a good example of working with brands successfully where a story gained traction and was widely shared.

Regardless of product category, there is always an interesting way to tell the story. Slonim cited Vice's partnership with Panasonic as an example, describing it as "the story of a brand and publisher playing to their strengths by coming together with a real cause to democratise filmmaking".

Vice and Panasonic determined that the entry barrier to filmmaking was extremely high, resulting in untapped talent and untold stories.

Using Panasonic's Lumix GH5, they addressed the issue and established Vice Film School, a collaboration that nurtures talent from all backgrounds.

This collaboration saw a 34 per cent increase in perceptions of

Lumix as a camera which supports young filmmakers, a 15 per cent rise in brand favourability and a 14 per cent uplift in target audience consideration.

Slonim concluded his presentation by pointing out that this was an example of the power of storytelling, noting that Vice would continue to find interesting new ways to create "something native to the platforms", generating impact for both publisher and brand partners.

Helping clients boost social media presence

Diogo Martins meanwhile shared the creative strategies he has worked on with Bloomr.SG and how content from their creators are assimilated across both proprietary platforms and third-party platforms.

Martins specialises in content development, digital marketing, digital business transformation and media development. He now leads Bloomr.SG, a multi-million-dollar revenue-generating social media creative studio that belongs to Mediagroup, Singapore's free-to-air broadcaster.

Bloomr.SG has committed to helping clients maximise their social media presence, creating opportunities for meaningful connections with target audiences.

Through strategic partnerships with YouTube and Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA), Bloomr.SG set up a regular content pipeline with local YouTube content creators as a multi-channel network (MCN). This content is then maximised across different media platforms such as MeWatch.

While the MCN business model was a good starting point, it needed to be adapted "specifically for Singapore, and specifically for the type of business that Mediagroup had as a whole".

The focus was shifted to nurturing creativity and network growth instead of monetising and optimising for top channels.

Content creators have the option of choosing whether they want to be involved in campaigns as well as the ability of monetising their platforms on their own, thus ensuring their independence.

Producing niche content

Mediagroup identified the need to address a younger audience, and decided to work with content creators from the same age group to produce niche content.

They allowed these creators access to their infrastructure and resources, providing mentorship and hosting workshops.

Martins elaborated: "We decided that we needed to start to groom specific content creators for market driven verticals that would then basically inform the future of how we would invest our time, invest our resources, invest our client's campaigns."

Bloomr.SG now works with more than 100 channels, where creators produce "anything that ranges from podcasts. They produce live shows, they produce their own blogs, their own lifestyle videos, they produce comedy, infotainment, anything and everything that can grab an audience".

Types of collaborations include events, sponsorships, product placements, how-tos, vlogs, product reviews, and art.

A vlog, the short form for video blog or video log, is a form of blog for which the medium is video. Vlog entries often combine embedded video with supporting text, images and other metadata (information or data about other data).

According to Martins, Mediagroup initially had a different set of clients from that of the new wave of content creators. They eventually connected and started to work together, monetising content on social platforms, as well as through sponsorships.

Simple content was produced for specific clients, as well as social media web series that were advertised and distributed across Mediagroup's networks.

YouTube content was brought across media platforms. Similarly, Mediagroup DJs and celebrities collaborated with the content creators to produce media content that was then transferred across social platforms.

Grooming the next social media stars

"The thinking is that, by being a part of Bloomr yourself as a content creator and not as someone that's being groomed to be a celebrity through TV shows, you're being groomed to be a social media star and a social media content producer," Martins said.

A dispatch by the World Association of News Publishers. Josephine Tay is a long-serving Singapore-based editor, producer and publisher with a passion for storytelling.

First Maasai woman pastor attracts many to church

By Guardian Reporter and agencies

REVEREND Rebecca Maduley Kurubai, the first ordained Maasai woman pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) Southern Diocese says her calling draws many members of her community to church.

Following her ordination, Kurubai went to work in Iringa before being transferred to Njombe where she is currently based at Kidugala Lutheran Seminary where she is doing doctoral research.

Throughout her ministry, she has continued to dedicate herself to sharing the gospel among her indigenous community, where, she says, people a lot of evangelization is still needed.

In an interview published yesterday by the Lutheran World Federation, Kurubai said her testimony has been drawing many people to the church.

The Maasai mostly inhabit northern part of Tanzania and neighboring Kenya, and many of those residing in rural areas live a traditional, nomadic lifestyle in a fast-changing society.

She finished her studies in 1999 and after her ordination the same year, she was sent to a very new parish in Iringa.

"I had nothing to begin with, no office, nowhere to work and just a few dozen people to help me start up a new congregation. We began by building a new church and many people came to watch, to ask questions about how I, a Maasai woman, was allowed to become a pastor because they know that Maasai people live a different life," she said.

"Many people came to watch and listen to the gospel and in that first year the congregation grew from less than 40 people to around 1,000 members. We began working with them, organizing not just the practical things but also responding to the spiritual needs. We organized prayers with the elders and went house to house, visiting those who had been Christians, maybe for a long time, but they didn't come to church any more. Just as Jesus sent out the 70 disciples, so we went, two by two, knocking on doors to share the gospel with people."

Asked about the main challenge she faces in her work, especially in her community, she pointed out convincing people to abandon prohibitive traditions and practices.



Rev Rebecca Maduley Kurubai of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Photo courtesy of Lutheran World Federation

"Among the Maasai, families in the rural areas live in simple huts (manyattas) just as in Old Testament times, herding cattle, sheep and goats. Men take care of their flocks, and traditionally they needed several wives and many children to help them. But this way of life cannot be sustained as the number of cattle are decreasing and such families are unable to educate or support their children who are then confined to poverty," she said.

Although woman standing before men to deliver a message is not a Maasai thing, traditionally, her efforts are not futile.

"I was invited to one meeting last year with around 200 men, to explain and to answer their questions. Normally women are not allowed to attend such gatherings, but they respect the opinions of those who are in leadership and so I am able to influence them. I have seen how my testimony itself has been drawing many people to Christ."

She said currently, people are more able to understand her message ready to accept her and her fellow women pastors.

Kurubai said when she was first called to serve, it was very difficult. However, with confidence and determination to answer the calling, things are changing for the better.

"It takes a lot of time to sit with people, to eat with them, to listen to them."

She said the gradual evangelization progress being made within the Maasai community is more evident among women.

"A lot of the Maasai women now have their own prayer groups and are able to meet more freely. They used to be intimidated as people did not understand them and feared they were coming to change our culture and identity," she said.

"Previously, I was also president of a pastors' forum bringing together Methodists, Pentecostals and leaders of other denominations to pray for change, for reconciliation. In Arusha, where the Maasais are predominant, there is visible unity among them. They gather together to listen to the word of God. I hope, and I wonder, can I bring this change to my community too?"

The hardest hit by Covid-19 will be slowest in recovery—report

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation mid-week launched its fifth annual

Goalkeepers Report, featuring an updated global dataset illustrating the pandemic's adverse impact on progress toward the United Nations Sustainable De-

velopment Goals (SDGs).

This year's report, co-authored by Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates, co-chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, shows that disparities caused by COVID-19 remain stark, and those who have been hardest hit by the pandemic will be the slowest to recover. Because of COVID-19, an additional 31 mil-

lion people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 compared to 2019. And while 90 per cent of advanced economies will regain pre-pandemic per capita income levels by next year, only a third of low-and middle-income economies are expected to do so.

Fortunately, amidst this devastation, the world stepped up to

avert some of the worst-case scenarios. In last year's Goalkeepers Report, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) predicted a drop of 14 percentage points in global vaccine coverage—effectively erasing 25 years of progress in 25 weeks.

New analysis from IHME demonstrates that the decline, while still unacceptable, was only half

of what was anticipated.

In the report, the co-chairs highlight the "breathtaking innovation" that was only possible because of global collaboration, commitment, and investments over decades. They acknowledge that averting the worst-case scenarios is commendable, yet they note it's not enough. To ensure a truly equitable

recovery from the pandemic, they call for long-term investments in health and economies—like the ones that led to the rapid development of the COVID-19 vaccine—to propel recovery efforts and get the world back on track to meet the Global Goals.

"[The past year] has reinforced our belief that progress is possible but not inevitable," write the co-chairs. "If we can expand upon the best of what we've seen these past 18 months, we can finally put the pandemic behind us and once again accelerate progress in addressing fundamental issues like health, hunger, and climate change."

The report highlights the disproportionate economic impact that the pandemic has had on women globally. In high- and low-income countries alike, women have been harder hit than men by the global recession that was triggered by the pandemic.

"Women face structural barriers in every corner of the world, leaving them more vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic," said Melinda French Gates. "By investing in women now and addressing these inequities, governments can spur a more equitable recovery while strengthening their economies against future crises. It's not just the right thing to do—but smart policy that will benefit everyone."

The report also illustrates how the so-called "miracle" of COVID-19 vaccines was the result of decades of investment, policies, and partnerships that established the infrastructure, talent, and ecosystems

necessary to deploy them quickly. However, the systems that allowed for the unprecedented development and deployment of the COVID-19 vaccine exist primarily in wealthy countries, and as a result, the world has not benefited equally.

"The lack of equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines is a public health tragedy," said Bill Gates. "We face the very real risk that in the future, wealthy countries and communities will begin treating COVID-19 as

yet another disease of poverty. We can't put the pandemic behind us until everyone, regardless of where they live,

has access to vaccines."

More than 80% of all COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries to date, with some securing two to three times the number needed so they can cover boosters; less than 1% of doses have been administered in low-income countries. Further, COVID-19 vaccine access has been strongly correlated with the locations where there is vaccine R&D and manufacturing capability. Though Africa is home to 17% of the world's population, for example, it has less than 1% of the world's vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

Ultimately, the report calls for the world to invest in R&D, infrastructure, and innovation in places closer to the people who stand to benefit.

"We must invest in local partners to strengthen the capacity of researchers and manufacturers in lower-income countries to create the vaccines and medicines they need," said Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman. "The only way we will solve our greatest health challenges is by drawing on the innovation and talent of people all over the world."

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Mark Suzman, under the direction of Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates.

Goalkeepers is the foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). By sharing stories and data behind the Global Goals through an annual report, we hope to inspire a new generation of leaders—Goalkeepers who raise awareness of progress, hold their leaders accountable, and drive action to achieve the Global Goals.

On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, 193 world leaders committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Global Goals). These are a series of ambitious objectives and targets to achieve three extraordinary things by 2030: end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change.



China goes full steam ahead on international anti-Covid cooperation

By Wang Xiaobo

AS the COVID-19 pandemic is still wreaking havoc in the world, China, upholding the idea of building a community of common health for mankind, has gone all out to help other developing countries to combat the virus.

It has vigorously pushed ahead with international cooperation on COVID-19 vaccines and made contributions to winning a victory over the disease by promoting the equitable distribution of vaccines around the world, providing other developing countries with vaccines and other urgently needed medical supplies, and encouraging Chinese vaccine developers to build overseas factories for production.

To date, China has provided more than one billion doses of finished and bulk COVID-19 vaccines for over 100 countries and international organizations, and will strive to provide a total of two billion doses throughout this year.

"I would like to take this opportunity to announce that on top of the US\$100 million donation to COVAX, China will donate an additional 100 million doses of vaccines to fellow developing countries within this year," said Chinese President Xi Jinping while addressing the 13th BRICS Summit via video link on Sept. 9.

China has actively supported and participated in COVAX in a bid to make COVID-19 vaccines more accessible and affordable in developing countries.

During the first half of the year, vaccines developed by Chinese companies Sinopharm and Sinovac Biotech were validated by the WHO for emergency use. Soon, the two companies took action to safeguard production and had consultations with the Gavi on vaccine supply. In July, their products were included in the COVAX Facility portfolio.

According to relevant purchase agreements, the two Chinese companies will provide 110 million doses for COVAX by the end of October, and the latter will determine the specific distribution plan after taking into full consideration the purchase intentions of countries. In the meantime, they have agreed to supply vaccines to COVAX in the years to come and are in discussions with the latter for the specific time and plan of future supply.

The first batch of around nine million doses provided by Sinopharm were delivered to Pakistan and Bangladesh in early August. At the end of last month, the first batch of nearly 570,000 doses of inactivated vaccines provided by Sinovac Biotech for COVAX arrived in Algiers, capital of Algeria.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has provided member states of the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN) with more than 190 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, along with other anti-epidemic supplies.

The two sides have launched the China-ASEAN Public Health Cooperation Initiative and continued to improve the "China-ASEAN vaccine friends" platform to promote policy communication and information sharing on vaccines.

In the face of the COVID-19 outbreaks, China has been an important comrade-in-arms of ASEAN in establishing an immunity defense line, according to Chea Munyryth, president of the Cambodian Chinese Evolution Researcher Association.

Ecuadorian President Guillermo Lasso recently thanked the international community, especially China, for helping the country achieve its first-stage vaccination plan.

"We must especially thank China, its president, the government and the Chinese people, who understood our urgency and provided us with over 65 percent of the vaccines that we applied in the first phase of our vaccination plan," he said during a celebration marking the milestone on Sept. 9.

China's COVID-19 vaccines, whose safety is guaranteed, are the most accessible ones among all vaccines to developing countries, noted Esteban Ortiz, a public health expert at the University of the Americas of Ecuador.

On Sept. 2, another batch of anti-epidemic supplies donated by China to Iraq arrived in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad, before which the country had received three batches of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government.

From helping Iraq build laboratories for testing COVID-19 to donating vaccines, China's assistance has played an important role in the efforts of Iraq to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and the newly arrived anti-epidemic supplies from China will help, support and enhance measures taken to confront the pandemic in Iraq, said Ali al-Baldawi, director-general of the Iraqi State Company for Marketing Drugs and Medical



COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government to the Republic of the Congo arrive in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo, March 10, 2021. File photo

Appliances.

Besides providing finished vaccines for foreign countries, China has also promoted localized production of COVID-19 vaccines overseas, trying to ensure the accessibility and affordability of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries.

So far, Chinese vaccine enterprises have carried out cooperation with foreign partners in producing vaccines in many countries, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Indonesia.

On Sept. 9, the first factory producing vaccines developed by China in Europe was inaugurated in Belgrade, capital of Serbia. The factory will start producing COVID-19 vaccine developed by Sinopharm next April, according to a statement published by the office of Serbian Presi-

dent Aleksandar Vucic.

Besides satisfying the needs of Serbia, the factory will also supply vaccines to other countries in the Balkan Peninsula and other regions in Europe, said the statement.

Chinese COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and play an important role in Uzbekistan's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, said Behzod Musaeu, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Development of Uzbekistan, at a seminar on COVID-19 vaccination on Sept. 7.

Statistics from the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan show that most of the COVID-19 vaccines administered in the country at present are recombinant protein COVID-19 vaccine developed by China.

During a recent inspection tour of a

local factory producing COVID-19 vaccines developed by China, Egyptian Health Minister Hala Zayed told reporters that the annual production capacity of the production lines was 200 million doses and could already meet Egypt's demand for vaccines.

