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Samia acts on mobile cash transfers outcry

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday directed the ministries concerned to look into the recent hike in mobile money transaction levies following a public outcry that they are impossibly high.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba said that President Samia has heard people's complaints against the new mobile money transaction charges and that she had instructed the ministry to work on the matter.

The government last month amended the Electronic and Postal Communication Act (CAP 306) by imposing a levy on mobile money transactions, depending on the amount sent and withdrawn, in an effort to raise revenue collections by 1.254trn/- to partly finance the 36.68trn/- budget for the 2021/2022 financial year.

"We want to assure the general public that the government has heard their concerns and that we are working on them," asserted the minister, noting the Head of State has been personally touched by people's complaints.

Mwigulu urged the public to remain calm as the government works on the matter saying their complaints have reached the president and she is concerned about the rates.

Since the levy was now legally-binding after the legislature approved the 2021 Finance Act and the Appropriation Act, the Treasury and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will have to work on the regulations and see the way forward, he stated.

Work on the public grievances was in full gear and that the Prime Minister had convened a meeting where the government shall deliberate on the subject matter, he further asserted, noting that the government will continue clarifying on issues that need to be explained and also find out areas that need rectification.

Treasury experts are already looking at the National Payments System while ICT ministerial experts are also looking at the Electronic and Postal Communications Act with a view to identifying areas that need to

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (L) and his Communications and Information Technology counterpart, Dr Faustine Ndagulile, pictured at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday at which they gave an update on the widely contested levies recently imposed on mobile money transactions. President Samia Suluhu Hassan has ordered an immediate review of the charges. Photo courtesy of Finance ministry

By Guardian Reporter

THE opposition Chadema has urged the government to make the Covid-19 vaccination programme mandatory for all citizens if the country to remain safe.

The party's national chairman, Freeman Mbowe, made the call yesterday when addressing a news conference in Mwanza.

"Covid-19 vaccinations should be compulsory and not voluntary as been announced by the government.

"The government should review decisions and put on a good system to ensure that all Tanzanians are vaccinated. We also need to strengthen public awareness programmes on how to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infections," he said.

"This is a dangerous disease, so we should not play on the matter," the party leader emphasised, noting that it

'Vaccination rollout must be mandatory'

We are finalising procedures to import Covid-19 vaccines to keep our people safe

is not that Tanzanians do not take preventive measures about the disease, but are confused on the policy being followed.

He said people know everything "but they do not know what to take and what to leave as they receive a number of mixed statements from the country's top

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Capital city gets half of last fiscal year's revenue

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

CONCERNS are growing over reduced revenue collection in Dodoma with city authorities attributing this to single main source of income.

Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS)

Dr. Fatuma Mganga said at the opening of a training session for government officials in the region that she was informed that the city council was not performing well in some areas including service tax collections, in comparison with other cities, implicitly Dar es Salaam.

Revenue collections in the capital dropped by nearly a half as revenues from land tax stagnated, and it is cited as the main source of city council income, she stated, highlighting that in the 2017/2018 financial year, city authorities collected 24.2bn/-. whereas in 2018/2019 they managed to collect 71.92 bn/- and up to June 30, 2020 they had collected 52.2 bn/- out of the estimated 59.1 bn/- targeted to be collected in 2019/2020 while in 2020/2021, the target was lowered

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Minister praises Makambako drugs, medical devices plant



By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE construction of a drugs and medical equipment factory lined up

for Makambako in Njombe Region is, expected to facilitate access to quality, quick health services and reduce importation costs, thus enabling the

government to save 33bn/-.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima (pictured), the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, made this observation when visiting the factory sited at Idofi Village in Makambako district.

"I have looked at your statistics as we are finalising the factory's construction to produce surgical gloves, drug tablets, capsules and syrups, finding out that the government will save 33bn/- to buy these products," she remarked.

She said the government would have needed extra 33bn/- to purchase the items within and outside the country but

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be examined, he elaborated. ICT Minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile assured the public that the issue will be worked on and solved once and for all.

A rough calculation of the charges indicate that sending 1m/- to someone and having the money withdrawn will cost a total of 31,000/- if all the current and new charges are added up.

The levy, which became effective on July 15, has since been roundly criticized as people believe the amount being deducted was contrary to what was stated in the Budget estimates.

Some have gone to the point of promoting other transaction mechanisms, including through banks and hard cash personal conveyance to dodge the sharply accentuated deductions.

'Vaccination rollout must be mandatory'

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leadership."

He also urged the government to come up with a new strategy to facilitate free Covid-19 treatment to the public as the majority of people cannot afford the expenses.

"Treatment expenses for Covid-19 patients should be supervised by the government. It is the one which should be responsible to finance treatments upon Covid-19 patients," he said.

He vowed that Chadema will continue conducting meetings and peaceful demonstrations to fight any kind of oppression in the country.

"We do not intend to make President Samia's leadership to be hard but our aim is to ensure that democracy is promoted and people's rights are protected. We want a leadership which recognizes people's rights and national unity," he declared.

He said that there are still a number of challenges which thwart democracy and people's rights in the country.

"The national constitution dialogue should be free and there should be no leader to prohibit the process. We want the new

constitution to address several challenges facing the country. We want no one to be above the law," he further stated.

Last week President Samia said that the government is finalizing procedures for the importation of Covid-19 vaccines for rollout for the general public, insisting that it will be voluntary.

Speaking at a legacy symposium held in Dar es Salaam for third phase president the late Benjamin Mkapa, Samia said final decisions are being made on a number of issues as per advice of experts before pressing the order.

"We are finalising procedures to import Covid-19 vaccines to keep our people safe," she said.

The Head of State further reminded Tanzanians to continue adhering to Covid-19 preventive measures as advised by health experts for them to remain safe.

Tanzania is part of the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, abbreviated as COVAX, a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and directed by GAVI (the Global Vaccine Alliance), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the World Health Organization.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (C, with microphone) visits a water supply point at Chamanangwe in Zanzibar yesterday.

Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Minister praises Makambako drugs, medical devices plant

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this money will now be saved by accessing such equipment from the government factory.

The project provides an answer to the government's vow to reduce the cost of products that can be produced in the country instead of importing them.

Dr Gwajima commended the regional authorities and residents of the area for setting aside the land, considering that the factory's products would greatly be of service to the whole country.

"Therefore we must recognise this big contribution from Makambako and its people will be the first to benefit. I don't expect to hear they do not have gloves or drugs as per the saying that charity begins at home," the minister affirmed.

Maj. Gen. Gabriel Mhizze



(pictured), the managing director for Medical Stores Department (MSD), said the factory's construction was now 90 per cent complete, noting that the gloves division will have the capacity to 20,000 pieces per hour making it 86.4m pairs produced annually.

Similarly, the factory is expected to produce 425,000 tablets, 330,000 capsules and up to 180,000 of 100mls of various drugs hourly, he added.

Child vaccination rates fall to decade low amid pandemic

By Special Correspondent

THE Covid-19 pandemic has denied 23 million children of basic vaccines globally, raising the risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, polio and meningitis, official data from United Nations bodies show.

A further 3.7 million children missed out on their vaccines last year, compared to a year earlier, according to data from 160 countries collected at clinics and community centres in 2020, and reported to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, marking the highest number of missed vaccines since 2009.

Measles is a highly contagious disease which can be fatal to children under five, according to the WHO, while polio can cripple a child for life.

Widespread misinformation, funding gaps and instability have largely contributed to the public health crisis, said WHO and UNICEF, warning of a troubling picture in the South-East Asia and Eastern Mediterranean regions, where vaccination rates are falling further.

As countries clamour for access to COVID-19 vaccines, urgent investment in routine childhood vaccination is needed, according to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Director-General.

"Multiple disease outbreaks would be catastrophic for communities and health systems already battling Covid-19, making it more urgent than ever to invest in childhood vaccination and ensure every child is reached," he said in a statement.

The data was released alongside a new modelling study which shows a significant decline in the coverage of vaccines against measles, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough in both rich and poor countries.

The study, published in The Lancet, shows that vaccination coverage dropped mainly in March and April last year in almost every affected region of the world, with a more severe annual impact in North Africa and the Middle East, South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to the findings, eligible children missed 3.6 million of the

third doses against diphtheria, as well as 2.2 million first doses against measles in South Asia, making it the most acutely affected region in 2020.

However, the authors said Sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest disruptions, with many countries relying on periodic mass vaccination campaigns against measles outbreaks.

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of developing data systems that are timely and high quality in providing equitable access to immunisation for all, and allow real-time tracking of immunisation efforts, according to Jonathan Mosser, an assistant professor at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington's School of Medicine, who was an author on The Lancet report.

"This has been particularly important during the pandemic as situations have shifted rapidly, but will remain important even after the pandemic is over," he said.

Winluck Shayo, the chief executive officer of AfyaTrack, a health tech organization that tracks maternal and child health among Swahili-speaking communities in Africa, says the Covid-19 pandemic should serve as a lesson for governments across the world on how to sustain essential health services - such as childhood immunization - during the pandemic.

"Governments should adapt to new guidelines which clearly state how to continue providing child health services and clinics during the pandemic," he says, referring to WHO's guidance for countries on immunisation during the pandemic.

"Efforts should also be directed towards educating the public on the importance of routine vaccines to their children because they are time sensitive," he says.

"Governments should adapt to new guidelines which clearly state how to continue providing child health services and clinics during the pandemic," he says, referring to WHO's guidance for countries on immunisation during the pandemic.



Construction of a pedestrian flyover at a Mbezi Mwisho section of Dar es Salaam's Morogoro Road as good as complete, as witnessed yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Capital city gets half of last fiscal year's revenue

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to 47.1bn/- in collections.

The training was organized by the Good Financial Governance (GFG) program ran by the German Development Agency (GIZ).

The RAs said the trend is a good example why the city should not depend on one source of income, as it diminished from 72bn/- and suddenly dropped by nearly a half of that amount. What that tells us is that we depend on only one source

of income, the land tax source," she stated

She said the city of Dodoma had to be 100 percent self-sufficient and not take subsidies from the central government as it has a wide range of sources.

The regional administration expects that after the training, the city will move from the 47bn/- in revenue collected which was nowhere reaching intentions of the 2020/21 budget. After the training session the council would go back

to its 72bn/- target of collections which it had attained earlier.

GFG programme senior advisor Dr Stephan Ehrentauf said the second phase of the project was aimed at improving the circumstances of local government authorities by

enabling them to collect revenue from their own sources.

The second phase of the project will involve 21 districts in seven regions, namely Arusha, Coast, Dodoma, Mwanza, Singida, Kigoma and Tanga, the consultant indicated.



Dr Karl-Heinz Kohler (L), director of Kilimanjaro Region's One World Secondary School, receives The Order of Merit Cross on Ribbon from Kathrin Steinbrenner, Chargé d'Affaires at the German Embassy in Tanzania, for motivating Tanzanian children and young people to learn German "as a way of preparing them to lead a self-determined life". The event was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

Germany applauds Karl-Heinz Kohler

By Beatrice Philemon

GERMAN Deputy Ambassador to Tanzania Kathrin Steinbrenner has awarded Dr Karl-Heinz Kohler, the director of One World secondary school Kilimanjaro Region with the Order of Merit Cross on Ribbon to recognise his efforts in supporting Tanzanian children and young people to learn the German language.

The award was presented during an event held at the German Ambassador's residence in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"We are glad for what you have done at One World Secondary School; you are helping Tanzanians to learn German as a second foreign language that in turn will help them and the nation. May I encourage you not to give up, but continue motivating more children and youth to learn the language for strengthened education link between both countries," she added.

Dr Kohler has made a great contribution to Germany's reputation in the field of education, she said.

According to her, at the end of 2010, DrKarl-Heinz Kohler together with the federal coordinator of the German UNESCO project schools, Heinz-Jürgen Ricket and the national coordinator of the UNESCO school network in Tanzania, Modester Mwinula, founded the "Institute for Intercultural and Innovative learning model schools for Africa for which he has since acted as Managing Director.

The One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro was founded in 2012 as a pilot project and was the first UNESCO project school in Tanzania with a strong international orientation.

The school is located in Kisangara approximately 60 km South of Moshi in Kilimanjaro Region

ideally combining German and Tanzanian school forms, German learning methods and students also learn German as a second foreign language after English.

She said: "The school relies on a modern education and learning model that supports Tanzanian children and young people holistically prepares them for a self-determined life," she said.

"One World Secondary School Kilimanjaro is now one of the three PASCH schools in Tanzania" she added.

PASCH stand for 'Schools: Partners of the Future' a German initiative which was launched in February 2008 by German's Federal Foreign Office that has the aim of awakening interest and enthusiasm for Germany, motivating young people to learn German and creating an international network of schools, so far it comprise 200 schools worldwide.



We are glad for what you have done at One World Secondary School; you are helping Tanzanians to learn German as a second foreign language that in turn will help them and the nation

'Reducing bureaucracy and corruption will bolster small, medium enterprises'

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice president Hemedi Suleiman Abdulla has directed officials in government institutions to at once stop unnecessary bureaucracy they subject to people needing to invest in the Isles to enable the country make development strides.

Hemedi made the remarks here at the weekend at the site for mineral water factory at Chamanangwe in Wete District, Pemba North Region.

He said the habit of subjecting potential investors to unnecessary bureaucracy was not acceptable and the government will not tolerate the habit as it slows down development strides.

He said in the past, the Isles lost many opportunities due to unnecessary hardships to people needing to invest.

He said if the government finds a government institution hampers the development of Zanzibar, immediate steps will be taken including removal from their positions all officials involved.

He said investments have many benefits for the country as they enable the government to collect revenue.

For his part, Husamudin Ali Mussa, the investor of Amos Industry Limited, the mineral water factory hailed the government for its efforts in giving priority to investors, the step, he added, was encouraging as it will attract more investors.

He said upon completion the factory will start producing mineral water and fruit

juices.

He added that they also have plans to establish a factory for manufacturing of roofing sheets to solve the problem of the commodity's shortage.

Husamudin told the Second Vice

President that construction work of the mineral water factory will be completed within the coming three months.

For his part the Managing director of Zanzibar Investment Promotion

Authority (ZIPA), Sharif Ali Sharif said after completion, the factory, to a large extent, will have implemented CCM Election Manifesto by aiming to produce 300,000 jobs for Zanzibar youth.



VACANCY

Health Programming and Training Specialist

About the United States Peace Corps:

The Peace Corps is an independent United States federal agency that has been working in Tanzania since 1961. Peace Corps Volunteers work with governments, schools, and communities in the areas of education, health, HIV/AIDS, information technology, agriculture, and the environment.

About the Programming and Training Specialist Position:

This is an attractive senior level professional opportunity with a competitive salary, opportunity for development, and cross-cultural working experience. The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting the planning, development, implementation and administration of Peace Corps Tanzania's Health Projects sector. The Program Specialist will also serve as technical trainer for Volunteer Pre-Service Training in Health Projects.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Nutrition, Community Development or any other related field; Masters degree desirable.
- Three years progressively responsible experience in the field of rural community development with a focus on health promotion and prevention, particularly HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Sexual Reproductive Health, and Nutrition.
- A thorough and up-to-date knowledge of Tanzanian Health issues.
- Experience teaching adults and knowledge of adult education techniques, gender analysis, community analysis and project management.
- Experience working with District and / or local government.
- Language: Level IV (Fluent) spoken and written English and Kiswahili.
- Proven ability to develop lesson plans and facilitate training classes and workshops.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office (including MSWord, Excel and PowerPoint).
- Willingness to travel up to 40% of time in rural areas.
- Ability to pass US Embassy background security check.

Application Procedures

Applications must be received no later than 5:00PM on August 4, 2021. Please email a cover letter, CV, certificates, personal address and contact information along with the names and contacts of references to TZ-Applicants@peacecorps.gov with "PTS Application-Health" in the subject line. If necessary, applications can be posted to the attention of: **Director of Management and Operations, PTS-Health Application, U.S. Peace Corps Tanzania, P. O. Box 9123, Dar es Salaam.** Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER FOR PROVISION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MBEYA CEMENT) is a subsidiary of the Holcim Group with its industrial operations based in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya. MBEYA CEMENT now invites sealed bids from eligible Companies to tender for provision of civil construction works and building materials to the company. Bidders are required to submit their sealed bid documents (1 copy) properly enclosed in an envelope marked **TENDER FOR PROVISION CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES** as per the following Lot numbers;

MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 001	Saruji Primary School Renovation
MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 002	HSE-IP Renovation of Training block Ablution
MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 003	VCM Hydraulic system room construction
MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 004	Assorted Damaged Areas
MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 005	Customer Care Parking toilet renovation
MCCL/Civil.Lot No. 006	Camp site Block B Renovation

Interested Companies shall meet the following minimum requirements to Tender:

1. A minimum of three (03) years' experience in provision of selected Lot(s)
2. Complies to the governed statutory requirements to run the business

Interested Companies are requested to submit the following documents while responding to this Tender:

- Letter of interest clearly indicating the above LOT no. reference(s), and years of experience in similar provision of works.
- **3 separate commercial proposals indicate Cost of work correspond to the BOQ, material costs, and labour charges for the service (Per Bid Lot)**
- Proof of **CRB** membership.
- Copies of Business licenses and relative certifications and registrations (if any)

All documents shall be sealed in a single bid document and physically delivered to the following address; **THE SECRETARY, TENDER COMMITTEE, MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED, P.O. BOX 529 PLOT NO 1, SONGWE INDUSTRIAL AREA, MBEYA, Tel: +255 295 0000/6/8/13, TANZANIA** at MBEYA CEMENT CO LTD's RECEPTION located at Administrative Building, Songwe Mbeya.

