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**TANZANIA** 

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY, 2020

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## 'Declare the nation as in danger since locusts defy pesticides'

#### **NAIROBI**

A TOP agricultural official from Kenya's Wajir County has urged the national government to declare the locust invasion that is wreaking havoc in several parts of the country a national disaster.

This is after it emerged that more swarms of locusts had been spotted in parts of Wajir South on Thursday evening even after the government had carried out aerial spraying in the devolved unit.

"We have all seen the effects of this invasion and I think it's time the



His sentiments come at a time when the desert locusts, which invaded Kenya from neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, continue their advance into other parts of the country

government should declare it a national disaster to pave way for more resources to be mobilised," Wajir County Chief Executive for Agriculture Ahmed Shariff told a leading daily yesterday.

His sentiments come at a time when the desert locusts, which invaded Kenya from neighbouring Somalia and Ethiopia, continue their advance into other parts of the country.

Thursday, newly-appointed Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya admitted that the pesticides being used in aerial spraying had proved ineffective, thus dulling efforts to get rid

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## Butiku calls for dialogue on justice, civil liberties



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presses a button to launch ultra-sound services at a Kizimkazi Dimbani village health facility in Zanzibar's South District yesterday. He is on a three-day official visit to the Isles. Pl

## MPs want education on agro-conservation

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water have advised the government to review laws and policies to pave the way for conservation agriculture as a means of enhancing farm productivity and food

The committee said that conservation



The government will make sure conservation agriculture is practiced by farmers by putting in place enabling policies and laws

agriculture- a set of soil management practices that minimize the disruption of the soil structure, composition and natural biodiversity-has proven potentiality to improve crop yields, while improving the long-term environmental and financial

sustainability of farming. Committee chairman Mahmoud

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## Japan maps out natural gas outlays beyond Dar pipeline

**Bv Aisia Rwevemamu** 

A NEW study has recommended the establishment of natural gas stations in parts of Tanzania that have not been reached by the pipeline to ease access to and boost consumption of the clean energy.

Speaking during the unveiling of the draft report of the Natural Gas Utilisation Master Plan in Dar es Salaam, Energy deputy minister Subira Mgalu (pictured) said the study has found that it is possible to distribute gas countrywide without having the pipeline in



The research conducted by the Institute of Energy Economics of Japan (IEEJ) established that it is possible to construct stations in various parts of the country for the gas to be transported there from areas with infrastructure and distributed for domestic, industrial as well as vehicle consumption.

Phase one of the study was undertaken in Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro and Tanga regions, with the study an integral part of the strategy to implement the natural gas utilization master plan.

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THE fight for civil liberties in the country must be done through dialogue and other non-violent means and not the contrary

#### By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

HE Executive Director of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF, Joseph Butiku, has called on Tanzanians to continue fighting for justice, more democratic space and freedom of the press, saying such liberties cannot be served on the platter.

Addressing journalists and media stakeholders here yesterday during a symposium on building a peaceful nation as the country moves towards general election in October this year, Butiku argued that freedoms are not easily granted but fought

The MNF CEO challenged journalists in particular to be at the forefront of the agitation



Justice does not come easily; however, it is gained through dialogue guided by wisdom

for justice and better working environment for themselves and other Tanzanians.

However, he stressed that the fight for civil liberties in the country must be done through dialogue and other non-violent means and not the contrary.

"Justice does not come easily; however, it is gained through dialogue guided by wisdom,"

He went on to suggest that for such dialogue to succeed, parties involved must be ready to be considerate of the interests of others and allow room for compromise in the process.

"Don't relent in the fight for justice because justice cannot be denied; it can only be delayed," he said.

Butiku argued that since the people are the source of political power and leadership, they have the right to freely express themselves on matters touching their liberties.

He added humour to his otherwise serious speech by noting that he will be disappointed to know that Tanzanians have despaired in their fight for justice when alive or dead.

"I am now 81 years old. Even in death, I will be disappointed if you give up the fight for justice," he said.

Arusha Press Club (APC) chairman Claud Gwandu said the free media can contribute immensely to the development of Tanzanian society. He urged journalists to exercise impartiality and balanced reportage before, during and after the October polls.

The scribes, Gwando said, must be guided by patriotism as they execute their duties especially during electioneering periods when some sections of society tend to be polarized because of politics.

#### **Guardian**

#### **NEWS**

## MPs want education on agro-conservation

FROM PAGE 1

Mgimwa (Mufindi North, CCM) made the remarks here yesterday during a meeting bringing together committee members and agriculture stakeholders to discuss strategies to enhance conservation farming as part of efforts to combat climate change effects.

The stakeholders included the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU) and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACTN) that work to provide small and medium scale farmers with the environment, knowledge and practical experience to help them successfully adopt conservation farming and conservation agriculture practices.

"We are likely to increase productivity through conservation farming because farmers will harvest enough even without using so much fertilizer. With conservation farming we will be consuming organic food because farmers will avoid the use of fertilizers" said Mgimwa.

"The government will make sure conservation agriculture is practiced by farmers by putting in place enabling policies and laws," he stated.

Hanang MP Dr Mary Nagu (CCM) said farmers in her constituency have shifted from conservation farming and adopted modern farming practices which require fertilizers. She said experts need to educate rural Tanzanians on the importance of conservation framing as many of them are not practicing it.

"We need to go back to farmers and educate them on conservation farming because they have all shifted to modern farming methods. Agricultural experts must promote conservation farming to protect the soil," she said.

Musoma Rural MP Prof Sospeter Muhongo (CCM) said farmers are massively using fertilizers hence the need to educate them on the adverse impacts of fertilizers in soil. He said farmers need to be educated on how they can enrich the soil without fertilizers.

ACTN executive secretary Saidi Mkomwa insisted on the need to shift from current farming practices to conservation agriculture, using modern farming tools.

He affirmed that agricultural practices in the country damage the soil hence the need to protect it for future generations.

Efforts are needed to enhance food security as many people are moving into urban places and will depend on food from rural areas, he said, noting that by 2030 there will be 35m people living in urban areas.

"We have massive uncultivated land, but we also produce very little from the total cultivated area. We can harvest much for food and business if we start engaging in conservation agriculture," the agro-sector activist emphasized.

Some regions which were famous for maize production are no longer producing the same amount due to damaged soil associated with the use of fertilizers, he added.

## Court halts Auditor-General recruitment

The Employment and Labour Relations Court has suspended recruitment of an Auditor-General pending determination of a case filed by activist Okiya Omtatah. The position of the Auditor-General is currently

vacant as Edward Ouko's term expired in August 2019. There was a recruitment last year but the selection panel could not nominate three people for

appointment by the President, saying none qualified. Following this report, the Public Service Commission (PSC) said the government decided to re-advertise the

Omtatah then sued the panel, noting it reported that candidates met technical requirements including academic qualifications, but scored poorly in tests for independence, diplomacy and tact, which were key

considerations.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan holds talks with Sweden's Ambassador to Tanzania, Anders Sjoberg, at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

## Japan maps out natural gas outlays beyond Dar pipeline

closely with their foreign counterparts on how to implement this project," she said.

During the workshop, local experts would discuss with expert from JICA on the highlights presented and then proceed with implementation strategies tied to JICA funding.

"This meeting is important to Tanzanians because our country has discovered a huge amount of natural gas and at present 57 percent of its electricity production is generated Dar es Salaam. by natural gas," Mgalu said.

The government wants natural gas to be spread in many other places so that more Tanzanian can benefit from it, she asserted.

Currently, TPDC has embarked on the distribution of domestic gas in Dar es Salaam, Mtwara and

At a workshop to introduce a draft of the Natural Gas Domestic Promotion Plan, IEEJ expert Kensuke Kanekiyo said they have studied the possibility of distributing natural gas beyond

He said that JICA consulting assessment shows this approach is quite viable for Tanzania and Japan will be in a position of supporting this.

The country can construct a branch line to deliver natural gas alongside the pipeline beyond Dar es Salaam and gas can be transported by trucks, he said.

Tanzania should not wait until the economy grow big as it can start with a small project and later construct a much bigger system, he explained.

"It is my strong belief that once this master plan is implemented it will be a milestone for Tanzania," he declared.

He said the consulting agency was persuaded that the development of natural gas can contribute to Tanzania's development through enhancing industrialisation by increased power generation.

Since 2014 JICA has engaged with the Tanzania government in discussion about the project, with discussions being held here and in Iapan.

The Mtwara-Dar es Salaam Lindi region.

Natural Gas Pipeline (MDNGP) transports natural gas from natural gas fields in Mnazi Bay, Mtwara Region to Dar es Salaam. Large volumes of natural gas have been discovered offshore Tanzania, with current official estimates suggesting that proven reserves stand at 57 trillion cubic feet (tcf)

TPDC is going on with supplying the energy through a network of pipelines to houses at TPDC Estate and 24 housing units at Twiga Estate in Mikocheni, Mtwara and



National Economic Empowerment Council executive secretary Beng'i Issa delivers keynote speech at the launch of the second phase of the Tanzania Renewable Energy Business Incubator (TAREBI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is being implemented by IMED Foundation in partnership with India's SELCO Foundation and financed by CS Mott Foundation. Photo: John Badi.

**AGENCIES** 

## Govt to build 43 technical colleges countrywide - minister

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Aru- aware of the importance of tech-

THE government is investing nearly 100bn/- towards the construction of 43 new technical colleges across the country, with the one being planned in Dodoma to serve as an exemplary training in-

Deputy Minister for Education, Science and Technology, William Ole Nasha said here when speaking during the occasion to lay a foundation stone at Kikuletwa hyis the country's first and advanced training facility and research base which doubles as college as well as centre for churning electrical power through the use of the gravitational force of flowing water.

He stated that the state was

nical training in empowering the youth for self-employment, productivity and essential skills, thus the government is focusing onto this end.

"While we are doing everything possible to create employment among young people, it is also important to facilitate them to become self-reliant and create their own jobs based on skills earned from technical training," Ole Nasha maintained

The government of Norway is collaborating with Tanzania, in dro-electric power centre, which the development of the auxiliary Kikuletwa power station located in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions, making it the country's alternative electricity churning plant as well as center for provision of hydroelectric power production training

The envoy of the Royal Norwegian embassy in Tanzania ambassador Elisabeth Jacobsen lauded Tanzania's initiative in investing into technical studies, pointing out that by year 2030 the world population will be in need of 600 million jobs, a problem that can only be solved through technical train-

"In line with that Norway will continue to support the Arusha Technical College and also the Kikuletwa power project," she assured.

Previously the acting Rector for ATC, Eng Masudi Senzia revealed here that for many years the country has been sending its hydropower technicians to study in Zambia or overseas but now that the Kikuletwa facility is in place, it will be the turn for the overseas experts to come to study here in

Fields of training at the Kikuletwa hydropower facility, according to the acting Rector include; hydropower plant operations and maintenance, domestic electrical installation, plumbing and pipe fitting and masonry brick work.

The Arusha Technical College views that while other alternative sources of energy are being introduced worldwide, hydro-electricity, being renewable and relatively cheaper, will remain the ultimate power choice on the continent

Six years ago, the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TA-NESCO) handed over the ownership of the dormant Kikuletwa, power station to the Arusha Technical College for the ATC to convert it into serious research and training base.

Constructed in the 1930's the Ki-

kuletwa plant was one of the first hydroelectric power plants in Tanzania, located at a section where the Kware river from Mount Kilimanjaro meets the Kikuletwa river from Mount Meru, providing good hydrological conditions for hydropower production.

Kikuletwa power station provided electricity to Arusha and Moshi municipalities for many years and later supplied electricity into the national grid but ceased operation in 1984.

Arusha Technical College rehabilitated and developed the power station to start serving as an international hydro-electricity training centre supply to the national grid. Previous feasibility studies had indicated that the entire Kikuletwa cascade may potentially provide up to 17 MW of electricity.

## 'Declare the nation as in danger since locusts defy pesticides'

FROM PAGE 1

of the flying pests.

Wajir, Mandera and Garissa counties were first hit by the invasion before the insects munched their way into Marsabit, Isiolo, Meru, Samburu and Laikipia counties even as the government continues to step up its efforts to end the menace.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in a recent update warned that more swarms will invade these areas, while others will move north of Mt Kenya westwards to Baringo County and continue northwest to Turkana County.

A total of 15 swarms of locusts have so far invaded Wajir from Somalia and Ethiopia.

Seven swarms were repelled through aerial spraying while eight swarms were pushed away by combined efforts of residents and other stakeholders including security officers.

Shariff has challenged the government to step up its efforts in aerial spraying as it has proved the most effective method.

More chemicals should be sent to the northern region to prevent another invasion, he appealed.

He warned that Wajir County could soon experience a repeat invasion as one swarm of locusts is currently migrating into the county from Somalia via the eastern side of the border in Gerille area.

The agricultural department has also warned that the colony of locusts currently in Mandera could migrate into the county.

The FAO has said that there is an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods in the country due to the invasion.

#### 'Govt spent 3bn/- to compensate residents of Kigongo and Busisi'

#### By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE government has spent over 3bn/- to compensate residents of Kigongo and Busisi who were evacuated to pave way for the construction of Kigongo-Busisi bridge crossing Lake Victoria in Mwanza region.

Acting manager of the Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) in Mwanza Eng Pius Mwami said that 132 people had been compensated in Kigongo and 33 in Busisi.

He said that other amount of money had been used to compensate properties as well as costs of relocating graves that were in the area of the pro-

"Indeed, the promise by President John Magufuli late last year promised to compensate all those involved, he said.

Some of the residents commended the government for constructing the bridge, saying that its completion will contribute to improving social services as well as pushing forward economic development projects in the Lake zone and the entire nation.

Constantine Masalu noted that transport services betwen Kigongo and Busisi will be reliable as people can be able to cross Lake Victoria between the two points throughout day and night and reach their destinations without any delay.

"Traveling by ferry between the two points was sometime causing trouble as passengers especially when the ferries developed mechanical defects were forced to wait for some time un-

til the problem was solved, he said.

Another resident Mariam Hamis thanking the government said the projects will permanently address transport hustles which the residents encountered for years.

"We hope that apart from addressing transport problems, the bridge will also open up new investment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and benefit the surrounding societies," she added.

On December 7, last year President Dr. John Magufuli laid the foundation stone of Kigongo-Busisi bridge, the longest in East Africa and the sixthlongest in Africa.

The 3.2 kilometers long and 28.45 meters wide bridge will connect the Kigongo and Busisi areas in Mwanza and Geita regions and will facilitate transport and trade services with neighboring countries such as Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda.

The 180-tonne capacity bridge will allow 1,600 vehicles to pass at a time and making Mwanza becoming a major commercial hub in the Lake Zone. The bridge will be an alternative means of services to the current ferry connecting the shores, dramatically reducing transport time and facilitate regional trade.

The project is valued at USD 300 million and is being developed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Group (CCECG) and the China Railway and is entirely financed by the government of Tanzania.

The construction of the bridge is scheduled for completion in July 2023



We hope that apart from addressing transport problems, the bridge will also open up new investment opportunities, stimulate economic growth and benefit the surrounding societies



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (R), current Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation chairman, presents a souvenir to European Union Delegation leader Ignasi Mundane, shortly after talks in Dodoma yesterday. Photo courtesy of Police Hqs

## Kuwaiti delegation in Dar es Salaam to explore investment opportunities

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

A DELEGATION of investors from Kuwait based food production company-'Al Rifai' is in the country to explore various investment opportunities with much interest in purchasing processed cashew nut and coffee.

The three-people delegation is led by Al Rifai Chief Executive Officer, Abdellah Foaud. Others are

the company's standards manager, Ahmed Mohamed Bahie and procurement manager, M K Hussin.

A statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, regional and International Cooperation yesterday stated that the investors have also expressed intentions to invest in cashew nut processing. They have been in the country since January 13rd 2020 and have met with various government officials.

They also met and held a meeting with officials from the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Tanzania Cotton Board (TCB), Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) and the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania (CPB).

TanTrade acting business director, Twilumba Mlelwa informed that Tanzania produces between

250,000 and 300,000 tonnes of raw cashew nut. She said the crop is mostly cultivated in Mtwara, Lindi, Ruvuma (Tunduru), Pwani (Mkuranga and Kibaha) and Tanga regions.

"There is investment opportunity in cashew nut processing because there are only 13 functioning factories with the capacity to process 43,000 tonnes of the crop", said Mlelwa.

Meanwhile, Al Rifai chief executive officer, Abdellah Foaud commended efforts made by Tanzanian ambassador in Kuwait Eng Aisha Amour as well as the cooperation shown by government officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and

"We are determined to start engaging in purchasing of cashew nuts. We will shortly finalize the

International Cooperation.

processes as well as signing of contracts in accordance with the laws", said Foaud.

Speaking after visiting a cashew nut warehouse in Kurasini, Dar es Salaam, Faoud said Tanzania's cashew nuts are of high quality and have been professionally stored "We will invest in Tanzania due to the quality of its crops", he

noted. Al Rifai standards manager, Ahmed Mohamed Bahie said: "We are satisfied with the quality of coffee, cashew nuts and cloves. We will fast-track finalisation of processes and signing of contracts to immediately start construction of a cashewnut processing plant".

The delegation also visited Lindi, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar where they received information from Isle's officials on production of cloves.



Mwananyamala Regional Referral Hospital director of medical services Dr Isdory Kiwale (R) shows journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday a mini-factory installed at the hospital and expected to be used to produce waste storage bags from waste plastic bags and bottles. Photo: Correspondent Mary

## PM warns against misuse of public funds

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed Unguja South regional commissioner, Ayoub Mohammed Mahmoud to take measures against officials proved to be engaged in embezzlement of public funds.

The Premier warned public servants to be careful with public monies especially those working in revenue collection departments. He insisted the RC to make

sure each of the collected taxes and levies are deposited in the government treas-Majaliwa gave the order

yesterday during his meeting with civil servants and leaders of Unguja South region held at Tunguu in Zanzibar. Majaliwa who is on official

tour in Zanzibar highlighted the importance of civil servants to abide by working ethics and make sure collected monies were deposited for supervise well accountabil-

implementation of development projects.

"You should not hesitate to take measures against dishonest officers misusing public funds.

Collected revenues belong to the citizens, they are the ones to benefit with the collected taxes through improvement of social services", said the Premier insisting the government is not ready to work with untrustworthy people.

The Prime Minister urged public servants to work hard and with due diligence to ensure that they produce the required results for the country's development and its people.

He said that the government will not entertain reckless, theft and lazy public servants

Meanwhile, the minister directed regional and district commissioners and executive directors (DEDs) to ity and service provision in their areas of work.

"Social and health services should be strengthened by making sure that they are always available and at required standard, we don't want to hear public claims on service provision," he said.

Earlier, Regional Commissioner of South Ayoub Mohamed Mahmoud said that district councils have continued to strengthened revenue collections and provision of social services in the region.

"For example revenue collection in South Unguja district increased to 524.5m/in the year 2018/19 from 241m/- in 2017/18 which is an increase of 118 percent," he

Mahamoud also said that revenue collection in Central district also went up to 632.9m/- in 2018/19 from 304.3m/- collected in 2017/18 which is an increase of 108 per cent.

## 'Govt working towards investment facilitation law to lure investors'

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THE government is working to come up with a 'trade facilitation law' so as to attract more investors in the country, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Investment Angela Kairuki has said.

She made the remarks yester-

day here when she visited some factories. Kairuki said that the new law will be friendly to investors facilitating them to operate smoothly for mutual benefits.

"We need potential investors from across the world to come and invest in Tanzania and establish industries to support the country's

industrialisation drive thus enable Tanzania attains its vision of becoming middle income country by 2025,"she said.

While at the Global packaging company, the minister promised to address various challenges facing the factory.

She said; "On our part as govern-

ment, we promise to offer better investment incentives. We also promise to work on all challenges thwarting investment efforts."

She also noted that the government has made it easy to acquire land for investments where district council planners have been directed to set aside at least ten

per cent of land available for investment.

Minister Kairuki said that through putting massive investments will enable the country also decrease imports and accelerate economy growth.

Earlier, the company's director Benoo Mwitumba said that the

factory which commenced operations in 2017 is facing a number of challenges including high power

He further requested the government to help the factory to work with the crops board in the

country. "We are also appealing for the

government to support us to establish more factories in various parts in the country so as to serve more Tanzanians," he said.

The minister also visited KEDS factory in Kibaha which produces washing powder and pampers as well as a Meat Processing factory

## Domestic Tourism Expo for this year lined up for next month, says Awotta

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Association of Women in Tourism Tanzania (AWOTTA) has said this year's Domestic Tourism Expo will attract participants from eight foreign countries.

Themed 'Recognize the great Value of Domestic Tourism' the event will be held from February 6 to 8 at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam.

AWOTTA Founder and Chairperson, Mary Kalikawe told journalists yesterday that during the expo there will also be Nyama choma festivals whereas visitors will have chances to test locally made wines and have a look at wild animals.

"This is the second edition of the expo, it will attract more than 1,500 travel agents, tour operators including international tourism professionals from Côte d'Ivoire, UK, Angola, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Tanzania", she said adding the African Tourism Board Chairman and Minister of Tourism from South Africa will participate in this year's

Kalikawe noted that while in Tanzania foreign participants will present topics on the importance of domestic tourism for national development.

She called on Tanzanian engaged in the tourism sector to take part in the event by showcasing the various products they produce as well as networking with their counterparts from outside Tanzania.

"There will be no entrance fee so it is a good chance for Tanzanians to contribution to the economy.

come and see the various cultural and traditional products produced in their country. We will have wild animals which we believe children will enjoy seeing them", said Kalikawe noting the wild animals will be from the Dar es Salaam zoo.

She said on February 7th there will be workshop and seminars engaging tourism stakeholders where participants will share experience on current domestic tourism development in their specific countries.

She also thanked the United Nations for selecting AWOTTA as the best tourism association in Africa due to its activities and various tourism projects they have initiated.

"We are proud for this achievement because AWOTTA is well-known by the UN, many people were inspired with the recently event held in Ghana about women empowerment in the tourism sector," she said.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Head of Public Relations, Geofrey Tengeneza added that TTB will participate in the event to market Tanzanian tourism potentials.

"We invite other people to participate in this event for the development of domestic tourism. We call upon Tanzanians to visit the expo to know various attractions available countrywide," said Tengeneza.

He said domestic tourism can also help to boost national income instead of depending on international tourists. He said TTB is also promoting domestic tourism to enhance the sector's



Britt Hilde Kjolas, a representative of Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, speaks in Manyara Region earlier this week on cooperation between her country and Tanzania at an event to mark the 64th anniversary of Haydom Referral Hospital. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Arusha to host KAN festival to address modern-day 'Scramble for Africa'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

'New Age' scramble for Africa by 'modern colonialists' is the theme that will dominate the second edition of Knowledge Art and Networking (KAN) when at least 5000 people, mostly youth from all over the continent, gather in Arusha for the event next week.

The Knowledge, Art, and Networking (KAN) an infotainment and 'Brainiac' festival which starts ble for Africa.

in Arusha next Wednesday, will be staged at the MS-Training Centre for Development Corporation (TCDC) in Usa-River section of Arumeru District.

Speakers, Participants and performers from more than seven countries of Africa, are set to converge here targeting to address challenges facing the continent at the time when the better developed Eastern and Western countries return for yet another scram-

"At KAN, we recognize the power of art and strongly believe that 'synergizing' art and community building can be a powerful vehicle for strengthening communities," said Ezra Mbogori, the Executive Director for MS-TCDC.

According to Mbogori, efforts to improve quality of life, reduce inequality, for instance, are inherently tied to local customs, values, and social systems. "Culture, including art, is a medium for development new life into the community," he pointed out.

The four-day festival running from the 22nd to the 25th of January 2020 expects to host an audience of over 5000. The event will feature visual and performing artists from across Africa, including Uganda, Kenya, D.R. Congo, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania

mainland and the Isles. KAN event will also screen dozens of movies based on stories from across Africa such as 'Gifts Dave Ojay explained that the event

from Babylon,' a short film exploring the psychological impact of Africa-EU migration through the lens of a Gambian return-migrant.

Hosted under the theme "Development and 'Developmentalism," the 2020 KAN Festival theme anchors on the strap-line from Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's belief that development should be people oriented not based on material things 'Maendeleo ni watu si vitu.'

The KAN Festival Art Director,

will feature series of panel discussions with development practitioners and artists, round tables with visual artists and filmmakers.

and breakout sessions. "Artists such as Vitali Maembe, Fid Q, Siti and the Band from Tanzania, Sandra Nankoma from Uganda, Juma Tutu from Kenya, Victor Kunonga from Zimbabwe, and Isabella Novela from Mozambique will perform at the Festival,"

he said. A special 'Swahili Day,' will also aware of, and speaks of develop-

run for a full-day on Friday the 24th at the center, in honoring the continent's most spoken local language. There will also be an opportunity for young artists and school going children to learn from senior visual and performing artists through the art and drum-

ming classes. The festival, according to the organizers, will feature conscious art, both visual and performing art. "Conscious art is an art that is



Training Centre for Development Cooperation director Ezra Mbogori (L) briefs journalists in Arusha yesterday on the countdown to a cultural and art festival expected to serve as a platform for exchanging experiences and learning various developmental issues for the benefit of Tanzania. He is with the programme director Sarah Terry. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

#### AfDB due to unveil its flagship African economic outlook

ABIDJAN

THE African Development Bank (AFDB) will on January 30 launch the 2020 edition of its flagship African Economic Outlook (AEO) report at its headquarters in Abidjan.