The WHO welcomes the cooperation between China and Egypt in producing COVID-19 vaccines in Egypt, according to Dr. Naeema Al Gasseer, WHO Representative in Egypt. "The cooperation between Egypt and China is a successful model for international cooperation and transfer of global expertise," said the WHO representative in a statement. **People's Daily**

Ghanaian man with disability blazing trails in shoemaking

ACCRA

IN a country where people with disabilities mostly tend to beg for alms on the streets to survive, Joseph Odey Mensah changed the narrative to become an entrepreneur and determined to make a huge mark in Ghana's local shoemaking industry.

With his company, the Hope for Disabled Leather Works, located at Teshie in Accra, the capital of Ghana, Odey Mensah established his shoemaking business and single-handedly makes Birkenstock sandals, student sandals, and casual leather slippers for men and women.

Paralyzed in the legs since he was three, the now 59-year-old told Xinhua that he established the company 37 years ago after dropping out of school and undergoing training at the Accra Rehabilitation Center in 1982.

"I never wanted to become a burden to my family and society at large, so I decided to train and become an entrepreneur instead of begging on the streets like many of my fellow disabled persons do," said Odey Mensah.

"I believe in being self-reliant and needed to set examples to other disabled persons to work hard and earn a decent living instead of relying on other people for survival."

The father of five takes good care of his family through his shoemaking business and working hard to



Joseph Odey Mensah makes shoes at his workshop in Accra, Ghana, on Sept. 13, 2021. In a country where people with disabilities mostly tend to beg for alms on the streets to survive, Joseph Odey Mensah changed the narrative to become an entrepreneur and determined to make a huge mark in Ghana's local shoemaking industry. (Xinhua/Seth)

expand the trade across the capital and beyond.

"Everyone was created with potentials and there is always dignity in laboring to cater for one's self rather than stooping so low to beg on the streets," said the man.

"I make as much as five sandals every day and able to make a decent amount each day to take care of my children's education, the family's upkeep as well as other disabled persons whom I assist occasionally."

The country required everyone to contribute their quota to national development, and setting up his business was part of efforts to foster growth especially within the private sector, he said.

The business was not without challenges for Odey Mensah as he needed adequate financial and logistical support to expand and employ other persons to earn a decent living.

"I have over 80 persons under the 'Hope for Disabled Persons Foundation' and intend to employ them to avoid endangering their lives on the streets," said Odey Mensah, urging the government to make available the 3 percent allocated to disabled persons in the District Assembly

Common Fund to help start-ups like his company grow to employ more persons.

"The allocation is a laudable idea but in reality, we do not receive the funds and also struggling to get government's auction cars through the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to help distribute the slippers across the country," said Odey Mensah. "With the right support, I could get more raw materials to produce in large quantities and distribute across the country instead of relying solely on my small showroom which is outside the capital."

He also called on the public to desist from denying disabled people jobs and consider them as assets to society while calling on persons with disabilities to stop begging on the streets as it could put their lives in danger.

"Parents must also not abandon their disabled children but support them to reach their full potentials," he added.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xingyang city in China's Henan Province.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Youth and students across Africa take action for girls' education through campaign by UNESCO

By Special Correspondent

"I want to study to be a doctor because I want to save lives", says Suzan, a secondary school student aged 16 from Kamuli in Uganda. But after becoming pregnant, Suzan was at risk of dropping out of school, and not realizing her dream of becoming a doctor.

During the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda, early marriages and adolescent pregnancies were heightened in different parts of the country.

The Uganda Child Helpline, also known as the Sauti (a government service for reporting, tracking, responding and referring child abuse cases), reported 800 cases of sexual abuses between January and May 2020, including increases in adolescent pregnancy.

According to the district health officer in charge of maternal and child health, over 3,100 adolescent pregnancies were registered in Kamuli between August 2020 and January 2021.

Youth acting for girls' education

Global Education Coalition member, the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), together with its partner the 100 Million campaign and in coordination with local authorities, joined forces to expand UNESCO's Keeping girls in the picture campaign across 29 African countries with the aim to ensure that pregnant girls continue learning, return

to school when possible and are able to fulfill their potential.

Many parents and community members believe education stops for pregnant girls, who are often forced to drop out of school and married off immediately. According to AASU, very few young mothers resume school after childbirth due to stigma, while some schools may not accept to re-enroll pregnant girls even after the Uganda National Examination Body allowed pregnant girls in their final year to register and sit for their final exams.

'Across the continent, young people are taking initiatives that have long-lasting impact on their respective communities', says Claudia Quartey, Gender Desk Officer at AASU.

Youth activists and students were engaged in their respective countries, serving as country coordinators for the campaign and committing to hold African governments and decision-makers accountable to provide equal access to education for every girl. A comprehensive training took place to build the capacity of country coordinators on topics such as gender discrimination, community action and local advocacy.

Meet country coordinator Lynda Eunice Makable

'I wanted to amplify the voices of girls whose education had been put on hold and fight for their equal right to education', says Lynda, a youth activist aged 26 from Suzan's



district.

Lynda was inspired to join the campaign as a country coordinator because of her own experiences growing up and fighting for her education. 'My father refused to pay my school fees at age 16 and my mother had to find means of ensuring I continue learning', says Lynda. 'He however continued paying school fees for some of my brothers which was unfair. I always felt I deserved to be in school just like my brothers.'

She and her campaign team provided Suzan with school fees, mentoring to stay in and complete her schooling and psycho-social counselling to help Suzan with her emotional and health needs during her pregnancy. Lynda also sensitized Suzan's parents as well as her teachers on the importance of girls' education, and stressed the need for Suzan and other girls in a similar situation to continue their education.

Through her engagement in the campaign efforts, Lynda found the opportunity and the platform to help change mindsets around girls' education in her community. 'I've noticed tremendous change in the attitudes of cultural, religious and local leaders, teachers, parents and girls about girls' education', she says.

'Seeing how involved and dedicated the different

stakeholders are in championing the right to education for girls in their different spaces, gives me hope for a better future for girls in Uganda.'

Closing in on her dream

'The role of parents in promoting girls' education is phenomenal', says Lynda. Suzan found the counselling she and her parents received, and her parents' engagement and support vital during her pregnancy. Her parents accepted to send her back to school, and this gave Suzan the confidence to focus on and continue her schooling.

Following Lynda's intervention, Suzan registered and sat for her final exams a month after childbirth. She hopes this will help her realize her dream of becoming a doctor and she looks forward to graduating to her next level of education.

While she waits for her exam results, Suzan has been speaking to girls in her community about her experience and the challenges and stigma that come with being a young mother. She hopes to inspire them to focus on their studies and stay in school. She often holds these peer conversations at her parents' house.

The Keeping girls in the picture campaign organized

through AASU played a determining role in disseminating information on the importance of girls' education in schools and in communities, and getting many girls back into schools. Lynda and other country coordinators have been relentless in their work to ensure girls' continuity of learning and return to school - often working in challenging contexts and amid a persistent pandemic. Their actions demonstrate youth's power to affect change.

'It is important that state and non-state actors as well as international development partners take a cue from inspiring stories like that of Lynda and Suzan', says Peter Kwasi Kodjie, Secretary General at AASU. 'We must include students and youth activists in developing and implementing local solutions for pervasive social challenges.'

UN launches online portal to bring in African countries with data and evidence on SDGs

ADDIS ABABA

MEASURING and evaluating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa became much easier as a group of regional UN entities launched the first online data portal that brings together statistical data harvested across all countries on the continent.

Today, 17 regional UN entities, under the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP), unveiled the Africa UN Data for Development Platform. This is the first platform to serve as a one-stop-shop repository that captures high-quality data and evidence on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs from

all the African countries. It is also the first of its kind to raise the profile of statistical progress toward the African Union vision - Agenda 2063.

'With barely nine years left to achieve the SDGs, making use of common and harmonized data is essential to accelerate progress. The launch of this new platform marks a milestone in actions towards the Agenda 2030 and the African Union 2063 Agenda. Reliable and collective data will allow all actors to make the best possible evidence-based policy action to accelerate the SDGs, strengthen collaboration, avoid unnecessary duplication and make sure that we can address gaps, really

leaving no one behind,' said Assistant Secretary-General Ahunna Eziakonwa, Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa at the UN Development Programme, who also serves as Vice-Chair of the Africa RCP, at the virtual launch event.

The new data portal looks into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and breaks them down into their 169 targets and 231 indicators, allowing everyone to track progress at the granular level. It is open to all users, including policymakers, planners, programme managers, development partners, private sector organizations, civil society groups, academic institutions, researchers,

students, media outlets and many others.

According to the statisticians at the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), among the 169 targets set out in the SDGs, only 30 percent of them are quantifiable. For the rest of the unquantifiable targets, the online platform goes ahead to propose target values by using a pragmatic and ambitious approach. It identifies the region's outstanding countries and sets their average rate of change as the region's target rate.

'Presenting comprehensive, practical data sets will especially help us, government civil servants, to monitor progress, make sound

decisions, and evaluate outcomes and impacts. This data platform is a long-awaited online tool for us to carry out in-depth analyses and progress assessments at the target and indicator levels, and link them with our national development plans,' said Dr. Saulos Chilima, Vice President of Malawi.

The new data engine also gives users the ability to classify the statistics by various dimensions, such as the eight regional economic communities recognized by the African Union, least developed countries, landlocked developing nations, and oil-producing, mineral-rich states. Additionally, it repackages the data by key

thematic issues. For example, users can categorize SDG indicators by agriculture, energy and health, allowing them to not only analyze the specific progress at the country level but also examine the convergence, similarities and differences among a variety of sub-regional blocs and topics.

'Africa is a continent with great potential and clear aspirations as articulated in the Africa Union's Agenda 2063.

The transformation requires quality, timely and disaggregated data to guide targeted investments and ensure that the desired returns in its human capital development, environmen-

tal sustainability, economic transformation and prosperity for all,' stated Oliver Chinganya, Director of the ECA Africa Centre for Statistics.

Building on the existing infrastructure developed by ECA, the Africa UN data portal consolidates statistics from platforms and technological tools available at UN entities.

Without reinventing the wheel, the UN regional group, also known as Opportunity/Issue-based Coalition (OIBC) 1, came up with a new way of bringing data to users, strengthening the 'whole-of-UN' approach to provide one common space where everyone can easily find critical evidence.

£8.6m funding to assess life-saving malaria prevention for children under two in Africa

By Special Correspondent

RESEARCHERS from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) have been awarded over £8.6m to maximise the effectiveness of an intervention to prevent malaria in infants.

This is part of a £25m funding package from Unitaid for the 'Intermittent Preventive Treatment in infants - Plus' (IPTi+) project. The initiative led by Population Services International (PSI) in partnership with LSHTM, working in collaboration with the Ministries of Health in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mozambique.

IPTi+ targets a crucial population. Children under the age of five years are among the most vulnerable to malaria, accounting for nearly 70% of the estimated 409,000 malaria deaths globally in 2019. More than half of these deaths (54%) are estimated to have occurred in children below two years of age.

Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in infants (IPTi) using the combination anti-malaria medication sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP) is a safe, affordable, and effective intervention shown to reduce rates of malaria and anemia in children under one year of age by 30% and 21% respectively. The World Health Organization (WHO)

recommended IPTi for use in 2010, yet the intervention has only been implemented in Sierra Leone to date, and has not been widely adopted in Africa.

The IPTi+ project will facilitate a country-led process with each country's Ministry of Health to co-design IPTi+ models specific to each setting. The four implementation countries - Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mozambique - represent diverse health systems and differ in the level of malaria transmission and in the implementation of other malaria interventions. The overall aim is to reach more children, more frequently, in the first years of life to reduce malaria in young children and infants and save lives.

This funding will allow LSHTM to generate evidence to inform country and global-level adoption and scale-up of IPTi+, evaluating the impact, process, and cost-effectiveness. This research will be carried out by LSHTM, working in partnership with PSI, Ministries of Health and local organisations.

Professor Sian Clarke, project lead for LSHTM, said: 'IPTi is an underutilised strategy that has been shown to save lives, and we believe there is also scope to improve on this strategy to increase its impact. We look forward to working closely



with the Ministry of Health in each of the four countries involved to assess the benefits of increasing the frequency of treatment doses and expanding the age eligibility, to protect children for the first two years of their life.'

Professor Colin Sutherland from LSHTM, said: 'As the main partner in the IPTi+ project, LSHTM will make significant contributions to all aspects of the planned work and its evaluation. A key focus will be on working closely with local researchers to measure the prevalence of drug-resistant parasites in all four implementation countries, and map that against impact measures for IPTi+ in each setting. Additional IPTi+ suitability assessments will be carried out in the region, and we are

currently in discussion with partners in other African countries.'

Dr Dorothy Fosah Achu, Permanent Secretary, National Malaria Control Program, the Ministry of Health - Cameroon, said: 'In the past five years, annually, there have been approximately 4 million malaria cases and 400,000 hospital admissions for malaria in children under 5 years in Cameroon.'

To address this, we hope that introducing IPTi+, in addition to the use of LLINs, will enable us to further reduce the malaria incidence and hospital admissions contributing to healthier and happier families.

The NMCP is excited to work with the IPTi+ Project

and two renowned public health institutions, PSI and LSHTM, to introduce and increase access to IPTi+ and ensure accurate monitoring and evaluation of IPTi+ in Cameroon.'

Dr Philippe Duneton, Executive Director of Unitaid, said: 'We cannot afford to leave any effective tool unused in our fight against malaria, or we will see our hard-won progress slip away. Unitaid is pleased to announce this major effort to reach hundreds of thousands of young children with IPTi+ - a highly effective but greatly under-utilized intervention for malaria prevention. This latest investment rounds out Unitaid's work to innovate on all the current antimalarial interventions and improve access we can reignite the fight against malaria and drive down the burden of disease.'

Karl Hoffman, President and CEO of PSI, said: 'PSI is proud to be working with the Ministries of Health in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Mozambique, as well as county-level and global malaria partners, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to accelerate adoption and scale-up of IPTi+. PSI and our partners will engage and convene communities and stakeholders to co-design country-specific IPTi+ models that overcome known barriers to uptake; shape mixed health systems to bring IPTi+ closer to Sara, PSI's archetypal consumer, and her family; and generate evidence on the impact of IPTi+.'

Iconic wildebeest migration suffers disruptions amid climate change

NAIROBI

THE sight of brown grass-land that greets visitors to the well-known Maasai Mara game reserve in southwestern Kenya reaffirms a growing consensus that dry spells have taken a toll on the pristine haven for iconic wildlife species.

Often regarded as Kenya's jewel thanks to its lush vegetation, idyllic setting and presence of iconic land mammals like elephants and rhinos, the Mara is slowly losing its luster amid climate change induced recurrent droughts.

Thanks to depressed rains this year, the normally tall green grass at the Mara has withered, exposing the ground to harsh elements while pushing a huge population of herbivores to the brink of starvation.

In addition, water levels in the Mara River have sunk to historic lows as delayed and suppressed rains became the norm this year in Kenya, with experts blaming global warming for the change.

The great wildebeest migration from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park to the Mara has suffered some disruptions due to harsh weather conditions.

Dubbed the "eighth wonder of the world," the wildebeests' great trek that culminates in their spectacular jump to cross the Mara River, has lately encountered hiccups, worrying Kenyan officials and conservationists.

