



TOURISM



HUMAN POPULATION PRESSURE THREATENS NCAA PAGE 4

EDUCATION



PWA STUDENTS URGED TO AIM HIGHER PAGES

DEVELOPMENT



MUSOMA RURAL VILLAGERS GETS 2.83BN/- WATER PROJECT PAGE 6

SPORT



TTB NAMES SAMATTA AS TOURISM AMBASSADOR PAGE 20



Hotels face Sh800m hit over Dusit attack



Wakanda: New fish species found off Tanzania's coast

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A Sydney-based expert has helped confirm a dazzling new species of fish discovered more than 60 metres beneath the ocean surface off the coast of Tanzania.

The six centimetre-long fish with deep purple scales has been named Wakanda after the mythical nation from Marvel comics and the Black Panther movie.

It was spotted by deep-diving scientists from the Hope for Reefs initiative based at the California Academy of Sciences and confirmed with the help of University of Sydney taxonomy specialist Yi-Kai Tea.

Dr Tea said the fish was found in the "twilight zone" of dimly lit, deep coral reefs in eastern Zanzibar.

"When we thought about the secretive and isolated nature of these unexplored African reefs, we knew we had to name this new species after Wakanda," he elaborated.

A microscope was used to examine the fish's scales, fin rays and spines in order to distinguish it from another seven species in



When I first saw a photo of this amazing purple fish, I knew instantly we had found the missing piece of this exciting puzzle

the group, and from relatives in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

Dr Tea said the various species fit around the two oceans "like a jigsaw puzzle".

"We've suspected another member of this species group existed along the East African coast, but no one had been able to confirm this due to its preference for deep reefs," he said.

"When I first saw a photo of this amazing purple fish, I knew instantly we had found the missing piece of this exciting puzzle."

He said the decision to name the species after a popular cultural reference helped to bridge the divide between the science community and the general public.

"While research is important, it is equally important to convey it to people with more general interests," he asserted.

"This becomes particularly important because taxonomy is often seen as a 'dry' and boring science, but it actually has huge implications for biodiversity and conservation," the specialist added.

Form VI exams: Isles get four in ten worst results



A bodaboda (motorbike rider) and his passenger (both with helmets) involved in a scuffle with an auction company's workers reportedly deployed by the Dar es Salaam City Council to intercept and seize motorbikes trying to head for the city's Kariakoo market zone without permission. This scene was captured at Ilala Mchikichini in Ilala Municipality yesterday - shortly before police moved in and ended the fracas using teargas to disperse the fast-swelling crowd. Photo: Selemani Mipochi

A total of 1,297 candidates, equivalent to 1.42 percent did not sit for the exams due to various reasons including absenteeism and illness

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

OUT of the 10 worst performing schools in the National Form VI examinations four of the schools are based in Zanzibar Urban West Region.

This was affirmed yesterday as the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) yesterday released Form Six national examination results for 2019 with the pass rate raised to 98.32 percent from 97.58 percent in 2018.

Announcing the results in Zanzibar, NECTA Executive Secretary Dr Charles Msonde said the pass rate has gone up by 0.74 percent.

He said that 91,298 candidates were registered for the exams held from May 6th to 23rd, where of that number 37,948 were female (41.56 percent) and 53,350 males, equivalent to 58.44 percent.

Among the registered candidates, school candidates were 80,216 and 11,082 were independent candidates.

Elaborating, he said 90,001 candidates equivalent to 98.58 percent who were registered for the exam, sat for the exam.

"A total of 1,297 candidates, equivalent to 1.42 percent did not sit for the exams due to various reasons including absenteeism and illness," he stated.



We were all working together to make sure our set targets and outlined strategies are attained. It was a combined effort of the school committee, teachers, parents and the students who were motivated and determined to pass the exams

Dr Msonde noted that of the 80,216 school candidates registered, 79,770 candidates (99.44 percent) sat for the exams, among them 33,883 girls and 45,887 boys. He said 446 candidates equivalent to 0.56 percent did not sit for the exams.