Bank Group President Akinwumi Adesina will unveil the report in the presence of African ministers, diplomats and representatives of international bodies. The theme for this year's report is: Developing Africa's workforce for the future.

The annual publication highlights economic prospects and projections for the continent as a bloc and for each of the 54 countries. It offers short- and medium-term forecasts on key socio-economic indicators such as growth, poverty and jobs, while at the same time examining the challenges and progress made.

The report, produced by the Bank's economic experts, serves as a tool for policymakers, academics, investors, development and financial industry professionals and the media to inform policy dialogue and enhance planning and operational efficiency.

## Health leaders meet over fake drugs crisis

LOMÉ

HEALTH leaders from seven African countries met in Togo's capital Lomé yesterday and signed an agreement criminalising trafficking in fake drugs.

Tens of thousands of people in Africa die each year because of fake and counterfeit medication.

Congo-Brazzaville, The Gambia, Ghana, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Uganda are hoping that laws specifically targeting fake medications will do the trick.

Health activist Denis Bukenya from the Human Rights Research Documentation Centre in Uganda told BBC Newsday that

used to charge people importing fake drugs, but the penalties were too small to be a deterrent to criminals.

The proliferation of fake medicines in Africa is a public health crisis that can no longer be ignored, according to a UK charity. The Brazzaville Foundation is

representatives from existing laws could already be organising a meeting of seven and what impact does it have? African countries, in Togo, this week, to combat the problem. Congo, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, Ghana and The Gambia will discuss measures to clamp down on trafficking in fake med-

> But how big a problem is counterfeit medicine in Africa,

many counterfeit How drugs are there?

Globally, the trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals is worth up to \$200bn (£150bn) annually, with Africa among the regions most affected, according to industry estimates.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says 42% of all fake medicines reported to them between 2013 and 2017 were from Africa. The European region and the Americas (North and South) accounted for 21% each.

But how reliable are these figures?

The WHO has a reporting mechanism that relies on national or regional regulatory authorities around the world to notify it of seizures.

So the data for 2013-17 is only as good as the surveillance and reporting systems in the countries or regions concerned.



A Bico Engineering official (gesturing) updates Tanga regional commissioner Martin Shigella (to his right) yesterday on the deepening of Tanga Port, work meant to make the facility more efficient and able to handle larger cargo ships than is now the case. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## TBS destroys counterfeit goods worth over 10m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has destroyed illegal and fake imported food and cosmetics worth over 10m/- in its operations conducted in various parts of Dodoma and Singida regions.

Speaking soon after destroying the products here, Central Zone TBS acting manager Salome Emmanuel said that the products were seized in various parts in the region following operations conducted from October o December 2019.

"Many shops have been selling fake or expired products as the owners hire cheap workers with no expertise in the area...These products are most found in retail shops thus risking people's health," he said.

She warned traders with a habit of selling expired products saying that the government will never spare anyone once caught.

The official further urged the public to be careful when purchasing the products warning them to avoid using fake or expired goods

for their own benefits.

She said that TBS has always been impounding and destroying goods which do not comply with relevant standards so as to safeguard people's health and the country's revenues.

"This is an ongoing exercise, we will always be here to ensure that no fake, substandard or expired product enters the market," she

Halima Said, Dodoma city resident said that TBS should invest more efforts to address the challenge as most of the expired human drugs and cosmetics are toxic and dangerous for human health.

"We are calling for the TBS to conduct more impromptu operations to the shops because most of the traders are now using new ways of evading the punishments, they have been putting fake stickers and details in products which is very difficult for a normal person to recognize.. This is a huge risk to people's lives," she noted.



We are calling for the TBS to conduct more impromptu operations to the shops because most of the traders are now using new ways of evading the punishments, they have been putting fake stickers and details in products which is very difficult for a normal person to recognize.. This is a huge risk to people's lives,

#### Manyanya urges institutions, private bodies to desist from issuing unauthorised statistics

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Deputy Minister for Industries, Trade and Investment Eng Stella Manyanya has warned institutions and private organisations from issuing statistics that have not been approved by the

Eng Manyanya made the remarks on Thursday when speaking at the launch of a 18 months programme that gears to improve the quality of locally

made products to enable them penetrate international markets. The programme is conducted jointly by REPOA and European Union EU).

The Deputy Minister informed that the government has been working on various researches conducted in the country with the aim of ensuring it attains it targeted goal of transforming Tanzania into an industrialised

nation by 2025. "We will take measures

against anyone issuing contradicting statistics. We want institutions to conduct research and give tangible statistics that can help in national development", said Eng Manyanya commending some of the research institu-

She said the government has been using the data to improve

gramme will firstly cover five areas including the horticulture sector, leather industry, rice cultivation and fishing. He said researches have shown that horticulture products from Tanza-

nian can be largely sold abroad. "It has come to our attention that Tanzania's fresh fruits and other horticultural goods can massively be sold abroad and help improve the welfare of farmers whose many are women and youth. Tanzania is currently exporting 3,000 tonnes of avocado," saod Dr Mmari.

According to him, there is also a huge demand for Tanzanian rice in various countries around the world, insisting the institution will capacitate rice farmers to ensure they produce quality rice as well as assist in finding markets

"We will also concentrate in improvement of leather products and hides since Tanzania is the second African country

with a big number of cattle. We are yet to fully utilise potentials in the leather industry; we want the government to earn more from it," he noted.

According to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Water, the number of domestic animals is as follows, 30.5 million cattle. 18.8 million goats, 5.3 million sheep, 1.9 million pigs and 595,160 donkeys.

Goats can produce 4.7 million

pieces of hides, cows (3.1 million pieces) and sheep (1.3 million

Currently the country hardly exports 10 tonnes of raw skins and wet blue products compared to up to 20 tonnes in the past.

Uganda is said to have five modern tanneries and Kenya three. Data from the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries shows that Tanzania has seven tanner-

#### First malaria vaccine being tested in babies in 3 African countries

**TOMALI** 

A PINCH in the leg, a squeal and a trickle of tears, one baby after another in Malawi is getting the first and only vaccine against malaria, one of history's deadliest and most stubborn of

The southern African nation is rolling out the shots in an unusual pilot program along with Kenya and Ghana. Unlike established vaccines that offer near-complete protection, this new one is only about 40% effective. But experts say it's worth a try as progress against malaria stalls: Resistance to treatment is growing and the global drop in cases has leveled off.

With the vaccine, the hope is to help small children through the most dangerous period of their lives. Spread by mosquito bites, malaria kills more than 400,000 people every year, twothirds of them under 5 and most in Africa.

Seven-month-old Charity Nangware received a shot on a rainy December day at a health clinic in the town of Migowi. She watched curiously as the needle slid into her thigh, then twisted up her face with a howl.

"I'm very excited about this," said her mother, Esther Gonjani, who herself gets malaria's aches, chills and fever at least once a year and loses a week of field work when one of her children is ill. "They explained it wasn't perfect, but I feel secure it will relieve the pain."

There is little escaping malaria - "malungo" in the local Chichewa language - especially during the five-month rainy season. Stagnant puddles, where mosquitoes breed, surround the homes of brick and thatch and line the dirt roads through tea plantations or fields of maize and sugar cane.

In the village of Tomali, the nearest health clinic is a two-hour bike ride away. The longer it takes to get care, the more dangerous malaria can be. Teams from the clinic offer basic medical care during visits once or twice a month, bringing the malaria shot and other vaccines in portable coolers.

Treating malaria takes up a good portion of their time during the rainy season, according to Daisy Chikonde, a local health

"If this vaccine works, it will reduce the burden," she said. When she heard about the vaccine, Ephrem said her first thought was "protection is here." Health workers explained, however, that the vaccine is not meant to replace antimalarial drugs or the insecticide-treated bed net she unfolds every night

"We even take our evening meals inside the net to avoid mos-

as the sun sets and mosquitoes rise from the shadows.

quitoes," she said.

It took three decades of research to develop the new vaccine, which works against the most common and deadly of the five parasite species that cause malaria. The parasite's complex life cycle is a huge challenge. It changes forms in different stages of infection and is far harder to target than germs.



tions including REPOA for pro-REPOA Executive Director, Dr Donald Mmari said the pro-



Vehicular traffic abnormally light yesterday afternoon near the Morogoro Road/Mandela Road intersection site where Dar es Salaam's Ubungo Interchange is in progress. Photo: John

## Kiir and Machar affirm commitment to form government

**JUBA** 

THE peace parties in the Republic of South Sudan have affirmed their commitment to form the government within the specified 100-days period.

The parties held a session of talks at the Presidential Palace in Juba today, which included President Salva Kiir Mayardit and opposition leader Dr. Riek Machar, in the presence of the Sudanese mediator, First Vice-President of the Sovereign Council First Lieutenant-General Mohamed Hamdan Dago.

The session dealt with how to

implement the South Sudan peace agreement and form the government before the 100-day deadline set by the guarantors with the peace parties in the Ugandan city of Entebbe expires.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in the states file.

South Sudan Presidential Advisor Tut Gatlwak affirmed in a press statement after the meeting the parties' commitment to form the government within the specified time, explaining that the file of security arrangements is proceeding well.

On the file of the states, Tut

is on its position on the number of 32 states, but the parties are waiting for the technical committee reports to decide on them, indicating that the parties have not specified a definite number for the states so far.

He said the parties would soon reach a comprehensive agree-

ment on the outstanding issues. Meanwhile, parties involved in the resolution of conflict in South Sudan have committed to work towards the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity. Deputy President David Mabuza in his capacity as South pointed out that the government Africa's special envoy to South Su-

dan expressed his satisfaction at all of us should treat this process the progress made upon the conclusion of the working visit.

During the visit, the Deputy President held consultation meetings with various parties and stakeholders that are signatories to the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan.

In these consultations, there was consensus on the formation of the Revitalised Government of National Unity before or by the end of the current extended period of 100 days ending in February 2020. "We have entered a crucial stage of these negotiations and with diligence and care. As facilitators, we are confident that the Parties will form the Transitional Government of National Unity within this window," said the Deputy President.

The number of states and their boundaries has been a sticking point between parties towards the formation of a Transitional Government of National Unity.

Given that this matter has not been settled, parties agreed on a seven-day period for further consultation on the proposal of arbitration as a mechanism to break the impasse.

#### Tourism stakeholders call on govt to use media in promoting tourist attractions and the national parks

#### By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Serengeti

TOURISM stakeholders have called on the government to use media in promoting tourist attractions and the national parks.

They urged that by using the media conservation education is likely to reach many people within and outside the country.

Speaking to 20 journalists from Iringa and Mbeya regions who are in a learning tour, Outreach programme officer of the Serengeti National Park in Mara, Zabron Mtweve said that media is crucial for successful publicity of national parks and tourist attractions.

"We are using artists and celebrities, but we should also consider using the media in promoting tourism as well as conservation education", he said adding they are now implementing an outreach programme introduced by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) that targets communities adjacent to parks and game reserves.

Mtweve added that outreach programmes may also help in reducing poaching incidences and enhance protection of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). He said the Serengeti National Park in Mara region has been able to reduce poaching in the park after good relationship with the neighborhood villages and provision of conservation education which is done through village meetings.

He said apart from TANAPA they have initiated conservation projects for people around parks as well as establishment of 56 Community Conservation Banks -COCOBA groups in Serengeti, Bunda, Bariadi and Ngorongoro districts. He said villagers were also assisted to start beekeeping projects as part of efforts to control poaching. He said the decision was reached after realizing that poverty was one of the reasons for individuals to engage in poaching activities.

Chairman of the Iringa Press Club (IPC) Frank Leonard said there is a need for the government to use the media to advertise tourist attractions and parks.

He said northern regions have made significant strides in tourism sector hence the need to ensure other tourist attractions across the country are also marketed.

A resident of Mugumu village in Serengeti district, Samuel Peter said the villagers have greatly benefited from various tourism activities at the park since they also were involved in doing businesses with the visitors.

Peter who is a lecturer at the Serengeti Tourism College (SETCO) said: "The Serengeti National Park has helped to improve the lives of people as well as providing employment to young people who mostly work in tourist camps".

Paulina Boma from Mugumu village said: "I have been selling cultural products to tourists and was able to raise income to care of my family".

Boma called upon fellow citizens surrounding the park to properly utilize available opportunities.

Acting director, Serengeti District Council, Rebecca Msambusi, said the council is benefiting from the park's presence with a number of development projects implemented such as improvement of road infrastructures.

Msambusi said the council also continues to improve the roads in partnership with the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) and Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARU-RA) to ease transport services for both residents and tourists. Serengeti district tourism officer, Jeremiah Mwita said a huge part of the district land has been allocated for conservation activities.

Mwita noted that Serengeti district get revenues amounting to 1.5bn/- from 15,000 tourists visiting the park annu-



Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission senior researcher Dr Suleiman Amour Suleiman (R) shows journalists a copy of newsletter with information on the commission. This was at a trade exhibition held in Zanzibar yesterday as part of celebrations to mark the 56th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: Rahma Sulei-

## UNICEF inaugurates drone and data academy to improve service delivery for African children

**By Guardian Reporter** 

THE first African Drone and Data Academy (ADDA) has been opened to promote the use of drones in programmes and services that will impact the lives of children and young people.

The inaugural class of the ADDA includes 16 students from Malawi and 10 from across Africa. The class has for the first time been opened in Lilongwe, Malawi according to UNICEF.

UNICEF executive director, Henrietta Fore said: "Humanitarian and development programme delivery in Africa and beyond can benefit significantly from the application of drone technology. The African Drone and Data Academy will be instrumental in equipping young people with the skills they need to use the technology to benefit children and their communi-

Building on the work of Africa's first humanitarian corridor launched in Malawi in 2017, the academy will develop expertise in the use of drones for humanitarian, development and commercial purposes across the continent

through a 12-week course. It plans to train approximately 150 students to build and pilot drones by 2021. Funding from UNICEF's partners will provide

free tuition to the first cohort of 26

students from across Africa.

"In Malawi we strongly believe that adopting modern technologies such as drones and advanced data analysis and management techniques will help us to serve our children better. We are proud to partner with UNICEF in such an exciting endeavor," said James Chakwera, Director of Malawi's Department of Civil Aviation.

The curriculum has been developed in partnership with Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) - following its successful delivery of train-2017. The course will combine business models for using drones theoretical and practical method- for humanitarian and developologies in making, testing and flyment missions.

By 2022, the academy will run a tuition-free two-vear master's degree program in drone technology, in conjunction with Malawi University of Science and Technol-

**By Guardian Reporter** 

THE Intergovernmental

Authority on Development

(IGAD) has called upon its

partner states in the East

African Community (EAC)

to pull resources together

to prevent, control and pos-

sibly eradicate the desert

locust threat to food security

"Prevention and control

measures must be scaled up

to contain further spread of

the desert locust. Countries

must act urgently to avoid

a food security crisis in the

region" said Dr Workneh

Gebeyehu, IGAD's execu-

tive secretary in a press

statement released yester-

day by Food Security and

Nutrition Working Group

FAO sub regional coordi-

nator for the Eastern and

representative of the Afri-

in the region.

ogy (MUST). It will also deliver a curriculum that will build local capacity and a favorable ecosystem ing workshops in Malawi since for the emergence of sustainable

> "The ADDA reflects Virginia Tech's ongoing commitment to the innovative application of drone technology and education in Malawi and the Africa region," said Kevin Kochersberger, associate

Locust outbreak threatens food security across East Africa

making the bad food secu-

rity situation worse in the

sub-region, exacerbating

the existing dire food inse-

curity and malnutrition in

He added that the weath-

er seems favourable for the

locust breeding with high probability that the locust

will continue to breed until

The FSNWG recommends

for increased ground sur-

veillance for early detec-

tion, increase the use of

wind forecasts, to help pre-

empt trajectory of desert

locust bands and swarms

as well as to conduct imme-

diate regional mapping of

current invasion and fore-

It also suggests for ag-

gressive targeted aerial and

ground spraying, immediate

up scaling of aerial control

operations and use of local

radio to disseminate and

cast trajectory.

the sub-region".

March-April 2020.

Phiri warned: "The locust is tection and reporting of any

professor at Virginia Tech who will lead the project.

Kochersberger added: "The academy will give graduates the necessary skills for jobs using drone applications ranging from agriculture and health to natural resources monitoring.

More than half of ADDA students (55 per cent) are women with undergraduate degrees in science, technology or engineering.

incidences of desert locust. The governor of Mandera

County in Kenya, Ali Roba

issued a press statement via the Mandera Media Agency

on the 8th of January 2020

saying that unfortunately

counties are ill prepared technically, financially and

lacks the capacity and ex-

pertise to handle such disas-

a vast county with over

26,000 square kilometres

and desperately requires a

simultaneous multi-agency

approach in all its sub-coun-

ties to salvage the situation

The desert locust outbreak

is destroying crops and pas-

ture across eastern Ethio-

pia and neighbouring areas

of Somalia, parts of Sudan,

Eritrea and northern Kenya

with a high risk of further

spread in the absence of im-

mediate and significant scale

as it is right now".

He added: "Mandera is

trous invasion by locusts.



China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke (C) unveils a plaque to inaugurate Mrisho Gambo English Medium Secondary School at Olasiti in Arusha on Wednesday, witnessed by Science, Technology and Education minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (2nd-R), Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (R) and other stakeholders. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

#### can Union and the United Nations Economic Com-

#### **MAPUTO**

FOR the first time terrorists operating in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado have struck in Mueda district, the birthplace of President Filipe Nyusi, reports Friday's issue of the independent newssheet "Carta de Mocambique".

The insurgency, believed to be in-

spired by Islamic fundamentalism, began in October 2017 with attacks on police facilities in Mocimboa da Praia district, and then spread to Palma, MacomIa, Nangade and Muidumbe districts

Last week, "Carta de Mocambique" writes, the insurgents reached Mueda, with an attack against a Land Cruiser vehicle, near Chapa village, on the road from

#### Mueda town to Montepuez. Nobody was killed or injured in

the attack, which was carried out by people wearing police uniforms, believed to have been stolen. This is thought to be the same group which, a few days ago, attacked Magaia village, in Muidumbe.

Local sources told the newssheet

that in fact the first attack in Mueda occurred in November 2019, against

Meanwhile the police have arrested three members of the defence and security forces in Mucojo administrative post, Macomia district. They are accused of stealing goods from local shops last Sunday, and of

vandalising three stalls. They stole a radio, a tin of tuna,

(FSNWG).

sum of money. The soldiers, who appeared to be acting under the influence of alcohol, also opened fire against a house where villagers were watching a tel-

evised football match.

cojo, for fear of the islamists, but this alcoholic drinks and an unspecified time the thieves were discovered. One of the victims complained at the local police post, and the thieves were arrested, and forced to return

mission for Africa, Dr David educate people on early de-

the goods they had stolen. Meanwhile, Ossufo Momade, leader of Mozambique's main oppo-

sition party, Renamo, has categorically refused to negotiate with Mariano Nhongo, head of the dissident gunmen who call themselves the "Renamo Military Junta".

up in control activities.

Interviewed in Beira by the German agency DW-Africa, Momade said that anyone who imagined that a dialogue with Nhongo would end the crisis within Renamo and bring about peace was sorely mistaken.

## Terrorists strike in Mueda district

Nastengi village.

#### 'Dipping the most effective way of controlling ticks on animals

#### By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has distributed a total of 1,285 litres of veterinary medicines for a special animal dipping campaign to control diseases in Singida and Dodoma regions.

Acting officer in charge at the central zone veterinary laboratory, Dr Samwel Mngumi told journalists that the campaign will be conducted countrywide which will involve showering animals in medicinal dip-tank so as to fight diseases especially ticks and flies

According to him, the government has prepared a special strategy to fight livestock diseases as well as usage of drugs and vaccines to improve surveillance among others.

He said that poor cattle dipping services had contributed greatly to increased animal diseases, adding that dipping was the most effective way of controlling ticks on animals.

"The campaign had earlier encountered some challenges including high price f veterinary medicines and poor dipping tanks...but most of them are now under major rehabilitation," he added.

He said the exercise in the central zone involves dipping of at

least 186,000 animals per month but with the improvement which has been made, the number will increase so as to ensure that more cattle dipping.

Extension officer for Hombolo ward Adam Twera said that the area faces a number of challenges including animal diseases such as

"During summer season, animals grapple a lot to find food, this forces them to travel and sometimes climb mountains to get it. In these grazing areas, ticks and flies also are also in high numbers which risk cattle from contaminating diseases," he noted.

Some of the pastoralists urged the government to provide more medicines to enable all dipping

Innocent Peter, livestock specialist in Dodoma city also said that part from diseases from ticks and flies, most of the cattle are facing lungs (pneumonia) challenge, a disease which kills a number of livestock also.

Tanzania is the second highest in livestock population in Africa after Ethiopia.

The country's livestock sector grows at 2.6 per cent per year. Tanzania has more than 28 million cattle with 782,995 being dairy cattle.



Parliamentary Public Investments Committee chairman Dr Raphael Chegeni (R) chairs a meeting of the committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent **Ibrahim Joseph** 

## Minister orders release of 179 cattle seized while grazing in Mkungunero forest reserve

#### **By Guardian Reporter**

NATURAL Resources and Tourism deputy minister, Constantine Kanyasu has directed the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) to re-179 cattle which were seized grazing at Mkungunero forest reserve in Simanajiro district, Manyara region.

The Mkungunero forest re-

serve is owned by Mathayo to their problem including lack Marao, a resident of Kimotorok village in the forest.

Kanyasu released the cattle after the villagers complained that Kimotorok village is among the 366 villages located within the Mkungunero forest reserve. The villagers claimed that the government allowed them to continue grazing at the area as it works to find solution

og grazing land.

Speaking with the villagers at Kimotorok village, the deputy minister urged the villagers to respect country laws and avoid grazing in forests and game reserves because the government has yet to decide whether the areas will be given back

to them or not. "The final decision will be

given by President John Magufuli. Let us avoid invading forests because the areas are specially demarcated for conservation activities", said Kan-

He said the government doesn't want to seize the domestic animals because such acts have been resulting into increased poverty amongst pastoralists. He said conservation

activities are meant to benefit the nation hence the need for every Tanzanian to protect the natural forests.

Kanyasu warned the villagers to stop attacking game wardens when forcing entrance into forest and game reserves. He said stern legal measures will be taken against anyone reported to attack game rangers.

Simanjiro Member of Parlia-

ment, James Millya called upon the residents to stop grazing in conserved areas expressing dismay over habit by some pastoralists who attack game rangers with local weapons to forcibly take their cattle in the reserved

Millya called upon the elders-'Olaibon' to regularly talk to the villagers and insist them to obey country laws. He also

urged the villagers to fully take part in conservation activities and report to relevant authorities whenever their fellows graze in the forest.

Joseph Olematwaa from Kimotorok village said decision by deputy minister Kanyasu to release the cattle will enhance relationship between the villagers, game rangers and the government.



Rehabilitation of Central Railway in progress at Buguruni Chama in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Grant Nestlé launches fund to develop packaging innovation

GLOBAL food and beverage giant Nestlé has announced that it will invest up to Swiss Franc 2 billion to lead the shift from virgin plastics to food-grade recycled plastics and to accelerate the development of innovative sustainable packaging

solutions. Building on its 2018 commitment to make 100 per cent of its packaging recyclable or reusable by 2025, Nestlé will reduce its use of virgin plastics by one third in the same period whilst working with others to advance the circular economy and endeavor to clean up plastic waste from oceans, lakes and rivers.

Food quality and safety are paramount, and packaging plays a major role in assuring this. Most plastics are difficult to recycle for food packaging, leading to a limited supply of food-grade recycled plastics.

To create a market, Nestlé is therefore committed to sourcing up to 2 million metric tons of food-grade recycled plastics and allocating up in landfill or as litter," more than CHF 1.5 billion to pay a premium for these materials between now and

2025. Nestlé will seek op- enormous challenge for our erational efficiencies to keep this initiative earnings neutral.

Packaging innovation, including new materials, refill systems and recycling solutions, is another key challenge on the path towards a waste-free future. In addition to its sig-

nificant inhouse research through the Nestlé Institute of Packaging Sciences, the company will launch a CHF 250 million sustainable packaging venture fund to invest in start-up companies that focus on these areas.

These two initiatives come in addition to Nestlé's major ongoing efforts in research, sourcing and manufacturing to make its packaging recyclable or reusable and contribute to its goal to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

As part of the company's packaging commitment and to increase transparency, Nestlé will continue to outline further initiatives and provide regular progress updates.

"No plastic should end said Mark Schneider, CEO of Nestlé. "Making recycled plastics safe for food is an industry.

That is why in addition to minimizing plastics use and collecting waste, we want to close the loop and make more plastics infinitely recyclable.