Najib Balala, the cabinet secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, admitted that climate change impacts like delayed rains have altered the calendar for the great wildebeest migration.

"We can see clearly there is more rain in Tanzania now than

in Kenya. So, the wildebeests are now stuck in Tanzania because of climate change.

"This same scenario happened 20 years ago," Balala said during a recent interview with Xinhua. He clarified that migration of wildebeests from Serengeti to the Mara has often taken place from mid-July to October, adding that in the event there are ample rains in Kenya, they can begin arriving in mid-June.

Kenya has leveraged the great wildebeest migration to raise the country's visibility as a prime destination for international tourists keen to sample its abundant wildlife heritage, said Balala, noting that migration of wildebeests in the middle of 2020 injected vitality into the tourism sector after months of downturn, as travellers trooped to Maasai Mara game reserve to watch the iconic herbivores.

Kenya's wildlife scientists said this year's edition of the great wildebeest migration has delayed significantly citing drier than usual weather conditions in the country. Patrick Omondi, director of Wildlife Research and Training Institute, said that climate change induced droughts in both Kenya and Tanzania have affected migration timelines and the size of the herd.

He said the seasonal movement of herbivores from Serengeti to the Mara is driven by search for fodder and water besides an ideal environment to breed.

"They normally migrate from Serengeti immediately after the long rains season in Kenya at around May when pasture is blooming in the Mara," said Omondi.

"But with failed rains most of the year, we have witnessed very few



Photo taken on Aug. 30, 2021 shows wildebeests at Maasai Mara National Reserve in southwestern Kenya. (Xinhua/Long Lei)

wildebeests migrating to the Mara. Their migration cannot be guaranteed in the event of dry weather and lack of pasture on the Kenyan side."

Nancy Githaiga, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) Kenya Country director, said that an estimated 1.2 million wildebeests often migrate from Serengeti to the Mara, adding that the event is key to Kenya's tourism recovery.

Githaiga said that climate change and habitats depletion have al-

tered the herbivores' migration dynamics. Her sentiments were shared by Shadrack Ngene, head of Wildlife Population and Habitat Dynamics at Wildlife Research and Training Institute, who said that this year's wildebeest migration has been muted due to a prolonged dry spell around the Mara ecosystem.

According to Ngene, the possibility of massive herd of wildebeests' migration from Serengeti to the Mara seems remote as sufficient

rains that could allow pasture to flourish elude the ecosystem that straddles Kenya-Tanzania border. He said that in the absence of robust climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, the future outlook for the Mara ecosystem looks dire, to the detriment of wildebeests migration and Kenya's tourism sector.

Kenya's expansive southwestern plains where the Mara is situated have suffered harsh climatic conditions since the beginning of

the year, thereby taking a toll on pastoralism, subsistence farming and wildlife conservation. Bernard Chanzu, deputy director of Department of Meteorological Services, said the Mara ecosystem experienced depressed rains from March to May and dry cold weather from June to August, leading to withering of vegetation.

"The drought situation that has been reported in southwestern sector including the Mara is expected to escalate, leading to lack of pasture that might worsen human-wildlife conflicts," said Chanzu.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta last week declared drought, which has affected an estimated 1.2 million citizens in arid and semi-arid lands, a national disaster.

WWF Kenya Mau Mara Loita Sub Landscape Coordinator Samson Lenjirr admitted that competition for pasture and water, amid climate induced droughts, has fuelled clashes between wildlife and nomads at the Mara ecosystem.

"Yes it is true we have had several incidents of human wildlife conflicts as a result of climate change, as wildlife trespass on human settlements and farms in search of pasture and water," said Lenjirr.

"In the last one month, we had two incidents of human-wildlife conflict. But those incidents have now declined compared to previous years."

He added that strategic interventions like encouraging nomadic communities to appreciate the value of wildlife, securing migratory corridors and construction of predator proof homes, have been rolled out in the Mara ecosystem to reduce human-wildlife clashes.

By Telesphor Magobe

THE other week we said that, according to the Evidence Act (as amended until 2019), hearsay or derivative evidence is inadmissible in court for it is not direct oral evidence.

The conclusion we made was that hearsay evidence lacks probative value and, as a general rule, it cannot be relied on in criminal trial or in litigation where direct oral evidence is required.

In criminal proceedings, the prosecution bears the burden of proving beyond reasonable doubt the ill-intention and the commission of a criminal offence a person is charged with.

In civil proceedings, on the other hand, the claimant or complainant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence (sufficient evidence) the commission of a civil wrong if a person wants the court to rule in his or her favour against the defendant.

Today, we invite you to look at the exceptions of the hearsay evidence rule in Tanzania.

These are statements, whether written, electronic or oral, of relevant facts of persons who, by vir-

Exceptions on hearsay evidence rule in Tanzania

due of Section 34 of The Evidence Act, cannot be called as witnesses.

There are various circumstances. First, a statement by a person who cannot be called as a witness is admissible if the court finds that it was made in relation to the cause of his death (a dying declaration). Two things are considered in such declarations: whether the declaration was made and whether it was accurately made.

In Hamisi Said Mchana v R [1984], the appellant was indicted on - and convicted of - murder contrary to the Penal Code. The trial judge based the conviction on a dying declaration and corroborative circumstantial evidence.

During appeal the court ruled in favour of the appellant. It held that the dying declaration was made in response to leading questions and was inadmissible. The trial judge's finding of corroborative evidence was also challenged.

The Court of Appeal highlighted three points. One was that the dying declaration was admissible as



the questions the victim was asked were not of such a kind as likely to mislead him to make a false statement.

It was also held that, since the declaration was made while the victim had difficulty in talking, it would be unsafe to base conviction on it without corroboration.

Also, according to the court, the circumstantial evidence in this case lacked the standard required of corroborative circumstantial evidence.

A statement is also admissible if it is made in the ordinary course of

a business because it is assumed to have been made honestly. For instance, an entry in the diary of a businessperson regularly kept in the course of business, stating that on a particular date and place he or she delivered goods to his or regular customer and was fully paid, is admissible.

Thirdly, a statement made against the interests of a person who made it is admissible. The rationale for this is that, in the ordinary course of business, there is no person who can make a statement to the detriment of his or her own interests.

For instance, X is a long-time businessperson. One day he gets up in the morning, has breakfast and goes shopping in town. On his way back home in the afternoon he dies in a road accident.

Police start investigating the cause of the accident and death and, on checking his diary, they find that there is a page on which he has written down the names of his creditors, complete with dates,

locations and the amounts of money he owes them. This is good evidence of a statement made against a person's pecuniary interests.

There is further the case of a statement being admissible if it is an opinion related to a public right or custom - as well as if it is related to the existence of a certain relationship.

An example here could be that of a religious leader's statement that he married X and Y under circumstances where that the marriage would be a crime being admissible.

Additionally, a statement is also admissible if it is related to family affairs. An example of this could be a mother's written statement on the date she underwent a medical test for her first pregnancy and the name of the father of her child on a clinic card.

Also, a statement is admissible if it is related to a transaction creating or asserting a custom - and, again, if it is made by several persons expressing their feelings or im-

pressions on an issue of interest.

An example here could be the remarks of passers-by on a painted caricature on the front wall of the house of a politician about the similarity of the caricature and its libellous character.

A statement would be admissible in each of these circumstances if a person is dead or his or her whereabouts cannot be traced, but there is still truthful information the court can rely on.

This has been the guiding principle over the years. So, the exceptions of the hearsay evidence rule in Tanzania work in circumstances in which a court in its wisdom finds no possibility of getting better evidence than what has been adduced.

Therefore, although hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible, it can be admissible in exceptional circumstances where there is truthful information that can still be deemed to be in the interests of justice.

A legal maxim for the day: "That which is useful is not rendered useless by that which is useless."

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RADIO One RATIBAYA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANI 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MAMBO YA DWANI 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



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Kathryn Bowen, a climate expert at the University of Melbourne.

DOOMS-DAY

Scientists warn of 'immense mental health impact' from climate change

PARIS

Climate change will lead to a mental health crisis as people are forced out of their homes and witness natural disasters, it is feared. But acting to protect green spaces and areas with rich ecosystems can both protect the climate and improve mental health, experts believe.

Extreme weather is expected to become more common because of global warming, with the recent flooding in Germany widely seen as an example. This is likely to cause particularly severe crises in places that are already disadvantaged because of poor infrastructure or inadequate health care.

"We can expect the mental health impacts to be quite immense in communities that are feeling the brunt," said Kathryn Bowen, a climate expert at the University of Melbourne. "It's really, really vital for policymakers to understand that many communities are experiencing shocks one after the other," she said, in analysis published by the International Science Council.

It said that gradual changes in the environment could be distressing for people who feel an emotional attachment to an area. Protecting natural habitats is one of the priorities of the Cop26 climate summit. More dramatic changes such as disasters which force people out of their homes could cause stress and difficulty sleeping.

As Cop26 host, the UK is urging countries to prepare for natural disasters by building storm and flood defences. Developing nations say they need more funds from rich countries. Katie Hayes, a policy analyst at Health Canada, told the ISC that the pandemic had prompted more discussion of mental health during a crisis.

"What we're reading or what we're

experiencing can be very scary," she said. "We often feel so alone in the emotions that we're experiencing. We're normalising this conversation and it's really starting to bring mental health to the forefront."

A survey by US psychologists found in March that more than two thirds of adults felt some degree of "eco-anxiety." This was defined in 2017 as "chronic fear of environmental doom." The initiative Future Earth named the mental health impact of global warming as one of 2020's key insights in climate science.

It said that aid workers could be given more mental health training in order to address the psychological effect of the crisis. This might be necessary because people are forced out of their homes by climate change and find themselves living in shelters.

In addition, protecting what experts call green and blue spaces – including seas and rivers as well as parks and woodlands – could protect mental health as well as wildlife. London's green space was estimated to save £370 million (\$515m) per year in mental health costs even before the pandemic.

During the UK's prolonged lockdowns, the use of parks more than doubled in London as people took up one of the few available options for recreation. The ISC's analysis suggested that the mental health impact of climate change should be built into risk assessments as countries prepare for global warming.

"With the impacts of climate change projected to become more severe, there's a clear need for a proactive approach to improving mental health provision and building resilience in the healthcare system," it said. "With regular reminders in the media of how the climate is changing – and why we should care – we are all potentially at risk of feeling a generalised sense of stress and uncertainty about climate change."

UNITY

Cabo Verde PM calls for 'single African position' at the UN's climate conference

SANTA MARIA

The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, Ulisses Correia e Silva, on Wednesday called for "global answers" to the effects of climate change and a "single African position" at the 26th UN Conference on Climate Change (COP26).

Speaking at the opening of the 9th Conference on Climate Change in Africa, held in the city of Santa Maria, Sal Island, the PM started by pointing out several effects of climate change, especially in the African areas south of the Sahel.

He stressed that the pandemic has shown the serious global impacts of climate change, understanding that they can only be mitigated and reduced with prevention, regulation and global response mechanisms.

"This approach, obviously, does not remove responsibility from each country individually, but rather amplifies the responsibilities, to place them at the level of the planet and of commitments to

future generations," he stressed.

He considered that, for African countries, this conference is an "important step" in the preparation of COP26 that will gather world leaders in Glasgow, Scotland, between 31 October and 12 November.

"We should use the debate in these two days in Santa Maria to prepare elements of a single African position. To constitute a strong, clear and unified voice in Glasgow, because this COP26 will only be a success if Africa is at the centre of the negotiations," he said.

After Scotland, next year it will be Africa's turn to host COP27, which will take place in November 2022 in Egypt. "The success of COP26 will give Africa the necessary impetus to prepare for the next COP," he said. The African continent has an "indispensable role" in global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

ACTIVISM

Chic Mamas seen breaking the cycle of poverty in SA's forgotten communities

DURBAN

We are more likely to associate fashion with opulence and indulgent luxury, but for Abigél Sheridan, it proved the perfect way to give back to forgotten communities.

And what began as at-home fashion exchange parties in hopes to raise some funds towards SA's underprivileged has grown to be so much more via the volunteer-based social enterprise Chic Mamas Do Care.

The NPO uses quality pre-loved clothing to raise funds for educational projects across South Africa, and so far, Chic Mamas has raised more than R8 million rand in the past ten years. "We are a South African volunteer-based social enterprise built on a circular economy, selling and swapping good quality pre-loved clothing in our shops in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. All proceeds go towards educational development projects."

"Building a healthy foundation for learning"

"I always wanted to do something about the limitations of education in impoverished areas, particularly in Early Childhood Development," Sheridan told Parent24. "I wanted to help break the cycle of poverty in SA."

Passionate about Early Childhood Development, Sheridan says that Chic Mamas has been focused on supporting educational projects that teach "school readiness, literacy, numeracy, counselling, art therapy, and pre-school renovation." "We focus on Early Childhood Development because we believe the first seven years



Chic Mamas Do Care founder Abigél Sheridan.

are the most important for building a healthy foundation for learning."

"Immensely grateful"

Sheridan says that support from communities has been "amazing" and believes that the success of Chic Mamas Do Care is due to the "win-win-win" nature of the NPO. "We are very blessed to have nurtured such caring communities around us. Ubuntu is really the basis of our mission... It is a win-win-win: for the environment, for the project beneficiaries and the customer's purse. We are fostering a culture of active citizenship," she told us.

And it has not gone unnoticed. Recently, Sheridan was recognised as a Social Entrepreneur finalist at the 2021 Santam Woman of the Future Awards, an opportunity for which she says she's "immensely grateful."

"It is incredible to have our efforts recognised and appreciated. It further affirms that we're doing something meaningful and impactful. Being a finalist reflects our teamwork, all of our supporters and our caring community," she said.

While there have been many successes, Sheridan says, "the need is overwhelming," and run-

ning the organisation is not without its challenges. "But no matter what, we have to keep going. So many children need our support; we have so much to do. And while this keeps our team motivated and inspired, we work very hard to deliver on our mission."

Above all, Sheridan says she remains motivated because Chic Mamas Do Care has made a "meaningful difference." "Every act of giving creates a ripple effect. It is paid forward and reaches more people as it swells. With this in mind, we wish to work harder and reach further."

CREATIVITY

A brewery for bush tourists

NAIROBI

Checking into my tent at Sayari Camp in northern Serengeti, I found four complimentary beers in unmarked 750ml glass bottles in the fridge. I tried the lightest coloured beer, a blonde ale. It turned out to be my favourite.

Later that evening, over sundowners while watching wildebeest milling about some hundred metres away from the bar, I met Ronald Muzinyia, a Ugandan national and area representative for Wayout, the Scandinavian start-up responsible for setting up East Africa's first solar-powered microbrewery in the bush. "This is our second module, and the first is in Nairobi at a bar called The Kraft in Westlands," he said.

"They are water, soda and beer modules. We make the best water you'll ever find, still or sparkling. It's treated with reverse osmosis which is the top technology in water treatment right now. We also use UV light treatment... anything that survives reverse osmosis won't survive this, making the water safe for drinking."