Kindly request electronic **Bill of Quantity (BOQ)** via mcc.tender@lafargeholcim.com, with subject **REQUEST FOR BOQ – CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES 2021.**

Site visit shall be held on 22nd Jul. 2021 to 23rd Jul. 2021, 10H00 AM. During site visit, Companies are quired to adhere with safety rules by wearing safety boot, reflectors, helmet, safety glasses and gloves. You are advised to kindly adhere with the time.

Deadline for the Tender submission; 02nd August. 2021, 4h30 PM.

Z'bar's legislature oversight committee on State leaders happy with Tasaf operations

By Polycarp Machira, Chamwino

THE House of Representatives oversight state leaders office committee has expressed satisfaction with the implementation of Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)'s productive social safety net (PSSN) programme, saying it is really changing people's lives.

Committee members argued that the programme has demonstrated to be the most innovative way of reaching and assisting the poor to meet their needs and overcome poverty.

Speaking during a visit to Chamwino district in Dodoma region in effort to learn and get experience on TASAF activities in the mainland, the law makers from Zanzibar were delighted on how the programme has benefited villagers.

Led by the minister of State in the Second Vice President's Office (Policy, Coordination, and House of Representatives) Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed the delegation paid a visit to the Chamwino District Commissioner's office before visiting Handali village.

He was impressed by seeing a grapes farm saying, "This is a god example of well implemented poverty alleviation and through this the government is really changing lives of people".

At least 200 residents of the village have started benefiting from the TASAF programme. The beneficiaries under the fund's Public Works Programme have started harvesting grapes in their 2.5 hectares of land, generating close to seven million shillings per season.

The minister's sentiment was echoed by the committee chairperson, Hassan Khamis Hafidh who quoted former South African President, Nelson Mandela's saying that 'poverty is not natural but man-made'.

He said, "Human action geared to eradicate poverty among poor Tanzanian is through TASAF", adding that from what he witnessed, the programme is one of the best ways to uplift people's living standards.

On his part, Mfenesini

Constituency representative, Machano Othman Said, said the visit will help them share knowledge back at home on how good the programme is.

Speaking at the farm, village chairperson, Samuel Mogosho said the farm, used as demo farm is likely to change lives of the villagers, some of whom are beneficiaries of the safety net intervention that provide temporary employment to enrolled poor households.

Through the system, they work on labor-intensive activities and TASAF provide income supports which contribute to community assets.

He said after launch of the programme in the villager, residents identified grape farming as a sustainable project that is likely improve their income once they start harvesting the crop which is the main cash crop in the region.

"Bearing in mind that TASAF programmes might eventually end, the villagers thought of sustainable income activities and resorted to establish grape farming" he said.

While they work jointly in the demo farm, they have since formed 63 groups of 15 people each, working to empower each other and let every individual have own farm.

They are part of the 948 TASAF beneficiaries in one of the 50 villages that the fund works on in the district. The district has 107 villages.

"The target is to ensure that every beneficiary have own farm and even those who are not in the programme also benefit" he added.

Chamwino district TASAF coordinator, while speaking at the same event noted that the fund spent sh 25,070,100/- on the project that targeted 200 beneficiaries.

He noted that experience shows that a well-managed grape farm can produce between three and five tones in the first harvest which sells between Sh 800 and Sh 1000 per kilogram.

"Since grapes are harvested twice in a year in our region, farmers are likely to get up to twelve million shillings" he said, adding that this is likely to improve in the following years.



Salome Stephen (L), a gender and nutrition coordinator with the Tanzania Horticultural Association sensitises students of Arumeru District's Nkwanikole Secondary School yesterday on quality nutrition. Photo: Correspondent Wolinde Shizza

Minister Prof Mkenda hails Morocco's fertiliser factory

By Guardian Correspondent, Morocco

AGRICULTURE minister Prof Adolf Mkenda has praised the technology used by the fertiliser making factory 'Open Computer Project Foundation' (OCP) of Morocco that has brought revolution in the fertiliser sector by grabbing number one spot for quality fertiliser production in the world in 2020.

The Minister made the remarks during his visit at the factory and held discussions with its management, saying he was

satisfied by the fertiliser quality produced.

In company of Tanzania Agricultural Development bank (TADB) Managing Director Japhet Justine, Prof Mkenda said:

"I have today visited the OCP fertiliser factory and witnessed its operations in the manufacture of high quality fertiliser and I congratulate you for grabbing Number One position in the world in 2020."

The factory is a joint venture, 50 per cent owned by the Moroccan government and

another 50 per cent by India, Pakistan, Germany, Brazil and Belgium.

During his discussions with OPC officials, Prof Mkenda called on the officials to look into how to solve the problem of world price increase for the fertiliser for growing.

"One basic issue we discussed is to see how they can assist us in the reduction of fertiliser process as in doing so we will be directly touching individual farmers in spurring benefits in the sector," he said.

He said the visit was part in enhancing ties between the two countries as well as in boosting the environment in Tanzania's farming sector.

For his part, TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine said the visit was learning and provides positive hopes in the development of the country's agricultural sector.

Minister Mkenda and TADB managing director Justine are in Morocco in an official delegation led by the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.



Ezekiel Lesenga Mardadi (L), councillor for Loiborsiret ward in Simanjiro District, with Noah Mollie Simbaa (R), who was chief guest at the weekend at a fundraiser held at Kimotorok for the construction of Oitotoi School. A total of 45m/- in cash and pledges - was realised. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management has approved the EAC Regional COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Plan that seeks to revive the sector that has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ministers who met virtually under the chairmanship of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Najib Balala, noted that some EAC partner states had already instituted measures such as the formulation of stimulus packages aimed at re-igniting the sector and supporting tourism investments in the region including the small and micro enterprises.

The ministers agreed that there was need for a collective and coordinated approach towards tourism recovery that entails interventions that are aimed at reinforcing the measures being developed and implemented at national levels.

They further considered and approved the draft regional guidelines for resumption of services in the tourism sector and hospitality establishments.

While approving the guidelines, the ministers agreed that there was need for EAC harmonized guidelines for resumption of the tourism and hospitality services in the region.

They observed that the regional guidelines would help in ensuring coherence in resumption of tourism services and help in rebuilding trust and

EAC council on tourism adopts regional COVID-19 recovery plan to revive sector

confidence with international tourists visiting the region.

Ministers also considered and approved the draft regional tourism marketing strategy, which seeks to position the EAC region as the best and most affordable regional tourism destination in Africa.

Among the strategic directions and the corresponding strategic actions in the EAC tourism marketing strategy are to: develop regionally and internationally competitive multi-destination tourism products; position and market EAC as a leading regional tourism destination in Africa; brand East Africa as a leading tourism destination; enhance the marketing policy and institutional framework, and, enhance EAC tourism marketing and promotion financing.

The ministers also agreed to establish the annual EAC Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) with the aim of improving the visibility of the region and marketing it as a single tourist destination. The sectoral council decided that the United Republic of Tanzania hosts the 1st EARTE in October, 2021.

In his opening remarks, Kenya's Tourism Cabinet Secretary, Balala, underscored the importance of the Partner States working together especially in addressing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector and in joint tourism

recovery efforts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught all of some really important lessons. For instance, domestic and regional tourism markets are really key and they can help in making the tourism sector resilient in case of future disasters and pandemics. The pandemic has revealed that we can use technology to connect with each other and have meetings such as this. It is therefore really important that we invest heavily

EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki said that the tourism sector was one of the most important areas of cooperation for EAC owing to its contribution to the economies of the Partner States in terms of GDP (about 10%), export earnings (17%) and jobs (about 7%).

"Its multiplier effect and linkages with other sectors that are instrumental in our integration such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing are quite immense. However, the travel and tourism sector, globally, was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic more than any other economic sector," said Dr. Mathuki.

Dr. Mathuki said that whereas partner states had initiated tourism recovery efforts, it would really be helpful for region to come together to implement joint actions aimed at the recovery of the sector as well as laying a strong foundation for its future development.

By Guardian Reporter, Nachingwea

TAWA patrols to chase away invading jumbos to begin today

PATROLS by Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) wardens are planned to start today to chase away elephants that invaded Mbutu and Ngulichile villages in Nachingwea District, Lindi Region.

This was revealed here at the weekend by Natural Resources and Tourism Deputy minister Mary Masanja during her official visit to

listen to people's complaints

"I have instructed TWAWA wardens to make sure they set up camps in these villages beginning today and make patrols to chase away the elephants to their reserves," she told the villagers at a public meeting.

She said the patrols are expected

to solve the problem of elephants' invasion in human settlements.

"The camps set up in these areas should be permanent to enable the villagers to live in peace," she added.

She said she had asked Nachingwea District Commissioner and residents

therein to work together to accomplish the exercise.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister urged the residents to start beekeeping activities to fight elephants' invasion.

"I am directing instructors from the ministry to come to educate you on various ways to chase away

elephants, you should agree that that elephants cannot coexist with bees," she elaborated.

She added that beekeeping will also will nurture their cashew nut crop for increased production.

For his part, Ngulichile Ward Councillor, Said Mwakayola said people have been fearing to go

to their farms or wells due to elephants.

"Patrols to chase away elephants should start as soon as possible because people fear to go to tend their farms," he said and pledged that villagers were ready to offer their cooperation to game wardens to fight the beasts.

We'll not hesitate to deregister firms that evade being audited, NBAA says

By **Grtrude Mbago**

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors Tanzania (NBAA) has warned that it will not hesitate to deregister auditing firms that will be found evading to be audited by the board.

According to NBAA, there are some auditing firms in the country that have been refusing to be audited or sometimes providing poor cooperation when officers from the board visit them to review the quality of their audits.

NBAA's Audit Quality Review (AQR) officer Winnington Makaka said this in Dar es Salaam recently that the situation not only bars the board from doing its job but goes further to affect the auditing and accountancy profession.

"We usually face hurdles whenever we face the auditing firms for review, this is a legal requirement, so the companies should be aware that thwarting NBAA officials from doing their

job smoothly is against the law and this may lead to closure of the respective firm," Makaka told The Guardian in an interview.

He said that recently the board deregistered some audit firms after evading being audited for a long time.

"We are calling on all auditing firms to ensure that they comply to the set standards of audit, this include being ethically and reviewing financial statements of various organisations as well as providing cooperation to the NBAA.

Magrreth Kageya, NBAA marketing officer noted that accountants and auditors hold a particularly prominent position in society. Based on the premise of high ethical practice, entities and the public at large put their trust in these professionals for their honesty, integrity, and in the client's secrecy.

Kageya said that accountants and auditors should live up to their

professional oaths when executing their duties.

She further said that the board will continue to strengthen its efforts with the professional colleges in the country to ensure that they enroll more students.

She said the NBAA has made a significant contribution to development in Tanzania over the years, especially on administration and examination processes.

Kageya invited people who wish to register and sit for the board's exams coming November to do so.

NBAA is an examining body for the accountancy professional qualifications. However, NBAA does not train candidates who are preparing to sit for its examinations, but is collaborating with a number of training institutions, both public and private institutions to train candidates for its examinations. Training can either be on full time or on part time basis, depending on one's choice.



Improvement of roads in Kinondoni District, Dar es Salaam, well under way - as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By **Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro**

Moro's farmers boosting crop yield with Chinese technology

THE Agricultural and Livestock Technology Development Project sponsored by Tanzania and Chinese governments has brought many benefits to small scale maize and rice farmers in Morogoro Region through increased production thereby earning farmers more income.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the project's coordinator Ernest Mkongo during training visit in the Region by Tanzania students from China Agriculture University.

He said the project has brought benefits to farmers in Peapea and Mtegora Simba, during the first two years beginning 2014 during which they increased the crops' harvests - from four bags of maize to 16 per hectare.

"Following these achievements

from the Agricultural and Livestock Technology Development project being beneficial to small farmers, the project area was expanded from two to 10," said Mkongo.

Mkongo said the project in Mtegora Simba village involved developments from universities, including the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) as well as the Morogoro regional Government to enable farmers to benefit and change their life styles.

For his part, Senior Agricultural Officer in the Morogoro Region's office, Evance Gambishi said the main aim of the project was to spur economic growth via the distribution of agriculture and livestock technology from the Chinese experience.

He said Morogoro Regional Secretariat was implementing the project for small scale farmers to expand their areas, the step that has increased maize production in two demonstration villages after the farmers were given the Chinese technology.

He explained that the project to expand eight villages in the region's seven districts - Letugunya and Ngayakiin Gairo District; Kitete (Kilosa District); Kisege (Kilombero); Kiswago (Malinyi) and Kikundi in Morogoro District was launched in March 2018.

He mentioned other areas as including Makuyu (Mvomero District) and Mwaya (Ulanga) and that the project plans to reach 1,667 farmers each with an acre of maize.

By **Guardian Correspondent, Igunga**

Hundreds of traders decry poor infrastructure at Igunga market

MORE than 300 traders of Igunga central Market, in Tabora Region have appealed to their Member of Parliament, Nicholas Ngassa to improve the market's infrastructures for smooth operation of their activities.

Speaking at a public meeting called by the MP to listen to their complaints, the market's Secretary Marco Gideon said the market was facing six challenges.

He said these challenges include unclean surroundings due to absence of a garbage truck causing heaps of garbage in the market's surroundings, posing health hazards to traders and customers alike.

Another complaint is the drainage system for sewage, the situation that have made many customers avoid coming to the market for their needs.

He also said the market has never been repaired, including a new floor and painting for more than

40 years. Other snags include lack of enough security guards, the situation that has spurred theft and pilferage of items for sale, lack of proper electrical infrastructures making many market areas to be in the dark during night time.

The last challenge is lack of water supply at the market thereby posing difficulties to food vendors at the market in their daily activities of food preparation.

Gideon told the MP that despite referring these challenges to the District Executive Director, nothing has been done so far.

For his part, one of the traders owning a butchery, Kisuda Ramadhani urged the MP to install doors to each meat stall for ease of customers adding that as of now customers have to pass through one door to access the meat stalls.

Thereafter the MP called on the

district's trade officer, Anthony Michael who was representing the DED at the meeting to speak.

Michael admitted the existence of the challenges at the market saying they touched many departments hence on Monday they will convene a joint meeting to look for ways to solve the challenges.

For his part, MP Ngassa gave one month to council officials to deal with some of the challenges at the market and pledged to bring back answers on 30 August this year.

He also told traders at the market he will solve some of the challenges himself using constituency funds, saying he will have the water supply connected.

He also called on council officials to deal with the challenges as quickly as possible, and if they ignore his call, he will address the regional administrative secretary for further steps.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title	: Communication Officer
Reporting to	: Project Manager
Location	: Dodoma
Level of Engagement	: Full time
Duration of engagement	: One-year with possibility to extend

1. Summary of the Position

The **Health Promotion and System Strengthening Project (HPSS-Tuimarische Afya)** is a Swiss-Tanzania Corporation project being executed by the **Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (SwissTPH)** with its headquarter in Dodoma Tanzania. The HPSS project is being implemented since 2011 in phases, and is currently in its 3rd phase. The current phase 3 (exit phase) has been designed to focus on supporting the Government of Tanzania (GoT) through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC), and through the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG). The project supports the national rollout of the Community Health Fund CHF Iliyoboreshwa and the Medicines Management Jazia Prime Vendor Scheme to all regions in Tanzania. In addition, phase 3 aims at facilitating the same ministries to rollout innovations in Health Technology Management (HTM) and Health Promotion and supporting the GoT's course on digitalisation of the health system. Being the last phase of the HPSS project, a focus is also set on generating evidence-based results through operational research and systematic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities and on using those findings to capitalize on the project results and contribute to policy development and the decision-making process of the government for strengthening the health system.

2. Aim of Job

The Communication Officer (CO) will be responsible to implement and further develop the HPSS Communication Strategy. The incumbent will monitor communication needs and demands of the project, and regularly review existing materials for a maximum communication impact of the project. The CO will coordinate and manage HPSS visibility actions in workshops, symposiums and exhibitions with aim at arriving at maximum effective media coverage of HPSS achievements. The Communication Officer shall be responsible and accountable for the development, regular update and implementation of the flow of project information to showcase attainment of the Project's goals and objectives in line with the Swiss TPH/HPSS Project mandate and approaches. The Communication Officer is accountable for the management of the communication system and to provide strategic and technical guidance, and will work closely and interact with Project Manager, Chief Finance and Administration Officer, M&E Officer and component/subject experts based in Dodoma and Basel, Switzerland.