We are taking bold steps to create a wider market for food-grade recycled plastics and boost innovation in the packaging industry. We welcome others to join us on

this journey. "We are pleased to see Nestlé commit a CHF 2 billion investment toward creating a circular economy for plastics, alongside a reduction of its use of virgin plastic in packaging by one third by 2025.

By eliminating the plastics we don't need, innovating in areas like reuse models and new materials, and circulating the plastics we do need - also in more challenging food grade applications - we can create an economy where plastic never becomes waste.

Achieving the commitments announced today will significantly contribute towards realizing this vision," said Andrew Morlet, CEO, Ellen MacArthur Foun-

#### UN: More than 2.3 million people face severe food insecurity in Zambia

#### **LUSAKA**

THE United Nations Office for the Coordination of HumaniZambians will be in dire need to other factors, severe drought of food assistance by March this

The organization said that tarian Affairs (UNOCHA) has the anticipated severe starvaprojected that over 3.3 million tion is as a result of, in addition

in the western and southern provinces of the country over the past two rainy seasons in 2017 and 2018, and floods in the

The UN also reports that as of wards the Humanitarian Appeal December 2019, the Humanitarian Country Team had mobilized US \$ 38 million, including US \$

requirement of US \$ 89.5 million.

Although these resources have enabled humanitarian partners

observes the need for more resources to head off projected starvation. The report comes when neighbouring Zimbabwe is 8 million from the UN Central to kick-start activities in health, already receiving food aid after Emergency Response Fund, to-food and other sectors, the UN poor farming seasons recently.

Both Zambia and Zimbabwe are also facing a huge power shortage which is said to have contributed to the food crisis since irrigations were discon-

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SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2020

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

## Seeds are of utmost biological and economic importance

SEED is the part of a seed plant which can grow into a new plant. It is a reproductive structure which disperses, and can survive for some time. A typical seed includes three basic parts: an embryo, a supply of nutrients for the embryo, and a seed coat.

There are many different kinds of seeds. Some plants make a lot of seeds, some make only a few. Seeds are often hard and very small, but some are larger. The coconut is as big as a child's head, but it contains more than just a seed.

Many kinds of seeds are good food for animals and people. The many kinds of grain that people grow, such as rice, wheat, and maize, are all seeds.

Seeds are produced in several related groups of plants, and their manner of production distinguishes the angiosperms ("enclosed seeds") from the gymnosperms ("naked seeds"). Angiosperm seeds are produced in a hard or fleshy structure called a fruit that encloses the seeds for protection in order to secure healthy growth. Some fruits have layers of both hard and fleshy material.

Seeds have been an important development in the reproduction and success of gymnosperm and angiosperm plants, relative to more primitive plants such as ferns, mosses and liverworts, which do not have seeds and use water-dependent means to propagate themselves. Seed plants now dominate biological niches on land, from forests to grasslands both in hot and cold climates.

The term "seed" also has a general meaning that antedates the above - anything that can be sown, e.g. "seed" potatoes, "seeds" of corn or sunflower "seeds". In the case of sunflower and corn "seeds", what is sown is the seed enclosed in a shell or husk, whereas the potato is a tuber.

Many structures commonly referred to as "seeds" are actually dry fruits. Plants producing berries are called baccate. Sunflower seeds are sometimes sold commercially while

still enclosed within the hard wall of the fruit, which must be split open to reach the seed. Different groups of plants have other modifications, the so-called stone fruits (such as the peach) have a hardened fruit layer (the endocarp) fused to and surrounding the actual seed. Nuts are the one-seeded, hard-shelled fruit of some plants with an indehiscent seed, such as an acorn or hazelnut.

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has mobilised itself to start producing quality seeds of various crops by using modern technology so as to stop depending on importing such seeds whose use currently accounts for 70 per cent.

TARI farms can produce seeds that withstand diseases to help farmers get better crop yields.

The institution has about 18 research centres and each one has been allocated with strategic crops, for example TARI-Naliendele in Mtwara has been tasked to produce cashew nuts, groundnuts and sesame seeds to cater for southern regions, and TARI-Ilonga in Morogoro has been tasked to produce seeds for sunflower, sorghum, maize, leguminous crops, root crops for Central Zone re-

We hope that shortage of cashew nuts and sesame seeds will be history due to increase of production following the establishment of seed farms in regions that grow the crops.

TARI-Tengeru in Arusha region is set to alleviate shortage of seeds for vegetable and fruit crops that are used as raw materials in agro industries - including avocado, tomatoes and spinach. In the same vein, TARI-Ilonga's strategy in place is to produce 3,000 tonnes of quality seeds for sunflower that would produce not less than 60,000 tonnes of sunflower crop, the yields that will reduce cooking oil dependency from

TAZRI-Dakawa is well known for production of rice quality seeds and had | time when we create new resolualready researched on a much better tions, new goals and ultimately rice seeds known as 'Saro 5' that withstands diseases from pests and drought.

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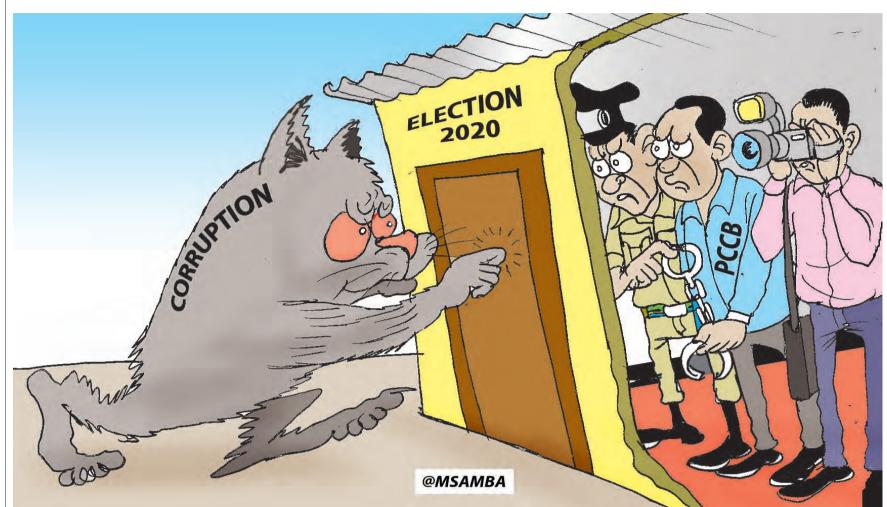
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# We must fight for a decade of hope, against hatred and racial polarisation

#### By Mmusi Maimane

HE rainbow nation is a worthy goal, but if this is a Comrades Marathon, we are only at the 10km mark. We must build common goals, or risk becoming like deeply divided and ungovernable America.

It's a new decade, a decade of hope, or a decade of fear. This is an amazing opportunity for reflection and redirection. It is a embark with determination to be our better selves. South Africa enters a new decade with the same sense of optimism as others, but we may have fewer reasons to hope for change than we ever had.

I listened to President Cyril Ramaphosa address the ANC and the nation over the weekend, and like most of us who watched, I get the sense that while we may be entering a new decade, we are still stuck in the last one. We have the no smart goals, no better sense of self and we still have our challenges from the last decade. We are still trying to manage the long-standing crises created by chronic mismanagement nationwide and misappropriation.

It's 2020 and we are still discussing load shedding, we are still discussing the need for an "intervention", a conversation that started more than a decade ago. It's, in fact, a new cast, but perhaps the same old script. I think that we can all accept that we cannot put new wine in old wine skins. We need a fresh start, a new beginning and a new sense of us. Our people are innovative and great, and we possess all the necessary acumen to build a great nation: A South Africa that can prosper and be an inclusive economy

We can reach that promised land, but first, we need to take back the national narrative from the populists and radicals. We need to define a common national identity, one that is robust and future-proof - to do that we have to be more honest about the challenges we are facing.

keenly observed the dangers of rampant partisanship in the American political system. I observed carefully how US President Donald Trump's impeachment process was playing

Over the Christmas break, I



#### **President Cyril Ramaphosa**

out and its impact on different constituencies in the US. It became very clear that the vision espoused by former president Barack Obama in his famed 2004 Democratic National Convention address was nowhere to be found. A speech I have watched countless times and one that connected with my value system and worldview, his words still echo, but now with a hollow ring ...

"Well, I say to them tonight, there is not a liberal America and a conservative America – there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America – there's the United States of

that famous 2004 speech. Watching the debate recently, I could not shake off the conclusion that each side was preach-

America," said Obama during

ing to its choir. The Democrats argued, during the long impeachment debate, that they were acting out of a sense of duty and not out of a partisan political agenda. They made the case that a failure to proceed with impeachment would be adversely judged in the history books and would create a precedent for presidential impunity. They stated that to not act on the wrongdoing of this magnitude by the president would be

a lack of patriotism. Republicans argued The strongly that this was a frivolous

undemocratic and would reflect

impeachment and that it was a continuation of the democratic party's angst at the fact that Trump was the duly elected president and that an impeachment was a reversal of the election results. They stated that this process was a fiasco and was unpatriotic because it sought to defeat the electoral process by other means. Each side is claiming the moral high-ground, each side is claiming the ideals of democracy and patriotism.

It reminded me of the days during the debate on the motion of no confidence in former president Jacob Zuma. Each side argued patriotism and upholding the democratic will of the people.

Each side in the debate claimed they were acting in the national interest to keep, or remove, Zuma. What is our patriotic duty in keeping a government that on most indicators has failed and is now leading us to a junk status? The facts speak for themselves: There is no power, or water in many towns, there is a high unemployment rate and there is an erosion of our institutional democracy.

Ultimately, history will decide for South Africa, as it will for America. The question still remains, what then does it mean to be patriotic in this political landscape, as we are confronted with the challenges of race divisions, inequality, poverty and unemployment all borne out of a stubborn apartheid legacy?

Rodney King made a passionate plea during the Los Angeles riots: "Why can't we all just get along." I often feel that very same way when I am at home with my family. I celebrate our diversity and I often wish I could fast forward to the happy ending of a truly unified South Africa. One that puts a nail in the coffin of our apartheid legacy. While I want to declare, "there is no white South Africa, there is no black South Africa, there is no Indian South Africa ... there is only one South Africa", I want to say this as a matter of fact, but I realise more and more that this is an aspirational declaration. The rainbow nation is, I believe, a worthy goal, but if this is a Comrades Marathon, we are only at the 10km mark.

I have shaken off the naivete that Obama embraced, Obama held on to it to the end, but the myth of "One America" has been exposed over and over again in the Trump process. America is very divided and unless these divisions are healed, the empire will fall. While I want to snap my fingers and declare "One South Africa for all" - we are simply not there yet.

One South Africa requires an equitable South Africa. No nations win when they are divided. We have to find our sense of us in an equal embrace of the challenges affecting the weakest among us. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. A country is only as strong as its most vulnerable. Our nation must deal with its past and focus on the future together.

The challenge of inequality is not one that we must leave to the poor and marginalised to face alone, that the history of black people must simply be ignored. As Lyndon Johnson articulated in the fight for the emancipation of African Americans, that this is now indeed an American problem. The challenge of inequality be it educational, asset and/or income inequality is a South African problem, it is a challenge for us all, black, coloured, Indian and white to work towards overcoming. Our national identity will be created as we come together to fight this collective enemy.

We cannot leave populists in red or black, green and gold to lay claim to the mantle of fighting for the poor and marginalised. They resonate with the poor and predominantly black communities because these communities feel isolated and ignored by those sitting at the tables of power and commerce. Poor voters see the populists as champions, people who will get them a share of the cake, people who will speak up for them in the corridors of power.

We also cannot live with the populists on the right in blue, or green and white, claiming the mantle of defending the mi-

While others are embracing a strategy of political survival based on the demonisation of the left and its radical leaders, they are embarking on a project of fear and hate, using the black populists as talismans. Those who seek to survive our political landscape by selling hate are no different than those they claim to oppose. We cannot allow those who isolate white South Africans into a laager to go unchallenged. If we are truly #Staying, we are staying to fix things.

I do not believe the current approach of the far-right and the far left is going to elevate our collective consciousness and help us deal with the challenges we face. Both the extremists on the left and on the right are giving up on the idea of a unified South Africa. They are leaning into the American model of politics. A model we can all agree is broken and is perhaps beyond repair.

These populists have chosen the language of division and they have fanned the flames of racism. We need a language that unites and not divides.

We cannot allow those who isolate white South Africans to convince them that they are being attacked and that they are a diminishing part of our economy. The rhetoric about white monopoly capital being pushed by political parties that seek to be white again, has become regressive and creates a misguided sense of us.

#### Improving healthcare provision as well as public health is extremely essential

CHRONIC condition is a human health condition or disease that is persis-Ltent or otherwise longlasting in its effects or a disease that comes with time. The term chronic is often applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months. Common chronic diseases include arthritis, asthma, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and some viral diseases such as hepatitis C and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. An illness which is lifelong because it ends in death is a terminal illness. It is possible and not unexpected for an illness to change in definition from terminal to chronic. Diabetes and HIV for example were

once terminal yet are now considered chronic due to the availability of insulin and daily drug treatment for individuals with HIV which allow these individuals to live while managing symptoms.

In medicine, a chronic condition can be distinguished from one that is acute. An acute condition typically affects one portion of the body and responds to treatment. A chronic condition on the other hand usually affects multiple areas of the body, is not fully responsive to treatment, and persists for an extended period of time.

Chronic conditions may have periods of remission or relapse where the disease temporarily goes away, or subsequently reappears. Periods of remission and relapse are commonly discussed when referring to substance abuse disorders which some consider to fall under the category of chronic condition.

Chronic conditions are often associated with non-communicable diseases which are distinguished by their non-

infectious causes. Some chronic conditions though, are caused by transmissible infections such as HIV/AIDS.

In the United States 25 per cent of adults have at least two chronic conditions. Chronic diseases constitute a major cause of mortality, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) attributes 38 million deaths a year to non-communicable diseases.

Chronic conditions have often been used to describe the various health related states of the human body such as syndromes, physical impairments, disabilities as well as diseases. Epidemiologists have found interest in chronic conditions due to the fact they contribute to disease, disability, and diminished physical and/or mental capacity.

For example, high blood pressure or hypertension is considered to be not only a chronic condition itself but also correlated to diseases such as heart attack or stroke.

Additionally, some socioeconomic factors may be considered as a chronic condition as they lead to disability in daily life. An important one that public health officials in the social science setting have begun highlighting is chronic poverty.

It is against this backdrop that about half of the recommendations suggested by the World Health Organisation to reduce chronic disease are put into practice, according to a new study. Implementation is slowly improving, yet alcohol and tobacco policies are the least widely practiced, researchers report in The Lancet Global Health.

We need to understand which policies are being systematically overlooked and which particular groups of countries may require additional support so that we can help to protect people from these conditions.

#### 'SA's new refugee regulations could have been drafted by Trump'

**By Tania Broughton** 

AN on political activity is 'illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to the UN convention on

South Africa's new rules governing asylum seekers and refugees could easily have been drafted by the Trump administration, says Sharon Ekambaram of Lawyers for Human Rights

The regulations, which forbid refugees and asylum seekers from engaging in any political activity, even if it concerns issues in their home countries, came into effect as part of the Refugee Amendment Act on 1 January. They were gazetted on 27 December, taking civil society organisations by surprise. The content of the regulations took no account of some 2,000 submissions made in 2016 slamming the "restrictive and punitive" propos-

Apart from the ban on political activity, the regulations also ban refugees and asylum seekers from visiting their home countries or visiting their local embassies.

They will be compelled to get a "refugee" visa at the point of entry to South Africa - which is largely up to the whim of the immigration officials on duty. They will also be banned from certain jobs in certain industries.

An immigration official will be able to demand a paternity test from an asylum seeker who wishes to enter South Africa with his children. Failure will result in the child or children being handed over to social workers.

Ekambaram, who is manager of the Refugee and Migrant Rights Programme at LHR, told GroundUp: "We want to meet with the Minister. We will mobilise civil society.'

She says these "regressive" policies will further exacerbate chronic processing delays and show that South Africa is "dismantling its international obligation to provide protection to asylum seekers and refugees".

"In our submissions to Parliament on the proposed amendments in 2016, LHR pointed out a number of concerns regarding the amendment to the principal Act which has now been passed into law. We pointed out that the changes proposed at the time represented drastic changes to refugee protection and adjudication in South Africa and we stated that this presented a massive deviation from the urban stances of homophobia against forrefugee policy – which has been the eign nationals, the majority of whom 



The new rules governing asylum seekers and refugees have been slammed by human rights rganisations.

come from the African continent." The ban on political activity is illegal, unconstitutional and contrary to the UN convention on refugees, she

> "It is highly controversial what constitutes a political act. Ironically many people flee because of political repression and restrictions imposed on their fundamental right to express a political opinion. Participation in political activities which are peaceful is protected under international law and there is no need to distinguish refugees and asylum seekers and that of

> citizens. Sally Gandar, head of advocacy at the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, is equally critical of the ban.

> "The term 'political activity' is not defined in the regulations. We believe that it is far too broad and vague to be enforceable. Laws should ensure certainty; this one does not. The Minister has said that what they meant by the term is the same as what is stated in Article 23(2)(i) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. However, that Article refers to 'subversive

> "If this is the case, the regulations should have been drafted to specify this. In their current form, they do not," she says.

Regulations add new red tape

In general, Gandar says, the regulations undermine the Constitution and Bill of Rights and may be inconsistent with international refugee law.

"They reflect a roll back on the rights and protections afforded to refugees and seats South Africa on the global bandwagon of regressive refugee policies. They create further layers of administrative red-tape to an already struggling asylum system. '

She says the centre is gravely concerned that the new laws:

expand on reasons for exclusion from asylum or revocation of refugee status;

create wholly unrealistic and impractical time frames which have the potential to exclude significant numbers of asylum seekers of their right to seek asylum in South Africa;

potentially undermine the rights of asylum seekers to work and study in South Africa;

introduce overly onerous and unrealistic procedures and requirements for those seeking asylum -procedures that will likely exacerbate bureaucratic backlogs;

reduce the responsibilities and mechanisms of accountability as well as safeguards in respect of departmental officials responsible for assisting asylum seekers and refugees in South Africa; and

provide for detention procedures, which may be unconstitutional.

"Many of the amendments and new regulations go beyond what is in the law. For example, sections related to deportation unlawfully override judicial procedure and access to courts," Gandar says. "We urge the Minister to repeal these amendments.'

"Refugee legislation should be aimed at the protection of an already vulnerable group. Instead of amending the laws, the Department needs to first address the underlying causes leading to abuse of the system, such as capacity and corruption."

Gandar says while the amendment removed the quorum requirement for deciding appeals, it also erodes accountability.

"A November 2019, Auditor General Report found that the Refugee Appeal Board backlog was 147,794, and that it would take 68 years ... to attend to this backlog. Scalabrini Centre has consistently advocated for the introduction of group decisions for those fleeing conflict zones (such as parts of DRC, or Somalia), which would significantly reduce the backlog. Unfortunately, it appears the department has not taken these recommendations into consid-

Two of the children who received treatment from the medical program in the third batch.

#### Chinese medical aid programme helps Myanmar children suffering from congenital heart diseases

By Lin Rui, Wang Hui,

**∠** I'M so grateful to China," said Wutyee Tun, a 13-year-old Burmese girl who received treatment from a Chinese medical program aiming to saving Burmese children suffering from congenital heart disease.

The girl, who now has a chubby face and rosy cheek, lives in a town of southern Yangon Region, capital of Myanmar. She was diagnosed with Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF), a complicated heart disease when she was only one year old.

"I was so ill when I was little that I could hardly walk. Every time when I needed to go out my father had to carry me on his back," said Wutyee Tun.

"Local hospitals are incapable of curing this disease, so we were confused and desperate," U Myint Thein, the girl's father told People's Daily, recalling the family's misery back then.

The medical programme from which Wutyee Tun received assistance was launched by China Charity Federation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in

By cooperating with Yankin Children Hospital in Yangon Region, Chinese doctors examined more than 170 child patients, among which 36 have received surgeries in China's Beijing Anzhen Hospital and Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital in three

batches so far. Wutyee Tun's situation was the worst among the first batch of 12 Burmese child patients.

In April 2017, Wutyee Tun, accompanied by her father, arrived at Beijing Anzhen Hospital.

"The doctors made detailed treatment plan, and told us all the possible scenarios that could happen. With the efforts of the Chinese doctors, my daughter made it. Now, she is just as healthy as other children. Chinese doctors are really amazing," said U Myint Thein.

"Now I've completely recovered from the disease. And my father smiled again something that had disappeared in my family for a long time. China and the BRI are great," said Wutyee

According to Dr. Myint Myint Khine, director of Yankin Children Hospital, there are more than 50,000 children with congenital heart diseases in Myanmar, but few of the hospitals in the country is able to treat

In order to cure every child patient they receive, the Chinese doctors have made painstaking endeavors and great efforts.

"We discuss treatment plans with Burmese doctors every day on WeChat," said Duo Lin, head of the research department of chronic diseases in Fuwai Cardiovascular Yunnan Hospital.

"Some children not only suffered from congenital heart disease, but also other diseases, so we held group consultation with doctors from other departments. We share the same goal: to cure the children completely," Duo said.

Thiri Ko is a 7-year-old Burmese girl living in a small village in suburban Yangon with her mother Daw Thandar Moe. Her father passed away years ago, and a small grocery store her mother runs is all the source of income for the

When she was 7-monthold. Thiri Ko was diagnosed with congenital heart disease. Daw Thandar Moe had to choose only drug therapy for her daughter as the surgery was totally unaffordable for her. Seeing her daughter getting worse day by day, Daw Thandar Moe's became distraught.

After receiving free treatment in Fuwai Yunnan Cardiovascular Hospital in Oct. 2018, Thiri Ko fully recovered.

"After my daughter was cured, the Chinese side also offered a loan to us to support my grocery store," Daw Thandar Moe introduced.

The loan was offered by a supporting program providing economic assistance for the child patients' families. The program, launched at the end of 2019, was jointly operated by Kunming Yundi Behavior and Health Research Center and Myanmar Chinese Cooperation & Communication Center.

"We have customized plans for different families according to their demands. There are 11 families currently receiving our help," said Li Bobo, executive chairman of Myanmar Chinese Cooperation & Communication Center.

"We hope to try our best to help those Burmese families overwhelmed by the diseases. This is a natural decision driven by the friendship between the people of China and Myanmar," noted Li.

"I'm so happy to see the children recover, not to mention the economic assistance the Chinese side has offered. Such good deeds deserve our respect. The seeds of friendship have been planted in our hearts. May China-Myanmar 'Phauphaw' (fraternal) friendship be carried on from generation to generation," said Dr. Myint Myint

Khine.

People's Daily

## Empowering women in poor communities, building resilience against climate pressure

AHMEDABAD, India

S global temperatures continue to rise, vulnerable populations around the world are facing increasingly complex climate risks - with ongoing droughts in Zimbabwe and floods devastating Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

From flooding and cyclones to heatwaves and droughts, the stresses and shocks inflicted by growing climate extremes are severe. And they cannot be tackled by one-track solutions, especially in resource-poor developing

Instead, players in the global development space should take a more integrated approach when helping strengthen communities most at risk from climate shocks, to ensure that the interrelated challenges they face are addressed in their entirety.

For instance, in developing countries, rural poor families are often drawn to urban areas in search of better prospects, but often end up living in slums in a vicious cycle of perpetual

As well as putting greater strain on infrastructure, this displacement exposes them to unsanitary conditions - leaving them more vulnerable to illnesses and climate stresses, and often unable to work or improve their circumstances as a result.

So, for resilience-building solutions to be impactful and work for the whole community, either/or solutions will not suffice. Approaches that are either technical or social might be effective in strengthening one aspect of climate resilience - such as building flood defences, or improving access to potable water - but not more complex,

interrelated issues.

prevent fraud.

It is only by integrating both social and technical approaches to resilience-building that more comprehensive, sustainable solutions can be constructed.

cornerstone of refugee protection in

South Africa since the inception of

She says the previous legislation

based on that policy, passed soon af-

ter the end of apartheid, was "trans-

formative given the racist apartheid

laws governing the movement of black

people in our country and more spe-

Now, she says, the asylum system is

in crisis: about 180,000 people have

been waiting for over ten years to

have their status claims adjudicated

in a "cripplingly inefficient and poorly

managed" system in which officials

operated "in flagrant disregard of

constitutional values, with reports of

widespread bribery and corruption".

The only plus in the new rules is

The rest of the new rules, "presented

as measures to prevent fraud", "could

easily have been drafted and enforced

by the Trump administration or the

Boris Johnson administration", Ekam-

She says the justification used to de-

"But the problem does not lie with

people seeking refuge in our country

but with the unlawful practices of im-

migration officials who are informed

by prejudice, xenophobia, and in-

fend the new regulations is the need to

that appeals can now be heard by one

member of the refugee appeals board,

instead of a quorum, she says.

cifically the Aliens Controls Act."

Asylum system in crisis

refugee protection."

Developing a hybrid model is one way to achieve this, which is preciselv what India-based Mahila Housing Trust has done with its mission to empower women in poor communities across South Asia to build resilience against increasing climate pressures.