For companies like Asilia Africa, in charge of Sayari Camp, who have been carbon neutral since 2009, the allure of having their own solar-powered microbrewery is not only reducing waste by eliminating the need for plastic bottles and cans in the camp, but also reducing the transport carbon footprint. "You're bringing the micro-factory to the place itself," adds Mr Muzinyia. "This helps them go green and cut down middlemen, transport and waste." They currently produce three ales and one lager.

"The Indian pale ale has some prominent bitterness because it's very hoppy with a lot of malt. We have the brown ale which as the name suggests, is kind of toffee and caramel in taste with moderate bitterness. The blonde ale has low bitterness and is straw



A pub in the Sayari Camp of northern Serengeti.

flavoured and coloured. For lager, we have European-style Pilsner."

One might wonder, though, if, in the long term, this is more cost-effective than actually bringing in beers and soft drinks to the property. "At Sayari, we are using solar... anyone who can afford solar can have the microbrewery because power is the main thing," says Mr Muzinyia.

"The water is from a borehole, which we treat. You need WiFi the module is part of the internet of things, and we have an app through which we can access it

remotely. I don't even need to be here physically to operate it, and on this particular trip, I've been at the Serengeti for just two weeks." He shows me how it all works. When he is at the camp, he does staff training and maintenance.

If they want to make another brew, after the extracts have been put in, the staff just feed in the recipe and watch the magic happen. The idea is that the camp should do as little as possible, just tap and get beers for their patrons. By being able to brew remotely, Wayout leaves less work for the camp to

do. Sayari Camp started as a traditional mobile camp moving north to south through the Serengeti while following the Great Wildebeest Migration.

But in 2009, they were the first permanent camp to set roots in northern Serengeti. While the industrial-looking micro-factory sits smack in the middle of the bar, it has been disguised to blend in with the rest of the earth tones in the decor, and compliments the wood panel walls and woven rattan light fixtures in the space.

ENTERPRISING

22-year-old student pioneers hydroponic farming in Rwanda

KIGALI

Many students go to university but few think about creating businesses that can even help them afford some basic needs at school.

Marie Aline Iraguha, 22-year-old young female student currently second year African Leadership University, has beaten the odds by founding AliFarms Group Ltd, an agribusiness that focuses on growing fruits and vegetables with the mission of empowering youth through sustainable agriculture.

Currently she is in trials of investing in hydroponic farming technology with fruits and vegetables. Hydroponic farming is a method of growing plants using mineral nutrient solutions, in water, without soil.

"I always wanted to do something I like but at the same time giving back to my community, so I found my passion in agriculture," she said. In 2017, she came up with the idea of hydroponic farming and started to exploit all opportunities that can enable her.

That is why she participated in an international student competition called Hult Prize whose theme was "Harnessing the lives of 1,000,000 people with an innovative idea which can bring impact." "So I was so interested to join the competition and I looked back to see one of the challenges in our society. So due to the fact that the population of Africa is rising day after day, we need food to survive, yet the land of agriculture is reducing because of buildings."

"So I did research and came up with



Marie Aline Iraguha in her hydroponic farm.

hydroponic agriculture which doesn't require soil to grow plants and it uses less space compared to traditional agriculture," she explained. Although she didn't pursue agriculture at school, Iraguha said she used different learning materials from online courses, training, YouTube videos and also talked to some experts in the agriculture sector for help.

"In 2018, I did my first

hydroponic system where we grew lettuce and it was very successful as it was our first prototype for proof of concept. In 2021, I built the second system where we grew Strawberries and the purpose was prior to investment," she said.

So far she has grown lettuce and strawberries adding there are other kinds of crops that can be grown like; tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, watercress,

spinach, celery and some herbs. "We planted 32 lettuce pieces during my trial and harvested 60 Kilogrammes which is two times more than harvested from traditional agriculture," she said.

She said that after trials she is preparing to make hydroponic farming commercial. "First and foremost, a hydroponic system grows nutrient-dense produce in greater quantities. In fact, hydroponic vertical farms can grow about 240 times more than traditional farming methods," she said.

The young entrepreneur has also invested in watermelon farming using traditional farming methods where she employs seven people. She said she started with one hectare and is planning to use 3 hectares in the next season although this has not yet been successful. "All the opportunities will make profit in the future and get financially independent," she said.

Iraguha said hydroponics is turning her life around. "I made strong connections with different people who are experts in agriculture. Above all, I have been attending competitions with focus on the hydroponic system which opened doors for me and also I have been getting prizes from them including both certificates and money," she said.

In 2018, she won 1st place in Hult Prize and 2nd place at

national level. She won 2nd place in competition in line with World Environment Day 2018 at Impact Hub Kigali by World Wildlife Fund (WWF). She also participated in The Fowler Social Global Innovation Challenge 2019 in California San Diego, Youth TVET Competition (Youth Connect) and won 1st place on Province level and also participated in ALU EL Innovate 2021 and won 1st place.

Challenges and advice

According to Iraguha, there are a lot of challenges that affect startups. "One of the challenges today is to get the investment because you can't start a business without funds to finance it. In addition, because in Rwanda we are used to traditional agriculture it's hard to introduce hydroponics to people, they have not yet understood it," she said.

She advises youth that learning won't all come from books and lecturers. "It doesn't matter what you study at school, what matters most is your passion. If you like something, go for it. Everyone who has ever accomplished things in life has had many failures along the way. The key is how you learn from the failure to keep moving forward," she said. People think that agriculture is for people who didn't go to school but that is a lie, there is a lot of potential in agriculture, she added.

INNOVATION

Woolworth brings about new skincare brand in bid to bolster trade

JOHANNESBURG

Retailer Woolworths has just introduced professional skincare brand Dermologica to its stable, this as it tries to boost sales in its fashion, beauty, and home division which has consistently underperformed over the past several years.

Dermologica typically operates standalone stores in South Africa and is commonly stocked by the Sorbet group of salons. Although available only online, Woolworths customers will now be able to access Dermologica's skincare services, such as the face mapping tool that provides skin analyses and expert advice for consumers.

The move is in line with its plans to drive growth specifically in its beauty offering, where it has ambitions to be a destination for shoppers' beauty needs. In its attempts to bolster sales and cultivate growth in the fashion, beauty, and home unit, the retailer has gradually added third-party brands to its product offering.

Over the past five years, Woolworths has not been able to grow sales in this division beyond 4%, and in its financial year to end June 2021, turnover grew only a meager 3.5% to R12.8 billion. Its apparel offering has primarily been to blame for the underperformance; excluding fashion, beauty and home increased 18% on average during the period.

Last month, during its results presentation, CEO Roy Bagattini unveiled the retailer's reviewed strategy citing Woolworths' plans to bring in more international guest brands. At the same time, it is streamlining its private-label offering. "While turning around our fashion business is clearly critical to protecting our core, the growth in beauty and home provides us with the opportunity to expand more," Roy Bagattini said.

"We are building our beauty business as a destination category, and we're doing this through extending our offering to more doors, adding new brands, some of which are going to be exclusive to us, and growing our online business," he said.

In May, the retailer also introduced virtual beauty consultation and virtual try-on services where customers can trial make-up products from their phones and conclude their purchase online. Bagattini, who departed from Levi's Americas to join the retailer at its helm almost 19 months ago, has also introduced global guest brands such as Levi's itself and Sunglass Hut.

OBITUARY

Final trip for tout who built matatu empire

NAIROBI

Unknown to many Mr Muchai who passed on Tuesday, is one of the founders of perhaps one of the most successful and well-organised transport service providers in the chaotic matatu industry in Kenya. He was the vice-chairman of the company.

Molo Line Services is probably one of the most popular brands that have dominated the industry shuttling between Nairobi, Nakuru, Kisumu, Eldoret, and Nyahururu. It has transformed the sector forcing competitors to benchmark with it and use the name Molo in their brands to woo clients.

Mr Muchai is described by many as a transformative, humble man who never discriminated against anybody he interacted with. He was also classless, unlike his rich peers who rarely mingle with the poor. While his rich peers frequented top hotels in Nakuru and Nairobi, he patronised the dingy eateries in backstreets, mingling with ordinary Kenyans and cracking jokes as they shared meals.

His journey as the founder of Molo Line Services is one of commitment, perseverance, and hard work that has seen the company formed in 1994 in the dusty Elburgon township play a key role in bringing order in the industry and changing the attitude of commuters and other stakeholders.

His mobilisation skills were top-notch



Kibira Muchai, a businessman in Elburgon, Kenya's Nakuru County.

and he is credited with being the brains behind the formation of the company after he brought together top businessmen from Molo and Elburgon to form the company. The company fleet previously was starting its trips from Elburgon to Nairobi before opening branches in Nakuru, Nairobi, Eldoret, and Kisumu.

To his close friends, he was a

generous man and one of the most philanthropic businessmen in the industry, perhaps because he was a tout before he rose from grass to riches. He contributed generously towards education of poor and needy students regardless of their ethnic backgrounds. Elburgon is a multi-ethnic township.

Whenever residents were hit by

misfortunes like fires, accidents, and deaths he was on the front-line to assist the victims and the bereaved. His home in Arimi in Elburgon was like a politician's private office as many residents lined up to get financial assistance.

The former alumni of Elburgon Harambee Secondary School also extended his philanthropic gesture to those who sought his assistance in Nakuru town and Nairobi. "He was a jovial man and down to earth with a big heart. He mentored many in the matatu industry and remained approachable just like the way he was when he was a tout, even after acquiring a lot of wealth. He stayed and continued to mingle with the tous despite changing his class status," said Raphael Munge, one of his closest friends.

Mr Muchai is a former civic leader in Elburgon after he was elected on a Ford Asili ticket in 1992 while he was a tout prompting the late President Daniel arap Moi in a political rally to issue one of his most infamous statements that he was shocked the residents of Elburgon dared to elect a manamba (tout) as their leader.

But Mr Muchai was not cowed by the statement and he went on to make history as the first-ever tout to become a civic leader in the rainbow county. However, his attempt to vie for the Molo Constituency parliamentary seat in 2002 flopped when he lost in the primaries. Mr Muchai believed in helping to uplift people from the yoke of poverty and making friends across the political divide.

This was evident during the infamous 1992 tribal clashes in Molo and Elburgon which left a trail of destruction and bloodshed. "He used his own money to crisscross the war-torn zone to preach peace and was instrumental in bringing the displaced people from all the affected communities together," said Mr Munge.

His neighbour Gichuki Kariuki who served as the medical officer of health for the then Nakuru District describes Mr Muchai as a unique person with exceptional leadership qualities. "I was his doctor and I can attest he lived a simple life mingling with the higher and mighty," said Dr Kariuki who is also the county executive committee member in charge of the health docket.

RELIEF

Alcohol industry cautiously optimistic as sales restrictions ease

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's beer and liquor industry associations have welcomed the easing of lockdown restrictions as a result of the move to Adjusted Alert Level 2, effective from today, 13 September.

The Beer Association of South Africa (Basa) commented that easing of restrictions will provide some reprieve to those businesses that have survived the four alcohol bans, which forced the industry to shut down for 161 days since March last year putting just over 240 000 jobs at risk.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on Sunday evening that the hours of curfew will now start at 11pm and end at

4am, and on-consumption alcohol sales will be allowed 7 days a week until 10pm, while off-consumption sales are permitted from Monday to Friday between 10am and 6pm.

The number of people at gatherings has increased to 250 indoor and 500 outdoor, which the South African Liquor Brandowners Association (Salba) described as a positive step to support the recovery of bars, restaurants and tavern businesses. Salba added however that it remains concerned about the continued prohibition of off-consumption sales on Saturday and Sunday as the government has "failed to justify this decision."

Salba chairperson Sibani

Mngadi said, "We have approached the Ministerial Advisory Council and government representatives at Nedlac. None of them has been able to provide any justification for this or some scientific evidence to support the decision."

The association said the restrictions had only encouraged the illicit alcohol industry and further damaged the legitimate enterprises struggling under the weight of these irrational measures. It had also damaged the supply chain.

"The recent unemployment figures released by StatsSA that South Africa has 15 million unemployed people who cannot be ignored. It is an accumulation

of unfortunate decisions to shutdown economic activities over that past year, including four total bans of alcohol sales," said Mngadi.

Call for consultation

Basa commented that with a Covid-19 fourth wave expected to hit at the beginning of December, any recovery seen in the sector will be eradicated should another ban be enforced by government over the festive season. "With this period also being the busiest time for liquor outlets and establishments, another alcohol ban will no doubt be the final nail in the coffin for thousands of businesses and the jobs they support," the association said.

Basa, therefore, continues to

call for proper consultation by government before considering any new regulations to stop the spread of Covid-19 over the coming months. "Our industry, and the over 450,000 livelihoods it supports, can simply not afford the president announcing another immediate ban on the legal trade of alcohol without any prior warning or an opportunity to properly engage with government," it said.

Improving vaccine uptake
The alcohol industry reiterated its support for public education and awareness efforts to encourage vaccination and encourage behaviours that prevent infections, such as social distancing, wearing masks, and regular use of sanitisers.



Salba chairperson, Sibani Mngadi.

INCLUSIVENESS

India's adaptive fashion brands offering 'dignity and choice' to disabled shoppers



Sid, who is autistic, wears a tactile magnetic shirt-kurta.

NEW DELHI

A few years ago, leaving the house to meet anyone filled Soumita Basu with dread. "I had nothing to wear, nothing that represented me," says Basu, who lives in Kolkata, India.

Since she was diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis - a painful autoimmune disorder that makes movement difficult and resulted in her using a wheelchair - about nine years ago, Basu had been dressing in oversized clothes.

The easy-to-slip-into attire that made dressing easy wasn't necessarily flattering, however. "I didn't feel happy in those clothes and wanted to change that," she said. Unable to find outfits that were both comfortable and appealing, Basu founded her own adaptive fashion brand, Zyenika, in early 2020 to serve people with disabilities as well as the elderly.

Zyenika's inclusive clothing includes wraparound saris

that can be worn lying down, tops that open up from the armpits for people with limited shoulder and arm movement, and kneepads in trousers for people who crawl. "I built my brand to rebel against loose clothes that keep falling off the shoulder," Basu says.

Unfortunately, inclusive design is an exception rather than a rule in the clothing industry, as in most other sectors - despite the World Bank's estimate that 15 per cent of the global population is disabled - and Zyenika is only one of a handful of brands in India's nascent adaptive fashion market. According to the 2011 census, the country has at least 28.8 million people with disabilities.

A bulk of them depend on local tailors. Srilatha KS, who lives in Bengaluru, is a wheelchair user and crawls when she is at home or at events held at inaccessible venues. Like many others who live with locomotor disabilities, her clothes need

to have specific dimensions. "My kurtas need to be shorter in front and longer behind for ease during crawling," says Srilatha.

Few, if any, branded stores have accessible changing rooms, so she avoids these altogether. "Most of my purchases are made from local shops since they permit me to take the product home to try on," she says.

Adaptive fashion not only applies to attire, but also to the buying experience. Conscientious labels need to ensure their stores are accessible, and can even use artificial intelligence on websites and apps so customers can virtually try on clothing before making a purchase. "It is very important to sensitise staff at retail stores about the needs of people with disabilities and our buying capacity," Srilatha says, noting that she is often ignored by salespeople who "feel I'm not going to buy anything."