3. Main Tasks

- Oversee implementation of the project Communications strategy and activities related to project outreach
- Monthly evaluation of effective media relations strategies.
- Draft press releases, editorials and scripts for educational messages.
- Organize press conferences and media round table discussions.
- On monthly basis, in collaboration with Project Technical Advisors, Experts and government counterparts write stories and feature articles in the newspapers that enlighten the public on Project's activities.
- Coordinate and upload content on the HPSS web-sites as needed to keep these always fully up-to-date
- promote project's visibility through digital (social media) and print communications channels, by developing and up-loading relevant and interesting content
- Work with project partner (MoHCDGEC and PORALG) to assist them in developing and implementing communications strategies for mobilizing communities to join health insurance, and develop documentaries on project processes and results
- Assist technical staff on development of public awareness campaigns
- Support technically project capitalization activities by leading processes for creating compelling materials - creatively using text, photography, audio, video and graphics to share highlights of HPSS-Tuimarische Afya work and activities for strengthening the health system and social health insurance in Tanzania mainland.
- Collect contents for the development and dissemination of project weekly/monthly newsletter
- Manage and coordinate the planning, logistics and registration of participants for project events as requested by the PMU
- Manage the project communications budget and ensuring timely reporting
- Ensure weekly bulletin and newspaper cuttings are well pinned to the notice boards at the headquarters and in the regions.
- Preform daily media monitoring of newspaper articles, television and radio news bulleting, online TV, and social media for material substantively affecting the work of the Project
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Project Manager

4. Requirements

- Proven experience in a communications role in a large organization with multiple stakeholder groups, ability to work diligently and independently, bring highest standards of business and personal ethical conduct, and being keen on improving own knowledge, skills and attitudes
- Ambitious and self-motivated with the capacity to deliver high quality products under tight/pressure working schedules.
- First rate written skills with the ability to develop high quality, accurate and consistent communications materials, newsletters, leaflets, briefings and so on for non-specialist audiences
- Excellent oral communication and interpersonal skills, with a customer focus and the ability to work with staff at all levels
- Competence in Computer graphics and designing skills, management and actualizing of Websites, Intranet, and social media.
- Professional ability to take quality still and video pictures.
- Bring, build and maintain good relationships with journalists, bloggers, stakeholders and public that will help advance Project's objectives.
- Experience in handling live social media during events
- Excellent Proficiency in Kiswahili AND English
- Proficiency with MS Office Suite (Word, Excel, Power point and Access)
- Knowledge of government infrastructure, policies and interface (optional)

5. Qualifications

- Preferably Master's Degree in Journalism and/or Public Relations and/or Mass Communication or its equivalent
- Bachelor/Advanced Diploma in Journalism and/or Public Relations and/or Mass Communication or its equivalent.
- At least three years' experience in Print and/or electronic media.
- At least three years working in the development and cooperation field or corporate environment

Application should be accompanied with:

- A well-typed CV
- Certified copies of relevant certificates
- Contacts stating name in full, physical address, telephone numbers and email addresses of the candidate
- Names and contacts of three (3) referees

Send your application to the following address:

**Human Resource Officer,
Health Promotion and System Strengthening (HPSS) Project,
P.O. Box 29,
Dodoma,
OR**

Online application via email: hr@hpss.or.tz

Kindly note, only short listed candidates will be contacted.

The Deadline for submission of application is on **30th July 2021 at 16.00 hours.**

TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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epaper.ippmedia.comPreying on schoolgirls evil;
now, as to the best way out!

REPORTS from Kibondo District in Kigoma Region say that regional authorities have been directed to launch what was described as a manhunt on account of 981 pupils getting pregnant in the past half year alone. Were it that it was a tenth of that number a search could still be contemplated, but at close to 1000 pupils (or students) getting pregnant, a manhunt yields little, as it amounts to teaching people what their culture ought to be, or what importance they should attach to sentimentality, etc. All of that is something that is environmentally determined in the sense of an economic, social and cultural complexity, which is lived or experienced rather than directed by laws and regulations. It parallels things like grazing conflicts.

There is an expression in Kiswahili, that laying down tools for the day isn't the end of craftsmanship, in which case there is no reason for ministerial authorities to treat these incidents as tragedies that border on crimes against young girls. The pivotal argument, the mantra if there is one, is that pregnancy ruins their dreams of what to do after education, which is taken up in a one sided manner with scarce reference to the fact that nearly all students leaving secondary school without further courses are just part of the street. Even degree holders are known to languish for years, thus diminishing the prestige attached to schooling.

At the same time there are insurmountable pressures in day to day living, not least being walking several kilometers to schools built in far off areas, for the simple reason that we don't have the right civic spirit to surrender a plot and another person an adjacent plot,

even five of them, to build a school. The government or local authorities don't have the money to compensate those with occupancy rights on the plots, and no religious fraternity can bring them to provide to the community those plots, and thus schools are built far from where most of the students reside. The result is that they fall prey to enticement tied to transport, etc.

An issue of this sort came up during the fifth phase government and attracted a lot of attention not just among non-governmental or civil society organisations but also foreign agencies in Dar, especially regarding the whole issue of human rights.

It was the issue of whether girls should go back to classes after the needed maternity break, to which the government settled for other avenues to take up skills that can help the new mother in life, and adapted to that situation. The debate has since died down as it was clear that this option wasn't irrelevant at all, including the usual form four re-sitting option taking just a year.

No punitive measures were discussed against the 'macho' lads who are responsible for that state of affairs for - say - two reasons. The first can be said to be an aphorism by third phase president Benjamin Mkapa telling diplomats critical of corruption in relation to foreign aid, that 'it takes two to tango,' in which case donors would also have to examine their 'modus operandi.' The other is commonplace wisdom, that two negatives don't make a plus, that jailing a young man doesn't remove the situation of the young girl and thus it is just another case of ruin. Let families, NGOs focus on skills, or re-sitting exams, not 'manhunt.'

More seriousness necessary
globally in fighting obesity

THE prevalence of obesity is increasing at an alarming rate in many parts of the world. About 2 billion people are overweight and one third of them obese. The plight of the most affected populations, like those in high-income countries. However, the more recent increases in population obesity in low- and middle-income countries that are now increasingly being observed have been less recognised.

The occurrence of obesity in an individual or in a population is the result of a combination of factors acting at multiple levels. The simultaneous increase in obesity around the world appears to be driven by changes in the global food supply, which is offering more processed, affordable and nutrient-dense foods. This, in combination with sociocultural, environmental and economic factors, affects eating behavior and physical activity. These multifactorial drivers of obesity suggest the need for interventions that reset the environmental and societal norms, to facilitate healthy behaviors.

Based on the existing prevalence and trend data and the epidemiological evidence linking obesity with a range of physical and psychosocial health conditions, it is reasonable to describe obesity as a public health crisis that severely impairs the health and quality of life of people and adds considerably to national health-care budgets. Intersectoral action to manage and prevent obesity is urgently required to reverse current trends.

A new study conducted by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) has shown that obesity cases are rising in

Tanzania, increasing the risk of non-communicable diseases.

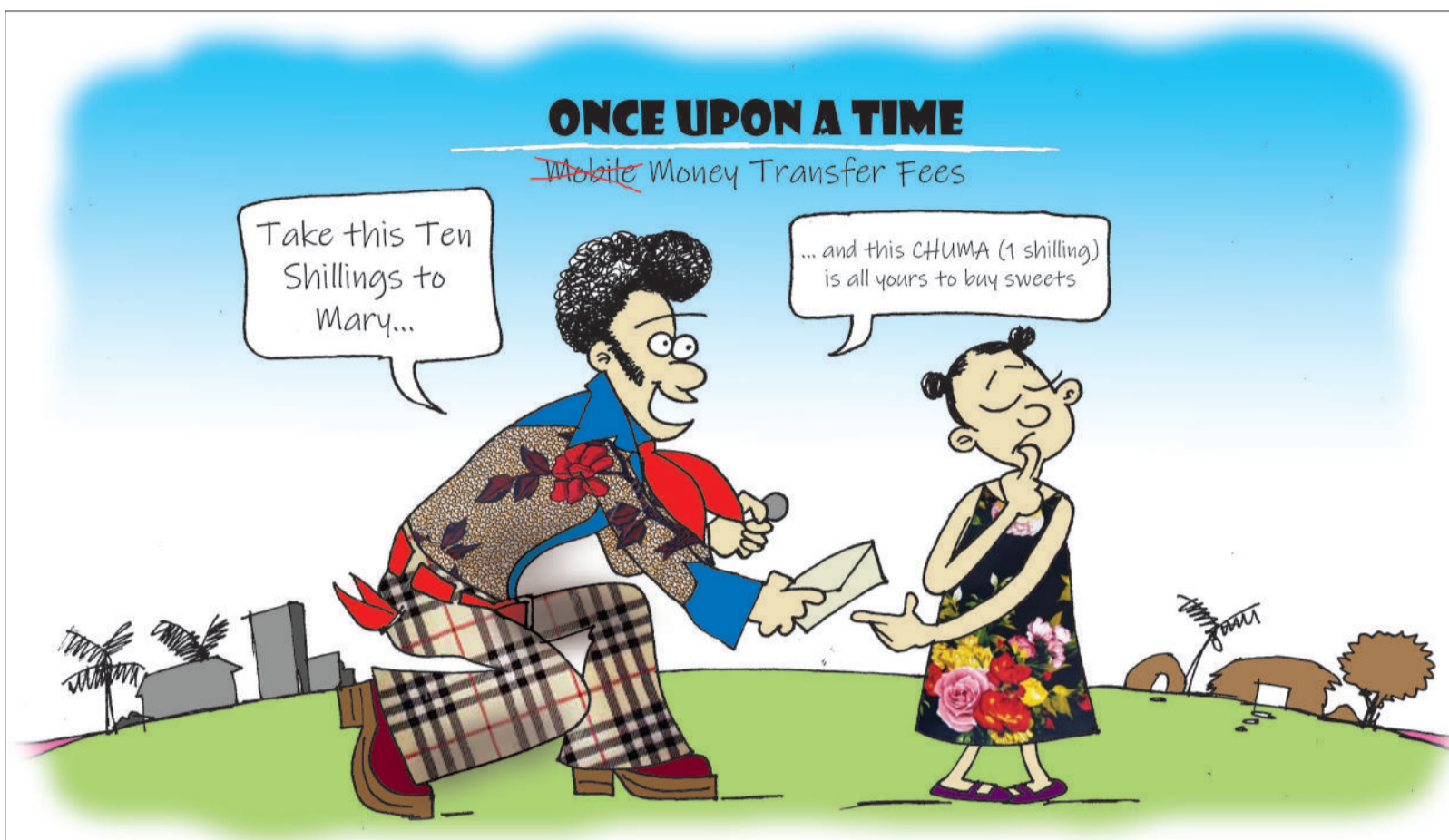
The study shows that if no action is taken the situation will impose heavy economic burden on individuals, families and the government.

The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in their report following the research calls for urgent policy intervention by the government to arrest the trend it says has led to upsurge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Apart from the ever rising death toll from the NCDs, individual patients incur medical and non-medical costs totaling 1,211.78 US dollars annually, on average, as well as indirect costs such as loss of income, according to the report.

Obesity is a medical condition in which excess body fat has accumulated to an extent that it may have a negative effect on health. People are generally considered obese when their body mass index (BMI), a measurement obtained by dividing a person's weight by the square of the person's height, is over 30 kg/m²; the range 25-30 kg/m² is defined as overweight.

Some East Asian countries use lower values. Obesity increases the likelihood of various diseases and conditions, particularly cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, certain types of cancer, osteoarthritis, and depression.

Hypocrisy: Expecting corrupt political elites to
'urge' the struggling underclass to stop stealing

By Sonwabile Ngiza

WHILE the cost of the anarchy unleashed on parts of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng is still being counted, it is clear that our social fabric, stitched together over many years, risks being rent asunder. In the end, progress in our quest for nation building, common nationhood, patriotism and social cohesion will be severely damaged and even reversed.

In the wake of the 15-month prison sentence imposed on former president Jacob Zuma, thousands of people have blockaded highways, burnt trucks and descended on shopping centres with the sole purpose of looting and destroying.

To many, it appears the pillaging was orchestrated to undermine the rule of law, using Zuma's plight simply as a ruse. It is inconceivable that the authorities did not anticipate violence might break out.

In fact, the minister of police expressed concern about the possibility of chaos in KZN and Gauteng, but it is not clear if the police had any kind of plan to contain the economic sabotage and maintain the rule of law. The president has now deployed the armed forces to reinforce police efforts to contain the upheaval.

While the cost of the anarchy unleashed on parts of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng is still being counted, it is clear that our social fabric, stitched together over many years, risks being rent asunder.

The phenomenon of ethnic chauvinism and mobilisation is clearly evident in the intensity of violence in certain geographical areas, in particular KZN and Gauteng – although sympathisers of the so-called RET faction might want to instigate violence in other areas as an obfuscation of the real intent.

In the end, progress in our quest for nation-building, common nationhood, patriotism and social cohesion will be severely damaged and even reversed.

The economic cost is incalculable in terms of material losses, financial losses and lost jobs, and more so the reputation of South Africa as an investment destination, particularly as the country struggles to attract foreign investment to assist post-Covid recovery.

The sentencing of Jacob Zuma ostensibly precipitated the unrest, but it is also evident that Zuma's incarceration provided a convenient excuse to fuel counter-revolution by desperate elements, many of whom are themselves fugitives from justice. The sinister forces stoking the anarchy need



Former president Jacob Zuma

to be unmasked. This coalition of the corrupt is preying on the desperation of the majority through subterfuge and diversion, hoping themselves to escape the long arm of the law.

For others, the crisis simply presents an opportunity for a looting spree, which is one of the many pathologies plaguing our society. These acts of criminality must be rooted out. Unfortunately, the roots run deep.

On a broader level, it is clear that what we have witnessed in both scale and intensity is a manifestation of a much deeper crisis. There are many interlocking realities that together form the basis of the deeper malaise plaguing this country. At its simplest, there are two fundamental problems worth highlighting that constitute the root causes of the unrest:

First, there is the government's failure to overcome and reverse the legacy of colonialism and apartheid. This failure resulted in the inability to transform the economy to serve the majority. The prevailing economic system continues to lock out the majority, in particular the youth, thus subjecting them to grinding poverty. N

ot only has the government failed to engender balanced economic development, it has also failed to direct the private sector to invest in diversification and beneficiation

that could broaden economic participation.

In addition, the embrace of neoliberal economic policy packages has deepened the crisis even further through liberalisation that suffocated local industries, thus destroying industrial capacity, which has led to massive job losses in the post-apartheid era. More recently we have seen neoliberal austerity cuts on spending, the consequence of which is an inability of the state to discharge its most basic functions. For instance, in the ongoing skirmishes the police are clearly and hopelessly outnumbered by the hordes of looters. The ratio of police to population is completely inadequate.

The confluence of these realities has produced and reproduced a large army of the indigent, unemployed and socially vulnerable. The extent of economic exclusion, social marginalisation and relative deprivation provides a breeding ground for discontent that is a ticking time-bomb waiting to explode.

Second, the depth of depravity that has been manifested in governance decay and corruption erodes public confidence and breeds public anger. If the political and business elites can shamelessly steal and abuse public office with absolute impunity, then what stops the desperate poor – the underclass

– from looting? Who will have the moral authority to tell them to stop?

Wicked politicians and business elites have derailed development through naked acts of corruption, thus robbing people of hope for social progress and economic justice.

Yes, the economic choices have locked the majority outside, trapping them in grinding poverty and joblessness, but corruption robs the people of any hope of overcoming their current situation. None is more dangerous and unpredictable than a people without hope.

Perpetuating austerity, exclusion and depravity condemns the majority to misery. This is untenable. Nation-building and democratic consolidation cannot survive under these conditions. The country needs to return to a people-centred, people-driven process of fundamental change of the economic system to serve the poor.

This situation needs less political ambivalence and more bold and decisive action to restore calm and act swiftly against corruption. Let us use order to defeat disorder and calm to defeat agitation.

Fundamentally, only structural economic transformation provides an antidote to discontent and holds the potential for harnessing hope and agency of the people to defend our democratic gains.

Factors affecting adoption of improved sorghum varieties in Tanzania

SORGHUM is a hidden treasure whose economic value is underestimated at the expense of other crops. According to Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), the crop is one of the key food security crops in Tanzania. It is the fifth important cereal crop after wheat, rice, maize, and barley. However, many people do not know these hidden treasures including commercial and health benefits. OUR CORRESPONDENT GERALD KITABU caught up with plant breeder who is also acting director at TARI Tumbi centre in Tabora Dr. Emmanuel Mrema and here he sheds light on the new released varieties for increased productivity.

QUESTION: Briefly tell us about sorghum

ANSWER: Sorghum is one of the key food security crops in Tanzania. It is the fifth important cereal crop after wheat, rice, maize, and barley. This crop is well adapted in arid and semi-arid environments under poor soil fertility and high temperature conditions, where other cereal crops, such as maize and wheat, fail to produce grain.

Globally, sorghum is grown for food, feed, and bioenergy on an area of 42 million ha, with a total production of 61.5 million tons of grain, of which 80 percent is produced in Africa and Asia. In East Africa, an area of 5 million ha is devoted to sorghum cultivation. In Tanzania, sorghum is grown in almost all the semi-arid areas by subsistence farmers for food, feed,

and beer. An area of 6.2 million ha is used for cereal crop production, of which 0.9 million ha (15 percent) is under sorghum cultivation.

What in the importance of sorghum?

A: Sorghum is grown for food, feed, beverages and bioenergy. It is a source of carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, fibers, iron, vitamins B complex and minerals like phosphorous, magnesium, and calcium. In Tanzania, sorghum is mainly consumed as stiff porridge (Ugali) often blended with maize or cassava, baked bread, porridge, tortillas, couscous, steam-cooked products, alcoholic, and non-alcoholic beverages. About 808,541 tons of sorghum are produced annually in Tanzania of these, two percent are sold in beverage industries and 98 percent are used domestically for food, feed or local brew. Apart from the local beer made in rural areas, two large companies in Tanzania are the main commercial buyers of sorghum with an estimated amount of 15,000 to 20,000 tons and 1000 to 2000 tons per year. The beer breweries companies produce both clear and opaque beer hence creating a potential market for small holder farmers in the country for income generation and improved livelihoods. The actual demand for the brewing industry in the country is more than 50,000 tons per year.

Q: What are the challenges facing the crop's high yield?

A: It is true that low grain yield of less than 1.0 tons per ha has been reported. This is considerably be-



The acting director at TARI Tumbi centre in Tabora Region Emmanuel Mrema, explains sorghum varieties released by TARI. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

low the mean yield of 1.3 tons per ha. The low yields of sorghum in Tanzania for example is attributed to both abiotic stresses such as poor soil fertility, drought and biotic stresses such as striga infestation, stem borers, and shoot fly. Among the biotic stresses, striga often causes severe yield losses. They are parasitic on the host plant and can infest a wide range of crops, including rice, pearl millet

Q: What are the TARI's efforts to improve the crop's production and productivity?

A: To empower seed sorghum production, TARI-Tumbi Tabora has dedicated its efforts and managed to release two new sorghum varieties which are good in

terms of yield performance and do well in areas constrained by striga infestation. Using the new released varieties, the farmer can harvest up to 4.5 metric tonnes per ha. "For high yield, I real encourage farmers to use agronomic practices like application of fertilizers on time and in required standard, weeding and managing insect pest diseases," he stressed.