Founded as an autonomous nonprofit in 1994, Mahila Housing Trust has evolved into an agile social enterprise - aided in recent years by mentoring and support from the Global Resilience Partnership.

Using a combined social-technical approach to development, Mahila Housing Trust bridges the gap between poor women within high-risk contexts and mainstream institutions.

Through this hybrid model, it helps women improve their living conditions, build resilience against climate stresses and develop the leadership skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to participate in local govern-

Meanwhile, it ensures its commercial viability by training women to become agents of resilience solutions from green energy and heat-mitigating technologies, to health interventions such as improved access to drinking water and better sanitation facilities.

The not-for-profit side of Mahila Housing Trust delivers back-end support to its empowerment and resilience-building programmes, while the enterprise side ensures the organisation and its beneficiaries are able to generate funding and income.



This hybrid model has also enabled Mahila Housing Trust to launch "Awaas Sewa" - a social enterprise dedicated to the development and implementation of innovative climate-resilient technologies.

The enterprise identifies, pilots, rates and validates new solutions, then teaches women leaders how to market them - building resilience amongst poor communities and generating a turnover at the same time.

Operating across seven cities in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, the enterprise has so far trained more than 1,500 women leaders to become "climate-saathis", or climate partners.

In these roles, the women have conducted energy audits and helped families in more than 100 informal settlements to invest in energy-saving and climate-resilient solutions - such as heat-resistant modular roofing.

By converting this network into a sustainable enterprise, these women leaders now earn an income through promoting and selling energy-efficient, climate stress-combatting solutions - helping 27,000 others in their communities become more resilient in the process.

Plus, if women in the community

need financial support to purchase

and install these solutions, Mahila

Housing Trust also has women-led credit cooperatives, which provides financing for climate-resilient technolo-Yet this commercial aspect is only

one small component of the organisation's model; its sustained results so far have only been achieved through building partnerships across all different levels and sectors.

Strengthening the resilience of poor communities requires a bespoke, holistic approach that directly engages people on the ground. Maintaining a focused yet collaborative approach, Mahila Housing Trust works closely with a multidisciplinary team of partners in a united effort to improve the living conditions in poor urban communities **Agencies** 

## Activists escalate demand for 'bodily autonomy' 19 nations dissenting

#### **UNITED NATIONS**

HE United States and 18 other UN member states have come under fire for denying a woman's legitimate right to "bodily autonomy"-the right to self-governance over one's own body without coercion or external pressure.

The Executive Director of Women's March Global, Uma Mishra-Newbery, told IPS the United Nations has worked towards progress in fighting for wom-

But many countries on the Human Rights Council continue to negotiate women's human rights off the table, she pointed out.

In Sept 2019, she said, the world watched as the US, in partnership with 18 other member states, put forth a statement saying there is no international right to abortion.

She said UN member states have also witnessed "the continued and grave human rights violations in Saudi Arabia", including the continued torture of imprisoned women human rights defenders like Loujain al-Hathloul.

"Yet the UN and member states fail to hold Saudi Arabia truly accountable for its actions. The UN must hold these governments accountable as they work to strip women's rights away without repercussions", she declared.

Beside the United States, the 18 countries singled out include Bahrain, Belarus, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

The member states who deny women access to safe and legal abortion represent 1.3 billion people, according to Women's March Global.

As part of a global campaign for women's reproductive rights, Women's March Global has called attention to the "dangerous and alarming repeal of women's rights to bodily autonomy, bringing international attention to these pressing issues."

The 45 marches–the fourth annual event, with the participation of mil-



lions of women and allies - took place in Africa, Canada, Central and South America, Europe and Asia.

Purnima Mane, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), told IPS the March on January 18 to protest the inadequate progress and sometimes downright rollback of women's right to exercise bodily autonomy through the right to

abortion, "comes at a critical juncture in our history."

She said as many as 48 of the 58 existing UN countries, signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Nonetheless, the UN as a body,

position from many quarters, she added.

"Besides, these treaties are not legally binding and some countries specifically see these issues as covered by domestic law."

For example, she said, the Prohas been limited in its work on gramme of Action (PoA) of the abortion, due to its exclusion as 1994 International Conference a right from human rights trea- on Population and Development ties as a result of significant op- (ICPD), focuses on the obligation almost globally. Animosity to-

abortion but does not refer to making abortion legal.

This obligation can of course open the door for national debates on how women's overall health and bodily autonomy are linked. International human rights treaties which most governments have ratified, support the right of women to liberty and to

The UN often provides platforms to learn from examples of countries which have implemented these rights successfully, integrating women's rights more broadly, including the right to bodily autonomy, said Mane, who is a former President and CEO of Pathfinder International. Antonia Kirkland, a global lead

at Equality Now, told IPS that UN Women, alongside the Mexican and French governments and feminists around the world, have chosen bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health rights as one of the Generation Equality Forum's six Action Coalition themes to in the lead up to Beijing +25.

"This is a good sign that attention and resources are being focused in this direction and can hopefully help counteract moves towards greater restrictions on access to abortion in countries like the USA, as well as forced pregnancy and motherhood in Latin American countries".

Kirkland said over the past few years, there has been an alarming and sustained rollback on women's sexual and reproductive health and rights around the

Focusing the first women's rights March of the new decade on bodily autonomy is about shining a much-needed spotlight on the systematic oppression that continues to prevent women and girls from exercising self-governance over their own body and reproductive choices, she noted.

Mane said abortion has, in fact, been available in many countries for years but it is heavily regulated with severe restrictions which make it difficult to access.

Over the last few years, these restrictions have grown rapidly

of governments to prevent unsafe wards contraception complicates the situation even though there is ample evidence to show that preventing unintended pregnancies through access to modern contraception, reduces abortion rates in the first place, she added.

"The combination of restrictions in the practice of legal abortion and poor access to contraception for avoiding unintended pregnancies, lead to an increase in unsafe abortion and high rates of morbidity and mortality among women", said Mane, who has served on boards of several international, non-profit organizations including as Governor of the Board of Governors, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Canada.

Mane also pointed out that women's right to access to contraception is the first and essential step advocated by UNFPA for enhancing women's health and reproductive rights.

"If women receive the needed education and information, have access to appropriate services and commodities, and benefit from a conducive policy and programme environment, their ability and right to make decisions concerning their own bodies will be enhanced which will benefit their health and well-being".

She said the UN assists national governments in the process of making all of the above happen through the supportive role they play globally and nationally.

Organizations like UNFPA need all the support and encouragement they can get to do their bit in moving the world towards the goal of ensuring that women are in a position to make decisions concerning their own bodies and ultimately their own lives."

Kirkland said the United Nations has a vital role to play in the protection of women and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights, and this involves working in partnership with member states to ensure that everyone is free to make their own decisions about their body, and is able to easily access family planning support, healthcare services and in-

**Agencies** 

## Abiy and Ramaphosa reset relations

#### **By Peter Fabricius**

PART from the obvious benefits Ethiopian President Abiy Ahmed Ali's reforms have brought to his own country and the region, they have also created the opportunity to revive rather dormant relations between Ethiopia and South Africa.

That became clear during Abiy's official visit to South Africa this week when he met President Cyril Ramaphosa, attended the governing African National Congress's 108th birthday party and addressed the large Ethiopian diaspora at a rally in Johannesburg.

This was the first state-level visit either way between two of Africa's largest countries. Although they established a Joint Ministerial Commission many years ago, 'we have not adequately made use of it,' Ramaphosa said. Now the commission should be used to create momentum for deeper and expanded political and economic relations, raised to the level of a 'strategic partnership.'

The two leaders made much of former president Nelson Mandela's military training in Ethiopia in 1962. Abiy conversely received military training in South Africa when he was a military officer. It's hard to pinpoint why relations haven't been so warm since. Partly perhaps because Ethiopia was such an inward-looking country, preoccupied with its own fraught internal politics and regional tensions, mainly with Eritrea.

South Africa's second president, Thabo Mbeki, established a good rapport with former Ethiopian prime minister Meles Zenawi, but they collaborated more on continental integration than on bilateral relations. Then came Jacob Zuma, who neglected much of what Meles and Mbeki created, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Peer Review Mechanism.



President Cyril Ramaphosa with Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed during the opening session of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. File Photo

Now both countries have new leaders, creating opportunities for boosting relations, as a South African official pointed out to ISS Today. Ramaphosa promised full support for Abiy's 'innovative, bold and brave reforms' at home and his 'vision and courage' in breaking the long impasse with his neighbour Eritrea. Abiy has also improved the potential for better economic relations with South Africa, as with other countries, by talking about liberalising Ethiopia's previously rather closed economy.

"And we look to the South Afanother 58 had applied to invest. rican private sector to come and share our prosperity with mutual gains. Ethiopia is opening up to the private sector in telecoms, energy, logistics and other industries and sectors which South African investors have great experience in," he said.

Ethiopia's ambassador to South Africa Shiferaw Menbacho told journalists last week that 28 South African companies were already it won't be a one-way transfer. operating in his country, while Ethiopia also has business skills

South Africa's big cellphone companies are particularly keen to win two licences for providing cellphone services.

Ethiopia's huge market of some 110 million has long tempted South African business, but so far most have been frustrated by protectionism. Perhaps that's about to change. If so, Ethiopia will learn from South African business, but

ple in the great success of Ethiopian Airlines versus South African Airways, which is on the brink of liquidation. Abiy's more outward-looking

to teach South Africa, for exam-

prime ministership has also opened up new possibilities of collaboration on the continent. "We have identified Ethiopia as an important country we can team up with to advance continental integration. We will work together on the African Continental Free Trade Agreement as well as peace and security issues," a senior South African official said.

Ramaphosa said that as South Africa takes up the annually rotating chair of the African Union (AU) next month, it hopes to work more closely with Ethiopia on advancing the AU's Agenda 2063 and its "Silencing the Guns" pro-

gramme. One of the first regional projects Abiy and Ramaphosa could embark on is Ethiopia's own dispute with Egypt and Sudan over the impact on their water supply of Ethiopia's giant Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) being built on the Blue Nile. Ramaphosa agreed to use the AU chair to help mediate negotiations, although it's not clear how that fits with America's still active mediation

There are of course impediments to closer ties between Ethiopia and South Africa. One is that members of the large Ethiopian diaspora have been among the targets of periodic xenophobic violence in South Africa. Ramaphosa reassured Abiy and expatriate Ethiopians that they were welcome and that his government was taking strong measures to

protect them. Clearly though, the closed-door discussions were a little tougher

as the joint communiqué said: 'The two countries agreed on the need for both countries to work together to address illegal migration, human trafficking and smuggling.'

Some South African officials are sceptical about Abiy's domestic reforms, wondering if he can sustain them. Along with genuine, good faith political opposition, he has also liberated some risky ethno-nationalist forces threatening the country's stability, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Senior Researcher Semir Yusuf recently warned in a monograph.

Another upcoming ISS report warns that Abiy has many fundamental socio-economic reforms still to undertake and that 'Ethiopia is at risk from its fragile institutions and ethnic pressures.'

Pretoria believes the Prosperity Party that Abiy has just established to replace the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front - the ethno-regional coalition that Meles founded - will win August's elections. But it's not certain Abiy will be able to contain the political violence that some expect the elections to provoke.

Comparisons with Nigeria, another African superpower, are inevitable. President Muhammadu Buhari was also in South Africa last year when the problem of xenophobic attacks loomed large. Abuja and Pretoria also tried to use that visit to return relations to the era of Mbeki and former Nigerian president Obasanjo.

Both visits evoked a rather nostalgic sense of a renaissance in relations after the dark ages of the Zuma era. But Ramaphosa and Abiy will have to work hard to sustain such a renaissance, against the major distractions of the turbulent domestic politics that both now confront.

## Business models: The unicorn is dead. Long live the zebra

#### By Nic Haralambous

FOCUS on building profitable, net-positive businesses. Forget about the billion dollars. Do vou know what a unicorn is? Of course you do. It's a magical creature of mystery and fiction that likely doesn't exist. In business terms, a Unicorn is basically the same creature of mystery: A privately held startup that reaches a valuation of \$1-billion. There are about 200+ of them out there and all across the globe, founders are raising ungodly amounts of capital to be part of the unicorn club at any cost.

I am not a fan of the unicorn club or the concept of a business unicorn in general. I have tried to build this kind of business in South Africa and it's extremely difficult for a variety of reasons. In general, unicorn startups have proven themselves to be negatively disruptive, toxic and self-serving enterprises that make very few people a ton of money while damaging society in their wake. I do believe that some unicorns (like SpaceX, Stripe, and Spotify), do more good than bad, but they are the exception, not the rule.

If you don't believe me, let's take a look at some of the companies that proudly wear the unicorn

Facebook – used to manipulate elections, track users and invade privacy at every possible turn. Uber – knowingly ignored laws to launch its service in key markets globally. Under fire for toxic workplace practices and stock price completely cratered after its Initial Public Offering (IPO). We-Work – late in 2019 was scheduled to go public at a \$47-billion valuation. Within weeks, the questionable founder was fired (receiving over \$1-billion to leave), and the company was sold off to one of its investors for \$8-billion.

Lyft – stock price cratered after IPO and it's not

Twitter – unable to manage the trolls, vitriol and abuse from its users on the platform. Used to manipulate the public and spread fake news by organisations such as Bell Pottinger on behalf of the Guptas.

enough people spouting lies, destroying soci- of building businesses. That method includes

ety, making magical statements and promoting corruption. Throwing startups into this mix is a recipe for further economic disaster.

I prefer the zebra startup. What South Africa needs is something we are already very familiar with. We need zebras. We know zebras. We like zebras. They are real, tangible and glorious creatures to protect and nurture.

In March 2020, I am attending a conference for the founders of zebra startups. The term was coined back in 2017 by Jennifer Brandel, Mara Zepeda, Astrid Scholz and Aniyia Williams, who are the founding directors of Zebras Unite in an article they published which explained why they chose the zebra and what a zebra startup is.

They wrote: "We believe that developing alternative business models to the startup status quo has become a central moral challenge of our time. These alternative models will balance profit and purpose, champion democracy, and put a premium on sharing power and resources. Companies that create a more just and responsible society will hear, help, and heal the customers and communities they serve."

And here's why they chose the zebra:

- To state the obvious: unlike unicorns, zebras are real.
- • Zebra companies are both black and white: they are profitable and improve society. They
- won't sacrifice one for the other. · Zebras are also mutualistic: by banding together in groups, they protect and preserve one another. Their individual input results in stronger collective output.

Zebra companies are built with peerless stamina and capital efficiency, as long as conditions allow them to survive.

So much of this makes sense in a South African context; real businesses that are mutualistic, benefit society, make a profit and are capital efficient. South African entrepreneurs understand how to be frugal and capital efficient. We understand how to build and grind away every day to eke out value wherever we can. But I have watched over the past decade as we have be-South Africa doesn't need unicorns. We have come enamoured with the Silicon Valley method



raising an extreme amount of money, blowing it quickly on vanity metrics and ignoring profitability or societal impact.

This business model is dead. Unicorns are dead.

Zebras are the future and are easier to build than one might think. Here are a few things to consider if you want to build a zebra business right now in South Africa:

Go out and sell rather than pitch to investors. Selling is the best form of funding. Be kind to your team and your suppliers. Don't work them 20 hours a day, pay them a pittance and withhold

payment because you can. Pay on time, every time. Do not strive for success at any cost, it's not a zero-sum game. I don't have to lose for you to

A rising tide lifts all ships and the more we think about business in this context, the more chance we have of saving our dire economic situation for future generations.

Building a zebra startup doesn't mean building something small. It means building something meaningful, valuable and sustainable. Paul Graham, the founder of one of the most successful startup incubators called YCombinator, has said

in the past that to build something big, start by building something small. You don't need to rush into a billion-dollar valuation for your business.

Build something small and valuable, scale it over time and if you happen to hit a billion-dollar valuation, good for

We need to shift our victory condition from gaining extreme personal wealth from a startup to the creation of value for society that might lead to personal wealth along the way.

## **GBV: The silent menace** of trauma among victims

#### By Ange Iliza

IN a slum perched on a slope just below Mount Kigali, is a tiny twobedroomed tin-roofed house among many similar ones.

Located in Kimisagara Sector, Nyarugenge District, this is the humble abode of 20-year-old Mama Kaliza, her three children, her mother and her elder sister.

The family eke a living doing odd jobs that fetch for them up to Rwf1,000 a day and this is what the family sur-

Mama Kaliza had Kaliza, her firstborn when she was 13 and her "lastborn" came last year when she was 19.

Having experienced premature motherhood in such poor conditions, Mama Kaliza has a painful story that sheds light on what teen mothers go

Mama Kaliza had to drop out of school twice; in primary 3 to have Kaliza and Primary 5 for the second pregnancy.

All her children are from different fathers and over the last seven years, all the three fathers have only brought her grief, for none of them wants to support her in raising the children.

They are irresponsible and so violent, she says.

While narrating her story to The New Times, her story seemed confusing, she would suddenly break into lengthy silence, lost in thought and the more the interview went on, the more

incoherent she sounded.

Towards the end of the interview, she would provide totally different answers to the questioned asked.

To get a clear picture, The New Times had to talk to her sister, to connect the dots and get the story right.

Clémentine Uwera is the older sister. Since the struggle to raise her three children started seven years ago, along with violent accounts with the fathers, Mama Kaliza started behaving differently.

Uwera narrates that she sometimes wants to hurt herself, has worrying signs of amnesia and excessive hate

"She sometimes sits and starts crying abruptly," she worriedly narrates.

Mama Kaliza believes she was not defiled, though by her own circumstances all indications are that she is actually a victim of defilement, having had her first child while barely in her

All the three men who sired children with her are too violent to the extent that one of them got a restraining order to never get close to her family.

According to Emmanuelle Mahoro, a psychologist in Kigali, mental health issues can occur even when the victim was not raped or forcefully violated.

"Even when she gave consent, for a teen mother, in this case, being a premature mother results into intense life and attempts to commit suicide,"



A group of teenage mothers are taken through the reproductive cycle by a health worker at Centre Marembo in Gasabo District

Mahoro explains.

When the victim is young, Mahoro continues, Gender-Based Violence experience can result into excessive hate for men (or the opposite), loss of interest in family and relationship; "that is a communitywide consequence." This explains of Mama

"As an individual, GBV could also lead to uncensored sex addiction or prostitution because victims feel undervalued by violence, especially rape," she adds. Mental health issues do not connect to GBV regrets that lead to loss of interest in only for teen mothers and young victims. For adults, symptoms of a mental health crisis can be sympt-

omised in what looks like normal sickness.

Some of them have constant headaches and stomach aches, insomnia, skin diseases, high blood pressure, cancer and diabetes. The latter might be hereditary.

"Some non-communicable diseases are results of trauma, depression and exhaustion that can be directly connected to long-term semantic or physical violence. You find them [GBV victims] always asking 'why me' which means they lost value in themselves and life," Mahoro adds.

When The New Times followed up with Isange One-Stop Centre, a facility that provides health care

to GBV victims, it was found out that Mama Kaliza's signs of mental troubles is just one case among many others.

According to Shafiga Murebwayire, the Isange national coordinator, over 5,000 GBV cases are recorded every year.

When victims seem to be intensely mentally troubled, they are sent to Caraes Neuropsychiatric Hospital Ndera in Gasabo district.

The hospital confirmed that worrying mental health issues cases exist and are handled through a counselling room, one of the services provided by

## Kenya looks to secure border as Al-Shabaab launches deadly attacks

#### **By Salem Solomon**

KENYA has endured a grim start to the new year as extremist group al-Shabaab launched attacks against a school, a police post and a military base shared by U.S. forces.

Observers are debating whether the surge of violence signals renewed strength by the terror group or is a seasonal phenomenon. A new report found the group has killed more than

4,000 civilians over the past 10 years. On Monday, three teachers were killed and one abducted in Kamuthe, a town in Garissa county, bordering Somalia. The three killed were all non-Muslims, while the one kidnapped

wounded, according to the Associated Press. Attackers also hit a police post and destroyed a telecommunications

Hillary Mutyambai, inspector general of the Kenya Police Service, visited a police camp in neighboring Lamu county on Tuesday to thank officers for their efforts, but advised them to reach out to community members for help foiling future attacks.

Mutyambai "urged the officers to change their tact in the fight against the enemy," the Kenya Police Service's official account tweeted about the visit. He also "urged the officers to embrace community policing so as shows the group is able to exploit

was a Muslim. Another teacher was to have [a] flow of information from members of [the] public on suspected criminals."

Tres Thomas, a security analyst focusing on Somalia, said the latest attacks show that the terror group is attempting to sow divisions among the population by sparing Muslims and killing Christians. He also said that January is typically a time when al-Shabab launches some of its deadliest attacks, including a 2017 attack in Kulbiyow, where dozens of Kenya Defense Force soldiers were killed, and the DusitD2 hotel attack in 2019 that killed more than 20 people.

Thomas said the spate of violence

points of weakness along the Kenyan are not integrated," he said. "You border.

"You still see al-Shabaab has free mobility to cross the border from Somalia into Kenya. And that's because a lot of the areas don't have adequately manned checkpoints," he told VOA

"And one of the areas on the southeastern border in the Boni Forest is very rugged terrain that's hard for security forces to navigate and offers a safe haven to Shabaab."

Thomas added that the lack of capacity is exacerbated by a lack of cooperation between local and na-

tional law enforcement agencies. "You still have security forces that in equipment, including spy aircraft

have tensions between the central government and regional administrations that prevent them from banding together to defeat al-Shabaab."

He said a January 5 attack against Camp Simba that left three Americans dead exemplifies the group's continued ability to identify and ex-

ploit weak spots. "I think Shabaab was able to identify this as a vulnerable spot that didn't have adequate force protection from U.S. and Kenyan forces," he said. "And so only with maybe 15 or so attackers

actually on the base, they were able to destroy approximately \$20 million

used to collect intelligence on al-Shabaab and to target mid-level and senior-level officials. So I think, from that perspective, al-Shabaab was able to achieve its objectives."

Future strategies, he added, should focus on securing the border and preventing the group from recruiting young Kenyans, particularly those of Somali origin.

"What needs to be identified are ways to actually stop al-Shabaab from crossing the border, recruiting inside Kenya. And that's something that Kenya hasn't been able to accomplish, even though it's been deployed in Somalia for the last nine years,"

**FEATURE** 

**Guardian** 

## Renewable vs coal: Timeline of fatally rigged fight

By Kevin Bloom

T was the first and only climate conference ever to hang its hopes upon the African solution. At COP17 in Durban in December 2011, when negotiations between the world's largest carbon emitters inevitably stalled, delegates were encouraged to hold firm to the tradition of "indaba" the descriptive noun, in the isiZulu language, that refers to an informal gathering where all can take part and anyone can talk, but where participants must come with a desire to lis-

Throughout the 12-day summit, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the oversight body for COP (Conference of the Parties), had displayed on its website a summary of the tradition's ethos: "In successful indabas, participants come with open minds, motivated by the spirit of the common good, listening to each other to find compromises that will benefit the community as a whole."

As a bridging technique, this was nothing short of inspired. In the first week of COP17, the South African hosts had held three indabas, all with the aim of cajoling powerhouses such as China, India, Brazil and the United States to agree to a set of voluntary emission reduction targets by 2020. At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, these same nations, aided and abetted by South Africa, had done away with the hard targets of the Kyoto Protocol – a decision that was now threatening to place the "common good" beyond reach.

"It is your choice what kind of history you want to make," said Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, COP president and South Africa's then-minister of international relations and co-operation, as negotiations stretched past the conference cut-off time into 1am on Sunday.

By 3am on Sunday, the European Union was staring down sides intransigent on the language that would determine the legal form of the mooted Nkoana-Mashabane, aware that the EU was about to stage a walkout, hustled China and India into a last-ditch indaba with Britain, France, Sweden, Poland, Brazil, Gambia and the United States. When the sun came up, after Brazil's chief negotiator had forced a compromise, COP17 was hailed

Except that in hindsight it

wasn't, because almost none of the signatories to the COP17 agreement would meet their targets, affirming the culture of breach and deceit that would characterise every subsequent treaty from the all-important Paris Agreement to the nonstarter efforts of Poland and Madrid. Although carbon emissions would rise through the decade, hitting an all-time high in 2019, a year when global heating would deliver a smorgasbord of never-before-seen climate horrors to every continent on Earth, the community of nations would remain true to the charade.

Relatively, then, Durban in 2011 was a more innocent time. Back at COP17, there were still delegates who believed. In the final week of the conference, when energy minister Dipuo Peters took the stage to announce the official launch of the South African Renewables Initiative (SARI), there were many in the audience whose applause was heartfelt.

"South Africa already benefits from international partnerships in the energy field," she said, "but this is different. SARI will not only contribute towards the growth and deployment of renewable energy, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced energy access, but, equally importantly, it will enable South Africa to boost the development of new green industries, and new green jobs in renewable energy and its value chain."