"Retailers can improve the

online shopping experience for disabled customers by using a variety of images and videos to show the functionality of a garment," says Monika Dugar, co-founder of London adaptive fashion brand Reset that was inspired by the needs of Dugar's father, who has Parkinson's disease.

Digital accessibility is crucial when it comes to online shopping. "It's often very difficult to navigate a website, especially for those with neurogenerative diseases," says Dugar. Managing colour contrast, describing images, captioning, simple keyboard navigation and using simple language can go a long way in uncomplicating online browsing and shopping, she says.

Reliance and responsibility Anita Iyer, founder of disability welfare NGO Ekansh Trust in Pune, feels that in the absence of adaptive clothing brands, more tailors should be brought up to speed. Her catalogue of more than 30

adaptive clothing designs can be tweaked and used by anyone since each person has "different needs and budgets." "I want to reach every tailor in the country," Iyer says.

When people can't find a suitable and supportive tailor, they depend on their family to assist them. Sawai Singh Jatu, who lives in New Delhi, has cerebral palsy and says the only two things he can't do himself are button his shirt and tie his shoelaces. Despite asking a few tailors to switch buttonholes with snaps or Velcro, he still needs assistance from his brothers every day to dress. Blind people face a problem in matching colours while dressing and prefer textured fabric.

According to the Adaptive Clothing Market Analysis study published in 2018, the global inclusive fashion market is expected to be worth upwards of \$390 billion in 2026. And yet, adaptive fashion lines are few and far between across the world.

SHORTLIST

The One Club announces batch of creatives as new Portfolio Night All-Stars

LOS ANGELES

The One Club for Creativity has announced the latest group of Portfolio Night All-Stars, the top young creatives as selected by industry professionals from cities around the world. These creatives participated in Portfolio Night 2021, held virtually in May.

Portfolio Night (PN) is a fast-paced evening of advice, networking, and recruitment that takes place in cities across the globe to help the next generation of creative talent entering the industry. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's PN was held virtually for the first time.

Portfolio Night 2021 All-Stars, as selected by leading professional creatives from their

city hosts, are: Adam Dellavecchia, copywriter, Detroit; Lorenzo Colnaghi, copywriter, Berlin; Savio Hatherly, art director, Lisbon; Milo Krimstein, art director, Chicago; Emma Laberge, graphic designer, Montreal; Raphaëlle Lavoie, illustrator, graphic designer, Montreal; Toan Mai, copywriter, Dubai; Catarina Marques, graphic designer, Lisbon; Saymon Medeiros, art director, Dubai; Muhamed Mostafa, art director, Cairo; Amr Nashat, copywriter, Cairo; Fran Pascual, art director, Madrid; Mike Dinesen Petersen, art director, Copenhagen; Bikram Saggoo, art director, Chicago; Deborah Ten, copywriter, Brooklyn; Din Terpun, art director, New York; Kendall Werra, art director, New York; and Henry White, art director, Los Angeles.

A highlight of this programme is Portfolio Night All-Stars, where industry professionals from each host city select young creatives in their market with the best portfolios. Portfolio Night All-Stars are usually flown to New York, courtesy of The One Club, to spend a week working as a team on a creative brief for a major global brand. Like this year's Portfolio Night, the All-Stars competition will also take place virtually. The event is sponsored by FCB, who will provide mentors and judges for work on the creative brief for Wal-Mart.

Kevin Swanepoel, CEO of The One Club for Creativity, said, "As a global non-profit organisation with a focus on professional development, it's a highlight of our year to see the next generation of creatives show their talents at Portfolio Night. The programme also provides advertising and design professionals with the opportunity to give back to the industry and their local creative community by mentoring this young talent."

Since starting in 2003, Portfolio Night has taken place in 70 cities across 45 countries, with nearly 10,000 portfolios reviewed. It aims to serve as a gateway for young talent to enter the industry and enable the best of the present - hundreds of renowned international creative directors - to meet and mentor the leaders of the future in industry hubs around the world. Portfolio Night is meant to be a crucial tool for agencies in recruiting top young talent and providing a platform for recognition from local industry peers.



ITV

SUNDAY 18 April

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

MONDAY 19 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo
19:00 Afa ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

TUESDAY 20 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo

8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Jungu kuu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afa ya jamii
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 DWT: Kesho leo rpt
13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Yu wapi
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Uchumi na biashara
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology
21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania
Yetu
21:40 Chetu ni chetu
22:30 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari
23:30 Chetu ni chetu
23:45 The Base
00:45 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

WEDNESDAY 21 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Dakika 45 rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
21:30 Kipindi Maalum:
22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
23:00 Habari

23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV
THURSDAY 22 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania
Yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV

FRIDAY 23 April

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base (DJ Show)
17:30 Kiislam
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt
19:00 Shamba lulu
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima Joto

23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV
SATURDAY 24 April
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Jumong
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)
Wild Skin
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:20 Igizo: Mtego
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Korean drama: Jumong
19:00 Jungu Kuu
19:30 Shika Bamba
20:00 Habari
21:00 Art and lifestyle
21:30 ITV TOP 10
22:10 Isidingo rpt
00:30 DWTV

SUNDAY 25 April

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

CAPITAL

Sat 17 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00B usiness edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave
hunter
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to
death

17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
21:00 Out n'About
21:30 Movie: Grindstone Road (tape
no:5593)
23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 18 April

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave
hunter
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary
Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: Iris
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to
death
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 19 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital
Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to
death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Décor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Beats of Love
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 20 April

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital
Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to
death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Beats of Love

WORLD

S. Africa's top court rejects Jacob Zuma's bid to overturn jail sentence

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's top court ruled yesterday that former president Jacob Zuma had failed in his bid to have his 15-month jail sentence for failing to attend a corruption inquiry overturned.

The sentence was handed down after Zuma failed to testify at an inquiry probing corruption during his 9-year rule, one seen as a test of post-apartheid South Africa's ability to enforce the rule of law, particularly against powerful politicians.

Zuma, recuperating in hospital after undergoing surgery for an undisclosed illness, asked the court in July to revoke its sentence for contempt arguing it was excessive, and

that jail would endanger his health and life. In a majority decision, the Constitutional Court rejected his arguments.

It was the latest legal setback for the 79-year-old anti-apartheid veteran from the ruling African National Congress (ANC), whose presidency between 2009-2018 was marred by widespread allegations of graft and malfeasance. He denies wrongdoing.

His jailing on July 7, after handing himself over to police at the last minute, triggered some of the worst riots and looting in decades, with more than 300 people killed and thousands of businesses pillaged and razed.

The violence, which President Cyril Ramaphosa described as a "failed insur-



Former South African president Jacob Zuma

rection", was also fuelled by simmering frustration among largely Black communities still living in squalid conditions long

after the ANC swept to power in South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994.

Agencies

US, UK aid to Australia's acquisition of nuclear submarines 'sheer act of nuclear proliferation' - Chinese envoy

VIENNA

A Chinese diplomat on Thursday expressed China's "grave concern" at the pronounced assistance by the United States and the United Kingdom to Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines.

Addressing the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Board of Governors meeting here, Wang Qun, Chinese envoy to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, described the trilateral move as "sheer act of nuclear proliferation".

The U.S. and the UK, both nuclear weapon states, and are state parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which prevents proliferation of nuclear weapons and technologies, the core obligation of its state parties, Wang stated.

He stressed that such assistance "will apparently give rise to proliferation of nuclear materials and technologies by openly providing assistance to Australia", a non-nuclear

weapon state, in its acquisition and building of the nuclear-powered submarine.

"This contradicts the purpose, objective and core obligation of the NPT to the detriment of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime with the NPT at its core and on-going international efforts on this front," Wang stated.

"While firmly safeguarding the validity of the international non-proliferation regime, China wishes to register its grave concern at the development," Wang said.

"In the meantime, we believe that, it is the responsibility of IAEA, as an international organization mandated to implement NPT non-proliferation regime, to openly express its solemn position at the trilateral act by the U.S., the UK and Australia, which contradict their obligations under the NPT," Wang stated.

Wang also stressed that, such an act of nuclear proliferation "will give rise to serious negative implications on the on-going international efforts



Wang Qun (R, Front), Chinese envoy to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, is interviewed after a meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Joint Commission in Vienna, Austria, on June 12, 2021. (Xinhua)

to address the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula as well as the Iranian nuclear issue".

"Given the ongoing review and discussions of the Korean Peninsula and Iranian nuclear issues at the IAEA Board of Governors and the General Conference, it is essential that all members of the Board and international organizations including IAEA, make solemn position on the trilateral collaboration among the U.S., UK and Australia in helping Australia develop nuclear-powered submarine, in promotion of the full and effective implementation of international non-proliferation obligations

under the NPT by all countries," he stated.

Exporting highly sensitive nuclear submarine technology to Australia has shown that the U.S. and the UK have "once again adopted a double standard on nuclear export", and "have taken nuclear export as a means of their geo-political game", Wang pointed out.

Wang said that, in the meantime, it is "utterly irresponsible" for Australia, as a non-nuclear state and state party to the NPT and South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, to import nuclear submarine technology with strategic military value.

"The international community, including neighboring countries, has every reason to question Australia's sincerity in implementation of nuclear non-proliferation commitment under the relevant treaties," he said.

The trilateral collaboration by the U.S., the UK and Australia "will seriously impair the regional peace and stability, escalate arms race, to the detriment of international peace and security," Wang added.

Wang said that China will closely follow its development and reserve the right to make further responses. In the meantime, China will call on the international community to "work together to check such a dangerous act".

In a joint statement issued on Wednesday, governments of the U.S., the UK and Australia announced the creation of a new trilateral security partnership called "AUKUS," which will help "significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities".

Xinhua

Kono seen as top contender as Japan PM race kicks off

TOKYO

CANDIDATES to become Japan's next prime minister officially launched their campaigns yesterday, with popular vaccine minister Taro Kono expected to be the top contender to replace Yoshihide Suga.

The leadership race for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) took an unexpected turn two weeks ago when Suga said he would step down, after only one year as prime minister, setting off a heated contest.

The winner of a Sept 29 LDP leadership election will become prime minister by virtue of the party's majority in the lower house of parliament.

The LDP's image has been battered by public percep-

tions that Suga bungled his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and are keen for a fresh face to carry them to victory in general elections expected within two months.

The race to be Japan's next leader is between four candidates.

The popular Kono, whose resume is studded with jobs including the foreign and defense portfolios, faces off against former foreign minister Fumio Kishida, Sanae Takaichi, who held the internal affairs ministry post, and Seiko Noda, a former minister for gender equality.

Unlike in last year's LDP race, when Suga replaced then prime minister Shinzo Abe, grassroots LDP members will join lawmakers in casting ballots.

The race was officially



Taro Kono, the cabinet minister in charge of vaccinations

launched by representatives of each contender registering their candidacies at LDP headquarters yesterday.

The media-savvy, US-educated Kono, at 58 on the younger side for a Japanese premier, is widely seen as the frontrunner due to his popularity with the public, who regularly choose him as their favourite for prime minister.

Investors have also recently warmed to Kono at Kishida's

expense.

His chances were bolstered this week when LDP heavyweight Shigeru Ishiba, who is popular with the party rank and file and had been considering his own candidacy, threw his support behind Kono.

But Kono has a reputation as a maverick, and elders in the faction-ridden LDP may favour the soft-spoken Kishida, 64, who hails from one of

the party's more dovish factions, due to perceptions he may be better than Kono at building consensus.

Takaichi, 60, is a disciple of former leader Abe, Japan's longest-serving premier, and a member of the LDP's most conservative wing. Abe publicly endorsed her on Twitter on Thursday night, praising her "determination to defend Japan's sovereignty and her strong view of the nation" - a statement that drew scores of supportive comments.

Noda, 61, who joined the race on Thursday after winning the support of the required 20 lawmakers to throw her hat in the ring, is seen as a long shot. But she could have an outsized impact on the race by making it harder for one candidate to win a majority in the first round.

Argentina political crisis deepens as VP blasts president

By Bloomberg

ARGENTINA'S powerful Vice-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner slammed President Alberto Fernandez in an open letter, heightening the political crisis that has roiled the government since it lost an election on Sunday.

Kirchner, who governed Argentina from 2007 to 2015, published a letter Thursday blaming Fernandez for a "political catastrophe" she says was caused by his economic strategy.

Their coalition's loss in the Sept 12 midterm primary vote was largely due to the government's mistaken policy of fiscal austerity, she said, adding pressure on Fernandez to ramp up spending. She also called for an overhaul of the cabinet.

In meetings with the president ahead of the vote, Kirchner said she repeatedly warned against spending cuts "that were negatively impacting economic activity and society, and which would undoubtedly have electoral consequences."

Kirchner chose Fernandez to lead their Frente de Todos coalition ticket for the 2019 presidential vote. Just two months from the final midterm vote on Nov 14, the letter blows open the political divide between the two factions: Kirchner and the radical Peronist officials close to her; and Fernandez's more moderate cabinet allies.

The internal feud comes after the ruling coalition was soundly defeated in most of Argentina's provinces Sunday, including Buenos Aires, a key battleground.

With no access to international credit markets, the government cannot easily heed Kirchner's calls to ramp up spending without the central bank printing money and worsening one of the world's highest inflation rates.

Canceled trip

After the letter went online, the president canceled upcoming trips planned to Mexico and New York for the United Nations General Assembly, according to one of his spokesmen, who declined to comment on the letter itself. The president plans to announce new economic measures soon, the official added.

The dispute will make it harder for Argentina to reach a deal with the International Monetary Fund to reschedule payments on US\$45 billion of debt, said Daniel Kerner, a managing director for Latin America at the Eurasia Group.

"Kirchner wants control of the government and Fernandez doesn't want to give in at this point," Kerner said in response to written questions. "A deal with the IMF is really hard right now."

Argentina owes the IMF US\$1.9 billion on Sept 22, the first principal repayment of a record bailout from 2018. Kirchner's call for more government spending could also complicate the talks.



Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez (L) and Vice-President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner. (File photo)

Putin welcomes granting SCO dialogue partner status to three countries

NOVO-OGARYOVO

RUSSIA has hailed the decision to grant dialogue partner status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the Dushanbe-hosted SCO summit via video link yesterday.

"Of course, we welcome the fact that dialogue partner status has been granted to Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Russia is a proponent of these countries' active involvement in various aspects of the SCO's activities," he pointed out.

According to Putin, "a fairly impressive portfolio of applications from other states wishing to cooperate with the organization in one capacity or another" requires careful consideration.

"In practical terms, we believe it is appropriate to think about how to modernize and make more effective the participation of observers and dialogue partners in the work of the SCO," the Russian head of state said.

"In our view, it would be useful in the future, in parallel with the summits of the SCO member states' leaders, to hold top-level and high-level events in the so-called SCO+ format with the invitation of all our partners," Putin noted.

The SCO consists of India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. That said, Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia are observer states, while Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka are dialogue partners.



BEIJING

IN the face of multiple pressing challenges and growing uncertainties across the globe, the 20-year-old Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the world's largest and most populous regional institution, has both the responsibility and the capacity to play a more constructive role in enhancing regional security and pursuing common development.