The NECTA administrator mentioned the top 10 schools nationwide with 30 candidates and above as Kisimiri (60 candidates) of Arusha, Feza Boys (87 candidates) of Dar es Salaam, AHMES (112 candidates) of Coast Region, Mwandet (77 candidates) of Arusha, Tabora Boys with 105 candidates, Kibaha secondary school and Feza Girls of Dar es Salaam.

St Mary's Mazinde Juu with 216 students took eight position and Canossa of Dar es Salaam with 83 candidates posted ninth slot, while Kemebos of Kagera Region with 33 candidates completed the list.

Dr Msonde named 10 worst performing schools whereby four of the schools are based in Zanzibar Urban West Region.

The schools are Nyamunga of Mara, Haile Selassie, Tumekuja both of Zanzibar Urban West Region, Bumanga and Buturi of Mara, Mpendae of Zanzibar Urban West Region, Ekenforde of

UDSM expert: Add tax incentives for inclusive environment drive

By Henry Mwangonde

ENVIRONMENTALISTS have hinted at tax incentives and other benefits for companies to participate in environmental management instead of depending on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as it does not mitigate the damage.

They were speaking at a one-day national capacity building workshop on marine and coastal Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) organized by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), grouping stakeholders from public agencies and businesses to examine marine ecosystem challenges.

They are special risks for the coastal zone



There is an opportunity to deepen our relations with communities where climate change control initiatives are being taken

and in the sea, where the participants called for new initiatives to attract more people to environmental conservation.

"There is an opportunity to deepen our relations with communities where climate change control initiatives are being taken," said Dr Mwita Mangora of the Marine Science Institute at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Much as there are challenges there is an opportunity to control the situation, he stated.

Farhat Ali Mbarouk, the Director of Environment in the Isles Second Vice President's Office said the workshop is a part of an ongoing project on Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Enhanced Resilience in Southern

TURN TO PAGE 2

Troubled EFDs: Traders task TRA

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

WHEN the Tanzania Revenue Authority organized a forum with local business persons here, they did not anticipate how traders here face problems from electronic fiscal devices (EFDs).

Business persons in various trading entities in the region lamented the high burden of hidden costs that are stealthily packaged in EFDs, issued by TRA.

Traders and representatives of business communities in the Northern Zone lodged



their complaints during a joint meeting with officials from the revenue body, accompanied by official suppliers of EFD machines nationwide.

"We are very much ready to comply with tax payment systems but the electronic fiscal devices endorsed by TRA and forced down our throats through their agents, are proving to be major problems in transactions," a trader pointed out.

Heriel Ngowi said that EFD machines are very expensive, with each machine costing

TURN TO PAGE 2





Dr Mwita Mangora of the University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Marine Sciences makes a presentation in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday at a one-day national capacity building workshop on marine and coastal ecosystem-based adaptation for enhanced resilience in Tanzania. It was organised by the South African Institute of International Affairs in partnership with the university. Photo: John Badi

UDSM expert: Add tax incentives for inclusive environment drive

FROM PAGE 1

Africa (MEBARSA).

"This project seeks to strengthen ongoing regional climate resilience programs by supporting the take up of EbA approaches in managing our coastal and marine environment," she said.

The meeting came at a critical juncture where the country is embarking on industrialization, within the implementation of sustainable development goals. These include an

integrated approach to address climate change, biodiversity and blue economy together for the benefit of present and future generations, the Isles official intoned.

Coastal and marine systems are responding to these changes with expanded economic activities leading to eroding coastlines, coral bleaching, ocean acidification, salt water intrusion and depleted fisheries, she stated.

There are increasingly vulnerable coastal communities who are primarily dependent on fisheries, marine culture,

tourism and small scale agricultural activities some of which cause plenty of damage, she stated.