SARI, it turned out, had arisen from the energy crisis of 2008, when rolling blackouts had crippled the South African economy, forcing the mines to tap back on production just as palladium and platinum prices were hitting record highs. In government's first international release of the plan, unveiled at COP16 in Mexico in 2010, trade and industry minister Rob Davies had extolled the virtues of South Africa's wind and solar resources, declaring that they would "contribute to the China and India, with both country's energy security" and in Durban that a declaration establish the basis "for a robust of intent had been signed with and growing economy"

The deep background to this statement was the fact that Eskom, South Africa's coal-based power utility, which for decades had been emitting greenhouse gases on par with the dirtiest utilities in Europe, had been unable to raise the finance for the build of new plants. In December 2007, when President Thabo Mbeki apologised for not heeding Eskom's call for capital expansion, it was



already too late. And so the Department of Trade and Industry, working with the Department of Energy, hatched a plan to "unlock green growth". The idea, as presented at COP16, was to design and implement a "viable financing mechanism" that blended domestic commitments with concessionary resources and risk guarantee instruments, which in turn would leverage "the far larger sums required from private finance at an affordable cost to South Africa".

One year later, it appeared that the plan was a go. Minister Peters announced at COP17 the governments of the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany and Denmark, as well as with the European Investment Bank. The final version of the SARI document, published with the government's coat-ofarms, spoke of the creation of up to 40,000 new jobs, a 20% reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of South African exports by 2025 and a \$35-billion investment in renewables capacity by 2030.

Also, renewables would supply 19 gigawatts of electricity into the national grid by 2025, with the initiative mitigating 27 million tons of carbon emissions per year at full ramp-up, or a total of 575 million tons by 2049.

SARI, said Minister Peters, would play a big role in achieving the country's climate change commitments, which President Jacob Zuma had announced at Copenhagen in 2009. These commitments, she made clear, were a 34% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020, and a 42% reduction by

For the record, South Africa emitted 464 million tons of carbon in 2012, with the energy sector responsible for 84% of the total. In late 2019, the Global Carbon Atlas uploaded its latest data – our country had moved up a spot to claim the title of 13th largest carbon emitter in the world, at 468 million tons per annum. This was three places and 48 million tons ahead of Australia, a nation which in early January 2020 was justifiably rebuked by climate activists for "burning down its own house".

In March 2019, Judge Piet Meyer of the North Gauteng High Court delivered a ruling in an obscure yet pivotal matter that demonstrated the lengths to which the coal lobby would go to quash renewable energy in South Africa. By then, although SARI had long been abandoned, the vision of a centralised renewables hub funded by a range of local and international finance instruments had been revived by President Cyril Ramaphosa's Eskom Sustainability Task Team. Insiders offered Daily Maverick two potential theories for the demise of SARI. both of which held implications for the prospects of Ramaphosa's climate finance deal and for the future of the renewables industry as a whole. Judge Meyer's ruling, because of what it revealed about the enduring tactics of the coal sector, provided the necessary context for each of these theories.

The applicants in the matter were the Coal Transporters Forum, or CTF, a voluntary association of 50 or so trucking companies on contract to Eskom. The respondents were Eskom itself, the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (Nersa), the energy minister and 35 Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The CTF had brought the application on the basis that Eskom had no right to conclude power purchase agreements with the renewable IPPs until Nersa had ratified the terms. The relief sought by the truckers was a thinly disguised declaration of war: they wanted the agreements that Eskom had already signed with the IPPs to be judged null and void.

Of great help to observers and interested parties, who by default were all South Africans, Judge Meyer included in his ruling an outline of the legislative framework that had governed the renewables sector in the country since 2008. In July of that year, he reminded us, the Cabinet had adopted a "peak, plateau and decline trajectory" – the so-called PPD – which declared that our emissions would grow for a while as new coal-fired plants came online, peak between 2020 and 2025, remain flat for a decade and "decline in absolute terms" from around 2030.

Judge Meyer was unequivocal about the genesis of the PPD trajectory and its place in South Africa's energy policy. As a passage that held the government accountable to its own words and deeds, paragraph 4 was a remarkable juristic intervention, a nod to the scientific consensus that would no doubt be cited by other South African judges as the ravages of climate collapse played out.

"Government's policy accepts that coal will remain the primary source of energy generation for the foreseeable future," he noted. "However, it also acknowledges that coal has significant detrimental impacts on the environment, resulting in measurable external costs, also known as 'negative externalities'... The most significant impact is the emission of greenhouse gases which make the earth's surface warmer and in turn contributes to climate change.'

The Integrated Resource Plan of 2010, added the judge, because it had been informed by the PPD trajectory, included a cap on carbon emissions. As South Africa's original IRP, he stated, this document had laid the groundwork for the "first determinations" on renewable energy under the Energy Regulation Act of 2006. In August 2011, referring to section 34 of the Act, the energy minister had duly authorised the procurement of "3,725 megawatts of new renewable energy' by 2016. The following year, continued Meyer, the minister had ordered that a "further 3,200 megawatts" come online between 2017 and 2020.

In the event, although the fact was wide of Judge Meyer's mandate, the government would fall far short of these targets. By 2019, while Eskom had bought a total of 6,400 megawatts from the renewable IPPs, only 4,000 megawatts would actually be in use. The shortfall, as Daily Maverick's Stephen Grootes pointed out during December 2019's Stage 6 load shedding, was due to something called the "maximum export rule" – a governmentsponsored contractual limit, worked into the purchase agreements, on the amount of renewable energy that could be transported to the grid.

But these limits, as much as they favoured the coal lobby over taxpayers, would not satisfy the truckers. Again, the CTF's core complaint to the court was that Eskom's agreements with the IPPs were illegal, chiefly because the regulator had not ratified the terms. In his judgment, Meyer stated that "all parties in the know" had testified that the truckers were misinformed.

"Despite CTF's protestation to the contrary," he concluded, "the evidence is simply overwhelming that the regulator issued to each successful IPP bidder an electricity generation licence after following a public participation process for each project, including public hearings, and [that] it issued a written decision."

Accordingly, Judge Meyer dismissed the application with costs.

It was at this point that things got properly bizarre. Incensed by their failure to get the entire South African renewables project erased from existence, the coal truckers divulged the extent of their desperation to City Press. The CTF's spokesperson, Tshepho Kgadima, a coal mining entrepreneur, insisted that there was still a "debate" about the link between carbon emissions and climate change. He called Meyer's ruling "a gross miscarriage of justice". He then explained why it was "impossible" that the renewables providers could service Eskom's needs.

"It is the laws of physics," said Kgadima, pronouncing on the unreliability of wind and solar. "They do not contribute a single megawatt to the

Such views, while extreme, were hardly divorced from the publicity stunts that the fossil fuel lobby had been employing in countries like Australia and the United States. In recent years, as the effects of climate change had moved from the abstract into the all-too-real, both Prime Minister Scott Morrison and President Donald Trump had used lumps of coal as onstage props, suggesting that there was

nothing to fear. Question was, how did this worldview play back into the implosion of SARI?

The first theory that Daily Maverick heard about SARI's demise came from a high-level consultant on the project. a source who was in the room when a presentation was made in 2011 to National Treasury and Pravin Gordhan, then serving his first term as finance minister. According to this source, Treasury was so fond of the idea that it decided to claim ownership for itself, after which the project was canned.

Although unverifiable, what the theory had going for it was the fact that in April 2010, days before the World Bank granted South Africa a \$3.75-billion loan to be used primarily for the completion of Medupi, Gordhan had published an op-ed in the Washington

"A strong body of opinion holds that multilateral development banks should be discouraged from funding coal-burning power projects with carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to climate change," Gordhan wrote. "We share this concern but, after careful consideration, have concluded that the course we have chosen is the only responsible way forward."

Gordhan, in other words, while not denying the impacts of climate change, had moved to correct the under-capitalisation mistake of Mbeki by doubling down on coal. The massive layouts that would be required for the completion of Medupi and Kusile, which at the time were being touted as "low emission" miracles, did not fit with a public sector renewables drive priced over the long-haul at \$35 billion. If the strategy was welcome news to the climate change deniers in the coal lobby, or so the theory went, that was just an unintended consequence.

The second theory about SARI's demise, not entirely unconnected, was floated by WWF's Saliem Fakir, who had also been a key consultant on the initiative. According to this reading, SARI had been purposely downgraded into the abovementioned renewables IPP programme.

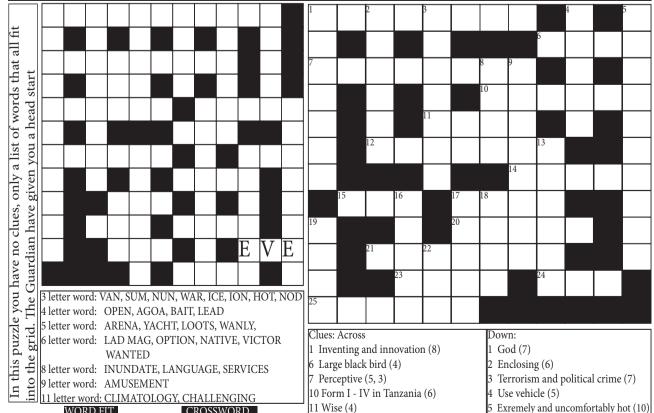
"The funny thing," Fakir told Daily Maverick, "was that after it disappeared into the ether, we began to realise that the IPP programme was copying some of our thinking. The different bid windows, the industrial components, etcetera."

Which may well have been true, except for the one aspect of the IPP project that couldn't have come from SARI's thinking – the ANC-backed contractual red tape.

Had SARI been implemented in 2011, with the seed capital that had been promised by the UK's Department for International Development, would South Africa be discussing the prospect of Stage 8 load shedding in 2020? In a best-case scenario, given the 19 gigawatts of renewable energy forecast by 2025, would SARI have saved us? The question is largely moot, because the coal lobby would have been hovering anyway.

In South Africa, as in other countries that are major exporters of coal, oil or natural gas – Australia, the US, Saudi Arabia, Russia – the bottom line is that fossil fuels are synonymous with "power". Behind every fossil fuel lies a critical mass of interests, a coalition that has ways and means of pushing its agenda through. As far as the global coal barons are concerned, the names are well known. Australia's Clive Palmer spent \$60-million on a 2019 election campaign that attacked Morrison's left-wing competition, effectively paving the way for controversial projects like the Adani mine. The US's Robert E Murray, who was chief executive of the largest coal mining company in the United States, donated \$300,000 to Trump's inauguration; ever since, the president has been doing his bidding.

Here we have Mike Teke, chief executive of Seriti Resources and former president of the South African Chamber of Mines. In November 2019, it was announced that Seriti had entered into a "binding agreement" to purchase a company called South Africa Energy Coal (SAEC) from the Australian conglomerate South32. Prior to the conclusion of the deal, local media houses were reporting that SAEC was providing 14% of Eskom's coal, with Seriti providing 20% - the acquisition, these reports stated, would see Seriti vying with Exxaro Resources for the role of number one supplier, which would require a trip to the Competition Commission. In this context, there was one important detail that almost every media house foregrounded: Teke had donated R600,000 to Ramaphosa's CR17 election campaign. **DM** 



THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =040=

1 Wise (4) 12 Film showing an event (7) 14 Make someone angry (5)

15 Salty water covers large part of surface 7 Musicians (4) 20 Happen (5)

Attractiveness (8) 13 Tolerate, bear (6) 6 Place (5) 7 spoil something by doing it badly(5 18 Continuous unpleasant pain (4) 21 Light things covers a bird's body (7) 23 Pleasant (4) 19 At or from a great distance (4) 24 Body part for hearing (3) 22 Help or support (3) 25 Largest city in Saudi Arabia (6)

Meditations in Hindu religion (4)

## **Guardian**

## BUSINESS

## Pakistan-Africa trade promotion conference nears

#### **By Guardian Correspondent**

A two-day Pakistan-Africa trade promotion conference organised by the Pakistani government is scheduled for Nairobi from January 30.

It is meant to bring together the two parties for what the organizers say will be "a meaningful exchange seeking to enhance Pakistan's trade, investment and economic cooperation" with Tanzania and other African countries.

The event is expected to draw more than 300 public and private sector delegates from Africa and Pakistan.

Delegates from Pakistan will be representing a wide range of industries, including textile and apparel; the production and processing of rice, sugar, wheat and other agro-foods; ICT, trav-

el and insurance services; pharmaceuticals; engineering and electronics; surgical goods; cement; sports goods; the auto industry; and cosmetics.

The Pakistani diplomatic mission in Tanzania has said it would like to see Tanzania represented at the conference by "a sizeable delegation from the relevant sub-sectors".

In 2013 the then President of Pakistan (not of Sri Lanka, as earlier suggested) visited Tanzania and held talks in Dar es Salaam with former President Jakaya Kikwete, followed by the signing of three bilateral agreements relating to visa exemptions for state and diplomatic officials, intelligence sharing, and cultural and defence cooperation.

## Bank sponsors multilateral UK-Africa Investment Summit slated for London

#### By Guardian Reporter

TANDARD Bank,
Africa's largest
banking group by
assets, is partnering
with the UK government to
sponsor the inaugural UKAfrica Investment Summit,
held in London on 20 January.

The Summit will create new lasting partnerships between UK and African businesses, governments and institutions to deliver more investment, jobs and growth. These partnerships will benefit people and businesses across Africa and the UK.

Hosted by the Prime Minister, the Summit will bring together UK and African businesses, African leaders and delegations, international institutions andyoung entrepreneurs.

The summit will cover topics including: trade and investment, infrastructure development, sustainable finance, the role of the City of London in attracting



Official logo for Standard bank. File photo.

African businesses to raise capital, clean energy, women's economic empowerment and creating jobs for young people across the continent.

Commenting on the sponsorship, Sola David-Borha, Chief Executive Africa Regions, Standard Bank, said: "We are proud to be a sponsor of this prestigious and important summit.

Africa is home to many fast-growing economies and businesses, and it is very positive to see the recognition of the huge potential for UK companies and investors.

socio-economic ties between the UK and Africa can only be mutually beneficial. There are an increasing number of African businesses and governments looking to the UK, and the City of London in particular, to access capital, as well as investment and commercial expertise across different sectors.

"British investors and businesses are increasingly recognising Africa's potential and the role they can play in boosting the continent's long-term growth particularly through investments that have positive social, economic and

environmental impacts.

This well-timed summit will help to build significant and long-lasting commercial ties between the UK and Africa."

Sola David-Borha will participate in a panel event on Sustainable Finance and will be meeting British and African leaders across business, politics and other institutions.

International Development Secretary Alok Sharma visited Africa ahead of the Summit.

Ahead of his visit Sharma said: "Africa has eight of the 15 fastest growing economies in the world but currently receives less than 4% of foreign direct investment. There are fantastic opportunities for UK businesses to work alongside, invest in and partner with African nations.

"At the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London on January 20, we will bring together UK and African businesses, African leaders, international institutions and young entrepreneurs to drive the investment Africa needs to flourish. I look forward to seeing many of you there."

Standard Bank Group is the largest African bank by assets with a unique footprint across 20 African countries. Headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, we are listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, with share code SBK, and the Namibian Stock Exchange, share code

Standard Bank has a 156-year history in South Africa and started building a franchise outside southern Africa in the early 1990s.

## AfDB allocates €1.2 million to boost mining revenue in Africa

#### **TUNIS**

THE African Development Bank has allocated a €1.2 million grant to provide training to help resourcerich countries improve their mining revenues.

The Bank's Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery Complex approved the first-of its kind grant from the Transitional Support Facility for the project on Financial Modelling for the Extractive Sector (FIMES) in December.

The project will be implemented in Africa's transitional countries from 2020 to 2022.

The FIMES project will train policymakers responsible for the extractive sector to realise greater returns from natural resource investments in their countries.

The Bank's African transitional settings, the pro-Natural Resources Centre ject is timely for the Bank (ANRC) will implement the and the beneficiary coun-

pilot project in the eight beneficiary countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Mali, Madagascar, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

"Africa's transitional countries need to build state capacity to mobilise revenues from natural resource investments, to address reconstruction, infrastructure and socio-economic priorities.

"The FIMES project will equip transitional countries with the right skills and knowledge to enhance domestic resource mobilisation for accelerated growth and sustainable development," saysVanessa Ushie, Manager of the Policy Analysis Division in the African Natural Resources Centre.

"Given the strategic importance of natural resource revenues for building peace, stability, and resilience in transitional settings, the project is timely for the Bank

tries," she added.

African Development
Bank research shows that
many African governments
do not extensively use financial models to inform investment decisions, or monitor
revenue flows from extractive industry concessions,
leading to significant revenue losses for the state.

and The FIMES project has been informed by the Bank's will Strategy for addressing fragilitries and Governance Strategic Framework and Action Plan, and Human Development Strategy. More broadly, the FIMES initiative will support the implementation of African countries' natural resource development plans.

It will further contribute to the achievement of the Bank's High 5s, AU Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals by boosting domestic resource mobilisation from Africa's natural resource sector.



Headquarters of the African Development Bank in Tunis. File photo.

## Deputy minister irked by arrests of licensed miners



A group of small-scale miners work at a mining site at Mirerani in Arusha Region. File photo.

By Guardian Correspondent, Aruha

Minerals deputy minister Stanslaus Nyongo, has warned some members of security organs to who arrest licenced miners who abid by laws, rules and regulations.

He made the statement in Arusha yesterday at the opening of the meeting between Tanzanian ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki and the Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke along with the mining stakeholders focused on negotiating business opportunities in the mining sector.

"There is tendency of arresting and harassing the miners who are legally allowed to carry out mining activities; these officials are harassing innocent traders. I want them to know that we opened regional mining markets so that our traders can enjoy their business," said Nyongo.

In addition, Nyongo, has asked police who will arrest miners in their homes, to ensure they use mineral officers to find out if the minerals are legal because the law allows traders to stay with minerals as long as they comply with the law.

He said in order to eliminate the confusion; the ministry is planning to educate mining stakeholders including defense and security agencies on mining laws, including those that allow miners to hold minerals before selling them to mining markets.

In addition, Nyongo urged Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke and Tanzanian ambassador to China Mbelwa Kairuki to continue to encourage investors to invest in the country especially on mineral exports less than two grams that are allowed to go abroad without value added

"If you have technology to add value to the minerals we invite you to invest so that we cannot export them without adding value," said Nyongo.

At the same time he ensured investors in the mining sector invest in a sound investment environment as well as ensuring that he manages to eliminate the various concerns.

Earlier, Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo said the contribution of the mining sector to GDP is still low so there is a need to continue to publicize the mines and participate in various international shows.

He said the government has decided to use its ambassadors to promote local minerals, including rare Tanzanite minerals.

In addition, at some point Gambo, has assured Chinese investors who have invested in Arusha region, a favorable investment environment as well as promising that he will manage to eliminate the various frustrations and challenges facing the investors.

He said that Tanzania is rich in minerals but its contribution to GDP is 5.07 per cent different from the tourism industry's revenue of 17 per cent and 25 per cent in foreign exchange reserves.

"This contribution is not enough so we have decided to use this conference to increase opportunities in mining and further boost the industry's output," said Gambo.

Speaking about the government revenue collection Gambo said it came from the Namanga mining market which collected 1.7 billion/and the Arusha market that collected 34.46 billion/- during June 2019 and December 2019.

Tanzania's ambassador to China, Mbelwa Kairuki has called on the country's mining traders to seek visas in advance to engage the Chinese mining market expected to be held in November this year.

"China is a major buyer of gold as last year bought 1506 tons of gold this is no small amount and even other minerals are very expensive so we are working to increase market share in China," said Kairuki.

On the other hand, the Chairman of the Mining Commission Professor Idris Kikula has asked residing mineral officers from all regions of the country to sit with the security agencies to educate each other on mining laws so that they have a better way of handling mining issues.

## Asian shares firm as China data show signs pressure on the economy easing

sian shares rose on yesterday after data in China showed pressure on the world's second biggest economy may be starting to diminish.

The news along with easing trade tensions with the United States underpinned riskier assets, even as some markets took a breather in late afternoon trade.

European bourses were expected to extend the global rally after Wall Street posted more records. In early European trades, pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures were up 0.4 per cent German DAX futures gained 0.54 per cent and FTSE futures added 0.28 per cent.

China's economy grew 6.0 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2019 from a year earlier, and 2019 growth of 6.1 per cent was the slowest in 29 years, held back by anemic domestic demand and the damaging trade war with

the United States. The data largely reinforced recent signs of an improvement in Chinese business confidence as trade tensions eased, with Beijing and Washington sealing an initial deal on Wednesday to defuse their damaging tariff

Beijing is widely expected to introduce more stimulus measures in 2020 amid sluggish investment and de-

"This is all good news and positive for the China story. All the data coming out, from industrial production, fixed asset to retail sales, they are all showing signs of bottoming out as the trade cycle bottoms out," said Daniel Gerard, senior multi-asset strategist at State Street Global Markets in Hong Kong.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.18 per cent in afternoon trade, trimming earlier gains of as much as 0.4 per cent.

China's blue-chip CSI300 index ended 0.14 per cent higher, down from an earlier rise of as much as 0.67 per cent. The index has rallied more than 8.5 per cent since the beginning of December, fueled by hopes for improved trade relations with the United States.

Australian shares added 0.32 per cent to a fifth consecutive record high close, and Seoul's KOSPI rose 0.11 per cent. Japan's Nikkei finished up 0.45 per cent after reaching 15-month highs earlier in the session. MSCI's global share index touched record highs and was last up 0.05 per cent.

Analysts say global equities may find it difficult to maintain momentum from their recent rally as optimism over the U.S.-China trade truce gives way to un-



Passersby are reflected on a screen displaying graphs of market indices outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan. File photo.

certainty over the next steps in trade talks.

While a Phase 1 deal signed by China and the United States on Wednesday is seen as defusing the 18-month row that has hit global growth, experts say it is unlikely to provide much balm for broader frictions between the two countries. Most of the tariffs imposed during the dispute remain in place and a number of thorny issues that sparked the conflict are still unresolved.

"The challenge from here is how long we can maintain these improvements," said

Steven Daghlian, market analyst at CommSec in Sydney.

"Speaking of the Aussie market specifically, a 6 per cent gain in two weeks is obviously a massive challenge to replicate in the tail end of the month. You don't really see 10, 11, 12% per cent improvements over the course of a month without any gigantic positive catalysts."

In the United States on Thursday, a combination of upbeat earnings from Morgan Stanley, rising U.S. retail sales, a strong labor market and robust manufacturing data helped to lift Wall Street to record highs.

The Phase 1 deal and the U.S. Senate's approval of a revamp to the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement also boosted investor spirits.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.92 per cent to 29,297.64, the S&P 500 gained 0.84 per cent to 3,316.81 and the Nasdaq Composite added 1.06 per cent to 9,357.13.

The U.S. data supported the dollar, which held steady yesterday. The greenback hit eight-month highs against the yen before trimming its advance to rise 0.09 per cent to 110.24. The euro was up

0.04 per cent to buy \$1.1140.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major rivals, was lower at 97.292.

The rally in equities was mirrored in U.S. benchmark 10-year Treasury notes, which saw yields rise to 1.8285 per cent from their close on Thursday at 1.809 per cent. Yields rise as prices

Commodity markets were quiet, with Brent crude futures falling 4 cents to \$64.58 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell 6 cents to \$58.46

Trump made renegotiat-

ing NAFTA a centerpiece of

his 2016 election campaign,

calling it "the worst trade

deal ever made" and blam-

ing it for the loss of thou-

sands of American factory

He had threatened to can-

cel NAFTA outright unless

Congress acted to approve

the replacement deal, spark-

ing uncertainty among busi-

ness owners and putting a

damper on new investment.

eration, which represents

across the United States, es-

U.S. jobs were lost to Mexico

The U.S. goods trade defi-

cit with Mexico was \$80.7

1993, thanks in part to U.S. companies moving manu-

facturing south of the bor-

But NAFTA also quadru-

pled trade among the Unit-

ed States, Canada and Mexi-

because of NAFTA.

The AFL-CIO union fed-

jobs to low-wage Mexico.

## Temasek, Trustbridge target majority stake in WeWork China at \$1 billion valuation

Temasek Holdings and Trustbridge Partners have held talks with WeWork China over increasing their stake in the China branch of the troubled co-working startup to take majority ownership, three people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The plan values WeWork China at around \$1 billion, two of the people said.

The proposal was submitted to WeWork's major stakeholder, Japanese technology conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp, at the end of last year, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified as the discussions are

Singapore state investor Temasek and Shanghai-based private equity firm Trustbridge want to buy more shares to give them a combined majority stake in WeWork China, according to the people.

WeWork currently owns 59% of WeWork China, with the remainder held by other investors including SoftBank, Hony Capital and Trustbridge, according to the group's prospectus for its initial public offering.

The Chinese unit had raised \$500 million in July 2018 from investors including Temasek, Trustbridge, SoftBank and Chinese fund Hony Capital in a deal valuing the firm at about \$5 billion. That was the second round, with the firm having previously raised \$500 million in 2017.

A new deal giving Temasek and Trustbridge a majority stake would likely mean that WeWork China would go through a down round - a fall in valuation following a new investment if the proposal got passed but could significantly ease the financial burden on WeWork and SoftBank.

They added that the discussions were at an early stage and a deal was not certain.

SoftBank, Temasek and WeWork declined to comment. Trustbridge did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The larger WeWork group is undergoing a broad restructuring after it was thrown a \$9.5 billion lifeline by SoftBank following a failed public offering and the ouster of founder Adam Neumann.