He also advised the farmers to use appropriate chemicals management, smart harvesting handling and post harvest management.

Currently TARI-Tumbi centre Tabora is working in collaboration with two more centres namely TARI-Hombolo centre in Dodoma and TARI-Ilonga centre in Morogoro to make sure that the farmers are linked with

breweries industries to ensure their markets.

Up to now the new varieties have been approved as it performs better in terms of alcohol production. We are advising the farmers to use the new varieties when we are working hard to develop other new varieties which will perform better in industry after making laboratory evaluation.

Q: When did you release the new varieties?

A: The new varieties were released in early January and February this year now we are developing others to be used by companies to produce sorghum seeds. The released varieties have performed better in Tabora, Singida, Dodoma, Morogoro, Coastal region and many others. The released varieties are tolerant to pest and diseases infestation, and striga infestation. They are widely being used by the farmers in the semi-arid regions of Tanzania.

We are planning to have forty acres of land of seed production so that the seeds for the coming season can be readily and adequate available to the farmers.

Q: What is your call?

A: I call on farmers and other stakeholders to access the released varieties, grow and use them because the Sorghum product as it is it has antioxidant materials. The materials can get rid of bacteria, dead cells and toxic materials in their body. It empowers pancreas in balancing sugar content in their body. Therefore, sorghum as it is it is medicine. I encourage people to make Sorghum part of their meal.

Corona virus origin: Tracing should be based on science, not politics

By George Muntu

MARCH 31, The World Health Organization (WHO) released a report on its joint mission with China to trace the origins of the corona virus. However, after the report was released, politicians and other people in the west began to play dirty political tricks on the origin tracing of COVID-19 findings. Such dirty campaigns attempts to transfer blame to China are blatant contempt for scientists' research findings on the origin and source of the corona virus and are a hindrance to global efforts to combat the virus.

If the world wants to know the truth about the origin of the corona virus, the source of the virus and who created it, its investigation must be based on science and not otherwise. Any attempts to do such thing must be proceeded with global collaboration and not to let alone the so called G7 and the Quad to conduct their own investigations.

In a 120-page report released by the WHO on Tuesday, the WHO-convened global study on the origins of the COVID-19 unveiled initial findings from the field mission to China from January 14 to February 10, concluding that it was "very likely the virus was passed through an intermediate host, but a lab leak was "extremely unlikely."

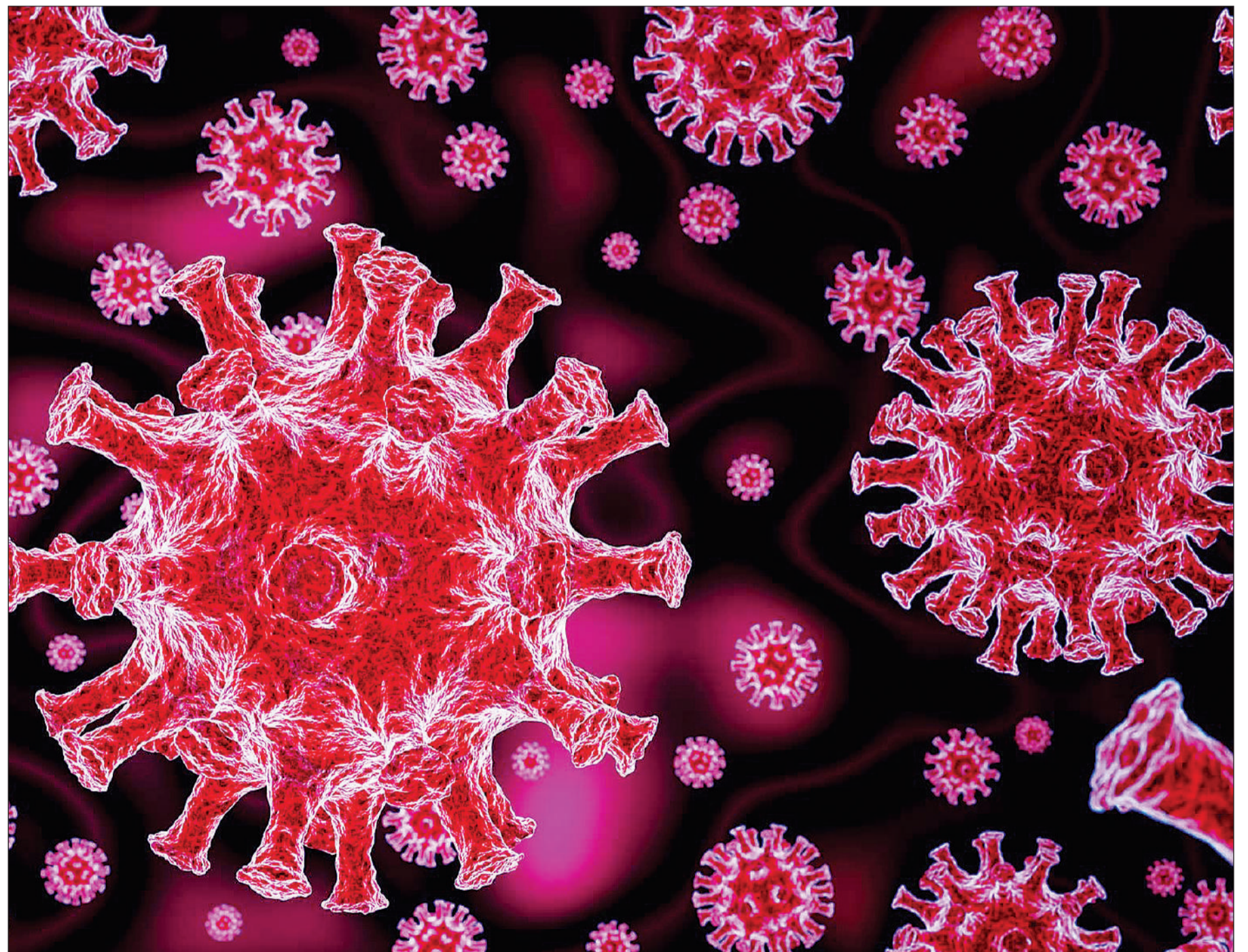
Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 disease in 2019, the U.S. and western nations have been falsely reporting that the corona virus originated and developed in China in existing laboratories in the city of Wuhan. These false allegations have been deliberately spread through their media to tarnish China's reputation so that it can be seen as the cause of this catastrophe in the world.

The main purpose of spreading these false allegations against China as the perpetrator of this virus is to try to hide the true nature of the corona virus and where it originated. The United States is running these dirty and false campaigns to try to keep people from paying attention on where these viruses could have been originated and or if was developed in their home country. Thus, it is doing everything possible to convince the world to believe that this disease is a product of China.

get real evidence on allegations against china that the virus was originated from Wuhan Laboratory, this can be witnessed from several senior U.S. officials' statement made during Trump administration including him. In one of his speech, Trump called the virus; 'China Virus' He did so deliberately, knowing that what he was saying was not true but to deceive the world.

China has always supported global scientific research on the sources and transmission of the virus by scientists from all countries, participated in the formulation of the WHO resolution on COVID-19, and supported cooperation among WHO member states under the leadership of the WHO in research on the animal source of the virus.

It should be noted that, even before the official release of the full report, Western politicians and media began raising concerns and questions on whether the Chinese government exerted pressure on the UN body in the writing of the report, and if there was a lack of full access to data during the WHO experts' research in Wuhan which would compromise their impartiality



in forming such a scientific statement.

Politicizing the traceability issue will only seriously hamper global traceability cooperation, undermine global anti-epidemic efforts and lead to more loss of life. It runs counter to the desire of the international community to unite and fight the epidemic, the ministry said in a statement released on Tuesday night.

It should also be noted that, China has twice invited WHO experts to China to carry out traceability studies. From January 14 to February 10, Chinese experts joined international experts from the WHO and 10 countries to form a joint team of experts to conduct a 28-day joint study in Wuhan. The Chinese side has provided necessary assistance for the successful work of the expert team in Wuhan, which fully demonstrates China's open, transparent and responsible attitude.

Apart from the research conducted by Chinese and WHO experts, but still a group of 14 countries, including the US, Australia, Canada, and the Czech Republic,

have raised concerns over the report released by the WHO on Tuesday into the origin of the corona virus. The White House urged the WHO to take additional steps to determine the origins of COVID-19. While the United States wants more investigation on the origin of the corona virus, but it is unwilling to allow international investigators to investigate on its own country. Instead, it has continued to issue orders to reinvestigate on China despite the fact that WHO-China report on tracing the origins of COVID-19 dismissed the possibility of the virus being leaked from a lab.

Since the United States has re-

peatedly asked China to be part of a comprehensive, transparent and evidence-based international investigation, the United States should likewise fully respond to the concerns of the international community. Instead of insisting on further investigations on China, it should instead respond to allegations made by its citizens about how the Trump administration has handled and managed the fight to prevent the spread of Covid-19, which has killed 600,000 people and infected more than 33 million people.

To better cope with unexpected pandemics in the future, it is crucial to support a comprehensive

study of all early cases of COVID-19 found worldwide and a thorough investigation into some secretive bases and biological laboratories all over the world. It is necessary to have a full, transparent, and evidence-based investigation into the origin of the virus.

Meanwhile, certain western politicians should stop spreading their conspiracy theory to scapegoat China and stop breeding "political virus." Instead, they should allow international collaboration experts to conduct their investigation in their country especially in the United States rather than pointing figures on China.

US holds UNICEF monopoly for 74 years – in a world body where money talks

UNITED NATIONS

WITH Henrietta Fore's decision last week to step down as UNICEF Executive Director, her successor is most likely to be another American since that post has been held – uninterrupted – by US nationals for almost 74 years, an unprecedented all-time record for a high-ranking job in the UN system.

The seven U.S. nationals who have headed the UN children's agency since its inception in 1947 include Maurice Pate, Henry Labouisse, James Grant, Carol Bellamy, Ann Veneman, Anthony Lake and Henrietta Fore. Pate held the job for 18 years, from 1947 to 1965, and Labouisse for 14 years, from 1965 to 1979.

No other agency has had a national stranglehold on such a senior position in the 76-year history of the United Nations.

As for individuals monopolizing office, Dr Arpad Bogsch, an

other US national, held the post of director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva for 24 long years (1973-1997).

But more recently, however, the professional life span of senior officials in the UN secretariat is mostly five years, with a possible extension for an additional five years.

Since money talks, the US has continued to stake its claims for the UNICEF job, primarily as its largest single financial contributor.

But that claim also applies to several UN agencies, which depend on voluntary contributions, and where some of the high-ranking positions are largely held by donors or big powers, mostly from Western Europe, or China and Russia.

James Paul, former Executive Director at the New York-based Global Policy Forum (1993-2012)

and a prominent figure in the NGO advocacy community at the United Nations, told IPS much is at stake in the appointment of the head of a major agency in the UN system.

Powerful governments battle over prestige and the shaping of policy, he said, pointing out, that "interest is intense now, as the appointment of a new head of UNICEF comes up".

"Observers inevitably wonder: what country gets the post, what is the region of the appointee, what ethnic or national group does this person represent, what is the person's gender identity, and finally, last but not least, what is the policy inclination and administrative record of the person selected?" said Paul, author of "Of Foxes and Chickens" – Oligarchy and Global Power in the UN Security Council (2017).

He said some candidates may be serious people with years of experience



while others may be personal friends of a powerful head of government.

How will the selection process work and how much pressure will be put on those with a say over the appointment process: the UN Secretary General and Executive Boards or committees? he asked.

In the early years of the UN, he said, there was a tendency to appoint male candidates who were US nationals. The US government often acted very bluntly about getting its way and it threatened many times to withhold funding or punish UN officials if its candidate was not selected.

Two well-known cases of US hegemony are UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund, and UNDP, the UN Development Programme.

UNICEF is notorious because its Executive Director has been a US national continuously since the organization's founding 74 years ago, said Paul. Now that the current head is stepping down, the question inevitably arises – will Washington once again be able to get its way?

Admittedly, it did make one concession over the years. Under pressure in 1995 to accept a very accomplished Scandinavian woman, the US agreed to drop its male candidate. Washington then proposed a woman and turned up the heat.

Carol Bellamy, the US candidate, was eventually appointed. The present head, Henrietta Fore, is also a woman but she too carries a US passport, said Paul.

Former UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali (1992-1996), who had a love-hate relationship with the US, tried to break the US monopoly back in 1995. But he failed.

In his book "UN-Vanquished – a US-UN saga," (1999), Boutros-Ghali says he was thwarted by then US President Bill Clinton and US ambassador Madeline Albright.

Clinton wanted William Foege, a former head of the US Centres for Disease Control, to be appointed UNICEF chief to succeed James Grant, also an American.

Since Belgium and Finland had already put forward "outstanding" women candidates – and since the US had refused to pay its UN dues and was also making "disparaging" remarks about the world body – "there was no longer automatic acceptance by other nations

that the director of UNICEF must inevitably be an American man or woman," said Boutros-Ghali.

"The US should select a woman candidate," Boutros-Ghali told Albright, "and then I will see what I can do," since the appointment involved consultation with the then 36-member UNICEF Executive Board.

Albright rolled her eyes and made a face, repeating what had become her standard expression of frustration with me," he writes.

When the US kept pressing Foege's candidature, Boutros-Ghali says that "many countries on the UNICEF Board were angry and (told) me to tell the United States to go to hell."

The US eventually submitted an alternate woman candidate: Carol Bellamy, a former director of Peace Corps.

Although Elizabeth Rehn of Finland received 15 votes to Bellamy's 12 in a straw poll, Boutros-Ghali said he asked the Board president to convince the members to achieve consensus on Bellamy so that the US could continue a monopoly it held since UNICEF was created in 1947.

And thereby hangs a tale.

According to the latest published figures, total contributions to UNICEF in 2020 were over US\$7 billion. The public sector contributed the largest share: US\$5.45 billion from government, inter-governmental and inter-organizational partners, as well as Global Programme Partnerships.

The top three resource partners in 2020 (by contributions received) were the Governments of the United States of America (US\$801 million), Germany (US\$744 million) and the European Union (US\$514 million).

As UNICEF's largest donor, the US was considered "an indispensable partner".

"Our partnership with the US Government is broad and diverse, spanning humanitarian and development programmes across key areas of UNICEF's work, including health; education; early child development; water, sanitation and hygiene; nutrition; child protection; gender equality; HIV and AIDS; immunization; and research programmes," according to UNICEF.

Samir Sanbar, a former UN assistant secretary-General and head of the Department of Public In-

formation, told IPS the argument over the post of UNICEF Executive Director was the first clash between Boutros-Ghali and Ambassador Albright who otherwise was very friendly, as both were "former professors".

As Boutros-Ghali once quipped: "I may be America's yes man (as he was described in the Arab press when he was elected secretary-general) but certainly not, yes sir".

Initially, American UNICEF Executive Directors like Henry Labouisse and James Grant proved their value not merely by bringing U.S. funds but by their proven accomplishments, said Sanbar.

Guterres, an experienced politician, will most likely explore options: perhaps await proposals from the Biden Administration while keeping open possible interest by members of the Security Council like Norway and others, which could offer a substantive contribution, as long as its candidate is a woman, said Sanbar who had served under five different secretaries-general during his longstanding UN career.

Paul pointed out that UNDP provides an interesting basis for comparison. It had a US head (the title is Administrator) for thirty-two years consecutively, from its founding in 1967.

In 1999, when the moment for a new appointment arose, the UN membership stepped up pressure for a more diverse pool of candidates.

At last, the magic spell of US dominance broke, as Mark Malloch Brown of the UK got the nod. And since 1999, there hasn't been a single US national in that post of UNDP Administrator.

That was a sign that Washington's grip on the UN was slipping and that its global influence was waning – slowly perhaps but unmistakably.

A capable woman from New Zealand, Helen Clark, was one of the new breed, along with a Turk, Kemal Dervis, and a German, Achim Steiner, who currently holds the post.

But not all US nominees have turned out badly, said Paul.

James Grant, was a widely-respected head of UNICEF, and Gus Speth won plaudits as head of UNDP. But symbolism is important in a multi-lateral organization with a world-wide membership and a very diverse constituency.



Invitation to Tender and set up of FWAs Medical Equipment

ITT/SCITZ/2021/017

Save the Children (SCI) is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work together, with our partners, to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Save the Children (SCI) has set aside funds to procure medical equipment to Strengthen COVID-19 Case Management in few selected Regional Hospitals of Tanzania.

SCI through this process, will also set Framework Agreements (FWAs) with successful suppliers for upcoming similar requirements.

Therefore, Sealed bids are invited from reputed suppliers, registered in the United Republic of Tanzania for the supply of the below equipment.

Lot	Description	Unit	Quantity
Lot 1	Oxygen Cylinder (50 ltrs)	pcs	656
	Oxygen Cylinder cart	pcs	208
Lot 2	Glucometer	set	100
	Pulse Oximeter	set	184
Lot 3	Handheld Oxygen Gas Monitor	set	20
	Gauge and Flowmeter with Humidifier	set	637

To obtain a complete set of Tender documents with detailed technical specifications please send your request through email address: Tanzania.logsshared@savethechildren.org.

Please submit a Complete and sealed tender document marked on top "ITT/SCITZ/2021/017 – Supply of Medical Equipment and FWAs" to the Save the Children Tanzania Country Office at the below address not later than 4.30 pm on 9th August 2021.

Tender Committee,
Save the Children Tanzania Country Office
257 Kiko Avenue, Mikocheni A, Mwai Kibaki Road
Dar es Salaam – Tanzania.

Save the Children reserves the right to accept or reject any application or part thereof, and is not bound to give reasons for its decision.

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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



CAPITAL RADIO

Why is the UK government turning off the tap during a global pandemic?