As leaders of the SCO members - China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan - convene via video link on Friday, all eyes are on them to see

Forge stronger SCO partnership amid growing global uncertainties

how they will take the good opportunity to better coordinate and pool their endeavors to tide over the trying times and draw a blueprint for a shared future.

Under the guidance of the Shanghai Spirit, a bedrock principle of the bloc, the SCO countries have rendered each other respect and support, forging a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

After two decades of growth, the organization, now with eight full members, four observer countries and six dialogue part-

ners, has become not only a strong pillar of regional peace and security, but also a major platform to promote cooperation and exchanges on the vast Eurasian landmass.

Its members have been joining forces to fight against the "three evil forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, bolster trade and economic growth, and advance people-to-people ties.

In 2020, the combined economic size of the SCO countries reached 18.4 trillion U.S. dollars, an 11-fold increase since its founding, while intra-SCO trade jumped eight times to 6.2 trillion

dollars over the same period.

People-to-people exchanges have also maintained strong momentum. Back in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of visits between China and other SCO members exceeded 7 million, 3.5 times as many as in 2001.

When the contagious disease broke out in many parts of the world, the SCO members have demonstrated a spirit of solidarity. They have helped each other to control the spread of the coronavirus and safeguard public health, and taken a clear stance against political manipulation of

the pandemic.

The 20-year landmark is a new starting point. The organization, which covers three fifths of the Eurasian continent, nearly half of the world's population, and over 20 percent of the global gross domestic product, is looking to work more closely and earnestly to enhance its "three pillars," or the three major cooperation areas of security, economy and people-to-people exchanges.

The SCO members need to maintain close coordination and forge a stronger partnership to safeguard the region's

peace and stability, which is also the primary purpose of the organization.

As for the Afghanistan issue, the SCO needs to build consensus and work together with other groups such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization to prevent a resurgence of terrorism, promote reconciliation, help reconstruct the war-torn country, and make sure that the country will not fall into chaos once again.

Another pressing task for the organization is to step up cooperation in public health governance. Its members have to accel-

erate vaccine distribution and make vaccines more accessible, and strengthen coordination to facilitate the cross-border movements of both people and goods in an orderly and safe manner.

The difficult moment calls for more support and efforts in keeping the global industrial chains running smoothly and building a more open, equitable and inclusive world economy.

To revitalize the hard-hit economy in the throes of a still raging pandemic, the SCO members should firmly stick to multilateralism and openness, facilitate trade and investment, and boost connectivity and integration in the region. *Xinhua*

US pushes for wider vaccination as COVID-19 likely to be deadliest pandemic killer in US history

NEW YORK

THE U.S. federal government is seeking to achieve broader vaccination against COVID-19, targeting corporates, official departments and global meetings, as the pandemic keeps claiming more and more American lives and will likely become the biggest pandemic killer in the country's history.

According to The New York Times, the 7-day average of confirmed cases stood at 152,605 nationwide on Wednesday, with its 14-day change striking an 8-percent fall. COVID-19-related deaths were 1,943 on Wednesday, with the 14-day change realizing a 37-percent rise.

HEAVY FATALITIES, COSTS

According to data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 18 months into the pandemic COVID-19, is again pushing America's health care infrastructure to a breaking point, with intensive care units at capacity and shortages of health workers being reported widely across the country. As of Wednesday, COVID-19 has caused the deaths of 666,816 people in the United States, including 13,600 just over the past week. "That mounting death count will soon give COVID-19 the title of America's deadliest pandemic," reported Fortune magazine on Thursday.

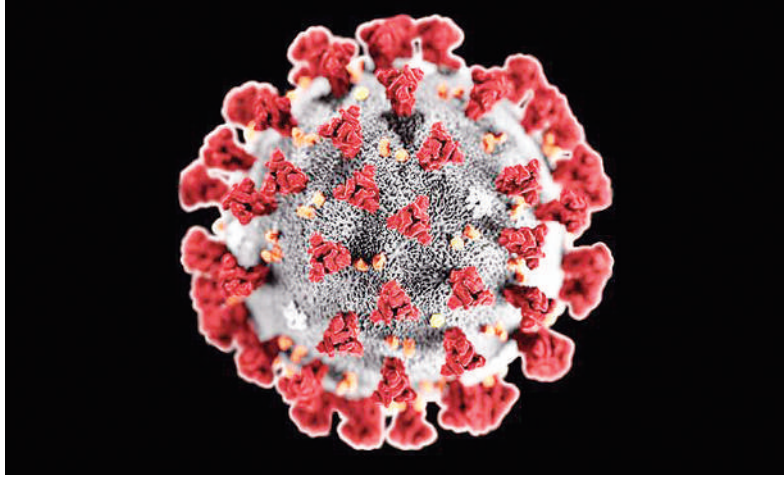
In terms of death toll, the pandemic already surpassed the 1968

flu pandemic, which resulted in 100,000 estimated deaths. At its current pace, the disease would also surpass the 675,000 estimated U.S. deaths caused by the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, the deadliest pandemic in U.S. history, before the end of September, it added. Over a recent three-month period, the cost of treating unvaccinated COVID-19 patients around the United States amounted to 5.7 billion U.S. dollars, said a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation and Peterson Center on Healthcare.

Drawing on hospital admissions and public health data, the groups based that estimate on the roughly 287,000 hospitalizations among unvaccinated people between June and August. They assumed the cost of their care at 20,000 dollars per person. "This ballpark figure is likely an understatement of the cost burden from preventable treatment of COVID-19 among unvaccinated adults," the authors wrote. The overall financial costs of treating the unvaccinated are "borne not only by patients but also by society more broadly, including taxpayer-funded public programs and private insurance premiums paid by workers, businesses and individual purchasers."

VACCINATION EXPANDED

As a particular group, the world leaders coming to New York to speak at the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) meetings next week



will have to be vaccinated against the coronavirus, New York City officials has said. New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs Penny Abeywardena told the assembly in a letter last week that officials consider the hall a convention center and therefore subject to the city's vaccination requirement.

"We are proud to join in the on-going efforts to keep all UNGA attendees and our fellow New Yorkers safe during the pandemic," she and Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a statement issued on Wednesday, adding that the city would offer free, walk-in vaccinations, Johnson & Johnson's single shot, and testing outside the United Nations during the meeting.

Another case in point is that United Airlines is well on its way to have the most vaccinated workforce among large U.S. carriers. Fol-

lowing the threat of unpaid leave for unvaccinated staff who lack a waiver, nearly 90 percent of airline's more than 84,000 staff have received at least one jab.

On Thursday, Kate Gebo, the Chicago-based carrier's executive vice president for Human Resources, said that nearly 20,000 workers have uploaded vaccine cards since the company mandated COVID-19 inoculations in August.

Earlier this month, the airline stipulated that those who do not receive their first shot by Sept. 27 will get unpaid leave. "Getting vaccinated is the most important thing each of us can do to protect ourselves and protect each other from this deadly virus," she said. "Though COVID-19 has deeply impacted our industry and our daily lives, we are certain the road to economic recovery and personal health

hinges on vaccination."

PRESSURE, REFLECTION

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday met with some of the top business leaders in the country, including CEOs of Microsoft, Walt Disney and Walgreens, days after the White House announced strict vaccination rules for millions of workers as the highly contagious Delta variant surged.

Biden's new policies require most federal employees to get vaccinated. Private companies that employ more than 100 people are also required to have their workers inoculated or tested weekly. Under the rule, private companies will also provide paid time off for employees to get the shot. "It's about saving lives.

That's what this is all about," Biden told the meeting. "Vaccinations mean fewer infections, hospitalizations and deaths, and in turn it means a stronger economy."

On Thursday, The Hill reported, "the growing frustration with the ongoing pandemic is boiling over, with all eyes turned to the unvaccinated as the key to getting through the COVID-19 crisis." As cases approach winter levels, the United States has been left to decide how to deal with and treat the millions of people who still haven't received their shots, months after they became widely available, it added.

Xinhua

Moscow expects Canberra to comply with obligations as nuclear-free country - diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW expects that Canberra, being a nuclear-free country, will continue to comply with its obligations, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday.

"We drew attention to Canberra's released plans as a part of the new trilateral security initiative of the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom (AUUKUS).

We believe that being a nuclear-free country and a faithful participant of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Canberra will comply with its obligations and under its safeguards agreement with the IAEA and its additional protocol.

We expect that Canberra will ensure the necessary cooperation with the agency [IAEA - TASS] in order to exclude any non-proliferation risks," Zakharova added.

On September 16, the UK, US and Australia announced the creation of a new security initiative (AUUKUS).

As a part of the agreement, Canberra is planning to construct at least 8 nuclear submarines, the first of which will enter service in 2036, and to re-equip its armed forces with US cruise missiles using American and British technology.

Agencies

Chinese cities actively adapt home environment for safety, comfort of the elderly

CHINESE cities are trying to ensure a safe and convenient living environment for senior citizens by making their homes more senior-friendly.

According to the latest national population census, the number of Chinese people aged 65 or above has reached 190 million, accounting for 13.5 percent of the country's total population.

Since most senior people in China prefer to spend their later years in their own homes, the city governments have been making active efforts to gradually renovate their homes, considering that they could be easily troubled by problems including falling down to the ground and other inconveniences in life.

"I press the remote switch, and the light comes on," said a senior citizen surnamed Chen, demonstrating the transformed light in her bedroom to People's Daily.

With the remote switch, the 72-year-old lady who lives in a residential community in Changxindian neighborhood, Fengtai district, Beijing, no longer worries about the inconvenience of turning on the light at night.

Chen, who suffers from heart disease and rheumatism and couldn't walk fast, has benefitted a lot from many such transformations to her home since September 2019.

Besides the intelligent light, a table was installed beside her bed, which can not only help her get up from bed, but ensure her easier access to daily necessities.

Her bathroom is equipped with a bath chair and a bath mat, while toilet has two arms to help her get up. Besides, Chen also added a folding wheelchair and a walking aid to her home.

"My life is much more convenient after the remodel-



Community workers give senior-friendly products, including sitting chair and shower chair, to an elderly resident in Sijiqing community, Huai'an city, east China's Jiangsu province, as gifts, Sept. 2, 2021. File photo

ing. I can now go to the bathroom and take a shower more safely," Chen said, adding that the transformation cost, totaling more than 4,400 yuan (\$684.2), was fully covered by the government.

Chen is one of the beneficiaries of Beijing's policies on creating a friendly home environment for the elderly. In September 2016, the city launched a house remodeling project to improve the living conditions of its senior citizens with financial difficulties.

The project covers such aspects as assistance in walking, bath, home cleaning, emergency rescue, and rehabilitation. The house remodeling costs of each household are kept within 5,000 yuan.

Because of the project, many senior citizens have enjoyed gratifying changes in their homes during the past five years.

This year, another over 2,000 households will see more senior-friendly home environment with the help of the government, said an executive from Beijing Municipal Civil Affairs Bureau.

Similar projects have been carried out in other cities across the country. In July this year, east China's Shanghai launched a home remodeling project comprehensively, which applies to all citizens aged 60 or above. Qualified senior citizens who are impoverished or childless or live alone can receive subsidies from the public welfare lottery fund for remodeling.

Shangcheng district of Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang province, plans to pilot a project to adapt the homes of 218 poor senior people's families this year, and provide a subsidy of 6,000 yuan for each household.

"Preventing the elderly from falling down should be the first priority of adapting home environment for them," said E Junyu, president of the senior-friendly industry branch of China Building Materials Market Association and chairman of Beijing Anxin Pension Industry Investment Co., Ltd., an elderly care service provider.

Interior design and construction of residential build-

ings in China didn't really take into consideration the needs of elderly, so senior citizens have faced inconveniences and safety hazards in their homes, E said, pointing out that an accidental fall could easily cause senior citizens to be bedridden for a long term, which often involves high medical and care costs.

In addition to projects carried out by governments, market-based services have been launched by quite a lot of companies to adapt homes of the elderly. These companies can tailor transformation plans for their customers.

"More and more senior citizens and their families are looking for help to make their homes more senior-friendly," said E, explaining that his company often sends counselors to homes of the elderly to get information about their health condition and home environment, make remodeling plans after discussion with customers, and then carry out the remodeling tasks.

Home remodeling for the convenience of the elderly is still in the initial stage in China, experts pointed out, adding that many Chinese people lack knowledge about the dangers of falls for the elderly and are unfamiliar with the idea of senior-friendly remodeling.

Consumption and services related to senior citizens' needs enjoy huge opportunities and vast prospects, they said, suggesting that governments and relevant enterprises cooperate with property management companies and other parties to, through means such as ads and lectures, help more senior citizens and their families realize the necessity of adapting homes for the safety and comfort of seniors.

People's Daily

WHO: Guinea declares end of Marburg virus disease outbreak



Health workers from the Guinean Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation (WHO) stand around a container of anti-Ebola vaccines as they arrive in Guekedou, Guinea, on Feb 23, 2021. Guinea declared on Thursday the end of the outbreak of Marburg virus disease, which is in the same family of Ebola, after having recorded no new cases over the past 42 days, the WHO said in a statement. AFP

BRAZZAVILLE

GUINEA declared on Thursday the end of a Marburg virus disease outbreak after having recorded no new cases over the past 42 days, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement.

Guinea's health authorities, with WHO support, promptly mounted emergency response, deploying expert teams to carry out further investigations, step up disease surveillance, assess the risks and bolster community mobilization, testing, clinical care as well as infection prevention and control measures, said the WHO regional office for

Africa, based in Brazzaville, capital of the Republic of the Congo.

"Without immediate and decisive action, highly infectious diseases like Marburg can easily get out of hand. Today we can point to the growing expertise in outbreak response in Guinea and the region that has saved lives, contained and averted a spill-over of the Marburg virus," said WHO Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti.

The virus was confirmed on Aug 9 in Guinea, marking the first time the disease emerged in the country and in west Africa.

The disease, a highly infectious virus that causes haem-

orrhagic fever, was detected in southern Guinea, the same region where the initial cases of the February-June 2021 Ebola outbreak and the 2014-2016 west Africa Ebola outbreak were detected, according to the WHO.

Marburg, which is in the same family as Ebola, is transmitted to people from fruit bats and spreads among humans through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected people and contaminated surfaces and materials.

In Africa, previous outbreaks and sporadic cases have been reported in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda. Agencies

HONG KONG

HALAL industries such as food manufacturing and fashion retail are seen to help Southeast Asian economies recover from the pandemic, with a growing number of its citizens preferring to purchase foods and services that are aligned with their Islamic faith, analysts said.

This is especially true in Indonesia and Malaysia - two of the biggest economies in the region and are also home to a huge Muslim population. Islam is widely practiced across Southeast Asia, with 40 percent of the over 600 million population in the region

Halal industries in ASEAN contribute to economic recoveries

identifying as Muslims.

"The Muslim consumer market can be leveraged to accelerate the economy," Fazel Bahardeen, founder and CEO of the Singapore-based Muslim lifestyle and travel consultancy CrescentRating.

Fazel said that even before the pandemic started, more Muslims in the region are availing of products and services that are "friendlier to their faith". He said it's

the tech-savvy Southeast Asian youth, who now comprise the majority of the region's consumers, that bolstered consumption for halal products as the rise of internet technology and social media has made them more aware of halal businesses.