However, SoftBank's plan to secure \$3 billion from Japan's three biggest banks have stalled, likely complicating its rescue package for WeWork, Reuters has reported.

WeWork China has set out ambitious revenue goals for 2020, Reuters reported last month, even though it faces staff cutbacks and weak occupancy numbers at its properties across China.

In 2018, WeWork China generated \$99.5 million in revenue, according to WeWork's IPO prospectus.

WeWork's woes have had a ripple effect across the sector, impacting the likes of UCommune, WeWork China's rival, which is trying to launch an initial public

Citigroup Inc and Credit Suisse Group AG walked away from underwriting UCommune's IPO because they decided they could not deliver the offering at a previously discussed valuation.

UCommune has now tapped little-known U.S. investment bank Benchmark Company LLC to launch its listing, Reuters reported earlier this month.



space during the National Day Golden Week holiday, in central Beijing, China. File photo.

## Senate passes North America trade deal, Canada still to approve

#### **WASHINGTON**

THE U.S. Senate on Thursday approved a revamp of the 26-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement that includes tougher rules on labor and automotive content but leaves \$1.2 trillion in annual U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade flows largely unchanged.

The legislation to implement the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement passed on an 89-10 bipartisan vote, sending the measure to President Donald Trump for him to sign into law.

The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on Dec. 19 after hammering out changes to ensure better enforcement of labor rights and tighter environmental rules during months of often contentious negotiations with the Trump administration.

The Senate vote came a day after Trump signed a long-awaited Phase 1 trade deal with China, and shortly before the Senate formally began the impeachment trial of Trump on charges that he abused his power.

The U.S. S&P 500 stock index hit the 3,300 mark on Thursday for the first time, buoyed by the two trade deals, solid retail sales and



Employees work at Ark de Mexico, an assembly factory that makes wire harnesses and electric components for the automobile industry, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. File photo.

upbeat Morgan Stanley earnings.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Trump's efforts to rebalance U.S. ties with its major trading partners were bearing fruit, and boosting U.S. economic growth.

"This historic agreement

rebalances our trade relationship with Canada and Mexico, but it promotes economic growth, creates jobs, and provides crucial certainty for farmers, workers and manufacturers," he said

in a statement.

not only modernizes and told Fox News that interim trade deal with China and passage of USMCA would boost growth of the U.S. gross domestic product by 50 to 75 basis points.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on Thursday called the deal's On Wednesday, Mnuchin approval good news for the

Mexican economy, and predicted it would jump start new investments.

Canada still needs to approve the deal before it can take effect and replace NAFTA. It was signed by the leaders of the United States, Mexico and Canada in September 2018.

co, sending it to \$1.2 trillion a year by 2017, and knitting together supply chains across the continent.

> Industry groups hailed the trade agreement and said it would provide sorely needed certainty to revive investment flows.

## Fiat Chrysler and Foxconn plan Chinese electric vehicle joint venture

#### **MILAN**

ITALIAN-American automaker Fiat Chrysler and the parent of iPhone assembler Foxconn plan to set up a joint venture to build electric cars and develop internet-connected vehicles,

the two groups said. Chrysler (FCA)

potential creation of a 50-50 joint venture to develop and manufacture new generation battery electric vehicles in China and engage in the IoV, or 'Internet of Vehicles', business.

confirmed on Friday it was up ground in the batteryin talks with Hon Hai on the powered vehicle space and is set to launch its first fullelectric model - the 500 small car this year.

FCA's statement came after Taiwan's Hon Hai the parent of Foxconn the Chinese assembler of Apple The Italian-American car iPhones - announced the maker is looking to make potential joint venture in a PSA that will create the

separate statement.

Hon Hai said it would hold its 50 per cent share both directly and indirectly and its direct shareholding would not exceed 40 per

FCA last month reached a binding agreement for a \$50 billion tie-up with France's world's No. 4 carmaker.

FCA said that the proposed cooperation was initially focused on the Chinese market.

It "would enable the parties to bring together the capabilities of two established global leaders the across spectrum of automobile

design, engineering and manufacturing and mobile software technology to focus on the growing battery electric vehicle market," it

FCA said it was in the process of signing a preliminary agreement with investing heavily in a variety Hon Hai, aiming to reach of future transport ventures ups. final binding agreements in for several years, including

the next few months.

However, it added there was no assurance that final binding agreements would be reached or would be completed in that timeframe.

Foxconn has been

Didi Chuxing, the Chinese ride services giant, and Chinese electric vehicle start-ups Byton and Xpeng.

Foxconn also invested in Chinese battery giant CATL and a variety of other mostly Chinese transportation tech start-

## Volkswagen to buy 20pc of Chinese battery maker Guoxuan

**HONG KONG** 

IT has been revealed that Volkswagen AG is set to take a 20 per cent stake in Chinese electric vehicle battery maker Guoxuan High-tech Co Ltd. as the German firm accelerates its electric push into the world's largest auto market.

The deal would mark Volkswagen's first direct ownership in a Chinese battery maker and comes as the Wolfsburg-based automaker strives to meet a goal of selling 1.5 million new energy vehicles (NEVs) a year in China by 2025, including plug-in hybrid cars. The top foreign automaker in China

plans to acquire the stake in Shenzhenlisted Guoxuan via a discounted private share placement in the coming weeks, the two sources with knowledge of the matter said. Based on Guoxuan's market capitalization of \$2.8 billion, a 20 per cent stake in the company at present is worth about \$560 million.

The deal's details have been mostly finalized and the two firms are waiting for new Chinese regulatory rules on private share placements that will provide a more flexible pricing mechanism and shorter lock-up periods for majority shareholders, said one of the people, speaking on



A Volkswagen cars as captured recently in a showroom. File photo

condition of anonymity.

After the stake purchase, Volkswagen will become the battery maker's second-largest shareholder with a 20 per cent stake, behind Zhuhai Guoxuan Trading Ltd, a firm controlled by Guoxuan's founder Li Zhen, which currently holds 25 per cent.

10 per cent on the news on Friday to trade at their highest level since March last year.

Volkswagen declined to comment. Guoxuan and the China Securities Regulatory Commission did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters.

An executive at Guoxuan's board secretary's Shares in Guoxuan surged by their maximum office told the government-backed Securities

Times newspaper it had not yet received news about a stake acquisition.

Guoxuan is among a swathe of mid-tier Chinese battery makers behind CATL and BYD. It is based in China's eastern city of Hefei, where Volkswagen is also building electric vehicles with IAC Motor, one of a number of its Chinese joint venture partners.

A third source, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said Volkswagen has long wanted to control a battery maker to better manage its supply chain.

To achieve its NEV sales goal in China, Volkswagen has built a new \$2.5 billion electric vehicle plant with partner SAIC Motor that will have annual output capacity of 300,000 cars and is also revamping manufacturing facilities in China's southeastern city of Foshan to build electric cars with partner FAW Group.

Volkswagen has also identified CATL as a strategic supplier and Volkswagen board member Sommer told Reuters in July last year that it could even build its own battery cell manufacturing plants in China.

"By holding a stake in the top Chinese battery makers, carmakers can gain more bargaining power on battery prices," said Yale

Zhang, managing director of Shanghai-based consultancy AutoForesight. carmakers are now catching up with their Chinese counterparts on securing battery supplies in China."

Volkswagen's rivals in China include Tesla, which earlier this month began delivering cars from its \$2 billion factory in China. The U.S. electric car maker eventually plans to manufacture 250,000 vehicles a year in the plant's first phase.

China has been a keen supporter of NEV - pure battery electric, hybrid and plug-in hybrids - and has started implementing NEV sales quota requirements for automakers.

However, cuts to subsidies have dealt the market a blow, with NEV sales contracting for the first time last year. Sales this year are likely to be flat or rise only slightly, according to China's top auto industry association.

## Google-parent firm reaches \$1 trillion in market value

As Google-parent Alphabet Inc (GOOGL.O) became on Thursday the fourth U.S. company to top a market value of more than \$1 trillion, some funds holding its shares are wondering whether now is the time to cash in on the stock's extraordinary gains.

Shares of the Internet search giant are up nearly 17 per cent over the last three months, outpacing a broader rally in the S&P 500 index over the same period by 6 per centage

Short interest in the stock, a measure of how many investors are betting on a price decline, is at 1 per cent, near a 52-week high for the company and higher than competitors such as Microsoft and Facebook according to Refinity data.

Alphabet joins Apple, Amazon.com and Microsoft as the only U.S. companies to hit \$1

trillion in market value.

"Google is a stock that won't get you fired," said Kevin Landis, a portfolio manager at Firsthand Funds who hasn't added to his current Alphabet position since the first quarter of 2019. "Will I be able to double my money in this stock from here? I'm not sure about that." States Alphabet.

Alphabet's shares are among a small group of stocks found in the top holdings of both mutual funds and hedge funds, two types of institutions whose investing styles tend to be markedly different, a Goldman Sachs analysis showed. That could leave it exposed to volatile price swings if sentiment suddenly

Despite those concerns, many investors are finding it hard to say goodbye. The 28 per cent climb in Alphabet and the performance of other technology and tech-related stocks helped money managers post big gains

in 2019, making it difficult for

many to justify cutting their exposure even as they fret over the implications of its run-up.

Ernesto Ramos, portfolio manager of the BMO Large-Cap Growth Fund, has held onto his shares, betting that Alphabet's exposure to online advertising will eventually justify its above-average valuation. Alphabet trades at 26.6 times future earnings, compared with 18.5 for the S&P 500.

Scott Goginsky, a portfolio manager of the Biondo Focus fund, has held off adding to a longstanding position over the last year, concerned that the company's costs are likely to increase due to its efforts to pre-empt any additional regulatory measures from Washington. That could cut into the margins of businesses like YouTube if it needs to hire additional workers to vet user-posted content, he said.

Alphabet is scheduled to report fourth-quarter earnings on Feb. 3. In its latest report, the company missed analysts' estimates for thirdquarter profit by about \$1.7 billion, though it beat revenue expectations.

That news did little to dent investors' bullishness on the company: Alphabet's stock retreated briefly on the report, only to resume its climb several days later.

Bearish investors, however, can point to Amazon.com, which saw its market value fall below \$1 trillion after its streak of record profits ended in July. Shares of the company are down nearly 7 per cent over the last six months, compared with a 10 per cent gain in the S&P 500 overall.



#### SATURDAY 18 Jan

Uwanja wa Mazoezi Kumekucha Habari

Al Jazeera Watoto wetu Miue Zaidi rpt

Shamba lulu rpt Mapishi rpt

Chetu ni chetu rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost Igizo rpt: Dhoruba

lgizo: Mkaguzi Igizo rpt: Mizengwe

16:20 Igizo: Mtego Shamsham za Pwani Mapishi

Igizo: Dhoruba Art and Style Jungu Kuu Habari

Shangweka Kesho leo rpt Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja Hawavumi lakini wamo

Isidingo rpt DWTV

**SUNDAY 19 Jan** Uwanja wa Mazoezi Kumekucha

7:00 Habari Al iazeera Watoto Wetu Isidingo

Igizo: Mizengwe rpt Bongo Movie rpt: The Second Tamasha la Michezo

Mwangaza The Great queen Seonduk Igizo rpt : Mkaguzi Kipindi cha kikristo Jiii Letu 18:15 Mapishi

Matukio ya wiki Igizo: Mtego Kipindi Maalum: Biko

21:10 Mizengwe Mjue Zaid Bongo Movie: Bahasha Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 20 Jan Uwanja wa Mazoezi Habari

Kumekucha

Kumekucha Michezo

7:30

Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo Soap: Isidingo the need Habari za saa Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa

Jagina rpt Igizo rpt: Mtego Habari za saa Al jazeera

Jungu kuu rpt

Mjue Zaidi Art and Lifestyle rpt Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base Jiji Letu Aibu yako rpt

Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari

21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Moja Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari

23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV

**TUESDAY 21 Jan** Uwanja wa Mazoezi

5:30 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 08:55 Habari za saa Kumekucha Kishindo Isidingo Habari za saa

9:00 09:55 10:00 Watoto wetu Shamsham za pwani 10:30 10:55 Habari za saa

11:00 Shamsham za pwani 11:20 Shangweka rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa

13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa

16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi Mapishi rpt Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake

Isidingo

Meza Huru

15:00

19:30

20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania yetu Kipindi Maalum: St Patrick 21:35 mission schools Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost

23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV **WEDNESDAY 22 Jan** 

Habari

Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 08:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu

Korean drama: The great

Habari za saa 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok

11:20 Uchumi wetu 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 Habari za saa Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14.00 Habari za saa

15:00 Meza huru The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:15

18:30 ljue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni

19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco

21:40 Ripoti Maalum 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera

2:00 DWTV **THURSDAY 23 Jan** Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 8:55 Habariz a saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo

9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 lgizo: Mkaguzi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi 11:15 Kesho Leo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa

12:00 Al jazeera 12:30 ljue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya 13:00 chooni 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55

Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu

18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari The Base

Mapishi

18:15

00:30

9:30

FRIDAY 24 Jan Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI

DWTV

Kumekucha 6:40 7:30 HABARI Kumekucha Michezo 8:00 8:55 Habari za saa 09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo

Isidingo

Habari za saa

Habari za saa Hawayumi lakini wamo 11:00 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa Al Jazeera

21:10

Mizengwe

Bongo Movie:

07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital

Lete Raha (Via Capital

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Series: The other side

The Monday Agenda

Capital Prime News

Morning Jam (Via Capital

Lete Raha (Via Capital

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Series: The other side

Telenovela: (Dónde está

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Turning the spotlight rpt

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Series rpt: Life is a teacher

Tanzania Yetu rot

Eco@Africa rpt

Meza huru

The Décor rpt

Shamba lulu

Kipima Joto

Al Jazeera

Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Series rpt: The other side

Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

21:30 Miue Zaidi

Mon 20 Jan

13:00

16:00

16:30

17:00

17:30

19:00

19:30

20:00

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Wed 22 Jan

06:00 Al jazeera

Radio)

Tues 21 Jan

06:00 Al Jazeera

Radio)

Capchat rpt

Meza huru

Innovation

Jagina rpt

Capital Prime

Eco@Africa

07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital

09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)

13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está

Culinary delight rpt

Series: The other side

Telenovela: (Dónde está

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Capital Prime News

Innovation rpt

17:30 Meza Huru

19:00 Sports Gazette

19:30 Chetu ni chetu

Elisa?) Where is Elisa?

Series rpt: The other side

Club 101 (via Capital Radio)

Al Jazeera

06:00 Al jazeera

Radio)

12:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:30 Habari za saa 12:55 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt

Habari za saa Chetu ni chetu rpt Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base

17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt

18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habar

21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV

SATURDAY 25 Jan 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Miue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt

12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 lgizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego Shamsham za Pwani 17:00 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba

19:00 Art and lifestyle 19:25 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangweka 21:30 Kesho leo rpt Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt

**SUNDAY 26 Jan** 5:30 Uwania wa Mazoezi

DWTV

01:30

18:00

18:15

18:30

6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu Isidingo Igizo: Mizengwe rpt

10:00 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Bahasha 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk 16:45 Igizo rpt : Mkaguzi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo

Jiji Letu

Mapishi

19:30 Igizo: Mtego

Matukio ya wiki

22:00 Dakika 45:

22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 23 Jan 06:00 Al Jazeera Morning Jam (Via Capital

Official logo for Google. File photo.

## Guardian www.ippnedia.com

# WORLD

#### Trump impeachment trial opens as watchdog says he broke law

**WASHINGTON** 

THE Democratic-led House of Representatives voted on Wednesday to send two formal charges against President Donald Trump to the Senate, clearing the way for only the third impeachment trial of a US president to begin in earnest

Lawmakers voted 228 to 193 to give the Senate, controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, the task of putting him on trial on charges of abuse of power for asking Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and obstruction of Congress for blocking testimony and documents sought by Democratic lawmak-

The vote, which also approved a team of seven Democratic lawmakers named by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to serve as prosecutors in the trial, was largely along party lines.

The 100-seat Senate is expected to acquit Trump, keeping him in office, who served as a federal prosecutor in Mitch McConnell, whose fellow Republicans will

given that none of its 53 Republicans has voiced support for removing him, a step that under the US Constitution would require a two-thirds majority.

But Trump's impeachment by the House last month will remain a stain on his record and the televised trial in the Senate could be uncomfortable for him as he seeks re-election on Nov. 3, with Biden a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to challenge him.

"We are here today to cross a very important threshold in American history," Pelosi said on the House floor before the

Pelosi launched the impeachment inquiry in September after earlier resisting such a move centered on Trump's actions to impede a federal investigation that documented Russian interference in the 2016 election to boost his

House Intelligence Committee Chair-



In this image from video, presiding officer Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts swears in members of the Senate for the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump at the US Capitol in Washington, on Thursday. (AP)

Los Angeles for six years, was selected to head the team of House "managers." The White House has yet to unveil its defense team. The trial will overseen by US Chief Justice John Roberts.

Trump, during a White House signing ceremony for a China trade deal, took a few shots at what he called the impeachment "hoax." He excused House lawmakers who needed to go to vote on impeachment and singled out for praise every Republican senator in the audience, whose support he will need at the trial

White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said Trump "expects to be fully exonerated," adding in a statement, "President Trump has done nothing wrong."

Opening statements in the trial are expected man Adam Schiff, a Trump nemesis next Tuesday, according to Senate Majority Leader

set the rules for the trial.

The seven House managers marched the two articles of impeachment over to the Senate on Wednesday where McConnell's office said they would be formally presented on Thursday.

A pivotal event in Trump's impeachment was a July 25 telephone call in which he asked Ukraine's president to open a corruption investigation into Biden and his son, as well as a discredited theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016

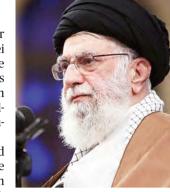
Democrats have called this an abuse of power because Trump asked a foreign government to interfere in a US election for his own benefit at the expense of American national security. Biden, the former US vice president, is one of 12 candidates vying for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in November.

#### **Ayatollah says US assassination** of Soleimani 'cowardice' act

**TEHRAN / DUBAI** 

IRAN'S Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vesterday said that the US assassination of Iran's Ouds commander, Qassem Soleimani, was a "cowardice act" which hurt its superpower prestige.

The Americans could not face Soleimani in the battlefield and hit him "furtively," said the Ayatollah in a Friday sermon.



In revenge, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)'s missiles shower on the US bases in Iraq was also a military "strike" on the US as the superpower, he said.

Iran gave US 'slap on face' The Ayatollah said Iran's missile strikes on US targets in Iraq this month delivered a "slap on the face" to the United States, showing the Islamic Republic had divine support.

"The fact that Iran has the power to give such a slap to a world power shows the hand of God," the Ayatollah said, after referring to the launch of missiles against US targets as a "day of God". His comments were met by chants of "Death to America!"

Europeans 'can't be trusted'

The Ayatollah also said that three European states who were party to a nuclear pact from which the United States has already withdrawn could not be trusted, and their actions to put pressure on Iran would not work.

The Ayatollah told thousands of worshippers that the European states "cannot be trusted", after Britain, France and Germany triggered a formal dispute mechanism in the agreement, which could lead to UN sanctions being reim-

posed. He also accused Iran's "enemies", a term that usually refers to Washington and its allies, of trying to use Iran's accidental shooting down of a Ukrainian airliner to overshadow a public show of grief following the US killing of an Iranian

## Ukraine PM resigning after tape suggests he criticised president

UKRAINE'S prime minister Oleksiy Honcharuk submitted his resignation yesterday after an audio recording suggested he had criticized the president, but then appeared to suggest in comments to Reuters that he might stay in his

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy will consider the resignation letter later yesterday, the president's of-

Speculation over Honcharuk's position has grown this week after a recording of a man discussing Zelenskiy's purported lack of knowledge of economics was circulated on messaging channels, apparently at a meeting of the prime minister, finance minister and the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) in December.

Honcharuk said on Friday the

**VILLINGEN-SCHWENNINGEN** 

CHINESE Ambassador to Ger-

many Wu Ken on Thursday in-

vited more German companies

to invest in the ever-wider open-

ing China, and urged Germany to

treat Chinese investment equally.

only leaders in investing in China,

but also witnessing reform and

opening up and benefiting from

China's economic development,"

said Wu at a new year event of the

Chamber of Commerce Schwar-

zwald-Baar-Heuberg attended by

2,200 people, most of them busi-

Wu (pictured) said the total vol-

ume of trade between China and

Germany in 2019 reached 200

ness representatives.

"German companies are not

ments of what had been said at government meetings.

"Its contents artificially create the impression that my team and I do not respect the president, who is our political leader," Honcharuk said on social media. He did not say whether it was his voice heard in the recording.

Central bank officials and the finance minister have declined to comment on the recording. Contacted by Reuters shortly af-

ter his announcement and asked whether he indeed intended to step down, Honcharuk said: "Do not jump to conclusions." Honcharuk, appointed by

parliament last August after Zelenskiy's party won a majority, declined to say whether he was using his resignation letter as a way of testing the president's confidence in him.

Under Ukraine's previous presirecording had been doctored and dent, Honcharuk's predecessor as was made up of different frag-prime minister, Volodymyr Groys-

the German Chamber of Com-

merce, exports to China have

created around 900,000 jobs in

Germany, and around 6,000 Ger-

man companies are currently in-

At the beginning of the new

year 2020, China published a

new reform package and passed

various laws and regulations on

foreign investments, showing

that the Chinese government is

still endeavoring to open up to

the outside world, according to

"We invite even more German

companies to invest in China and

also encourage Chinese compa-

nies to come to Germany and Eu-

vesting in China.

rope," said Wu.



man, also made threats to resign but ultimately stayed the course until last July's parliamentary election which Zelenskiy's party won.

'MODEL OF OPENNESS AND **DECENCY'** 

Honcharuk announced his resignation in a message on Facebook where he also praised Zelenskiy as "a model of openness and decency".

"However, in order to remove ject it," said Tim Ash of BlueBay

Chinese ambassador urges Germany to treat Chinese companies equally

any doubts about our respect and trust in the President, I wrote a letter of resignation and handed it to the President with the right to submit it to Parliament," he said.

Honcharuk appeared in parliament later yesterday and reaffirmed his respect for the president, adding that Ukraine must remain united in the face of what he called information attacks and manipulations.

He has set out an ambitious reform agenda since coming to office and secured provisional agreement from the IMF for a three-year-loan programme seen as key to maintaining investor confidence and economic stabil-

Ukraine's dollar bonds were slightly softer after the news.

The 2032 issue was down 0.3 cents, while the 2027 issue lost 0.2 cents, Tradeweb data showed.

"Seems likely Zelenskiy will re-

there are many voices such as

"protection from China". The

German Federal Government has

revised the foreign trade regula-

tion twice in recent years and

tightened the investment review.

vestors are still warmly welcomed in Germany, but on the other

hand, it is hard to miss the fact

that the tightening of the invest-

ment review is aimed precisely

at Chinese companies," said Wu,

adding that in recent years many

Chinese companies that have in-

vested or want to invest in Ger-

many have experienced explicit

"In China people wonder why

Germany is closing its door, while

the door of China is opening ever

"We often hear that Chinese in-

Asset Management about the letter of resignation.

"Question is if Zelenskiy accepts it, would any credible reformer opt to sit in Honcharuk's place when the said govt session with the NBU was leaked, and Honcharuk was only being honest," he wrote on Twitter.

Honcharuk's government managed to secure a US\$5.5 billion IMF loan program in December but this is still subject to Ukraine's performance on reforms and tackling vested interests.

"(The resignation offer) will not affect them," Honcharuk said in his comments to Reuters on Friday, replying to a question about his government's reforms and the IMF program.

Zelenskiy won a landslide presidential election victory last April promising to tackle corruption and raise living standards in one of Europe's poorest countries.

"In my opinion, Germany must,

in its own interest, speak out

clearly against unilateralism and

Wu said that German Chancel-

lor Angela Merkel had said clearly

that there had been no suspected

cases of China's tech firm Huawei

According to the German Of-

fice for Information Security, no

information has been received so

far that there are intelligence ac-

tivities in the field of technology,

"There is a saying in China: Real

gold is not afraid of fire. I hope

that the German economy can

have a keen eye and a rational

voice on the subject of Huawei,"

the Chinese ambassador noted.

Wu said.

protectionism," he said.

#### **ROK says policy on DPRK** belongs to matter of sovereignty

**SEOUL** 

THE Republic of Korea (ROK)'s unification ministry said yesterday that the country's policy on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) belonged to a matter of sovereignty.

Lee Sang-min, the ministry's spokesman, told a press briefing that the policy on the DPRK belonged to the sovereignty of ROK, saying the United States repeatedly expressed respect for the sovereignty through various channels.

The comment came after US Ambassador to ROK Harry Harris reportedly told a group of foreign reporters that it would be "better" for ROK to pursue the inter-Korean cooperation through the "working group" between Seoul and Washington in a bid to avoid "misunderstanding."

Harris' remark was seen by local media as the US demand for ROK making a prior consultation with the US government before launching any inter-Korean cooperation.