BRIGHTON

THE UK government's decision to reduce its Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget from 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) to 0.5% – a cut of around £4 billion this year – was confirmed last week by a majority of 35 votes in a House of Commons vote.

The cuts that came into effect from April this year have been especially devastating for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), a sector where the UK has been very prominent globally. Between 2015 and 2020, the UK helped 62.5 million people gain access to safe water and sanitation between 2015 and 2020.

A leaked memo of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) highlighted that cuts this year alone to bilateral aid for WASH could be as high as 80% – from £150 million in 2019 to £30 million in 2021. This sudden reduction will both undermine past progress, plunge millions into water insecurity and lead to unnecessary death, especially of children.

Providing clean drinking water is considered one of the most cost-effective ways of improving health and productivity across the global South. Inadequate access to WASH is responsible for 10% of the global disease burden, contributing to 1.6 million preventable deaths annually.

Having piped water frees up time for households, increasing opportunities for income generation, education, childcare and building social capital – especially for girls and women.

According to WaterAid, achieving universal basic water services would free up 77 million working days for women annually. Safe sanitation could prevent 6 billion cases of diarrhoea and 12 billion cases of helminths between 2021-2040, improving child health and nutrition.

For decades, OECD countries including the UK have been committed to improving access to drinking water and sanitation and, in 2010, the UN General Assembly officially recognized the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Despite this, 2 billion people globally lack access to safe water, and 3.6 billion – nearly half of humanity – lack access to safe sanitation. In fact, the WHO and UNICEF's Joint Monitoring Programme recently announced that achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of universal coverage by 2030 will require quadrupling current rates of progress.

It is never a good time to renege on global commitments and cut support for water and sanitation services – but the timing couldn't be worse than during a global pandemic.

The leaked FCDO memo recognises WASH as a priority area of UK Aid for the British public, especially in the time of Covid-19 and with the UK hosting the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). Yet, this is when the UK government decided to turn off the tap.

One example of a UK ODA-funded research project is Towards Brown Gold, which studies the sanitation challenge in off-grid small towns across Ethiopia, Ghana, India and Nepal – and examines how shit can be reimagined as a resource or “brown gold”.

This year the project is receiving one third of its original budget, with uncertainty of future budget restoration. This cut has been devastating to our partners, who have unstintingly worked to formulate collaborative plans and employ staff during the severe wave of Covid-19 in South Asia and civil war in Ethiopia.

These cuts have upset ongoing work and developing partnerships with local governments and communities to contribute to improved sanitation services for the most marginalised groups. Similar cuts have occurred



Water, along with pollutants and contaminating agents, flows into a canal in Maputo, Mozambique. Credit: John Hogg / World Bank

across hundreds of projects on water, sanitation, public health, and even critical Covid-19 research.

The government argues that the cut of £4 billion in ODA is needed as the UK's public finances have struggled

during the pandemic. Yet, while curbing ODA, the government spent £37 billion on Test and Trace – which

was considerably more expensive than similar programmes in other countries and yet failed to deliver on its basic promise.

The government has also increased defense spending by £16 billion, a quarter of which could have protected its ODA commitments. This makes it clear that the cuts are not financial, but rather ideological. While the pandemic has highlighted the need for mutual solidarity, they undermine the idea of working together to enhance global public goods.

The significant cut to UK aid is undoubtedly having devastating effects, with prolonged uncertainty for lifesaving programmes, humanitarian efforts and crucial development progress.

With concerns that the strict economic criteria needed for a return to 0.7% risks making the ODA cuts permanent, it remains imperative for the development community and for citizens to continue to urge the government to prioritise funding for essential WASH services across the global South.

The cut to UK aid is a political choice, not an economic necessity: in the midst of a pandemic the cuts to the UK's ODA budget negatively affect the world's poorest, the UK's reputation, and the effectiveness of research institutions in the UK and partners across the world.

No one is safe until we are all safe. How can the UK afford to renege on its global responsibility at such a time? **IPS**



North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Credit: UNICEF/Olivia Acland

RADIO One

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Rwanda wants more ICT interactions with Tanzania

By Smart Money Reporter

RWANDA and Tanzania have pledged to continue cooperating in the development of information communication technology.

ICT Minister DR Faustine Ndugulile and Rwandan counterpart, Paula Ingabire said in Dar es Salaam last week during a joint session to discuss how the two countries can further strengthen ICT use but also exchange expertise.

"TTCL has been an important link between our two countries as far as ICT is concerned, through the years it has ensured that Rwanda has access affordable and reliable broadband technology," Dr Ndugulile said.

He said for the past decade, TTCL's direct communication services has meant that Kigali which is described as a rising ICT nation has utilized such services very well. "It is for all such reasons that I decided to invite Minister Ingabire to Tanzania so that we can compare notes of the subject," he noted.

Briefing the ministers, TTCL's Waziri Kindamba said the visit was also aimed at cement business relations existing between TTCL and Rwanda through a contract for ICT broadband supply dating back a decade ago.

Kindamba pledged to maintain the highest level of efficiency and connectivity for Kigali saying the state owned enterprise is simply delivering on the two countries good diplomatic relations.

"In our discussions we have also agreed to continue strengthening business relation with the possibility of exploring new avenues to ensure sustainability," he said



ICT minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile

while noting that TTCL has mandate both under East African Community and SADC Protocols to connect landlocked countries through ICT.

Minister Ingabire thanked both the government and TTCL for the good working relations saying Rwanda is investing heavily in ICT because its wants to be a conference hub in EAC region hence the importance of ICT.

"Because of our good bilateral relations, our public institutions such as TCRA and RURA have also been working together to ensure that regulators understand our common goals," Ingabire said adding that he visit has added a lot of value to the existing relations hence a sustainable future.

She pointed out that TCRA's DataCentre has assisted Rwanda a lot in as far as data is concerned during the past decade.

Sedinga salutes YaraConnect Application saying its agro-inputs solutions platform

By Smart Money Reporter

INTRODUCTION of an online agriculture inputs and supply chain will ensure that farming is quickly transformed from largely subsistence to large scale commercial production creating more value through the process.

Inginga Regional Commissioner, Queen Sedinga said last week that YaraConnect will supplement efforts by the government and sector stakeholders to ensure that the sector attains optimal productivity levels.

Sedinga who launched the platform in her region said most farmers in the region and other parts of the country are still practicing traditional farming methods hence cannot realise maximum crop yields. "To make farming productive we need education and the right information on weather, seasonal changes and right use of inputs, hence YaraConnect App will help to elevate farming and at the same time support the efforts of extension workers who are overwhelmed to a large extent," she said.

She pointed out that the world has gone digital and it is imperative that we local agriculture is abreast with latest developments in ICT use for farming purposes.

"I call upon other agricultural inputs companies to

emulate what Yara has done to invest in such an important ICT tool which is innovative solutions that has so far proved to be useful for farmers in the country," said the Inginga RC noted.

"Let me point out that we are planning agricultural revolution in Inginga which should see the improvement of agriculture in the region to make the sector attain productivity levels that can raise the living standards of the inhabitants," Sedinga added.

Speaking at the launch, Yara Tanzania Business Manager, Andrew Ndululu called on all dealers of Yara products to use the opportunity offered by YaraConnect reward scheme by signing up en masse and gain points as rewards while serving their clients.

Ndululu said the company attaches importance in ensuring that knowledge and skills are important to customers to enrich the agriculture value chain. "We promise to cooperate with the government via the agriculture ministry and leadership of Inginga Region and we shall keep developing and introducing more innovative farming solutions so that stakeholders in our supply chain reap more benefits from agriculture," said Ndululu.



Inginga regional commissioner Queen Sedinga (2nd-L) shares a light moment with some Yara Tanzania Fertilizer Company officials, shortly she had launched YaraConnect App in Inginga municipality. Photo courtesy of Yara

Rwanda now gives nod to KCB, Atlas Mara bank deal

KIGALI

RWANDESE authorities have approved KCB Group deal to buy Banque Populaire du Rwanda (BPR) from London-listed financial services firm Atlas Mara Limited.

Atlas Mara made regulatory disclosures that it had obtained approvals to sell its banks in Rwanda and Botswana.

The firm said it was awaiting approvals from Tanzania where KCB Group has also set sights on African Banking Corporation Tanzania (BancABC).

KCB Group announced in November it had signed a deal with Atlas Mara to buy 62.06 per cent stake in BPR and a 100 per cent stake in BancABC.

"The Company has secured regulatory approval for the transactions with respects to its investments in Rwanda and Botswana, and parties are now in the process of concluding pre-completion conditions. Regulatory approval is pending with respect to the transaction with respect to its investment in Tanzania," Atlas Mara said in the regulatory filing posted on its website.

High rate of financial inclusion and digital banking have forced Kenyan lenders to look outside the Kenyan local markets for growth.

Mr Oigara said the transaction is part of KCB's "ongoing strategy to explore opportunities for new growth while in-

vesting in and maximising returns from the Group's existing businesses."

The push for bank acquisitions has seen KCB battle with Equity Bank Group for regional domination in the race for boosting their asset base to over Sh1 trillion.

KCB Bank and Equity Group have been top rivals, battling for superior customer base and assets to grow market share which has sent them on a trip of regional acquisitions.

The KCB deal came months after Equity Bank Group called off its plan to acquire four subsidiaries from Atlas Mara Limited in a move aimed at preserving its capital in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The parties had initiated talks in April last year, but the negotiations targeting Atlas Mara's units in Rwanda, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique dragged on until the pandemic hit.

Equity Bank then acquired Belgian tycoon George Forrest's 66.53 percent stake in Banque Commerciale du Congo (BCDC) for Sh10.4 billion (\$95m).

The Kenyan lender had already bought 86 percent shareholding of ProCredit Bank between 2015 and 2017 and renamed it Equity Bank Congo, then merge it with the new acquisition to create Equity Commercial Bank of Congo (Equity BCDC) biggest foreign bank in DRC.



A KCB branch in Rwanda's Southern province.

Tough questions for the European Central Bank to set new strategies



LONDON

IN WHAT is expected to be a quiet gathering ahead of the summer break, the European Central Bank's July 22 meeting is shaping up to be an important event following the release of its long-awaited strategy review.

Under the new strategy, unveiled on 8 July, the ECB will target an inflation of 2 percent and tolerate higher inflation when interest rates are as close to rock-bottom as they are now.

"July looked like a meeting that could have been cancelled," said Carsten Brzezowski, chief economist at ING Germany.

"It's more exciting now after a review has been given of what this means and different interpretations for future policy changes." Here are five major questions on the radar for the market

The ECB is expected to change its policy guidance to reflect the new 2 percent inflation target and is likely committed to a vigorous monetary policy response to achieve that target.

Under current guidance, the ECB will buy loans for as long as necessary and keep rates at current, record-low levels until it sees inflation "strongly converged" into its target.

Governing Council member Mario Centeno told BusinessShala last week that

its updated guidance should highlight the "room for maneuver" it has given itself on the credibility of inflation, or the risk of losing.

Nick Kounis, Head of Financial Markets Research at ABN AMRO, said: "We think the ECB will strengthen its forward guidance to allow the market to expect unchanged policy rates and net purchases under the Asset Purchase Program (APP) compared to currently expected." Long term indications."

Changing forward guidance may be the easy part. The 1.85 trillion euro (\$2.2 trillion) PEPP emergency stimulus plan, which expires next March, could be difficult to address and a question the ECB could delay until September.

While the announcement of an expansion of the PEPP cannot be ruled out, there are two reasons why ECB chief Christine Lagarde may choose to defer questions on the subject.

Firstly, the ECB has said that emergency bond purchases will remain high in the third quarter and that its next review will take place in September.

Second, the latest staff forecasts

are issued in September and the ECB may prefer to wait for updated inflation and growth projections before taking action.

The ECB is under pressure to show it is serious about its new 2 percent inflation target. That means this 20 billion euro per month APP - introduced in 2014 to tackle the last crisis and may be governed by tighter regulations - once the PEPP ends, add in some more flexibility.

"It is very likely that the APP will be recalculated in its size and even perhaps into something different," said Frederic Ducret at Pictet Wealth Management.

The coronavirus infection rate, driven by the infectious delta variant, is forcing more European countries to reimpose activity restrictions, potentially undermining the economic recovery.

Nearly 90 percent of economists polled by BusinessShala said the new COVID-19 variants were the biggest risk to the euro area economy, which they expect to grow a healthy 4.5 percent this year. The ECB may address the approach in a new simplified pre-news conference statement.

A scandal cost Brazil billionaire bank CEO's job, but not control

SAO PAULO

TWENTY-three days in a Rio de Janeiro prison and being stripped of his chief executive role was enough to make billionaire banker Andre Esteves consider leaving both Brazil and BTG Pactual, the investment bank that had established.

Six years later, Esteves, whose stake in the bank is worth about 40 billion reais (\$7.89 billion), is closing in on the withdrawal, four sources with direct knowledge of the situation told BusinessShala.

Far from leaving, sources said Esteves controlled key decisions at the bank, even though he had no formal management role there, after Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GSN) considered publicly held BTG as a private partnership, got ready.

Esteves' revival gained strength after he was first acquitted in one of Brazil's "car wash" corruption investigations in July 2018. It has now left most of its other legal troubles behind, and may soon receive final regulatory approval to rebuild its controlling stake in BTG.

In the two years since Brazilian regulators allowed him to rejoin a group of partners known as the "G7", which holds a majority stake in BTG but is separate from the board, Esteves has taken on retail banking, led negotiations on two acquisitions and worked directly with clients on initial public offerings and other deals, the sources said.

Sources said the departure of some partners in the bank, including former co-chief executive Marcelo Kalim, was because they either opposed his return or disagreed with his strategic push.

Kalim, who went on to find his online bank in December 2018, declined to comment on the circumstances of his exit.

While the bank's shares have risen 130% over the past two years, some corporate governance experts say Esteves' control over strategic decisions as a shareholder without a management role is troubling. He said this reflects poorly on the board of the

bank as well as the overall standards in Latin America's largest economy.

Francisco Reyes Willmiser, an expert in Latin American corporate law and a visiting professor at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, said the board should ask questions about what Esteves' role is in the bank. "They become tolerant of this kind of behavior and that's when things go wrong," Villamizar said.

The board of BTG has come under pressure. Proxy firms ISS and Glass Lewis recommended voting against some of the directors in April, saying the board had fewer independent directors than the company claimed. A large shareholder of Norway's Norges Bank followed the advice and has been voting against some of the nominees over the years, accusing them of a lack of independence.

However, BTG defended its corporate governance system. "Approximately 70% of the company is owned by its managing partners, which brings unprecedented long-term alignment of interest with its shareholders," the company said. The bank rejected the argument of proxy advisory firms, saying it had four independent directors, group.

Esteves, too, is comfortable assuming control as he owns about 25% of BTG's total capital and, as a major shareholder regulated by Brazil's central bank, can be held accountable if anything goes wrong, familiar with his thinking. One person said.

He said he has no plans to take on a formal management role or become the bank's chairman because "everyone" knows him as the person in charge, including BTG's public investors.

The US Federal Reserve recently signed off on a request for Esteves to acquire a controlling stake, while Brazil's central bank approved it in late 2019. Final piece of the gigs, approval from the European Central Bank to allow Esteves to regain its 61.55% voting stake. The G7 could arrive within weeks, two sources close to the group said.



Brazilian billionaire banker Andre Esteves

Japan central bank sees even moderate impact from global commodity inflation

TOKYO

JAPAN's consumer inflation is likely to rise as global commodity prices rise, albeit only for a temporary period, and to a lesser extent than Western economies, the Bank of Japan said on Monday.

The central bank said inflation was driven by strong foreign demand, so Japan's corporate profits would be impacted by higher import costs than offset by solid export gains.

"The underlying increase in commodity prices will worsen Japan's terms of trade for the time being," the BOJ said in a report. "But it will be more than positive such as increased exports and capital expenditure."

Japan's wholesale prices rose 5.1 percent in May from a year earlier, their fastest pace since 2008, driven by rising commodity prices.

But core consumer prices, the BoJ's preferred measure of inflation, rose just 0.1 percent in May as weak domestic demand prevented firms from passing on higher costs.

This is much weaker than the May of 3.4 percent in the main personal consumption expenditure price index, the US Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge. The BOJ said that even when demand is strong, Japanese companies are slower than Western counterparts to reduce costs, which will keep any increase in consumer inflation moderate.

"Given past experiences, any increase in consumer inflation driven only by raw material costs will not be widespread, and will ultimately be transitory," it said. How such costs translate into higher consumer inflation, the bank said, will depend on the strength of domestic demand, including consumption, and how this affects the pricing behavior of retailers.

In the latest quarterly estimates released Friday, the BOJ revised its core consumer inflation forecast from 0.1% to 0.6 percent, mainly due to rising fuel costs.

The BOJ said consumer inflation is likely to pick up by the end of the year due to higher energy costs and the base effect of a government rebate campaign that lowered travel charges late last year.



Language-learning app Duolingo eyes over US \$3 billionn valuation in US IPO

TEXAS

LANGUAGE learning app Duolingo Inc said on Monday it aims to value up to \$3.4 billion in its initial public offering in the United States.

About 5.1 million shares will be offered in the IPO, priced between \$85 and \$95, bringing in more than \$485 million at the top end of that range.

About 1.4 million shares will be offered by the selling shareholders, with the proceeds not going to the company.

Duolingo was valued at \$2.4 billion in November following a \$35 million investment from Durable Capital Partners and

General Atlantic.

Pittsburgh-headquartered Duolingo was founded in 2011 by engineers Louis von Ahn and Severin Hacker, who met at Carnegie Mellon University.

The company's flagship app has over 500 million downloads and is the highest-grossing app in the education category on both Google Play and Apple's App Store.

Goldman is the principal underwriter for Sachs & Company as well as Allen & Company IPO. The company plans to begin trading on the Nasdaq under the symbol "DUOL".