Halal is an Arabic word that translates to 'permissible' in English, as opposed to 'haram' which means 'forbidden'. The requirements for what

is considered halal are based from the Quran, the holy book of the Muslim faith, and the Hadith teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

The term 'halal' is usually associated with food. Meals that have pork and alcohol are forbidden. Meat must be processed and prepared based on Islamic dietary laws. However, the halal ecosystem also covers other industries that are in line

with Islamic laws including fashion, travel and finance.

Malaysia is currently holding the three-month virtual expo Malaysia International Halal Showcase that will end Dec 31 and hosted the World Halal Business Conference (WHBC) in Sept 9.

Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said at the opening of the WHBC that the halal industry is a key feature

of the country's post-pandemic economic plan, noting that the industry is "paramount to the resilience of overall Muslim-majority national economy".

Emil Fazira, senior consultant at market research firm Euromonitor International said Malaysia's globally recognized halal certification, advisory and infrastructure helps the country "tap on opportunities within the

halal space across various industries".

She said the country's big Muslim population can drive domestic demand for halal products and services. Muslims comprise more than 60 percent of Malaysia's roughly 32 million population.

"I think the desire for halal products will be stronger in the future especially since the strengthening of e-commerce has driven familiarity with online marketplaces selling products from overseas and local, smaller businesses that may not be as easily available through physical retail," Emil said. Agencies



Tanzanian Afropop musician, Frankie Maston, is among musicians that make full use of social media to make their career successful.

Social media now valuable means of furthering one's music career

By Geoffrey John, TUMAINI UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL media platforms were, in the past, considered as means for people to cheaply gain popularity and self-expression.

Recently, people have realized how powerful social media is and can be when it comes to promotion, marketing, and advertising.

Artists, entertainers, and even big companies make use of social media platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook to promote, advertise and market themselves and their products.

These days having many followers on Instagram is not just a flex, it is a privilege and a source of livelihood.

Frankie Maston is one of the domestic artists, who have employed social media to further their careers.

Maston is an Afropop musician who has stormed the music industry with such catchy songs as 'Mimi na Wewe', 'Right Now,' and more.

Maston has always loved music since he was a young boy. In 2016 he decided to kick start his music career, performing live on different platforms in Dar es Salaam (Lyricist Lounge, Coffee House Sessions).

Now He is a touring artist around East Africa (Nairobi, Zanzibar, Arusha, Dar es Salaam) and South Africa with a live music platform, known as 'Bantu Grooves'.

It takes place once every two months in Dar es Salaam and shines a light on other up-and-coming artists too.

"If I had to describe my music in three words I would say sweet, soulful, and sassy," Maston describes his music.

He is an ideal example of how one can employ social media to further their career.

Through social media, he was able to establish a relationship with his target audience as well as engage with them, promote himself as an artist, his music, and concerts.

"Social media is a platform and a channel where I as an artist get to build an audience and also connect with it, I look at it as my very own TV station, hence for me, it's one of my powerful channels of communication," Maston

says.

"I pretty much share everything on my social media and through the direct connection with my audience I get to learn a lot about how they receive my music and what they learn from it."

"It's also a very significant platform for me to share my music, promote my shows, post my covers and acoustics."

"It's a safe space for me to connect and engage with my audience," the artist explains

"For upcoming artists who desire to make use of their social media accounts to grow their music careers I advice them to look into what people like about their works and give them a whole lot of that."

"For example, sometimes my followers just like to hear me talk on my Instagram stories on relevant issues and sing covers because they love my voice and that sparks engagement."

"Also looking to create eye-catching and entertaining content," the musician disclosed.

"Another thing is to research the right time to post, thanks to Instagram you can now see what time is the engagement better for posting like sometimes I post at 6 am because I know that is when a good amount of my followers are active."

"Furthermore, play along with the current social media trends and challenges it puts you out there."

As for the future, Maston is in the middle of compiling his soon-to-be-released Extended Play (EP).

"I'm very excited for the future because currently, I'm compiling my debut EP, I don't want to spoil it but I'm looking to explore various sounds," the artist noted.

This is just the beginning for the musician and he is more than excited for what the future has to offer.

"In five years I see myself travel the world to inspire people with my music and fashion as well as building an audience so big it would fill an entire arena."

"But I'm also really in love with fashion hence I see myself doing fashion, it's what I had been doing for seven years until I started being active with my music."

Can Yanga outshine Rivers United FC in CAF Champions League?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE streets of Twiga and Jangwani in Dar es Salaam were unusually silent this week and all domestic football followers know the reasons for the silence.

Well last Sunday, Yanga, whose headquarters are found at the two streets' junction, lost 1-0 to the Nigerian side, Rivers United FC, in CAF Champions League preliminary round's first leg tie, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Suffice it to say that the second leg has begun already as Yanga yesterday traveled to Nigeria to play Rivers United FC in the remainder of the knockout stage match of the CAF Champions League this Sunday.

Nigeria is always said to be a wild west especially for visiting teams in the tournament, their teams have a lot of experience on how to win off and on the pitch.

Yanga has already lost the squad's home game, suffice it to say, while at home, the outfit was beaten off and on the field by the visitors, something that the former's fans did not expect.

After being absent from the tournament for several years now, Yanga fans wanted to witness their team come back with a big bang in this tournament. It was not possible.

It was not a good day for them on the field, but they also did not have good preparations in recent months.

Yanga needs to focus on its defensive woes, close check on how to be clinical in front of goal and how to be com-



Tanzania's Yanga striker, Yacouba Songne (R), dribbles past Nigeria's Rivers United FC defender when the sides met in this season's CAF Champions League preliminary round's first leg match, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 12. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

pact in the middle of the park, but before that, they should trace what failed them.

Where do we start? How they lost off the pitch. Yanga was not well prepared for the new season (poor pre-season). The schedule was not friendly to them.

When they left Kigoma just after going down 1-0 to traditional rivals, Simba SC, in the Federation Cup final, Yanga found themselves returning to Dar es Salaam to participate in the Kagame Championship.

There was a small group of first-team players who took part in the tournament but still the schedule was not friendly to the other players who were suddenly gathered to Morocco to set up camp.

At the same time, some players had not yet completed their transfers, namely midfielders, Khalid Aucho and Yannick Bangala.

On their way to Morocco, Yanga had, among others, three players who were suffering from COVID-19. The side's officials did not know.

Arriving in Morocco the virus spread to 12 players and several of-

ficials. They were forced to break camp and return to Dar es Salaam.

It was a long journey that left a group of sick people there. These led by Djuma Shabani returned the day before a friendly tie against Zambia's Zanaco in a conclusion of a week of social activities conducted by the club, known as 'Wananchi Day'.

I was not surprised by Yanga's level in the tie, despite their attacker Heritier Makambo's fine goal.

After that Yanga started locking themselves in the Kigamboni camp, but I have been informed that Rivers United has played six friendly matches towards the last weekend match including a special friendly match organized in one West African country.

Yanga played two friendly matches with modest domestic outfits in their training complex located at Kigamboni.

If only Yanga had had several tough friendly matches like the friendly against Zanaco, then maybe their lives would have been much better heading into their first and second leg clashes against Rivers.

If this match was to come after Yanga played at least six league matches I think they would have played better than they did in the first leg. Perhaps they would be better off heading into this fight.

The schedule was not friendly to them to be better on the field and this match seems to have come sooner.

Inside the stadium, Yanga seemed to be a little off in terms of stamina, strength, and agility compared to their opponents who seemed to be more fit while playing on the pitch.

Lack of fitness led Yanga to divide the field into pieces especially in the second half where there was one group attacking and the other defending. This came especially after the visitors got the lead through the mistakes of the Yanga defense.

Yanga missed its key players whose licenses have been delayed.

We do not know what Aucho would offer Yanga but he would add experience in the midfield area.

We know what Djuma would showcase in the wingback position.

Djuma is an attacking midfielder and his football is more direct.

He surpasses Shomari Kibwana in many areas, including experience, but the biggest thing is that he can score goals.

Fiston Mayele is a striker who has scored in his new outfit's two consecutive friendly matches.

He could be in a better position to make the most of the opportunities which Yanga's midfielder, Feisal Salum, and forward, Yacouba Songne were presented with against Rivers United FC.

Mayele, who joined Yanga from Democratic Republic of Congo's AS Vita, excels at them with such courage.

Can Yanga overturn the scoreline in Nigeria? It is possible but it will be hard work.

They can score goals, but will they be able to defend their goals effectively for the entire 90 minutes?

This is a difficult question for them especially considering the type of goals they have conceded against Zanaco and last week against Rivers.

The Tanzanian side is quite weak especially in set pieces and loose balls.

The only hope is in the attacking force. At the moment they appear to be alive in the forward line although they did not score in the first leg.

They create a lot of scoring chances and spaces and the problem lies in using the opportunity they get in front of the goal. They need to work on this problem.

Otherwise in general despite the closure, Yanga seems to have good players in various positions. All they need now is to keep building the team.

Coach Poulsen now gets the best out of fringe players at Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN the past it was common for soccer enthusiasts to see leaders of Tanzania's two biggest football clubs, Simba SC and Yanga, seek to rope in football players that have been selected for the senior national football squad, Taifa Stars.

The battle was over the registration of Taifa Stars players that the squad's coaches have assessed in various places during the league or other tournaments such as the Taifa Cup.

Often the battle did not wait for a senior national team player to shine in the first match, but a call-up was enough to convince the officials that he is a good player.

Then soccer supporters do not hesitate to hear that either Yanga or Simba sponsor has gone to Taifa Stars camp and later have a conversation with a certain player and the next day people will hear that the particular player has been recruited by one of those outfits.

And if the war is more intense, soccer supporters will hear that the player has signed for both clubs and thereafter face a ban. There are many examples of such players who shook the headlines of many newspapers during their registration.

This was due to the transfer being done by people, who were unfamiliar with football, but had great confidence in the professionalism of the coaches who were hired to coach the national



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for continental assignments.

team players. Football had to go through those steps as it was the process of change.

We had to move from one stage to another, and we cannot blame the leaders during that time for such activities.

But some of the things that are going on tend to bring questions, have we moved on or we are still stuck there but in a different aspect?

This season's transfer for the two clubs has been noisy as social media and officials wanted to convince soccer followers that they have done better than their opponents.

And all players spoken of in that boast are foreign footballers-Fiston Mayele, Peter Banda, Djuma Shabani, Pape Sakho, and many others of the same type.

That is, no native player is known to be the best in registration. Those are just extra, maybe those who have established themselves like Mohamed Hussein, Feisal Salum, Aishi Manula, Erasto Nyoni, Ba-

a team that did well in the previous African Nations Cup finals in Egypt.

And yet on the national squad's bench, Kim Poulsen had Kibabage and Israel Mwenda, who after the Danish coach selected for his side then the big clubs opted to run for the footballers' signatures.

Our players might not be well developed, that is, they start to meet a well-educated coach when they are older, but one needs to be observant to identify some very good players.

Knowing how to sign good players is not rushing out but first looking at local resources at a young age and starting to create a better environment for them to grow rather than spending millions of dollars to bring in players we are not sure of their level.

Finding good foreign players requires some luck as the ability to compete financially with a big club is limited.

Simba SC was lucky to have a winger, Luis Miquissone, because he was on loan in Mozambique but the conditions for finding a player of his type are difficult to repeat.

So clubs need to have a very strong eye in the country to get the best talent and at a young age and later give the homegrown players a chance to benefit from star standards like Miquissone and Clatous Chama.

Real Madrid aim to defy power-shift and assert themselves in Europe again

MADRID

AFTER winning the Champions League three years in a row, Real Madrid have gone three years without getting close, the task now belonging to Carlo Ancelotti to put the club back where they believe they belong.

Madrid reached the semi-finals last season but were resoundingly beaten by Chelsea, whose 3-1 win on aggregate would have been more emphatic had they not missed a cluster of chances in the second leg.

Before that, Madrid were outclassed by Manchester City and outplayed by Ajax, a pair of deflating exits in the last 16 serving as a painful reality check after the giddy years between 2014 and 2018.

Four successes in that half-decade, and three in a row, established Real Madrid at the pinnacle of Europe, even if Barcelona continued to reign supreme in Spain.

But an iconic generation grew older and many have now departed, with Cristiano Ronaldo, Sergio Ramos and Raphael Varane - the spine of the team - all gone. Zinedine Zidane, the coach, left too at the end of last season.

His replacement, Ancelotti, has a difficult job reclaiming La Liga from Atletico Madrid, who have themselves retained all of their key players and been boosted by the return of Antoine Griezmann.

But the task of reclaiming the Champions League appears even more formidable, when set against the trajectories of English rivals like Manchester City, Chelsea and Manchester United, and in France, Paris Saint-Germain.

United, City and Chelsea spent around 400 million euros (\$472 million) combined in the summer transfer window as Ronaldo, Varane, Jadon Sancho, Jack Grealish and Romelu Lukaku bolstered already-glimmering squads at the top of the Premier League.

PSG gladly swept up Ramos and Lionel Messi, La Liga's two remaining grandees, to go with Gianluigi Donnarumma, Achraf Hakimi and Georginio Wijnaldum.

Madrid, meanwhile, made a profit of around 20 million euros, deals for Eduardo Camavinga and David Alaba more than offset by the sales of Varane and Martin Odegaard.

And while PSG's determination to keep Kylian Mbappe for at least the final year of his contract was tested by Florentino Perez, many suspect Madrid's president was not too unhappy to wait nine months, when he can sign the France World Cup winner for free.

Ancelotti's job now is to manage the year in between, the season without Mbappe to lead the next era and with the ageing leftovers of the last one - even if Luka Modric and Karim Benzema might arguably grace all the starting line-ups of Europe's elite.

AFP

Solskjaer demands Man U response after Champions League defeat

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer admits Manchester United must "do better" after their embarrassing midweek Champions League defeat as he prepares to take his Premier League leaders to face West Ham.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka was sent off against Young Boys in Tuesday's opening Group F encounter, with Jesse Lingard's errant back-pass gifting the Swiss hosts a goal in time added on in a 2-1 win.

But it is a different story in the Premier League, with United - now boasting Cristiano Ronaldo in their ranks again - top of the table after three wins from their first four matches.

"Our attitude is like you'd expect it to be," Solskjaer said at his pre-match press conference on Thursday. "They're focused, of course a little disappointed but not too downbeat."

"You know, it's a setback, we have to do better, and we've got five games to get those 10, 12 points that we need."

"Of course it's not the start we wanted but we're a good team that can bounce back again."

The Norwegian boss said teams were judged by outcomes rather than intentions.

"It's always the outcome that decides what headline we'll see and very, very rarely is the game either fantastic or really, really bad," he said. "It just hovers about good or not good enough."

"We know that the expectations are high and we expect more of ourselves as well. The performance level wasn't up to our standard."

Lingard, who tweeted how upset he was for his part in the defeat, returns to the London Stadium on Sunday, where he spent a productive spell on loan last season.

The England forward's Red Devils contract expires at the end of the season and he would be able to talk to foreign clubs about a free transfer as early as January.