ROK President Moon Jae-in said in his New Year press conference earlier this week that an enhanced inter-Korean cooperation can help win international support for the "exemption of a part of sanctions" against the DPRK or the approval of "exceptional measures."

Moon said that if it is necessary to win an exceptional approval from the UN Security Council over sanctions against the DPRK, he had willingness to make efforts for it during the process of inter-Korean cooperation.

The spokesman said Seoul was anticipating an expanded private exchange between the two Koreas by allowing ROK people to visit the DPRK in various forms.

He noted that individual tour by ROK people to the DPRK was not in violation of UN sanctions against Pyongyang as seen in many other foreign tourists traveling to the DPRK.

Tour by ROK people to the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kumgang, launched in 1998, had been run for about 10 years before shutdown in 2008 when a ROK people tourist was shot dead by a DPRK solider after allegedly venturing into off-limit

Lee said ROK was considering various ways to increase private exchange with the DPRK from the perspective of inter-Korean cooperation, noting that what is the most important would be whether the DPRK authorities permit ROK's individual tour to the country.

The spokesman added that ROK will closely cooperate with the international community, if necessary, while pushing for inter-Korean cooperation projects that the two Koreas can do

## President Xi's Myanmar visit to usher in new vistas

or implicit hurdles.

CHINA and Myanmar have established diplomatic relations for 70 years since 1950. During the past seven decades, the international situation has changed significantly. In spite of huge pressures from do-

mestic politics and foreign policies, both countries have been maintaining friendly neighborly relations, cooperating under the framework of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and sticking to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. The two countries set a good example of building a harmonious world.

China and Myanmar boosting harmonious and stable bilateral ties is of strategic significance. As a strategic channel from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean, a hub connecting South Asia, East Asia and Southeast Asia, and a sea gate of China's "two-ocean" strategy, Myanmar sits at crucial strategic location.

Myanmar's role in ensuring China's energy supply diversification is significant. China-Myanmar oil and gas pipe-

line provides a better energy channel

billion U.S. dollars. According to although Chinese investment is of German companies in China, wider," said Wu.

The Chinese ambassador said only a tenth of the investment

option for China. Furthermore, Myanmar's border with China has been demarcated since 1960. It was the first country to settle border issues with China since the founding of the People's Republic of China. It sets an important example and is a pioneer of China's development of harmonious relations with neighboring countries.

On his first overseas trip in 2020, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Myanmar on January 17 and 18. Xi's visit shows respect to former Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and former prime minister of Myanmar U Nu who contributed significantly to bilateral ties.



It also reveals his affirmation of cooperation between the two countries under the BRI framework and his desire

to further enrich relations and start a new era of China-Myanmar ties.

Xi's visit will focus on agenda such as the construction of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor and cooperation on infrastructure and regional security.

First, the two countries have common interests in maintaining regional peace and security. As an important participant in regional and global governance, Beijing will cooperate with Nay Pyi Taw in dealing with regional conflicts and the Rohingya issue.

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar will carry out closer economic and trade cooperation with China under the framework of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. By promoting the development of the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor,

Myanmar's economic development will have more opportunities due to the huge Chinese market.

Also, China can open up more to Southeast Asia through Myanmar and help the country become an important participant in the BRI.

Besides, Myanmar can learn from China's successful experience of development and government to make breakthroughs in its progress.

Of course, there are obstacles on the way to a promising future for relations. Some factors still hold back and constrain the depth and breadth of bilateral cooperation. On the one hand, external forces continue to meddle in the relationship between China and

Since the beginning of its democratization, Myanmar has made great

achievements, but has also encountered new problems, especially in its lack of proper management of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). For example, some NGOs play the role of agents of international anti-China

They sabotage the friendship between China and Myanmar within both Myanmar's government and its society, creating problems for the promotion of China-Myanmar relations.

On the other hand, certain unresolved issues that have already existed between China and Myanmar are still troubling. Take the Myitsone Dam and the Letpadaung Copper Mine as instances.

The disagreements over them have not been dealt with properly. This hinders the further development of China-Myanmar relations, as well as the expansion of bilateral trade and investment. People's Daily

## Guardian

#### Russia confirms participation in Libya conference in Berlin

RUSSIA will take part in the international conference on Libya, which will be held in Berlin on January 19, as Acting Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters at a news conference on the achievements of Russian diplomacy in 2019.

"We will take part in the conference, which will be held in Berlin on Sunday,"

As Sergey Lavrov commented, the commitment of rival parties in the Libyan conflict to truce is a step forward and preserving the ceasefire is strongly desirable.

"It is most important that truce is observed," he stated. "It is a certain step forward and hopefully it will be preserved, preferably for an indefinite period of time.

At least, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas recently had a meeting with [Commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Field Marshal Khalifa] Haftar in Benghazi and the marshal reaffirmed his commitment to the ceasefire. That is use-

The diplomat recalled that Russia invited representatives of Libya's east and west to Moscow in response to a proposal by Turkish colleagues.

"They accepted our invitation and for a few hours we held talks with delegations of Marshal Haftar and President of the Libyan House of Representatives Aguila Saleh Issa on one side and head of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Fayez

al-Sarraj and High Council of State Chairperson Khalid al-Mishri on the other," he continued.

"There is a text that we see as rather balanced which urges to back ceasefire and launch political process. Sarraj and al-Mishri signed it, while Marshal Haftar and Saleh asked for more time."

According to Lavrov, the key mistake in the Libyan settlement was made by NATO in 2011 "when the decision was taken to bomb Libya and oust the regime in violation of the UN Security Council resolution." "The Libyan statehood has been in ruins ever since, efforts to restore it are failing still," he added. "There were a lot of attempts to help Libyan parties to reach some sort of agreement and bring their country back to a normal state.'

"There was the Skhirat Agreement that is still viewed by majority of foreign actors as containing basic principles of the Libvan settlement," the diplomat stressed.

"Life goes on, of course, and certain nuances can be added, even more so that there were Abu Dhabi agreements reached in early 2019 regarding the makeup of state power in Libya, but they unfortunately were not implemented.

A conference was held in Paris which even agreed a specific date for elections that were supposed to take place, but as we know we should never get ahead of ourselves and set the all too concrete results. Diplomacy is a gradual process, after



**Sergey Lavrov** 

Final documents of Berlin confer-

The final documents of the Berlin conference on Libyan regulation have been practically approved during the preparatory meetings, the acting foreign minister revealed. "We took part in all the five preparatory meetings. The final documents are practically approved now.

They are in full accordance with the decisions taken by the [UN] Security Council on Libyan regulation. They do not include any points contradicting the Security Council's decisions," the acting minister informed.

Russia hopes that the UN Security Council will back the decisions of the Berlin conference on Libya, Lavrov claimed. "The most important thing now is that

after the Berlin conference everything should go as planned and the Security Council should support the outcomes of the Berlin conference," he noted. The international conference on Libya will take place on January 19 in Berlin. The Berlin process is aimed to put an end to the hostilities between the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and Fayez al-Sarraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) sitting in Tripoli.

High-ranking representatives of Russia, the US, China, the UK, Italy, France, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates are set to take part in the conference, along with officials of the UN, the EU, the African Union and the Arab League. Haftar and al-Sarraj also confirmed their participation in the conference.

Libyan ceasefire

On January 12 at midnight, a ceasefire proposed by the Russian and Turkish Presidents Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan entered into force in Libya as part of a larger initiative to achieve peace in the country.

The ceasefire's objective is to stop hostilities between the Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and Fayez al-Sarraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) sitting in Tripoli.

On January 13, representatives of the parties to the conflict arrived in Moscow for talks after which GNA envoys signed the ceasefire agreement.

Haftar took a pause to study the agreement. However, later he left Moscow without putting his signature to the document, claiming that he needed time to discuss the agreements reached with leaders of tribes that support him.

In the early hours of January 14, armed clashes re-erupted in south Tripoli – the target of a decisive offensive declared by Haftar in December. The LNA issued a statement declaring "readiness and determination to achieve victory.'

However, Haftar had a meeting with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on Thursday and expressed readiness to honor the ceasefire in the country.

To break the deadlock, Germany is planning to hold an international conference on the Libyan settlement in Berlin on January 19, officially inviting Haftar and Sarraj to attend it earlier.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s daughter says US voter suppression is alive and well

**ATLANTA** 

THE center that honors slain U.S. civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. will devote the holiday cele-

brating his legacy on Monday to voter education and registration, his youngest daughter said in a recent interview.

Bernice King, 56, said she believes her father would have been disappointed with efforts playing out in some U.S. states to purge voter rolls of people who have not recently cast ballots or to impose strict ID require-

"You can't take away someone's right to vote just because they haven't decided to exercise it," said King, who serves as chief executive of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. "When you take people off the voter rolls because they haven't chosen to exercise their rights, to me, is suppression."

Advocates of revoking the registration of inactive voters say that doing so reduces the risk of people fraudulently casting multiple ballots or voting in multiple places, though studies show that voter fraud is exceptionally rare in the United States.

Political observers note that purges disproportionately affect poor and minority voters, who are more likely to support Democratic candidates.

The King Center aims to register as many new voters as possible in a drive culminating on Monday at the Ebenezer Baptist church where King preached. Monday is the federal holiday celebrating King, who was shot dead by an assassin in 1968 at age 39.

## Southern Africa facing unprecedented hunger due to climate change

THE World Food Program (WFP) on Thursday appealed for more funds to help it fight hunger in southern Africa where a significant portion of the population is facing severe food insecurity due to effects of climate change and harsh

of 345 million in the sub-region mostly women and children - are gravely food insecure following repeated drought, widespread flooding and economic disarray, WFP regional director for southern Af-

A record 45 million people out enable communities to adapt to climate change."

> "If we do not receive the necessary funding, we will have no choice but to assist fewer of those most in need and with less. Nor will we be able to adequately expand longer-term activities vital to meaningfully combating the existential

said Castro. She said the hunger crisis in the sub-region was on a scale never seen before, with evidence showing that it is getting worse.

"As the lean season deepens ahead of the annual cereal harvest in April/May, the international community must accelerate both emergency assistance to millions of desperately hungry people in

southern Africa, and long-term investments to enable the region's vulnerable to withstand the worsening impacts of climate change,"

WFP plans to provide lean season assistance to some 8.3 million people grappling with crisis or emergency levels of hunger in eight of the hardest-hit countries

namely Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Madagascar, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini and Malawi.

To date, WFP has secured just 205 million U.S. dollars of the 489 million dollars required for this assistance and had been forced to resort heavily to internal borrowing to ensure food reaches those in

## Mutations in donors' stem cells may cause problems for cancer patients - study

**CHICAGO** 

A STUDY from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis suggests that extremely rare, harmful genetic mutations present in healthy donors' stem cells may be passed on to cancer patients receiving stem cell transplants.

The intense chemo- and radiation therapy prior to transplant and the immunosuppression given after allow cells with these rare mutations the opportunity to quickly replicate, potentially creating health problems for the patients who receive them, say heart damage, graft-versus-host disease and possible new leuke-

The study analyzed bone marrow from 25 adult patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) whose samples had been stored in a repository at Washington University. Samples from their healthy matched donors, who were unrelated to the patients, also were sequenced.

The 25 AML patients each had had samples banked at four separate times: before the transplant, at 30 days post-transplant, at 100 days post-transplant, and one year post-transplant.

The researchers invented a technique called error-corrected sequencing to identify

rica Lola Castro said in a statement. "As the crisis deepens, the world must step up now to save lives and emergency that is climate change,"

increased in frequency. "We graft-versus-host disease.

extremely rare DNA mutations that would be missed by conventional genome sequencing, which allows the researchers to find true mutations that are extremely rare: those present in as

few as one in 10,000 cells. The healthy donors ranged in age from 20 to 58, with an average age of 26. The researchers sequenced 80 genes known to be associated with AML, and identified at least one harmful genetic mutation in 11 or 44 percent of the 25 donors.

They further showed that 84 percent of all the various mutations identified in the donors' samples were potentially harmful, and that 100 percent of the harmful mutations present in the donors later were found in the recipients.

These harmful mutations also

didn't expect this many young, healthy donors to have these types of mutations," said senior author Todd E. Druley, an associate professor of pediatrics.

"We also didn't expect 100 percent of the harmful mutations to be engrafted into the recipients. That was striking." Though the study was not large enough to establish a causal link, the researchers found that 75 percent of the patients who received at least one harmful mutation in the 80 genes that persisted over time developed chronic graftversus-host disease.

Among patients who did not receive mutations in the 80 genes, about 50 percent developed the condition. In general, about half of all patients who receive a stem cell transplant persisted over time, and many go on to develop some form of

The most common mutation seen in the donors and the cancer patients studied is in a gene associated with heart disease.

Healthy people with mutations in this gene are at higher risk of heart attack due to plaque buildup in the arteries. "We know that cardiac dysfunction is a major complication after a bone marrow transplant, but it's always been attributed to toxicity from radiation or chemotherapy," Druley said.

"It's never been linked to mutations in the blood-forming cells. We can't make this claim definitively, but we have data to suggest we should study that in much more detail." The study was published on Wednesday in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

Xinhua

#### Taliban 'open to 10-day ceasefire with US, talks with Afghan govt'

KABUL/PESHAWAR

THE Taliban will implement a 10-day ceasefire with US troops, a reduction in violence with Afghan forces and discussions with Afghan government officials if it reaches an agreement with US negotiators in talks in Doha, two sources have said.

If an agreement is reached, the move could revive hopes for a long-term solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.

Taliban and US negotiation teams met on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the signing of a peace deal, according to a spokesman for the Taliban office in Doha, Qatar.

The talks between the two sides were "useful" and would continue for a few days, the spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, said in a tweet early on Friday.

The stop-start talks between Taliban militants and the United States to end the 18-year war in Afghanistan were called off in September by US President Donald Trump after an American soldier was killed in an attack by the Taliban.

Talks that had resumed after Trump visited US troops in Afghanistan in November were put on "pause" again the following month after the Taliban launched a suicide attack on a US base outside Kabul killing



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban group's top political leader, second right, arrives with other members of the Taliban delegation for talks in Moscow, Russia, (File photo)

However, two sources close to the matter told Reuters on Wednesday that the Taliban's top leadership had discussed and agreed to implement a 10day ceasefire with US troops once an agreement was signed with US officials in Doha, and "reduce" attacks against the Afghan government as well.

A senior Taliban commander said: "The US wanted us to announce a ceasefire during the peace talks which we had rejected. Our shura (council) has agreed to a ceasefire the day the peace accord is signed."

Once an agreement for the ceasefire is in place, the Taliban and Afghan government could meet face to face in Germany, said the commander. Previous-

ly, the Taliban had refused to engage in talks with the Afghan government.

"Our representatives have been meeting with the US negotiation team in Doha and they persistently demanded a ceasefire which we had declined due to some issues," the Taliban commander said. "Now most of our reservations have been addressed."

Another source close to the talks confirmed the commander's version of events.

A date for the signing of the agreement with the US side has not been fixed, but the Taliban commander said he expected it to be "very soon."

Both sources asked not to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. Agencies

#### By Li Xuanmin

THE relations between China and Myanmar are closer now than ever before, and the Southeast Asian country should think of how it can benefit from such closer ties rather than seeing relations with China in defensive terms due to big power games, a former Myanmar government advisor told the Global Times in an

exclusive interview. The comment was made ahead of Chinese President Xi Iinping's scheduled state visit to Myanmar on January 17 and 18. Myanmar society is showing high expectations and a warm welcome for Xi's visit.

"It will be a historic visit as bilateral relations between

China and Myanmar are at an inflection point.

Where the two sides will go over the coming few years may well decide not only Myanmar's future, but also the future of [Asia]," Thant Myint-U, renowned Myanmar historian, former government advisor and former United Nations (UN) official, told the Global Times.

Thant Myint-U is the grandson of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the UN from 1961 to 1971. U Thant had made a significant contribution to helping the People's Republic of China regain its lawful seat in the UN in 1971. He had

argued for China's legal membership and also welcomed the voting result in favor of China later in 1971.

During the interview, Thant Myint-U could clearly recall his grandfather's firm resolve in helping restore China's membership in the UN as a principle of the UN's "universality" and how Myanmar has built a strong connection with China since then.

Now, China-Myanmar relations are becoming multidimensional, "partly because of the friendly government ties" and the integration of the two economies, particularly in border areas where China



Myanmar should focus on 'benefits from China ties'

Thant Myint-U. renowned Myanmar historian, former government advisor and former United Nations (UN)

and Myanmar share a nearly 2,000-kilometer-long borderline that is virtually open, Thant said.

Xi's visit will bring the bilateral relations into a new era. During Xi's state visit, he will meet with Myanmar President Win Myint, State Counselor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's Armed Forces Min Aung Hlaing, China's Foreign Ministry announced.

As Myanmar's foreign policy is also shaped by geopolitical consideration and power balancing games, Thant stressed that the Southeast Asian country should "see more clearly where it wants to be," and more importantly,

"not see relations with China in defensive terms," but think about how it can take advantage of being a neighbor to the world's second-largest

economy. So far, some of infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative have been suspended due to local protests as a result of environmental concerns and instiga-

tions from Westerners. Thant explained that as Myanmar is in midst of numerous transitions, an extremely defensive nationalist reaction could easily be inflamed among local people. But he urged Myanmar to

judge Chinese firms' projects with a long-term vision and examine how an economic relationship with China could better contribute to the local development.

"China and Myanmar are still very far from the kind of familiarity that's needed to ensure the right relationship going forward," Thant said.

He added that people in Myanmar know very little about Chinese history and culture at the current stage.

He called for more peopleto-people exchanges between China and Myanmar so as to forge a better understanding and build mutual trust between the two countries.

**Global Times** 

## Guardian www.ippmedia.com

# PORT



In this Wednesday, April 4, 2018 file photo, Prince Charles declares the games open during the opening ceremony for the 2018 Commonwealth Games at Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast. (AP Photo)

## Royal rift: UK monarchy will look smaller when dust settles

PRINCE Charles, the future king, has long been seen as a potential modernizer who wants a more modest monarchy in line with other European royal households – and the streamlining process has already begun with the astounding developments of recent

But the changes have come at a terrible cost for Charles, who has seen his brother Prince Andrew disgraced and his once close sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, become es-

The trials and tribulations of Andrew and Harry – one tainted for a close friendship with a convicted sex offender, the other unwilling to continue his high-profile role – will take both out of their royal duties, leaving a smaller, more modest royal apparatus.

"Charles has been saying for years and years, 'Let's make it smaller,'" said Majesty magazine editor-in-chief Ingrid Seward. "He feels quite strongly that with such a big House of Windsor, there are too many opportunities for things to go wrong. And it's too expensive. And they need too many houses, too much public expenditure."

She does not expect Charles to take any joy in recent events, though, particularly because of the breakdown between William and

"He's very saddened, as any parent would be if their children have fallen out. But I think he probably feels that in the fullness of time, hopefully, it will get back on track," she said.

The royal focus going forward was neatly summed up by a rare formal portrait released two weeks ago by Buckingham Palace to mark the dawn of a new decade: Queen Elizabeth II with her three direct heirs: Charles, 71, William, 37, and 6-year-old Prince George.

It is a serene image of a 93-year-old monarch surrounded by the three people expected to follow her to the throne, and it masks the behind-the-scenes turmoil and disappointments surrounding Andrew and Harry.

Andrew's fall is a full-blown scandal. His conduct has raised ethical issues in the past, but he had managed to retain his royal role until he completely miscalculated the impact of using an extended TV interview in November to defend his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, a wealthy finan-

The queen's second son seemed to have a moral blind spot, defending his relationship with Epstein – who died in a New York prison in August in what was ruled a suicide - as honorable. He did not express a word of sympathy for the girls and young women victimized by Epstein.

Andrew still faces possible questioning from law enforcement in the U.S. and Britain over allegations that he had sex with a teen trafficked by Epstein, which Andrew denies, as well as questioning from lawyers representing women who have filed civil suits against Epstein's estate.

When the tempest of bad publicity became unbearable, Andrew announced a decision to step down from royal duties. There was no public comment from the queen or from Charles, who was said by the British press to have advised the queen that Andrew could

There is no scandal surrounding Harry, but it seems painful for all concerned. Even the

stoic queen, who seems to refer to private matters roughly once per decade, has spoken of her disappointment.

With his charming smile and ginger hair, Harry has long been one of the most popular royals, and with his brother, William, was seen as a key part of making the creaky monarchy vital to younger Britons. Much of the world watched enthralled in 2018 when he married Meghan Markle, a successful American actress, at a storybook event at Windsor

The fairy tale has since fractured. Harry and Meghan, feeling trapped by their duties and warring with the British press, have announced plans to drastically reduce their roval roles and spend much of the year in Canada. In a major breach of family etiquette, they announced their plans without prior approval from his grandmother, the queen, earning a rare display of royal pique from Elizabeth.

Harry seems torn between the wishes of his wife, Meghan, and his fealty to queen and

The queen, whose 98-year-old husband, Prince Philip, is ailing, has slowly cut back on her official duties in recent years and passed more to Charles, who often represents her at overseas events. But Elizabeth took center stage earlier this week when she summoned Charles, William and Harry to a crisis meeting at her rural retreat to deal with issues raised by Harry's plan to break away.

Harry's plan puts Charles in a ticklish spot faced by many parents, albeit on a much smaller financial scale. He is in the position to decide whether Harry and Meghan continue to receive money from the Duchy of Cornwall estate, with annual revenue of more than 20 million pounds (\$26 million), once they have for the most part abandoned their royal roles.

Collateral damage has included the previously close bond between Harry and William, who hold a special place in many Britons' hearts as the offspring of the late Princess Diana. Many remember them walking silently in her funeral cortege in 1997. William has not commented publicly on the breach, but Harry has said they are now on "different paths."

Removing Andrew and Harry from the equation will leave the monarchy with a smaller footprint: fewer senior royals gathered on the Buckingham Palace balcony to wave to the throngs at national events, fewer to open hospitals and help raise money for charities, and fewer using public funds to pay for official travel and events. There will also be fewer royal households with competing

Until these recent seismic events, the royal entourage has grown along with Elizabeth's family. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history, with four children who have started families of their own. There are grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well. Some have scorned royal titles, but others have not, leading to a proliferation of princes and princesses.

Royal historian and author Hugo Vickers cautions that Charles may be misguided in his plans to shrink the monarchy because the extended family actually provides substantial help.

"I think it's most unwise because other members of the royal family help with a lot of things the monarch cannot do," he said. "He'll soon find he needs to be helped."



Ferdinand Masawa (in black tracksuit), an assistant to Rural Musoma Constituency's Member of Parliament, Sospeter Muhongo, hands over jerseys to Musoma's Wasaga FC official,Zebedayo Marobhe, in Mara recently. The outfit, based at Kasoma Village in Nyamrandiria Ward, was presented with jerseys and football boots from the MP, who is the side's sponsor, to help the team successfully compete in Regional Third Division League, which kicked off recently.

## **Nuggets send Warriors to 10th** straight loss, 134-131 in OT

SAN FRANCISCO

LAYING the second half of a back-to-back and without three injured starters, the Denver Nuggets needed a boost from their bench and pair of late free throws from Malik Beasley to extend Golden State's longest losing streak in nearly 18 years.

Beasley made two free throws with 8.9 seconds left in overtime, and the short-handed Nuggets handed the Warriors their 10th consecutive loss with a 134-131 victory Thursday night.

Beasley scored 27 points with five 3-pointers, one night after he played only seven minutes in the Nuggets' win over Charlotte on Wednesday.

"I know it hasn't been easy for that kid, but he never pouts, never quits," Denver coach Mike Malone said. "Even on games that he doesn't play, he's upstairs working his butt off. Hard work pays off and he deserves it."

Will Barton had a season-high 31 points in Denver's fifth win in points, 12 rebounds and eight assists.

The Nuggets played without injured starters Paul Millsap, Gary Harris and Jamal Murray but got 63 points off the bench. Beasley led the way, while Michael Porter Jr. had 18 points and Mason Plumlee added 15 points and 15 rebounds.

"Guys look forward to an opportunity like this," Plumlee said. "You've got guys out and people need to step up and make shots, make plays. Guys did that. This says that we're deep."

Denver trailed by 19 in the first half, but went on a late run to force overtime. The Nuggets then scored eight straight in the extra period, but couldn't shake Golden State until Beasley's two free throws.

The Warriors' Damion Lee



half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020, in San Francisco. (AP Photo)

had 21 points and six assists. It's watch." six games. Nikola Jokic added 23 the longest slide for the War-Golden State star Klay Thomp-has the ability to be the best in in a row March 9-24, 2002.

> "We came back, just couldn't quite get over the hump," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "Denver is a hell of a team and they deserve a lot of credit."

Denver closed the fourth quarter on an 11-5 run. Jokic's short hook tied the game at 113 after Eric Paschall's 3-pointer had given the Warriors a two-point lead. Burks missed a 3-pointer at the end of regulation.

Denver lost its poise earlier in

the game. An angry Jokic was whistled for a technical foul in the second quarter and had to be ushered away from officials by Malone. Moments later after Jokic scored on a tip-in, Barton was hit with a technical.