China moves electric automakers away from rare earth magnets



LONDON

AS TENSIONS between China and the United States rise, automakers in the West are trying to reduce their reliance on a key driver of the electric vehicle revolution – permanent magnets, sometimes smaller than a pack of cards, that electric engine.

Most are made from rare earth metals from China.

Metals are indeed abundant in magnets, but they can be dirty and difficult to produce. China has come to dominate production, and with demand for magnets increasing for all types of renewable energy, analysts say a real shortage could lie ahead.

Some auto companies have been trying to replace the rare earth for years. Now manufacturers with nearly half of global sales say they are limiting their use, a BusinessShala analysis found.

Automakers in the West say they are concerned not only about securing supplies, but also about huge price fluctuations and environmental damage in the supply chain.

This means managing the risk that scrap metals can reduce the distance a vehicle travels between charges. Without addressing that, border concerns that have long constrained the industry will increase, so access to metals could

become a competitive edge.

Rare Earth magnets, which are mostly made of neodymium, are widely seen as the most efficient way to power electric vehicles (EVs). China controls 90% of its supply.

Neodymium oxide prices more than doubled during last year's nine-month rally and are still up 90%. The US Commerce Department said in June that it was considering an investigation into the national security implications of neodymium magnet imports.

Companies trying to cut their use include Japan's third-largest carmaker Nissan Motor Co (7201.T), which told BusinessShala it is removing rare earths from the engines of its new Aria models.

Germany's BMW AG (BMW.DE) has done the same for its iX3 electric SUV this year, and Japan's two largest automakers in the world, Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) and Germany's Volkswagen AG (VOWG.p.DE) has told BusinessShala they are also cutting back on minerals. (look for the factbox)

Rare earths are important to the electronics, defense and renewable energy industries. Because some can produce a constant magnetic force, the magnets they make are known as permanent magnets.

Electric cars with these require less battery power than those with normal magnets, so vehicles can travel longer distances before being recharged. They were an unsuspecting choice for EV motors until about 2010, when China threatened to cut off its supply of rare earths during a dispute with Japan. Prices jumped.

Now, the supply concerns are opening up a divide between Chinese EV producers and their Western rivals.

While automakers in the West are cutting back, the Chinese are still churning out vehicles using permanent magnets. A Chinese rare earth industry official told BusinessShala that if geopolitical risks are kept aside, China's potential could "fully meet the needs of the world's automotive industry."

Overall, based on sales data from JATO Dynamics, manufacturers that made up 46% of total light vehicle sales in 2020 said they planned to eliminate, eliminate, or are reducing rare earths in electric vehicles. Huh.

And new ventures are popping up to develop electric motors without metals, or to promote the recycling of magnets used in existing vehicles.

Murray Eddington, who runs the electrified powertrain department at the British consultancy, said, "Companies that spend tens or hundreds of millions developing a family of products ... they don't want to put all their eggs in one basket - that's the sugar basket." Drive system design. "They want to develop alternatives."

BMW says it has redesigned its EV technology to meet the shortage of rare earths; Renault SA (RENA.PA) has transformed its rare-earth-free Zoe model into a growing niche of small urban cars that don't need an extended driving range.

Tesla Inc (TSLA.O), the US EV giant, whose \$621 billion market value is below the top five automakers combined - is choosing both types of motors.

AutoNation tops earnings estimates, expects new strong vehicle demand

CERRITOS

AUTONATION Inc said it expects strong demand for new vehicles next year as well, as lower interest rates and consumer preference for personal vehicles in the pandemic helped the top US auto retailer lower quarterly earnings estimates

"Consumers are buying vehicles even before they come to our store. We expect the current environment of demand exceeding supply to continue in 2022," said Chief Executive Officer Mike Jackson.

Global semiconductor chip shortages have shrunk vehicle inventories and forced automakers to cut production, prompting consumers to pay more for cars.

In its latest auto-industry forecast released in June, JD Power said the average price of a new vehicle was set to hit a record \$38,088 in the first half of 2021, up 10.1% from a year earlier.

Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based AutoNation's gross profit per vehicle jumped 89 percent to \$4,157 for the quarter ended June 30, while gross profit per used vehicle rose 24 percent to \$2,240.

The company had 14 days of supply for new vehicles in the quarter, compared to 49 days a year ago.

Adjusted net income from continuing operations came in at a record \$4.83 per share, easily beating Refinitiv IBES estimates of \$2.81. Record revenue of \$6.98 billion was also higher than expected.

The company had \$1.6 billion in liquidity as of June 30 and said its board had authorized \$1 billion in share buybacks.

AutoNation also said it is on track to open four new stores in the United States in the second half and 12 new stores in 2022.

Asian shares slip to 1-week lows on renewed virus scare, inflation worry

TOKYO

ASIAN shares fell to a one-week low on Monday and the safe-haven yen, believed to be the safe-haven yen, edged higher amid a continuing spurt in coronavirus cases and fears of rising inflation, while oil prices eased. Prices fell on oversupply concerns.

In a sign the gloomy mood will spread elsewhere, Euro-stocks 50 futures fell 0.7%, while those for Germany's DAX fell 0.6%. London's FTSE futures were down 0.8 percent.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei (N225) fell 1.3 percent. Australia's benchmark stock index (AXJO) was down 0.7 percent, while South Korea's KOSPI (KSII) fell nearly 1 percent. Chinese stocks were mixed with the blue-chip index (CSI300) turning mildly positive after narrowing earlier losses.

This left MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan (MIAPJ0000PUS) at 677.45 points, a level not seen since July 12. Down 1.3 percent on Monday, the index was on track for its biggest daily percentage drop since July 8.

Oil prices fell after an agreement over the weekend within the OPEC+ group of producers to boost production at a time when the outlook for demand is still cloudy.

Global economic growth has begun to show signs of fatigue, while many countries, especially in Asia, are struggling to curb the highly contagious delta version of the coronavirus and have been forced into some form of lockdown. The fear of rising inflation in the market for a long time is also haunting the investors.

Bank of America economists lowered their forecast for US economic growth this year to 6.5 percent, from 7 percent previously, but maintained their 5.5 percent forecast for next year.

"As for inflation, the bad news is that it is likely to remain higher in the near term," he said in a note, pointing to his latest reading from his proprietary inflation meter that remains high. "The good news is ... we are peaking at least for the next few months, as base effects are less favorable and shortage pressure shifts from goods to services."

US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has repeatedly said that any increase in inflation is expected to be fleeting, indicating that monetary policy will remain supportive for some time.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Dow futures slide 1pc as virus surge raises growth worries

WASHINGTON

FUTURES tracking the blue-chip Dow fell 1 percent on Monday, with economy-linked value and travel stocks taking a hit after a spike in global COVID-19 cases raised fresh concerns about slowing economic growth.

New U.S. COVID-19 cases surged 70 percent last week compared with the prior seven days to an average of 30,000 new infections a day, fueled by the Delta variant. Deaths rose 26 percent week-over-week to an average of 250 lives lost a day, mostly in unvaccinated patients.

Shares of travel companies, which took a hammering last year during lockdowns but have climbed recently on reopening hopes, led declines before the opening bell.

Airline operators and cruiseliners including Southwest Airlines Co, Delta Air Lines Inc, United Airlines, American Airlines, Royal Caribbean Group, Carnival Corp and Norwegian Cruise Line dropped between 2.0 percent and 3.6 percent.

Rate-sensitive lenders Bank of America Corp, JPMorgan Chase & Co, Goldman Sachs Group Inc, Morgan Stanley and Citigroup Inc all shed about 2% each, tracking a fall in the benchmark 10-year Treasury yield to mid-February lows. [US/]

"The peak of economic growth rates is behind us and growth worries are back. The good news is that even if the peak of some economic indicators is behind us, equities should continue to perform positively in the medium term in a positive economic environment," Berenberg strategists said in a note.

"However, high valuations, COVID-19 fears, low trading volumes over the summer and high investor equity allocations argue against significantly rising

markets for the time being."

Marathon Petroleum Corp, Chevron Corp, Schlumberger NV, Exxon Mobil Corp, Halliburton and Occidental Petroleum fell between 1.8 percent and 4.1 percent, as oil prices slid after OPEC+ producers agreed to raise output. [O/R]

Wall Street's main indexes closed lower on Friday, weighed down by declines in Amazon, Apple and other heavyweight technology stocks, while defensive utilities rallied 1 percent and real estate hit an intraday record high.

After strong quarterly reports from big banks last week, focus shifts to tech earnings with companies including International Business Machines Corp, Netflix, Texas Instruments and Intel set to report this week.

Analysts on average expect 72 percent growth in earnings per share for S&P 500 companies, according to IBES estimate data from Refinitiv.

At 6:43 a.m. ET, Dow E-minis were down 367 points, or 1.06 percent, S&P 500 e-minis were down 33.25 points, or 0.77 percent, and Nasdaq 100 e-minis were down 57 points, or 0.39 percent.

Johnson & Johnson slipped 0.8 percent after Reuters reported that the drugmaker is exploring a plan to offload liabilities from widespread baby powder litigation into a newly created business that would then seek bankruptcy protection.

U.S.-listed shares of Alibaba Holding, Baidu and ridesharing app Didi Global declined more than 2 percent on renewed fears of anti-monopoly action against major technology firms.

Zoom Video Communications Inc fell 2 percent after the teleconferencing services provider announced a \$14.7 billion all-stock deal to buy cloud-based call center operator Five9 Inc.



WORLD

England's 'freedom day' marred by soaring cases and isolation chaos

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson's 'freedom day' ending over a year of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in England was marred yesterday by surging infections, warnings of supermarket shortages and his own forced self-isolation.

Johnson's bet that he can get one of Europe's largest economies firing again because so many people are now vaccinated marks a new chapter in the global response to the coronavirus.

If the vaccines prove effective in reducing severe illness and deaths even while infections reach record levels, Johnson's decision could offer a path out of the worst public health crisis in decades. If not, more lockdowns could loom.

But Johnson's big day was marred by "pingdemic chaos" as a National Health Service app ordered hundreds of thousands of people to self-isolate - prompting warnings supermarket shelves could soon be emptied.

"If we don't do it now we've got to ask ourselves, when will we ever do it?" Johnson said just hours after he was forced to abandon a plan to dodge the 10-day quarantine requirement for himself and finance minister Rishi Sunak.

"This is the right moment but we've got to do it cautiously. We've got to remember that this virus is sadly still out there."

Britain has the seventh highest death toll in the world, 128,708, and is forecast to soon have more new infections each day than it did at the height of a second wave of the virus earlier this year. On Sunday there were 48,161 new cases.

But, outstripping European peers, 87% of Britain's adult population has had one vaccination dose, and more than 68% have had the two doses which provide fuller protection. Daily deaths, currently at around 40 per day, are just a fraction of a peak of above 1,800 seen in January.

The FTSE 100 share index fell to a two-month low on Monday on concerns that economic recovery could be in danger. UK-listed shares of cruise operator Carnival Plc, and airlines easyJet and British Airways-owner IAG fell between 4% and



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

6.7%. The pound fell to a three-month low.

FREEDOM DAY?

From midnight, laws in England requiring masks to be worn in shops and other indoor settings lapsed, along with capacity limits in bars and restaurants, and rules limiting the number of people who can socialise together.

Johnson sets COVID-19 restrictions for England, with devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland making their own policy.

As businesses across England faced a shortage of workers due to the NHS app pinging people and telling them to isolate, supermarkets warned they faced strain. "It's a major issue across every industry at the moment," Marks & Spencer CEO Steve Rowe said. "Our COVID cases are roughly doubling every week and the pinging level is about three to one of COVID cases, so we're seeing that growing exponentially."

"If there's shortages we'll have to manage it by changing hours of stores, reducing hours. Where the industry will see the pain is in the supply chain, because logistics runs tight anyway to be efficient."

British society appears split on the restrictions: some want tough rules to continue as they fear the virus will keep killing people and overwhelm hospitals, but others have chafed at the most onerous restrictions in peacetime history.

Johnson faced an outcry on Sunday when he and finance minister Sunak tried to dodge quarantine with a special scheme for senior ministers and civil servants. He will now isolate at his country residence at Chequers after health minister Sajid Javid tested positive.

As the dawn rose over London, clubbers danced through the night at one of the first rule-free live music events since the pandemic began last year.

"I have not been allowed to dance for like what seems like forever," said Georgia Pike, 31, at the Oval Space in Hackney, east London. "I want to dance, I want to hear live music, I want the vibe of being at a gig, of being around other people."

Agencies

Russia implementing UNSC resolution by holding contacts with Taliban - diplomat

MOSCOW



RUSSIA is implementing the United Nations Security Council resolution when it holds contacts with the Taliban (a radical movement outlawed in Russia), which is listed as a participant in the intra-Afghan talks in this resolution, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Sunday.

"The Taliban movement is outlawed in our country as an organization. The matter is that Russia has repeatedly stressed that it doesn't support, moreover, it reiterates its commitment to fight against international terrorism and condemns any terrorist activities, including the Taliban movement," she said in an interview with the Rossiya-1 television channel.

"But there is a small but important nuance. The Taliban movement is part of the intra-Afghan dialogue and the UN Security Council called on all countries to promote such dialogue."

The Security Council resolution of March 2020 mentions the Taliban movement in this capacity. We only implement the Security Council resolution [by holding contacts with the Taliban]. We supported it [the resolution] as a country and we implement it in practice," she said.

She slammed media criticism of Russia's contacts with the Taliban as a political contract. "We all are different people. We may and must have different views, including political views. It is normal, it is good as a matter of fact."

The matter is that facts must not be twisted. They are not political views. Law is law. Of course, it can be enforced, it can be interpreted. But one must know key international legal documents," Zakharova noted.

Agencies

South Korea's Moon drops plan to visit Japan for Olympics

TOKYO/SEOUL

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in will not visit Tokyo for the upcoming Olympics, his office said yesterday, scrapping plans for what would have been his first summit with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

The announcement came after Seoul lodged a protest over a news report on Friday that a senior diplomat at Japan's embassy in Seoul had said Moon was "masturbating" when describing his efforts to improve relations between the two countries.

"President Moon has decided not to visit Japan," Moon's press secretary Park Soo-hyun said at a briefing. "As the Tokyo Olympics is a peaceful festival for all people around the world, we hope that Japan will host it safely and successfully."

Speaking to reporters in Japan, Suga said he was not in a position to comment on Moon's decision not to visit Japan for the Olympics. Regarding the diplomat's remark, Suga described it as "inappropriate".

The latest uproar further inflamed relations between the two nations feuding over territorial claims and their wartime history, dashing any remaining hopes that the Tokyo Games might offer a fresh start for bilateral and regional cooperation.

Japan's Yomiuri newspaper earlier on Monday reported Moon would meet Suga in Tokyo on Friday, in time for the start of the Olympics. But both governments quickly denied a meeting had been finalized, with Moon's office citing an "last minute obstacle". Suga and Moon were planning to discuss issues that have strained relations over generations, including compensation for people forced to work in Japanese firms and military brothels during Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule, according to the Yomiuri report.

Japan was also planning to replace a senior Seoul-based diplomat after his widely reported comment last week likening Moon's dealings with Japan to "masturbation", the Yomiuri reported.

Agencies

Germany has another African swine fever case in farm pigs

HAMBURG

A THIRD case of African swine fever (ASF) was confirmed over the weekend in farm pigs in the eastern German state of Brandenburg, German authorities said.

The case was on a small farm with four pigs inside the restriction zone where the disease is common among wild boar, the Brandenburg state health ministry said.

ASF was found in two nearby farms late last week.

China and a series of other pork buyers banned imports of German pork in September 2020 after the first case was confirmed in wild animals.

The discovery in farms is not expected to have a major market impact as German pork exports are already subject to bans from many importers outside the EU, experts said on Friday.

The disease is not dangerous to humans but it is fatal to pigs. Many countries impose bans on pork from regions suffering from the disease.

Agencies

OPEC+ countries agree to boost oil production

VIENNA

THE Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC countries, known as OPEC+, agreed in an online meeting on Sunday to boost oil production by 400,000 barrels a day as demand increases.

OPEC and its non-OPEC allies also reached a deal to phase out the cut of 5.8 million barrels per day of oil production by September 2022 "subject to market conditions."

Last year OPEC+ cut production by a record 10 million barrels per day (bpd) amid a pandemic-induced decrease in

demand and dropping prices. The adjustment was slowly reduced and currently stands at 5.8 million barrels.

In its statement, OPEC+ said that countries had agreed to adjust upward their overall production as from August and then assess market developments and participating countries' performance in December.

The meeting noted the ongoing strengthening of market fundamentals, with oil demand showing clear signs of improvement and OECD stocks falling, as the economic recovery continued in most parts of the world with the



Gas prices are displayed at Mobil gas station in the Brooklyn borough of New York, the United States. Xinhua

help of accelerating vaccination programs.

The meeting also resolved to

continue monthly meetings to assess market conditions and decide on production level

adjustments for the following month, endeavoring to end production adjustments by the end of September 2022.

According to the statement, OPEC+ also agreed higher output quotas from May 2022 for several members, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kuwait and Iraq.

The UAE will see its baseline production from current 3.168 million bpd to 3.5 million bpd from May 2022, while that of Saudi Arabia and Russia each from 11 million bpd up to 11.5 million bpd. And Iraq and Kuwait each will see their baselines climb by 150,000 bpd.

Xinhua

Kyrgyz president gives 'highest mark' to CPC for great achievements

BISHKEK

"I WOULD give the highest mark for the great achievements of the Communist Party (of China) in building and reforming China," President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Zhaparov has said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua.

Thanks to the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), "the People's Republic of China has made great strides and has become a powerful modern state," he said, stressing China's important role in the international arena.

The Kyrgyz leader said that the CPC has always defended the fundamental interests of the Chinese people.