But Solskjaer said United were keen to tie the 28-year-old down to a new Old Trafford deal and were talking to him.

"We see him as a Man United player in the future as well," he said. "Jesse has come back to us after a great spell at West Ham."

"He showed his qualities, he's back in the England squad and he's scoring goals for England."

AFP

Pochettino calls for patience with all-star PSG

PARIS

THE reaction in France to the all-star Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League bow against Club Brugge in midweek has been unforgiving.

PSG, football's new galacticos following the arrival of Lionel Messi, were dismissed as "ghost-like" by sports daily L'Equipe as they escaped with a 1-1 draw against the Belgian champions on what was the Argentine's first start for his new club.

Messi teamed up with Kylian Mbappe and Neymar for the first time but, as Le Parisien put it, "the dream of seeing the 'MNM' together almost turned into a nightmare".

A draw away to, on paper, the weakest team in their Champions League group puts Mauricio Pochettino's side -- among the leading pre-tournament favourites to win European club football's biggest prize -- up against it just to reach the last 16.

They play Manchester City next and still have to face RB Leipzig, two teams that beat PSG in last season's Champions League.



Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Lionel Messi played together for the first time in midweek but PSG were held by Club Brugge in the Champions League (AFP)

The game in Bruges served as a reminder that the Qatar-owned club cannot simply rely on Messi, Neymar and Mbappe to win games, even if the latter set up their goal for Ander Herrera.

They desperately missed the suspended Idrissa Gana Gueye and the injured Marco Verratti in midfield.

Angel di Maria was suspended. At the back, Sergio Ramos has still not played because of injury.

"We must improve, we know that," said Pochettino.

"We have a magnificent squad, but we need balance, to be creative going forward but solid at the back. We need time for that."

It is concerning when compared with Pep Guardiola's City, who thumped Leipzig 6-3 in midweek and come to Paris later this month.

By then Messi will at least have had three more matches to get used to his new team-

mates, starting with Sunday's home meeting with Lyon, PSG's biggest test yet domestically.

PSG have a 100 percent record so far in Ligue 1 and have scored 16 goals in their five outings but they face a Lyon side that is in form and beat Rangers 2-0 in Glasgow in the Europa League on Thursday.

Player to watch: Jerome Boateng

The 33-year-old German World Cup-winning centre-back was a surprise signing by Lyon

as the transfer window shut at the end of last month, penning a two-year contract after arriving from Bayern Munich on a free transfer.

Boateng, who was a regular for Bayern last season, made his Lyon debut off the bench in their 3-1 win over Strasbourg last weekend and started against Rangers in Glasgow.

The former Manchester City player has had other issues to worry about it since arriving at his new club -- last week

he was given a 1.8 million-euro (\$2m) fine by a German court for assaulting an ex-girlfriend three years ago.

Seeking to focus on football in the face of his legal woes, Boateng will come up against PSG's superstar attack this weekend when Lyon go to the Parc des Princes.

Key stats

5 - PSG have won their first five Ligue 1 games of a season for the third time in their history, and the third time in five years. They went on to be champions in 2017/18 and 2018/19 after starting in identical fashion.

24 - The number of minutes Messi has played in Ligue 1 so far.

0 - Nice are the only team yet to concede a goal in any of Europe's big five leagues so far this campaign.

Fixtures (kick-offs GMT)

Today
Lens v Lille (1500), Saint-Etienne v Bordeaux (1900)

Tomorrow
Nice v Monaco (1100), Angers v Nantes, Clermont v Brest, Reims v Lorient, Troyes v Montpellier (all 1300), Marseille v Rennes (1500), Paris Saint-Germain v Lyon (1845)

AFP

'Magician' Musiala is the next big thing - and his mum still drives him to training

By Derek Rae

EVERY week I start with a blank sheet of paper, not knowing exactly what or who this column will focus on. But this week, it's impossible not to make it all about Bayern Munich's 18-year-old wunderkind, Jamal Musiala.

Footballers might remain synonymous with jet-set lifestyles and luxury cars, yet Musiala's first full season with Bayern -- who host Bochum on Saturday -- was much more in tune with the experience of high-school students in many parts of the world.

His mum Carolin would arrive at the gates of Bayern's Sabener Strasse training facility in her Volkswagen Polo, dropping off her football-mad son. Even after signing his first professional contract, this was the normal daily routine and the modest, unassuming Musiala made a point of thanking his mother for taking the time to do this for him every day.

Asked about which car he might dream of driving once he had his licence, he said simply that he would be happy to drive anything as long as it works and has a functioning stereo. It was an answer reflective of the natural, easygoing figure Musiala cuts on the pitch. You can't imagine him making a fuss about very much of anything. Life itself seems like a wonderful adventure to be grateful for.

His rise in the past year -- from promising bit-part substitute, to signing a contract until 2026, to committing to Germany over England

and now to being a true Bayern star at 18 -- has been meteoric. When he scored a superb goal as a late substitute in Bayern's 8-0 win over Schalke to open the 2020-21 season, I raised my eyebrows thinking that this was clearly a promising player, but wondering if he might end up being another young talent who would have to move elsewhere to get game time.

I recall commentating for ESPN on Germany matches during the Euros this past summer and regularly thinking that the Nationalelf needed to see more of Musiala there and then. In fact, in just a few minutes on the pitch, he helped the team scramble a draw against Hungary to push them through to the knockout stages.

Flash forward to last Saturday and Bayern's biggest test of the season so far, in Leipzig. When Musiala came on for the injured Serge Gnabry just before half-time, Bayern were leading thanks to an early Robert Lewandowski penalty, but Leipzig were very much in it. However, Musiala immediately became, in Thomas Muller's words, "the magician of the game."

Twice in short order, Musiala was at the hub of two key "umschaltmomente" ("transitional moments"). On 47 minutes, his classy left-footed finish gave Bayern breathing space in the form of a 2-0 lead, and seven minutes later the young standout used his right to tee up Leroy Sane to effectively put the match beyond Leipzig's reach.

Afterward, Muller made a point of praising



Jamal Musiala

not just Musiala's wizardry and his confidence on the pitch, but his down-to-earth character and penchant for hard work. The German TV football talk shows on Sunday morning went heavily on Musiala, and with good reason: Julian Nagelsmann simply had to play him from the start on Tuesday in the Champions League away to Barcelona -- and he did.

While the discussion used to centre around whether Musiala might have a chance of succeeding Muller as the

player to line up just off the front, Musiala is making a case to be a regular starter out wide. Competition was already fierce with Gnabry, Sane and Kingsley Coman vying for two starting spots. The hectic schedule will mean all four get their chances, but it's no exaggeration to say Bayern without Musiala look somehow incomplete.

When interviewed after games, Musiala wears a permanent smile as if to convey that nothing about this playing football business is a chore. He's living the dream

at Bayern, having returned to Germany in 2019 following a spell in England in the Chelsea youth system. The move to England was down to his mother's studies in Southampton as part of the Erasmus+ programme, which gives students and educators the chance to study and volunteer abroad.

At times, you can almost see Musiala searching for just the right German word -- perhaps the legacy of those years of English schooling -- but he always finds it, just as he always seems to natu-

rally find the right angle of pass on the pitch.

Years ago, I had the privilege of commenting on some of Lionel Messi's first games for Barcelona, and you could see the joy of football and life in his face that matched his natural ability. It's far too early to be anointing Musiala the new Messi, but the similarities are there in approach to the game, skill level, enthusiasm and humility.

With another 18-year-old German -- Florian Wirtz of Bayer Leverkusen -- also making tremendous strides, the Bundesliga is again living up to its reputation as the league to be in if you want to play at a high level as a youngster. Germany may one day be spoiled for choice in the creative department again.

*ESPN's lead Bundesliga commentator Derek Rae on why "Musiala-mania" has taken over not just in Bavaria, but all across Germany. Are we watching a once-in-a-generational talent with the ability to carry the German game on his young shoulders?

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Pochettino calls for patience with all-star PSG

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Azam FC, Biashara United set to seal CAF Confederation Cup progression



Azam FC players attend training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the next season's Premier League, Federation Cup, and CAF Confederation Cup. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S representatives in 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup, Azam FC and Biashara United FC, head into the second legs of their respective preliminary round ties today, well-placed to progress to the first round. Azam FC faces Somalia's Horseed FC at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam today in the afternoon looking to build on the first-leg advantage. In the first-leg played at Azam Complex in the city on

September 11, Azam FC was victorious, coming from behind to win 3-1 against Horseed FC.

The home side's goals were scored by Ayub Lyanga, Idris Mbombo, and Lusajo Mwaikenda.

Horseed FC chose to host the return leg at Azam Complex because of logistics issues in their country.

With dreams and destiny in their own hands, Azam FC will earn them a date in the first round against Egyptian giants Pyramids FC.

Winners of the tie over two legs will face either Hay Al-Wadi SC of Sudan or Al Ahli SC of Libya.

Despite holding the advantage, Biashara United chairman, Selemani Mataso, insists they will not be underestimating their opponents.

Biashara United official stated: "We look strong to qualify for the next stage of the competition, Dikhil FC is not a bad team as we

see in the first leg. We won 1-0 away and we are now focusing on getting a comprehensive victory at home. We trust our players to get the job done."

On Sunday, Yanga will face an uphill battle of progressing past the opening hurdle of their 2021/22 CAF Champions League campaign after suffering a 1-0 defeat at home in the opening leg of their first-round tie against Rivers United FC of Nigeria last weekend.

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5 EATV MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9:00

UJENZI

Tonight on EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Yanga now announces sleeve partnership deal with Tourist Board

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans SC, popularly known as 'Yanga', has announced the side's first-ever sleeve partnership deal with Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB).

Under the partnership deal, the 'Visit Kilimanjaro & Zanzibar' logo will feature on the left sleeve of Yanga's 2021/22 season's jerseys.

The logo will be featured on the left sleeve on the team's green primary kit, the yellow's kit secondary, and the third black kit, which were launched last month.

The Tanzanian representatives will sport Tanzania Tourist Board branded shirt sleeves for the first weekend on their continental away assignment.

A contingent of 60 people, including players, fans, and various club officials, was expected to leave the country on Friday on a chartered flight direct to Nigeria to face Rivers United in the second leg of the CAF Champions League preliminary round at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium in Port Harcourt on Sunday.

Speaking to the press during the launch of the partnership, Yanga spokesman, Haji Manara, said they have what it takes to turn the table against their opponents.

"The technical bench led by coach Nassredine Nabi knows the expectations of this club. We are not going there as tourists but with a clear mission to get the job done and progress to the next round."

Manara confirmed they will be taking a 22-man squad to Nigeria. The squad is, as expected, with no place for long-term injury absentees David Bryson, Mapinduzi Balama, and Yasin Mustapha.

Fiston Mayele, Djuma Shaban, and Khalid Aucho are still waiting for approval from CAF after their International Transfer Certificates arrived out of the registration window.

Yanga has a mountain to climb after losing 1-0 to Rivers United in their CAF Champions League preliminary round at home last weekend.

Aggregate winners of the preliminary round ties will face the victor between Al Ahli of Sudan and Fasil Kenema of Ethiopia.

The full travelling Yanga squad includes goalkeepers, Djiguu Diarra, Erick Johora, and Ramadhani Kabwili.

Defenders include Kibwana Shomari, Adeyem Saleh, Yannick Bangala, Abdallah Shaibu, Dickson Job and Bakari Mwanmyeto.

Midfielders are Zawadi Mauya, Mukoko Tomombe, Said Ntibazonkiza, Feisal Salum, Jesus Moloko, Farid Mussa, Deus Kaseke, and Dickson Ambundo.

Heritier Makambo, Yacouba Songne, Yusuph Athumani, and Ditram Nchimbi are Yanga's forwards.

Tanzania sails through to ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers semi-finals

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S senior national women's cricket squad has sailed through to 2021 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifiers' last four, walloping Botswana women squad by seven wickets in Gaborone on Thursday.

The clash's eventual winners, for that matter, were pitted against Namibia women's side in the second semi-final at the same ground yesterday.

National women's cricket team bowler, Perice Zakayo, grabbed the best player of the match prize because of her scintillating bowling displays, which helped them post the victory.

Botswana women squad had the opportunity to start batting in the tie and notched 82 runs all out in 19.3 overs.

Olebogeng Batisani that was deployed as the opener was the batter with the most runs, given she recorded 24 runs that included two fours.

She put spirited displays, seeking to instill confidence in the squad as the fellow opener, Florence Samanyika, faced an early dismissal, having been sent back by Perice Zakayo.

Botswana women's team faced a mini-collapse later in the innings, in which the remaining members of the top order made their way back in quick succession.

Amantle Mokgothe and Botsogo Mpedi, slotted in as middle-order batters, attempted to make their presence felt and see to it Botswana women's squad notch good score.

Amantle notched 13 runs, nailing a four, Botsogo chipped in with 19 runs.

Sophia Jerome and Perice had no mercy for Botswana women's cricket team's batting unit, the two bowlers took three wickets apiece.

Perice had one maiden over in her four-over spell, conceding six runs and settling for a 1.50 economy rate.

Sophia ended with a 4.85 economy rate in a 3.3-over spell, which ended with the bowler conceding 17 runs.

Zinaida Jeremiah made matters worse for the Botswana women's squad given she took two wickets for 23 runs in four



Senior national women cricket team's Fatuma Omary poses for a photo with the best player of the match's prize following her impressive displays when the squad took on Rwanda women's side in this season's ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifiers clash in Botswana on Monday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

overs.

Needing 83 runs to notch the much-needed victory, the national women's cricket team did not drain a sweat,

posting 83 runs for three wickets in 10.5 overs.

Senior cricketers, Monica Paschal and Fatuma Omary, proved their worth at the

crease, confidently guiding the national women's team to victory.

The in-form Fatuma, slotted in as an opener, got the chase underway with solid knocks and scored 30 runs consisting of five fours.

The Tanzania side's successful chase was hardly in doubt, much as the fellow opener, Saum Mtae, had a brief spell, making her way back for naught.

Monica, deployed at number three, took the crease and pushed the national women's team to within reach of the win, ending with unbeaten 34 runs, which included seven fours.

She solidly partnered Perice that ended up notching four runs not out that put the match beyond Botswana women's squad's reach.

Tournament favourites, Zimbabwe women's squad, booked a

place in the final, commanding a 14-run victory over Uganda women's side in the first of the last four ties, which took place on Friday.

Zimbabwe women squad took the crease first, amassing 108 runs losing six wickets in 20 overs.

Uganda women squad found the going tough in the chase, ending with 94 runs in 20 overs.

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup Africa Region Qualifiers' third-place play-off, which will see the Uganda women's squad face the losers of yesterday's tie between Tanzania and Namibia, is scheduled for tomorrow.

Finalists, the Zimbabwe women's squad, will thereafter lock horns with winners of yesterday's second semi-final, seeking to book a place in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup global qualifiers.



Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe (2nd R), receives sports equipment from NMB Bank Dar es Salaam Regional Manager, Donatus Richard, for the 2021 NMB Marathon to be held in the city on September 25. Looking on (R) is the bank's Social Accountability Manager, Lillian Kisamba, and Government Business Manager, Irene Masaki. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Flexibles by David Chikoko