"Every time we thought we missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. stole the game, we gave it back,

Alec Burks scored 25 for Gold-then we stole it again," Malone to throw more than \$100 mil-

riors since they also dropped 10 son was on the court in uniform the league at whatever mode he taking shots before the game, a significant and symbolic moment in his recovery from ACL surgery. Thompson has not played this season. The Warriors plan to re-evaluate his situation during the All-Star break.

> Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, adept at operating at whatever gear his team needs, Kawhi Leonard has been in selfish mode of late, and the Los Angeles Clippers are better for it.

Leonard scored 32 points, Montrezl Harrell had 21 and the Clippers beat the Orlando Magic 122-95 on Thursday night.

Leonard also had five rebounds and five assists in his fourth consecutive game with at least 30 points. He was 12 for 20 from the field.

Leonard's adaptive nature is why the Clippers were willing

en State, and D'Angelo Russell said. "That's a fun game to lion his way for the next three seasons. Finding a player that chooses does not come cheap.

> "It's not hard for him; it would be hard for me and most other players," Clippers head coach Doc Rivers said. "For him, he's so under control that nothing's going to speed him up. He can go fast when he wants to. We have figured out how to take advantage of that better and it's been great for us."

Leonard's four consecutive offensive-minded games have coincided with Paul George's absence because of a strained left hamstring. The Clippers not only improved to 11-1 when Leonard scores 30 or more points, he is the first Clippers player with four consecutive games of at least 30 since Elton Brand in 2006.



Shabani Hussein Hegga, winner of SportPesa Jackpot bonus, holds dummy cheque of 10,485,907/- after he placed right on 12 out of 13 games. The SportPesa Jackpot cash prize has reached 402,802,907/-. PHOTO: COURTESY **OF SPORTPESA** 

## Djokovic the man to beat, again, at Melbourne Park

**MELBOURNE** 

GARY Lineker's celebrated quote that soccer is a simple game that "the Germans always win" might well be adapted to tennis and the inescapable dominance of Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open.

For a tournament that has been thrown into some doubt by bushfire smoke in the leadup, a record-extending eighth Grand Slam title for the defending champion Serbian would hardly be a breath of fresh air for many fans at Melbourne Park.

Some might prefer the romance of a Roger Federer triumph in the twilight of his career or for one of the younger generation finally to break

through and end the stranglehold of the 'Big Three', who have divided the last 12 Grand Slam titles between them.

Djokovic is unlikely to care a

jot for those sentiments, and if the bookmakers are to be believed, is set to crush them ruth-

The 32-year-old may never feel the affections of the crowd savoured by Federer and Spaniard Rafa Nadal but his record of 16 Grand Slam titles is proof that tennis is no popularity contest.

That was never more clear than in last year's final when he routed Nadal 6-3 6-2 6-3 with a devastating display that left the Mallorcan and the Rod Laver Arena terraces stunned.

**REUTERS** 

#### **Relentless Liverpool seek to stretch** lead over Man Utd to 30 points

LIVERPOOL can widen the chasm between themselves and Manchester United to a staggering 30 points if they come out on top in the battle between England's two most successful clubs at Anfield on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's men look destined to end a 30-year wait to win a topflight title, with a 14-point lead over defending champions Manchester City plus a game in hand.

United are a further 13 points back, having also played a game more than their rivals, and in need of a strong end to the campaign to avoid failing to qualify for the Champions League for a second consecutive season.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men are, however, the only side to have slowed Liverpool's relentless march towards the Premier League title.

The 1-1 draw between the teams in October was the only time the European champions have dropped points this season. They have now set a record for Europe's top five leagues, with 20 wins from their opening 21 games.

"Our team have a winning mindset. We always think about the next game, we don't look too far ahead," said Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker, who has conceded just one goal in his past 10 games.

"We focus upon what is within reach at the time and we do everything possible to make sure we leave the pitch with a win and this has contributed to the great results this season.'

The Brazilian number one will be confident of another clean sheet on Sunday, with United's top scorer Marcus Rashford a serious doubt after lasting just 15 minutes as a second-half substitute in Wednesday's 1-0 win over Wolves in the FA Cup.

"I didn't want to play him, but we needed the win. It has backfired," admitted Solskjaer.

- Watford warning for Spurs -United could find themselves eight points adrift of the top four by the time they kick-off at Anfield if Chelsea win at Newcastle on Sat-

A win for the Blues on Tyneside pool v Manchester United (1630)

would also put Frank Lampard's men 12 points clear of Tottenham, unless Jose Mourinho's men can snap Watford's winning streak at Vicarage Road.

Only Liverpool and City have won more points in the six games since Nigel Pearson took charge of the Hornets, with 13 from their past five matches propelling them out of the relegation zone for the first time this season.

Spurs reduced a 12-point gap to Chelsea when Mourinho replaced Mauricio Pochettino in November down to three prior to their meeting a month later.

But they have won just one of their past five league games, leaving their chances of reaching the Champions League for a fifth straight season hanging by a thread.

"It is possible to talk about top four when you start the season on zero points, but it is hard to talk about it when you start at minus 12," said Mourinho after last weekend's defeat by Liverpool.

- Last chance for Norwich -

The bottom two face off at Carrow Road as Norwich host Bournemouth, realistically needing a win to maintain any hope of sur-

Daniel Farke's side have not won in their past nine league games to fall eight points adrift of safety, but have still claimed more points in the past two months than their visi-

A run of four points in 11 games has plunged Bournemouth into a relegation battle.

The Cherries are struggling at both ends, conceding 22 goals and scoring just six in that run to put their five-season stay in the top flight under threat.

Today (1500 GMT unless stated) Watford v Tottenham (1230), Arsenal v Sheffield United, Brighton v Aston Villa, Manchester City v Crystal Palace, Norwich v Bournemouth, Southampton v Wolves, West Ham v Everton, Newcastle v Chelsea (1730)

**Tomorrow** 

Burnley v Leicester (1400), Liver-

## Why RB Leipzig is the most hated team in the Bundesliga - 2

LEIPZIG, GERMANY

he massive financial commitment to everything from saunas to medical care provided a clear advantage. So did the ability to use Red Bull's other clubs -- in Austria and New York, but also South America (Red Bull Brasil) and Africa (Red Bull Ghana) -- as stepping stones, in similar fashion to City Football Group (which includes England's Manchester City, MLS' NYCFC, and five other clubs from Uruguay to India) and a few individual operators. Just as useful has been an autocratic organizational structure that enables decisions to be made far more expediently than at other German clubs.

"You can say, 'I want to have a video wall on the practice pitch,' and you don't have to ask 20 people," says Julian Nagelsmann, who is in his first year as manager of the club. "And there won't have to be a board meeting with 20 people having a discussion, 'Is it good?' 'Will it bring us an advantage in the future?'

For its rivals, Nagelsmann notes, the process is far more complicated. "They talk a long time," he says, shaking his head. "As a result, development may not be so fast. Here you can improve in a very short time. This is great."

It is also, Mintzlaff is quick to point out, the way football clubs operate in most of the rest of the world. He doesn't try to hide the fact that Leipzig's ambitions extend beyond the Bundesliga to the Champions League, which provides the glory and pays the bills.

"This is where teams have to make the next step, to really compete against the Italian league, the Premier League," he says. "Our product is good, but other leagues are making progress. And of course, people want to see the best players. And the best players are expensive."

Any club that isn't willing to compete internationally, he infers, shouldn't try to restrain those who are. "We're not complaining about anyone," he says. "We're not complaining that we don't have as much money as Bayern Munich. We have a little more of the American mentality -- let's work harder, let's get it done, let's do it even better."

Each day, managing director Carsten Cramer arrives at an office that fills a corner of Borussia Dortmund's modern, glass-walled office building. The floor is hardwood. There is handsome, white furniture and a mounted video monitor. He could be running an ad agency.

Indeed, Cramer's background is in marketing, and it probably isn't a coincidence that Dortmund has profited handsomely during his tenure, using the presence of American standout Christian Pulisic to extend its reach across the Atlantic and emerge as Germany's most visible club after Bayern Munich. (Its €600m annual income more than doubles that of Leipzig.) Nevertheless, Cramer sees his role as less commercial than evangelical. "We think football belongs to the people," he says. He raises a finger. "It's a different approach."

The connections between German communities and their people have frayed, Cramer believes. Religion has been lost from daily life; so has much of public discourse. Football is all that's left, and overt commercialism poses a mortal threat. "What will happen to the clubs that are connected to Qatari investors after the World Cup in 2022?" he asks. "Is this a way that guarantees stability? Clubs have to be scared year by year that the sheikh or the investor or the owner doesn't pull the money out."

He mentions Leicester City, where Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha invested tens of millions of pounds into the club, then died in a helicopter accident in the fall of 2018. "You had to pray that the family would continue to be interested," he said.

Cramer attends games around the world, but he is inevitably disappointed. England has fine stadiums, he admits, "but the atmosphere even at Anfield is not the same as the atmosphere in German stadiums." Perhaps his biggest letdown was Barcelona's Camp Nou, which he describes as "a stadium full of people who were not interested in football, but interested in a celebrity from Argentina."

Far too many clubs, he believes,



exist as investment vehicles for their owners or to serve a political or social agenda. "I could never work for a club like Paris," he says, alluding to PSG's position as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Qatari government.

No club in the Bundesliga disdains RB Leipzig's success more than Dortmund. Part of that might have to do with the emergence of a new rival not just for Bundesliga success but for Champions League places and international appeal. But the culture clash runs far deeper than that. Dortmund, Germany's Pittsburgh, lost its way after World War II. Its coal and steel industries declined. So did its breweries. Its population fell. Only its football team continued to thrive.

These days, Borussia Dortmund acts as a lighthouse for the people of the Ruhr Valley. "And this lighthouse," Cramer says, "must be protected." He could rip out half the standing places in Signal Iduna Park's famous Yellow Wall of supporters and put in expensive seats. That would increase team profits, but at what cost to the social fabric? It is telling, he says, that no equivalent to the Yellow Wall exists at Red Bull Arena. "Where do the hard-core fans of Leipzig stand? Is it the west? The north? The south? The east? No one knows."

Nearly every game that Leipzig plays these days is a derby of sorts, one based on philosophies rather than geography, but none has overtones more bitter than the games at Dortmund. In February 2017, Leipzig's first visit to Signal Iduna Park, a mass of Dortmund supporters tried to block the visitors' bus in hopes that the game would have to be abandoned.

To avoid them, police had directed the driver to an alternate route leading to the far side of the stadium. "I had been to Dortmund many times before with different clubs. I came with the team bus, and I kept saying, 'Where are we going?' We were taking a way to the stadium that I had never seen.

When they discovered that the bus had eluded them, the Dortmund supporters started throwing bottles and cans at any red shirt they could find. The official statement released by the Dortmund police said that "the violence was ... directed against any recognizable Leipzig supporter, regardless of whether they were children, women or families.'

Six were injured, and 28 Dortmund supporters were arrested. Inside the stadium was safer, but no less intense. "The atmosphere was heated up," says Liverpool's Naby Keita, who was then at Leipzig. "They didn't see Leipzig as a real club. It was a very difficult game for us -- 80,000 people in a sold-out stadium, everyone against us." Dortmund won 1-0.

Aki Watzke, Dortmund's CEO, was quick to condemn the incident, but the club remains unrepentant about its belief that Leipzig shouldn't be allowed to exist in its current form. "The purpose of Leipzig is to sell cans of Red Bull by using a football entity," Cramer says. "Leipzig is a subsidiary of Red Bull. If you ask me why we do not feel comfortable, that's the reason why."

The Bundesliga also denounced the actions of the Dortmund supporters, but it has remained studiously agnostic about the issues that provoked them. RB Leipzig had joined its ranks as a fait accompli, promoted from the second division. And while German football's differentiation in the marketplace is exactly that from-the-heart football experience that contrasts with the sport's colder, more corporate feel in the Premier League, RB Leipzig's success is crucial to the Bundesliga. By giving the east representation among the elite clubs, it allows the league to finally stake a claim as truly national.

Red Bull's ties to America and its worldwide marketing might give it added visibility. And nobody at league headquarters in Frankfurt needs to be reminded that if Bayern Munich manage to defend their championship again this season, one club will have won exactly half the titles since the Bundesliga began in

"To have more than one big brand, or two if you include Dortmund, is good for the product that is marketed in America and Asia," says Eintracht Frankfurt's Hellmann. "For international marketing and communication, I really do see the point. But don't be fooled, there is collateral damage."

The week after beating Hoffenheim at home, Leipzig visited Dusseldorf for the Bundesliga's weekly Saturday evening game. Fortuna members were ready with banners and songs. Someone had printed up black Tshirts that read Love Football HATE RB, and many of the supporters were wearing them.

In the tunnel before the game, Leipzig's Mintzlaff appeared blasé about the shirts and the other insults. Back in Leipzig, Mintzlaff had characterized Dusseldorf as having "weak management. They put themselves behind the supporters. This is a mistake. We listen to our fans, we have discussions with our fans, but we have a clear plan."

But on this visit, Mintzlaff reported, he'd had a productive meeting with Fortuna executives. He was confident that relations between the clubs would soon improve. He appeared less sanguine about returning home with a needed victory; in six meetings across two leagues, Fortuna had

never beaten Leipzig and hadn't even managed a draw since 2014.

With Fortuna in the relegation zone and Leipzig just a point behind Monchengladbach at the top of the table, that seemed unlikely to happen now. And in truth, even Fortuna's Ultras seemed almost halfhearted about their protests. After Leipzig's three previous visits to Dusseldorf, there seemed little left to say.

"First, we did all the legal things," said Rudolph, who is a member of the Ultras' advisory delegation to the club. "Then we realized that we can't change it, and the protests became a little more violent. And now we just don't know what to do. There will always be protests; there will always be banners. But at a point it becomes, what shall we do?"

Fortuna tried. When Leipzig's players came out to warm up, the O'Jays' "Money, money, money ... mon-n-nay" blasted from the speakers. Later, an official fan account sent out a sarcastic tweet with a photo of the small knot of Leipzig fans in the visitors section surrounded by a sea of empty seats. "Respect," it read.

"The away end has never been so full." Mostly, though, the supporters submitted as meekly as their team was doing on the field. Two minutes into the game, Leipzig took the lead. Later, after Timo Werner converted a penalty to double it, he ran over to the nearly empty section where the hundred or so Leipzig fans were gathered. He raised his arms aloft and shook them, as if he were communing with a full stand. The Ultras mocked him. Soon after, Leipzig scored again.

"If we make good decisions," manager Julian Nagelsmann says, "there's no problem at some time in the next five years for Leipzig to be German champion." But Werner is likely to be gone soon to an even bigger club -- Bayern Munich or maybe Chelsea -and a replacement will cost far more than €20m.

Buying talent on the cheap is a lot more difficult when the players need to be capable of competing in the Champions League. The club has stockpiled talented, young players such as Adams and centerbacks Ibrahima Konate and Dayot Upamecano, all of whom are 21 or younger, but its best chance of adding to its achievements any time soon is probably this season. That might be why the supporters in the VIP lounge were monitoring Monchengladbach so in-

The day after the game at Dusseldorf, they watched Monchengladbach lose to Wolfsburg. The result left Leipzig alone at the top of the table.

(Agencies)

#### Setien's arrival sets Barca against Real Madrid in clash of identities

BARCELONA's appointment of Quique Setien, a fervent disciple of Johan Cruyff, came the day after Zinedine Zidane won his ninth final out of nine as coach of Real Madrid.

With both teams level on points at the top of La Liga, Spain's closest title race in years will be as much a contest of identity and beliefs as points won and lost.

Real Madrid, the club that defines itself by winning, against Barcelona, where winning is seen as the result of something more profound, a style heralded by Cruyff that has become their footballing philosophy.

Atletico Madrid and Sevilla, both five points behind, are still in touch but playing catch-up.

Setien once said he would have given his little finger to play under Cruyff. Now, 34 years later, he has the chance to resuscitate those ideals after two years under Ernesto Valverde when pragmatism took a greater hold.

Barca's new coach is not wellknown outside of Spain and, at 61, he may be in the twilight years of his career.

"For me this is the pinnacle," he said at his unveiling on Tuesday.

His previous clubs are not illustrious. They include Lugo, Logrones, Las Palmas, Poli Ejido, Racing Santander, Real Betis and one game in charge of Equatorial Guinea. His list of trophies begins and ends with one Spanish Super Cup in 1985 with Atletico Madrid.

But his work and words up to this point could leave the impression of someone that has been preparing to coach Barcelona his entire life.

"When I was a player, coaches tried to set guidelines for me," Setien, a former Spanish international,

told Marca in 2018. "But on the field, I tried to express myself and it was only when I saw adopt as coach."

Johan Cruyff's Barcelona play that I started to understand how things really worked.

"Having the ball makes you a football player, not running after it," he said last year.

It remains to be seen how Setien's appointment will affect La Liga's title race. Will Real Madrid's players feel their chances are boosted or harmed by Valverde's removal?

They are now up against a team with a coach that has never won, or even competed for, a top-flight trophy. But they might feel wary too, of the possibility Barcelona could be released by Setien's attacking beliefs and accelerate.

- 'We always want to win' -

Yet, as Barca reflect on their identity and style, Madrid might be comforted by the simplicity of their own

The club's lifeblood is success. Unlike Setien, Zidane sets his tactics around his players, not the other

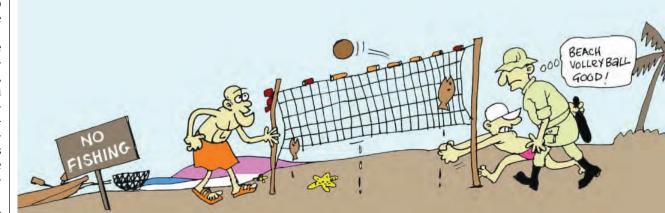
After lifting their 11th Spanish Super Cup on Sunday, Zidane was asked to explain how he has won all of the nine finals he has been in as coach.

"That's what this club is, we always want to win," he said. "First and foremost, we have a good team and then you have to believe. We've

If anything, Zidane has shown in his four years at Madrid that freedom from complicated messages, when combined with motivation and hard work, can be enough to drive a team to success.

"When you're working with talented and experienced players, the most important thing is to keep them calm," Zidane said in 2018, reflecting on his extraordinary record in the Champions League. "That's what I needed when I was a player so that's the approach that I try to





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# SPORT

Why RB Leipzig is the most hated team in the Bundesliga – 2

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Children with intellectual disabilities, who are studying at Sibusiso Center in Arusha, pictured after they had taken art in a competition recently. PHOTO;



## Late partnership steers England to 224-4

#### PORT ELIZABETH

BEN Stokes survived several scares but featured in a 76-run late afternoon partnership with Ollie Pope as England reached 224 for four wickets at close on the opening day of the third test against South Africa on Thursday.

England's talisman, named International Cricket Council Cricketer of the Year on the eve of the test, will resume on 38 runs at St George's Park on Friday along with the 22-year-old Pope, unbeaten on 39.

Their partnership unshackled England and handed them a good platform to potentially go on and make a significant first-innings total.

South Africa laboured on a lifeless pitch which offered little for their seamers but did allow Keshav Maharaj to probe continuously with his spin. He bowled 30 successive overs, across three sessions, to finish with figures of 1.55

England's plan for the openers to occupy the crease, tiring out the bowlers and softening the ball, was diligently on course as they reached 61-0 at lunch.

But 15 minutes into the afternoon session, Dom Sibley (36) was the first wicket to fall as Kagiso Rabada had him caught at backward square leg.

Zak Crawley went next just six runs short of a maiden test half victory in similar fashion, to a sharp diving catch by Rassie van der Dussen off Anrich Nortje's bowling, as the runs began to dry up and the pressure mounted.

The score progressed slowly to 117-2 at tea after which Joe Denly, who made 25 off 100 balls, was dismissed leg before wicket to Maharaj following a review, which showed the ball clipped his pad before hitting his bat as he played back to the spinner.

Captain Joe Root, who won the toss at the start of the day and elected to bat, was then castled by a delivery from Rabada that stayed low and hit the top of his off stump. He was out for 27, given a screaming send off by the feisty Rabada, whose 17 overs on Thursday delivered figures of 2-48.

Stokes lived a charmed existence in the early part of his innings with South Africa twice unsuccessful with reviews off Maharaj's bowling.

There was also a difficult potential catch missed by Pieter Malan at silly mid-off and a better chance to Faf du Plessis at slip off debutant Dane Paterson, that fell agonizingly short.

But Stokes rode his luck to leave England in a strong position and better satisfied than their hosts after the first day

"It was very attritional cricket but, in the end, a good day that puts us in a good position," Crawley said. The four-match series is level at 1-1.

REUTERS

## Yanga eye Azam FC scalp in VPL

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

OUNG Africans SC (Yanga SC) have said they are optimistic of collecting maximum points when they face Azam FC in the Vodacom Premier League game slated for today at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga on Wednesday lost 3-0 to Kagera Sugar in the league's clash which took place at Uhuru Stadium in the city.

The domestic football big guns' information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said the team is ready for today's game and they are looking forward to nothing of three points.

He noted the Jangwani Street based side cannot afford to lose two games in a row.

Bumbuli pointed out he believes Yanga have the right mentality to overcome Azam FC in today's crunch match.

He said all players are in good

shape and ready for the encounter, apart from forward Tariq Seif, who is not ready for the game.

"We are looking forward to the

game against Azam FC, we cannot lose two games in a row," Bumbuli disclosed.

"Even our coach Luc Eymael, knows the importance of winning tomorrow (today)'s game, as a professional coach he cannot let his side register two defeats in a row as that will dent his Curriculum Vitae."

"Knowing the importance of winning this game, our coach asked to train the players from this morning (yesterday) concerning the players all are in good shape apart from Tariq Seif who has not trained with his teammates for many days."

The information officer refused to say much on whether coach Eymael will entrust the same players, who played against Kagera Sugar.

Bumbuli disclosed the coach is a person who decides players who will feature in a particular game.

As usual Patrick Sibomana and Ditram Nchimbi will be entrusted with the responsibility of scoring goals for Yanga.

Haruna Niyonzima, Mapinduzi Balama and Feisal Salum are expected to feature at the team's midfield, supplying fascinating passes to the strik-

ing force.

At Yanga's backline, Kelvin Yondani, Lamine Moro, Paul Godfrey and Adeyum Saleh have the potential to thwart Azam FC's attacking verve.

The defenders will as well be tasked with providing the much-needed shield to in-form goalkeeper Farouk Shikhalo.

On the other hand, Azam FC, who are coming from 2-0 win over Lipuli FC, said they are looking forward to the match against Yanga.

Idd Cheche, Azam FC's assistant coach, said they have special plan for Yanga

"Yanga lost last weekend's game, but that does not make them a weak side, we respect them and we will go into the match to win as the aim is to collect maximum points," he said.

Azam FC on many games depend on in-form players Obrey Chirwa, Idd Chilunda and Joseph Mahundi.

The mentioned players have always been combining well to destroy opponents in domestic football.

Statistics show that in recent past, Yanga have had an upper hand against Azam FC in all competitions.



Azam FC midfielder, Joseph Mahundi (R), dribbles past Yanga's Thaban Kamuoko in a recent Mainland Premier League clash, which was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO; COURTESY OF AZAM FC

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



# Arusha center set to promote sports among children with intellectual disabilities

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ARUSHA-based Sibusiso Centre has said it is committed to offering sporting activities to children with intellectual disabilities for them to realize their potential.

The center's sports teacher, Therry Mushi, said Sibusiso is an aid center for physically and mentally handicapped children whereby sports is one of the core subjects which they offer.

He said the center has four sports teachers, a sports field, a playground and the Sibusisowalk.

Mushi said currently they have nine players who are training in volleyball and 15 children, who are learning football.

The center, according to him, as well has many more others that are trained in music and drawing.

He said two children, Elizabeth Kisaka and Neverson Minja, from his center will represent Tanzania at the coming first Pan African Games, which will take place in Cairo, Egypt from January 23-31.

"We value sports as one of the activities which can rehabilitate children with special needs," Mushi noted.

"The work of the Sibusiso Centre is concentrated on children from birth to 18 years who are mentally disabled. A number of these children are also physically disabled, admission to the center is for a maximum sixmonth period."

"Last year our three players Elizabeth Kisaka, Nervason Minja and Simon Oloije, competed at various events in China and Abu Dhabi where they won medals," he said.

The teacher said Sibusiso Center admits children for six months only, but those who show potential and interest in sports are given more time.

"During their stay in the center not only the children but also the parents are the focus of our work," he disclosed.

"To meet this aim, the Sibusiso Centre program consists of, gaining an insight of the possibilities and limitations of the children through observation," he disclosed.

"Stimulating their development by teaching the children skills such as getting dressed, doing simple household chores like cooking and laundry or making the bed is also in the program."

"Those children are also taught skills such as sewing, gardening and carpentry. In addition, the children are offered activities such as music, dance drawing, and games and sports during which we concentrate on developing their social skills and each child is accompanied by a parent during their stay."

"Our aim is to show the parents what limitations and opportunities for development the child has, and also support the parents in raising their children and improve their skills by giving pedagogical advice for the home situation," he said.