"One of the main reasons for the victory of the Chinese Communist Party in the revolution and the successful con-

struction of socialism is that the party enjoys the sincere support and love of the entire people," he added.

Zhaparov noted China's achievements in poverty alleviation.

"Thus, 770 million people in China have (been) lifted out of poverty since the late 1970s," he said, adding that China has become a major contributor to global poverty reduction.

The Kyrgyz president believed that China has achieved such great results thanks to Chinese President Xi Jinping's unprecedented determination and political wisdom.

"He is pursuing deep reforms with extensive experience in domestic and international relations. I would say that he sets an example of leadership in planning the



country's future and mobilizing the strength of the Chinese people," Zhaparov said.

Speaking about bilateral relations, Zhaparov highlighted that China is an eternal neighbor and friend for Kyrgyzstan.

"The border between the two countries will always be the border of friendly cooperation," he said.

"We are proud of our friendly, good-neighborly and comprehensive strategic cooperation with China, and

highly value such cooperation," the president added.

"In addition, the positions of the two countries are similar on most international and regional issues," he said, expressing Kyrgyzstan's interest in the further development of comprehensive cooperation with China based on openness and mutual trust, which is in the interests of both peoples.

Kyrgyzstan is one of the first countries to support and take an active part in the Belt and Road Initiative.

"We see this initiative as a serious source and incentive for the implementation of joint projects, as well as the development of infrastructure," he said.

"Today, the most important and promising areas of bilateral trade and economic, investment cooperation are

infrastructure and transport, tourism, energy, processing industry, agriculture and mining," he added.

Zhaparov highlighted that Kyrgyzstan is actively working to improve the investment climate in the country.

"Creation of a favorable business environment, as well as protection of the rights of foreign investors is one of the priorities of Kyrgyzstan," the president said, adding "the doors to our country are always open for reliable Chinese investors."

On cultural cooperation, Zhaparov said it is one of the most important areas of Kyrgyzstan-China relations and the close cooperation in the cultural and educational spheres gives a great impetus to promote the common interests of both sides.

Xinhua

South China's Shenzhen passes local law for better protection of personal data

SHENZHEN in south China's Guangdong province, a paragon of the country's reform and opening-up, is going to put into effect the country's first local law on data management from Jan. 1, 2022 for better protection of personal data.

The Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Data Regulations, released on July 6, requested that data processors shall not refuse to provide core features or services for users who don't consent to have their personal data processed, as there have been huge complaints from app users about the mobile applications that force them to accept authorization

requests.

For instance, they are often asked to provide information about their geographical locations when simply installing a flashlight app on their mobile phones, or offer access to their address books when downloading a text editor.

People will have to be fully informed of and give their consent for processing of personal data before it is processed, and shall be provided with means of withdrawing their consent at a later date with no unreasonable restrictions or conditions attached, the regulations stipulate.

Some of the information collected

by apps can be exploited commercially, which is believed to be an important reason for app providers' insistence on collecting personal information. Personalized recommendations based on user portrait analysis, though benefiting users with targeted and individualized services, could be a trouble for them as well.

To address the problem, the regulations state clearly that data processors that intend to conduct user portrait analysis of individuals for the purpose of improving the quality of products or services shall inform the individuals of the specific purpose and main rules of the activity.

In addition, users have the right to refuse personalized recommendations based on analyses of their profiles, and data processors shall provide users with effective means of refusal in an accessible way, according to the regulations.

The local law is also the first domestic law that addresses related rules for fair market competition concerning data, incorporating special provisions for a series of chaotic phenomena in the data factor market.

Experts believe that Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Data Regulations will serve as an example for

other cities to follow when it comes to processing personal data.

China is home to nearly one billion Internet users, who form a cornerstone of the country's digital economy. In fact, personal information protection doesn't necessarily contradict the development of digital economy. The key is to find a balance between the protection and reasonable utilization of personal data.

In recent years, China has made a lot of efforts to explore the standardization of data processing.

The country's Cybersecurity Law that took effect on June 1, 2017 in-

cludes clear provisions related to various aspects of information management, such as collection of personal information and the obligation of online service providers to protect users' personal information.

Since 2019, four government authorities including Cyberspace Administration of China and Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) have carried out a special campaign on the prominent problem of illegal collection and use of personal information by apps for two consecutive years.

People's Daily

SPORT



Kelvin John

Kelvin John optimistic of excelling in Belgium

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE name of young Tanzanian footballer, Kelvin John (aged 18), became known to the country's sports lovers through his craftsmanship, while he was playing for the country's national U-17 and national U-20 sides.

His talent has landed him a deal in the Belgium side, KRC Genk, he signed a three-year contract with the club.

John had started playing at a talent development center, known as Football House, located at Bwiru in Mwanza.

The center groomed the youngster before he joined Brooke House College Football Academy Center in Leicester City in the UK.

John recently signed a contract with Genk, Tanzania's senior national side skipper Mbwana Samatta's former side.

John noted that playing for KRC Genk is more than a dream.

"I thank God this has ended safely and I am officially a legitimate player of Belgium's KRC Genk. It is more than a dream for me to stay here for three years and I ask Tanzanians to support me by motivating me so that I can achieve my goals," the youngster disclosed.

The forward, who also serves as national U-20 side's skipper, disclosed: "It was a statement that was hardly a surprise to me. I was aware a year ago I was unable to join this club due to age but after being told I'm eligible for registration I was very happy as I did not expect my position was reserved for the whole year."

He noted: "Samatta is my role model, so far I have learned many things from him on the field, how he supports his team and how he supports the national team."

He disclosed: "Genk is my new team and it is a team that my brother, Sammata, had played for. He has opened the doors to success. I want to go further than he has. That is why I have been following him."

John moreover opened up on the message he received from Samatta a few hours after the former signed his contract with Genk, saying: "He said believes in my ability to put effort into my work and he believes I will do well."

According to John, he was emotional after getting Samatta's message, which reached him after he was officially announced as Genk's player.

He disclosed apart from the message Samatta sent him, he has as well been connecting him with the club leaders along

with the team's senior players so that they can lead him well.

"I have been well received in Genk. I have been given enough cooperation. They believe in me. They know I will do a lot and I ask God to stand by my side and fulfill what they are relying on," he noted.

John further disclosed Belgium's weather has become a challenge for him.

The forward noted: "I have lived in two different countries and I have experienced a similar challenge in both...now I am in Genk, it is very cold, something that affects me, but I believe in change... I will adapt and see it as normal."

The youngster added: "I grew up in Mwanza and I have often been there for a long time even during my vacations, the weather in Mwanza is completely different from the cold I experience in Genk, it is cold throughout."

John says he sees himself thrive for more years in top-flight abroad.

The youngster disclosed: "Every player has targeted to play outside Tanzania. Everyone wants to go further by playing professional football, so I make sure I do not give up so that I can achieve my dream and believe I can get where I want," he disclosed.

John added: "No one was expecting to either hear or see me play for Genk at this age. I have the effort, respect, and passion for this work, discipline is the secret, I feel that I will achieve success beyond these three years I have signed here."

"In football, you can't say where you will be in the next few years, my efforts will hopefully help me move to a better and more competitive league after three years," the youngster stated.

John who has already made his debut for Taifa Stars has opened up on his pre-match rituals, saying he always prays to God to save him from sustaining an injury while he is playing and also prays that the youthful performer can score goals.

"A striker is an important player on the field but if every player gets a chance he can score, I can finish all 90 minutes in peace, I have to create a chance or score. If I don't do that I lack peace and I feel like I didn't do justice to the importance given to me on the field," he said.

Players choose the numbers for their jerseys for a variety of reasons and for John the situation is the same.

"I wear jersey number 10 because it is my birth date. I often use it as a reference. I decided to choose a date and not a month because for my mother it was a wonderful experience to give birth on that date," he said.

Best Premier League player twisted issue, but key indicators make some cases solid

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

ONE debate that defies common rules of analysis is picking the best player for instance in the now ending Vodacom Premier League, as a variety of yardsticks contend as to what criteria - or criterion, strictly speaking - needs to be used to select or find such player.

To start with, there is a problem of definition, for instance, whether the best player was simply the most skillful on the pitch (which begets the issue of what position such player would be playing, as strikers are excessively favoured by this criterion).

Another area of disposition is the most hardworking player for instance helping the club side to achieve - at what level?

Numerous auxiliary questions can be asked in passing, for instance, if the best player in the premier league could be sourced from a club ranking second, third, fourth, or other, as the more one descends from the champion side, the less likely there is a good enough player to take the number one spot.

Here we are looking singularly at skills, as such a player would have been noticed by the topmost clubs, and more predictably by the most endowed side, the way Bernard Morrison, the most captivating player of the city archrival side to the defending champions as the league started, was carted away soon.

But if it is the most hardworking player helping a club to achieve 'better,' there is plenty to choose from.

That already contains a preliminary answer, in that given the extent to which coaches and club scouts go to seek able players for each position on the pitch, getting the most skillful players outside the side that finally won the title is a difficult exercise.

The reason is that unlike foreign (or say European circuit) premier leagues where the ability to spend is comparable across a whole swathe of clubs but the strategies often differ - or simply opinions about this or that player - in our case ability to recruit good players,



Yanga midfielder, Mukoko Tonombe, was presented with this season's Vodacom Premier League's Best Player of the Month prize for October. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

and especially expatriate ones - is sharply skewed in favour of the three top clubs, and here the hierarchy is equally accentuated.

In that case, the likelihood to get the best player in terms of skills is inexorably in favor of the champions, but if it is a workmanship award, of helping a team to get results, anything goes.

Some other issues perhaps belong to football philosophy, as to whether the best players are usually strikers, or there is a balance between striking and defense, and purists shall demand if there is a balance between defense, striking, and 'mid fielding.'

While no rule can be proclaimed, as usual, a few 'rules of thumb' are helpful, for instance, that a good player is simply the most captivating player, which enables other things to be added, by 'factorizing' how 'captivating' such player has shown to be.

If such a player is a striker, not much needs to be said as to how he will look on the pitch; the onus is on the others.

If a midfielder is an exceptional player, chances are that he won't just be providing 'assists' but make plenty of scores himself, as calculated strikes are part of the profile of a captivating player.

With defenders there is the usual ability to overlap into attack (in the sense of making a difference deep into midfield) but how solid a defender appears to be is something quickly noticed, how he marshals the side, but often there are too many varied sentiments for a pick to be made.

Some names were mentioned by pundits in FM radio stations debates for instance with at least one Young Africans SC defender, but the view doesn't appear convincing that the fellow could presumably be the premier league best player. Just a club-best player.

At times it is the goalkeeper who becomes the

toast of a club team, for instance in 1973 the Kenyan flagship daily, 'The Daily Nation' headlined a vital Simba SC continental encounter: 'Mambosasa beats Hearts of Oak!'

At a personal level, and based on the premises reviewed above, it is somewhat safe to align with FM radio stations' pundits who have tapped Chama Jr at the Simba forward line as the overall best player, not the best scorer but tops the charts with scores combined with assists (that is, last passes converted by another player).

There is another dimension that did not arise or be heard intently enough in at least two such discussions, that an excellent player ought to rise to the occasion in the most taxing encounter, and for Simba this could be said to be the return match with Kaizer Chiefs from down south.

Bernard Morrison scored the last goal with a pointed long shot as the goalie had stepped out of the goal line, while top contender (for best player nomination) John Bocco scored from an uncanny sense of position against the converging defenders.

Still, Chama Jr cut through the defense and planted the ball into the net - in an exquisite performance and finishing.

No one improved on such dribbling skills, fortitude, and composure, this year.

Gomes: Simba SC should prepare intensively for Federation Cup final

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes, has called on the club's management to ensure his team leaves Dar es Salaam early for Kigoma, ready for the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final.

Simba will come up against age-old rivals Yanga in the showdown's final on July 25.

Gomes has issued the advice, seeking to see to it his outfit has more than a day to prepare in Kigoma.

Simba SC's co-ordinator, Abbas Ali, disclosed after their Premier League clash against Namungo FC in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, they will rest for two days before moving to Kigoma on July 21.

Simba SC will leave for the region almost 24 hours before their opponents, Yanga, move to the region the following day. Yanga had made their way back to Dar es Salaam yesterday from Dodoma after locking horns with Dodoma Jiji FC in a top-flight match.

Yanga on Sunday played their last top-flight tie against Dodoma Jiji FC, which ended with the sides locked to a goalless draw. Young Africans have returned to Dar es Salaam to prepare for the Confederation Cup Final match against Simba SC to be played in Kigoma on July 25, at Lake Tanganyika Stadium.

Young Africans advanced to the Federation Cup final by beating Biashara United of Mara 1-0 in the last four's clash at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora. Simba SC booked a place in the



competition's final with 1-0 victory over Azam FC in the semi-final at Majimaji Stadium in Ruvuma.

In another development, Simba SC keeper, Aishi Manula, pointed out he is currently thinking of winning the best goalkeeper award in Africa.

According to the shot-stopper, he is used to lifting the best keeper prize in Tanzania.

Manula made the remarks after the Simba SC received this season's Premier League trophy at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on Sunday.

Manula said a player normally puts himself in a position to win something bigger than that he has won.

He said he believes the chances of becoming the best keeper in Africa are there, with his club having got another chance to participate in the CAF Champions League for the fourth time in a row.

Manula noted: "I'm targeting to be the best goalkeeper in Africa. I believe nothing will stop me because I am determined to fight for that position." He said: "When we participated in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League, I worked hard, I dared to become one of the few goalkeepers to score in the tournament's group stage." Manula disclosed: "Next season I have another chance to flourish than I did this season with my team reaching the quarterfinals."

Manula is the best keeper in Tanzania for two consecutive seasons, he is, moreover, the first-choice shot-stopper in the senior national team 'Taifa Stars'.

Azam FC set to release players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC management is in the process of reducing the number of players within the outfit, who did not live up to expectations, to bring in new players with a view to reinforcing the club.

Azam FC has secured a place in next season's CAF Confederation Cup after finishing third in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

The side will take part in the CAF Confederation Cup alongside the country's other team, Biashara United, which came fourth in the top flight.

The Vodacom Premier League champions Simba SC and second-placed Yanga will battle it out in the next season's CAF Champions League.

Azam FC assistant coach, Vivier Bahati, said: "First of all we are very proud of landing the opportunity to play in the CAF Confederation Cup next season. These are our achievements this season."

"Heading to the tournament, we are determined to make sure we do well in it and we must prepare a team that will be strong, so we hope to improve areas that we think have shortcomings."

Bahati added: "We will therefore get rid of some of the players we think did not prove their worth."

Meanwhile, after the conclusion of this season's Vodacom Premier League, which had Simba SC being crowned champions for the fourth time, the next season's main transfer window has been opened.

A statement issued by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo, stated that the transfer period for Premier League, First Division (FDL), Second Division (SDL) clubs, and the Mainland Women's Premier League (SWPL) for 2021/22 season opened yesterday and it will come to conclusion on August 31, 2021.

The TFF urged the clubs to register and complete the foreign players' transfer within the scheduled period and if any challenges need to be addressed, the clubs should contact the TFF Competition Committee in advance.

At the same time, TFF has insisted that there will be no extra time after the conclusion of the registration period.

Already some clubs including Azam FC and Yanga have started recruiting foreign players ready for next season.



Joyland International Schools' Director, Fredrick Okuku (L), issues instructions to students before the latter participated in a race, which was part of a bonanza that took place at the school's ground at Toangoma, Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

PSG, Man United, Leipzig having best transfer windows so far

By Bill Connelly/ESPN Staff Writer

SOCCKER never stops. Now that Euro 2020 and the Copa America are in the books, the soccer world has flipped right back to its second-favorite topic beyond the game itself: transfers.

It's going to be a dizzying few weeks of rumours and potential moves, with big names such as Kylian Mbappe, Erling Haaland and Robert Lewandowski, among others, the subject of heavy innuendo. But while we sift through what is and isn't real in that regard, it might be useful to step back and look at what has happened to date.

Acknowledging that there are still loads of moves to come, here are the 10 European teams that have had the best off-seasons to date. We will update this periodically as the transfer window continues to unfold.

(Note: the transfer fees listed come from Transfermarkt.)

1. Paris Saint-Germain

Key additions: 22-year-old right-back Achraf Hakimi (Internazionale) for \$66 million; 29-year-old defensive midfielder Danilo Pereira (FC Porto) for \$17.6 million; 22-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan), 30-year-old midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum (Liverpool) and 35-year-old centre-back Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid) on free transfers.

Key losses: None.

PSG needed to nail this transfer window. As strange as it might feel to say, France's richest club didn't seem to have as much standout talent as it probably should have had in 2020-21. Yes, Mbappe and Neymar are guaranteed matchup advantages, but against the best teams on the schedule (in particular, Manchester City in the Champions League semifinals), those were just about the only advantages they were guaranteed to have. And while their runners-up finish in Ligue 1 was a little bit of a statistical fluke -- their xG differential was far better than champions Lille's, and they were unsustainably unsuccessful in zero- and one-score games -- poor execution also played a role.

Thus far, PSG have indeed stuck the landing. Mbappe's contract status will continue to dominate the overall narrative -- it expires in 2022, and the club will have to figure out whether to keep him for 2021-22 or deal him if it becomes 100% clear he isn't going to re-sign -- but Mbappe aside, they have made massive squad upgrades. Wijnaldum and Ramos are Champions League winners who each played some of their best ball in 2019-20 before injury and the general oddity of the season dragged them each down last season. Meanwhile, they didn't even need a new goalkeeper but saw the opportunity to bring the towering and dynamic Donnarumma over from Milan all the same.

He might not be the biggest name, but Hakimi might be the biggest addition. It isn't a coincidence that Borussia Dortmund got worse, and Inter Milan got better, when he moved from the former to the latter last season. This era is leaning more and more on dynamic play on the wing, and potentially bringing wing-backs back into style, and Hakimi is one of the best in the world at the position. He has 12 goals and 18 assists in league play in the past two seasons, and he's got Champions League experience. He is just about a third guaranteed matchup advantage ... as long as Mbappe remains in the squad, at least.

2. Manchester United

Key addition: 21-year-old winger Jadon Sancho (Borussia Dortmund) for \$101 million.

Key losses: None.

United almost certainly aren't done making moves -- among others, Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane could join soon -- but the one major deal they've pulled off so far has been spectacular. Sancho inexplicably couldn't make it off of Gareth Southgate's bench during the Euros, but United's years-long flirtation with bringing him aboard is proof that he is heading to a club that appreciates his output. And what output it is.

Sancho averaged 12.3 goals and 13.7 assists in three full Bundesliga seasons (he has produced five and six, respectively, in 21 career Champions League games, too), and despite a slow start in 2020-21, he was one of the primary reasons for BVB's late-season charge back to third place in the Bundesliga. He is an above-average finisher and one of the most creative attackers in Europe, and his versatility -- he's productive on the right or left wings -- will be key in a lineup that now features a logjam up front. How Ole Gunnar Solskjaer balances minutes between Bruno Fernandes, Marcus Rashford, Mason Greenwood, Edinson Cavani, Daniel James and Anthony Martial -- if he isn't dealt -- will dictate how well United challenge Manchester City and Chelsea for top of the Premier League table.

3. Leicester City



Jadon Sancho

Key additions: 22-year-old forward Patson Daka (FC Salzburg) for \$33 million, 22-year-old defensive midfielder Boubakary Soumare (Lille) for \$22 million.

Key losses: None.

No one plays the transfer game like a real-life version of Football Manager better than Leicester, moving on about one star per year and plugging that revenue into bringing young future stars into the fold. Their hit rate in transfers has been as high as anyone's, and despite the financial disadvantages of Premier League life when you aren't one of the country's six richest clubs, the Foxes have come within an eyelash of Champions League qualification for two straight seasons.

We don't yet know if they will end up transferring out a player this off-season, but that hasn't stopped them from making further upgrades. Soumare created 13 chances, averaged nearly seven ball recoveries per 90 minutes and won 59% of his duels and 61% of his aerials for France's surprise league champions last season. He joins Youri Tielemans and Wilfred Ndidi in what was already one of the league's better midfields.

Meanwhile, in their quest to eventually capably replace the 34-year-old Jamie Vardy up front, they brought in one of the most tantalising scorers of Europe's lower leagues. Daka scored 61 goals in all competitions in the past two seasons with Salzburg, and he's still a couple of years from his prime. These are exactly the types of moves we've come to expect from Leicester.

4. RB Leipzig

Key additions: 25-year-old forward Andre Silva (Eintracht Frankfurt) for \$25.3 million, 19-year-old centre-back Josko Gvardiol (Dinamo Zagreb) for \$20.7 million*, 21-year-old centre-back Mohamed Simakan (Strasbourg) for \$16.5 million, 24-year-old right-back Benjamin Henrichs (AS Monaco) for \$16.5 million.

* The Gvardiol deal actually took place last fall, but he was loaned back to Dinamo for the 2020-21 season.

Key losses: 22-year-old centre-back Dayot Upamecano (Bayern Munich) for \$46.8 million, 22-year-old centre-back Ibrahima Konate (Liverpool) for \$44 million.

As with Leicester, we're growing accustomed to seeing stars depart Red Bull Arena, only to be replaced by surefire future stars. RB Leipzig so thoroughly and successfully sticks to their plan that it's possible for the club to lose two star defenders and still boast a great off-season.

Both Bayern and Liverpool looked to Leipzig to upgrade their respective defences, and to be sure, Upamecano is a star and Konate could become one with a long run of injury-free play. But RBL quickly moved to replace them, bringing in the well-regarded Simakan from France and officially adding Gvardiol, one of Dinamo Zagreb's more important players during their run to the Europa League quarterfinals.

Meanwhile, the addition of Silva for that fee might be the coup of the off-season. Silva scored 40 goals in 57 league appearances for Eintracht, and he offers the pure scoring ability that RBL lacked at times, in Timo Werner's absence, last season. That they also added Ajax up-and-comer Brian Brobbey (six goals in just 332 minutes in Eredivisie and Europa League play last season) on a free transfer and thrilling 18-year-old American Caden Clark for just \$2 million (they then loaned him back to the New York Red Bulls for the rest of the MLS season) clinched that no one improved their overall attacking potential, for more of a discount, than RBL.

5. Barcelona

Key additions: 22-year-old right-back Emerson Royal (Real Betis) for \$9.9 million; 33-year-old forward Sergio Aguero (Manchester City), 27-year-old forward Memphis Depay (Lyon) and 20-year-old centre-back Eric Garcia (Manchester City) on free transfers; 18-year-old attacking midfielder Yusuf Demir (Rapid Vienna) on a loan-to-buy deal.

Key losses: 24-year-old left-back Junior Firpo (Leeds United) for \$16.5 million, 21-year-old winger Francisco Trincao (Wolverhampton Wanderers) on loan.

Actually, there's one more key addition that Barca is technically making: Lionel Messi. The six-time Ballon d'Or winner was technically a free agent after his Barca contract expired this summer, but it appears he has re-signed at a significant discount.

The discount was key because Barca remain in dire financial straits, and bringing Messi back into the fold won't help with that. The Blaugrana will keep looking to move some expensive players in the weeks ahead. Still, with almost no transfer budget, they have done as good a job as one could have hoped when it comes to adding raw talent. Aguero and Depay offer quite a bit of centralised scoring to go with what is still a bounty of talent on the wings, while Royal is a physical full-back with plenty of tactical-fouling potential. Garcia offers a potential upgrade in the back, and Demir is likely the best under-19 player in Austria.

6. Leeds United

Key additions: 24-year-old left-back Junior Firpo (Barcelona) for \$16.5 million, 24-year-old winger Jack Harrison (Manchester City) for \$14.1 million.

Key losses: None.

The combination of manager Marcelo Bielsa and director of football Victor Orta has worked wonders for Leeds in the past three seasons. Orta finds exciting and (mostly) young pieces, and Bielsa gets them fit and uploads the Bielsa Football Encyclopedia into their respective brains. Since this duo teamed up, Leeds have gone from 13th in the English Championship to third, then first and, following promotion, ninth in the Premier League. They have yet to lose any key pieces this off-season, and they've made two key additions.

First, they permanently inked Harrison after three seasons on loan from City; after posting six goals and eight assists in Leeds' final season in the Championship, he upgraded those numbers to eight and eight, despite playing 1,000 fewer minutes, in his Premier League debut.

The second major move addressed a need. After getting lost in the shuffle a bit at Barca, Firpo joins to replace the out-of-contract Ezgjan Alioski at left-back. He's a solid passer and willing defender, and a couple of years in the Bielsa Football Academy could very well get the best out of him.

7. Atletico Madrid

Key additions: 27-year-old midfielder Rodrigo De Paul (Udinese) for \$38.5 million, 20-year-old winger Marcos Paulo (Fluminense) on a free transfer.

Key losses: None.

Atletico's continued modernisation efforts have produced a veteran and a tantalising project thus far. First, the latter: in 2,605 minutes in two seasons in Brazil's Serie A, Paulo combined seven goals with 50 chances created from the left wing. He's still a few months from his 21st birthday, and if manager Diego Simeone helps him to realise his pressing potential, he could be a steal.

The main off-season prize for the defending La Liga champions, however, is De Paul. He's done almost literally everything for a mediocre Udinese in recent seasons, averaging 8.3 goals, 7.7 assists and 85.3 total chances created in the past three years, plus 200-plus ball recoveries per season and, in 2020-21, a duel success rate of 60%. He also added a goal and the tournament-winning assist (to Angel Di Maria in the final against Brazil) for Argentina in the Copa America. He is approaching the back half of his peak age range, and spending nearly \$40 million for such a player is a little bit of a risk, but he is a fantastic facilitator who draws lots of contact in the midfield.

8. Wolverhampton Wanderers

Key additions: 20-year-old left-back Rayan Ait Nouri (Angers) for \$12.2 million, 20-year-old centre-back Yerson Mosquera (Atletico Nacional) for \$5.7 million, 21-year-old winger Francisco Trincao (Barcelona) on a loan-to-buy deal, 28-year-old goalkeeper Jose Sa (Olympiacos) for \$8.8 million.

Key losses: goalkeeper Rui Patricio (AS Roma) for \$12.7 million.

Wolves needed a bit of rejuvenation after slipping to 13th in the Premier League last season. They parted ways with manager Nuno Espirito Santo (he landed at Tottenham Hotspur), adding former Benfica head man Bruno Lage in his place, and they've thus far added a couple of fun, new pieces while holding onto most of their core roster: wingers Adama Traore and Pedro Neto, midfielders Ruben Neves (for now) and



Sergio Aguero.

Leander Dendoncker, etc.

Neto will potentially return to action in October following an April kneecap injury, and striker Raul Jimenez is just about ready to return after the scary fractured skull he suffered in November. That alone could improve Wolves' fortunes this season, but they've reinforced their depth with the permanent signing of Ait Nouri (who played 1,400 league minutes for Wolves on loan last season) and the additions of both the 6-foot-2 Mosquera and the tantalising Trincao, who posted eight goals and six assists for Braga in 2019-20 but found his minutes limited at Barca last season. He will be expected to produce in Neto's absence.

Neves has been linked to Arsenal in transfer rumours, and if he moves on it might be difficult for Wolves to retain a spot on this list. (In fact, Arsenal might take their place.) But for now, the window has been good to them.

9. Marseille

Key additions: 24-year-old midfielder Gerson (Flamengo) for \$27.5 million; 22-year-old centre-back Leonardo Balerdi (Borussia Dortmund) for \$12.1 million; 19-year-old winger Konrad de la Fuente (Barcelona) for \$3.3 million; 22-year-old midfielder Matteo Guendouzi (Arsenal), 20-year-old centre-back William Saliba (Arsenal), 23-year-old winger Cengiz Under (Roma) and 26-year-old goalkeeper Pau Lopez (Roma) on loan, 26-year-old centre-back Luan Peres (Santos FC) for \$5 million.

Key losses: 31-year-old right-back Hiroki Sakai (Urawa Red Diamonds) for \$1.7 million, 28-year-old winger Florian Thauvin (Tigres) and 31-year-old midfielder Kevin Strootman (Cagliari) on free transfers.

The 2020-21 season was ridiculously volatile at the Stade Velodrome. OM finished last in their group in their first Champions League appearance since 2013-14, they finished fifth in Ligue 1 -- 18 points out of the running for Champions League qualification -- and the month of February included the resignation of popular manager Andre Villas-Boas, a storming of team facilities by angry fans and, eventually, the resignation of club president Jacques-Henri Eyraud.

The team responded well to the spring appointment of Jorge Sampaoli as manager, however, and the squad has gotten a much-needed refresh during this transfer window. Gerson is their most heralded signing since Dimitri Payet, Balerdi and de la Fuente are low-risk, high-upside additions who were lost in the shuffle at bigger clubs, and OM is bringing on an army of loanees from Arsenal and Roma. This is a lot of change for a club that desperately needed it.

10. Sassuolo

Key additions: 21-year-old attacking midfielder Hamed Junior Traore (Empoli) for \$17.6 million, 26-year-old right-back Jeremy Toljan (Borussia Dortmund) for \$3.9 million, 23-year-old midfielder Maxime Lopez (Marseille) for \$2.2 million.

Key losses: 26-year-old centre-back Marlon (Shakhtar Donetsk) for \$13.2 million.

Even before you consider transfers, it was already a good off-season for the eminently watchable Sassuolo, as midfielder Manuel Locatelli and winger Domenico Berardi both made key contributions to Italy's championship campaign at the Euros. We'll see if the club can hold on to either or both players, but even if they don't, the transfer fees associated with them likely went up a good amount after how they played this summer.

Beyond the raised profile, Sassuolo's biggest achievement this summer has come in turning successful auditions into permanent moves. Both Traore and Toljan fit in well during two-year loans, and Lopez showed enough potential in a one-year loan for the club to pull the trigger and make his move permanent too. After back-to-back eighth-place finishes in Serie A, Sassuolo are evidently hoping continuity produces further improvement.



Achraf Hakimi joining Paris Saint-Germain could be one of the signings of the summer. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko

Breaking News.... Our driver has just broken the driving speed record....



... with broken bones and a broken car, this was after the car brakes broke down!

SPORT

**PSG, Man United, Leipzig
having best transfer windows so far**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Some of Yanga's fans pictured after Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) had announced the cancellation of their side's Vodacom Premier League clash against age-old rivals, Simba SC, which was slated for May 8 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

South Africa lifts 2021 COSAFA Cup top honour

CAPE TOWN

GOALKEEPER Veli Mothwa proved the shoot-out hero as South Africa claimed a fifth COSAFA Cup title with a 5-4 victory on penalties against Senegal following a 0-0 draw in 2021 final in Nelson Mandela Bay on Sunday.

Mothwa saved from Dominique Mendy and then watched as the opposite number, Pape Ndiaye, blasted over the bar as South Africa won back the title they last held in 2016.

The teams had to settle for a 0-0 draw in a game of few opportunities, though the home side had the better of them, especially late on in extra-time, with Kagiso Malinga blasting wide and Sifiso Ngobeni with a poor first touch when he had just the goalkeeper to beat.

It was the first time the COSAFA Cup final has been decided on penalties since South Africa lifted the trophy in 2007, defeating Zambia via spot-kicks in the decider.

Eswatini picked up the bronze medal with a nail-biting 4-2 penalty shoot-out victory over Mozambique following a 1-1 draw.

The Mambas took the lead in the first half through Martinho Thauzene, Khetokhule Mkhontfo equalized for Eswatini just a minute from time to send the game to penalties.

Salas Malico and Adamo Alifa missed from 12-yards for Mozambique and that allowed Eswatini to pick up their first medal in the competition since they also won bronze in 2016.

The Player of the Tournament was named as South Africa's Siyethemba Sithembe, the experienced AmaZulu midfielder, while the Golden Boot went to South Africa's Victor Letsoalo.

Another Bafana Bafana player, Veli Mothwa, was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament after he went five games without conceding a goal.

The individuals all won R20,000. Eswatini won the Fair Play award.

Meanwhile, South Africa will receive R500,000 in prize money for their win, while Senegal earns R250,000.

Eswatini picked up R150,000 for winning the bronze medal and Mozambique go home with R100,000. AGENCIES

TFF announces commencement of 2021/22 main transfer window



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer, Clifford Ndimbo.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE domestic season may feel as if it has only just closed, but clubs in the Vodacom Premier League, First Division League, Second Division League, Second Division League, and the Mainland Women's Premier League can now start planning for next season, with the transfer window officially open.

Monday marked the official opening of the transfer window ahead of the 2021/22 season as clubs look to formally register new signings.

Clubs will have five weeks to complete their signings, with the window closing at midnight on August 31.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), when announcing the details for the transfer window, revealed that clubs should strictly adhere to the dates as no extension would be granted to complete registrations.

The TFF full statement issued

by the Communication Department, read: "The registration and transfer window for Vodacom Premier League (VPL), First Division League (FDL), Second Division League (SDL) and Women's Premier League (SWPL) for the 2021/22 season has officially opened on July 19, 2021, and will close on August 31, 2021."

The statement stated: "Clubs are urged to register and complete their international transfers within this period."

"In case of any challenges communications should be channelled to the TFF Competition Department."

"There will be no extension period granted after the closure of the transfer window."

Though several transfers have been confirmed already, clubs will now officially be able to register their new acquisitions for the new season.

Dates for the start of next season are yet to be confirmed but

rumours suggest the Premier League is set to start in early September.

In 2017, TFF adopted a new registration system, the FIFA Connect, to replace the FIFA Domestic Transfer Matching System.

The FIFA Connect is a global football stakeholder registration program that gathers data from every corner of the footballing world.

It is aimed at integrating football data from bottom to top.

The FIFA Connect is an online platform for player transfers between clubs affiliated in the same association, in this case in Tanzania.

It enables local clubs to manage and monitor their domestic transfer activity, generate statistics and reports.

It, moreover, helps the outfits speed up the transfer process and store required documents online, safely.

Transport for Simba SC, Yanga followers to Kigoma for Friday

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE upcountry special passengers train, which will carry soccer fans going to Kigoma to watch this season's Federation Cup final, bringing together Simba SC and Yanga, will leave for the region on July 23.

Briefing reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) Managing Director, Masanja Kadogosa, said that the corporation has organized the trip in collaboration with media firm, Clouds Media Group.

He said the train will start its route from Dar es Salaam on July 23 and return on July 25 after the tie.

Kadogosa said TRC has arranged 14 coaches-deluxe train to carry between 800 and 1000 passengers to and from Kigoma.

He stated: "TRC is happy to welcome all football fans to use the opportunity available by buying their tickets sold at all regional offices."

He noted the football enthusiasts can also make a booking via an online system.

He said the costs are favourable, noting a passenger using third class has pay 100,000/-, while second class sitting is 120,000/- and 150,000/- for second class sleeping.

According to him, the train will have entertainment including music from different solo artists, food, and drinks.

"TRC calls on sponsors and companies to join the corporation and sponsor the transport," he said.

Shafii Dauda from Clouds Media Group said that the train will have a friendlier environment for all passengers using it.

He mentioned some of the musicians who will perform in Kigoma on July 24 as Aslay Isihaka Nassoro 'Aslay', Ahmadi Ali 'Madee', Juma Kassim 'Juma Nature', Joseph Haule 'Professor J', and Chege Chigunda.

Reuben Ndege, Strategic Manager at Clouds Media Group, said that the train will be installed with play stations to give people varieties of entertainment.

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EATV
TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

TONIGHT
@ 9:00



Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrica
RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