"It is my hope that the meeting will produce a wealth of lessons and experience from both the project and the country at large, as well as providing recommendations for strengthening marine and coastal ecosystem-based adaptation approaches in Tanzania and across the region," she said.

Tanzania was already taking action to adapt to climate change, as the current approach in the National

Adaptation Plan process focuses on integrating information on climate impacts and vulnerabilities, as well as ecosystem-based adaptation, into decision-making.

"We also need to develop a more national and regional capacity to track progress in achieving our SDG4 commitments. We must catalyze on Ecosystem based Adaptation to integrate our respective development pathways and priority planning in order to achieve resilience," the Isles director added.

Troubled EFDs: Traders task TRA

FROM PAGE 1

between 600,000/- and 800,000/- depending on outlet and bargaining power, but again periodical inspection and servicing of such equipment requires another 150,000/- per annum.

"The rollers for printing out electronic cash sale receipts are also expensive, with a single roll costing 4000/- which lasts just two or three days, as each can handle close to 100 transactions," he trader asserted, elaborating that traders need 120,000/- worth of such materials to last them a month.

The Secretary General for Arusha Traders and Business Persons, Ahmodnoor Ismail said EFD machines frequently break down and lose data network connection, while transactions are being keyed.

"I have similar electronic transaction devices issued by mobile phone service providers that I use to conduct cellphone based transactions. But these work well, hardly break down and never lose networks," said Ismail, expressing surprise why EFDs meant for revenue collections should 'dissent' from this norm.

And when the machines break down the traders are forced to return the gadgets to the suppliers, who then stay with them for over six months, crippling business.

Shiloo Paul, the General Manager for Advatech Office Suppliers, distributors of EFD machines on behalf of TRA, stated that there are nine distributing firms altogether, but the suppliers "have nothing to do with how the gadgets perform."

"We are just suppliers. If the EFD

machines break down then it is upon the manufacturers where we were directed to procure the devices. Regarding the network dropping problems, it also up to the cellular data providers, in this case Vodacom and Airtel," she asserted.

Regarding using over six months to repair EFD machines, the distributor claimed that it takes ages to receive spare parts from manufacturers after ordering them.

She also accused the business persons of mishandling EFD gadgets including using unapproved consumables or unprofessional handlers.

Arusha District Commissioner Gabriel Daqarro, who chaired the forum, ordered the distributors never to take money from traders if they are not sure of delivering the EFD machines within two days from the initial order.

DC Daqarro also fumed upon TRA officials. "If particular manufacturers produce gadgets that break down easily, it is time to stop buying from them and seek other brands and it is high time you start inspecting all machines to find out which brands cause problems," he said.

The TRA revenue collection in Arusha slightly missed its initial target.

"The region planned to collect 520 billion/- in the just ended fiscal year, but managed to raise 497 billion/- and if these problems were ironed out, TRA could have surpassed the target," said the DC.

Nationwide, TRA is currently collecting 1.3 trillion/- per month, up from an average of 900 billion/- recorded earlier.

Visiting Dutch minister witnesses the launch of a mobile soil testing lab

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

FARMERS in Tanzania will now have to smile after the launching of a new Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory, which can handle more than 100 samples at a time and produce results in three minutes.

The lab, using an electromagnetic technology from Netherlands, was launched in Arusha yesterday by Abdallah Ulega, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries.

The deputy minister hailed the technology, saying it will have a lot of impact in revolutionizing the agricultural sector and help farmers to understand the soil profile before venturing into farming.

"This technology will certainly do farmers a favour in terms of understanding the really needs in the land designated for farming" the Deputy Minister noted.

He thanked the Netherlands government Life Support Systems Tanzania Limited for bringing in the country the technology which, he said was very crucial in the Tanzania's drive to agricultural transformation.

Earlier, the Managing Director of Life Support

Systems Tanzania Ltd, Dr Edmond Matafu said the new infrared technology can suggest what types of crops suits the soil tested and what types of inputs are needed.

He also told the deputy minister that the new testing kit was able to suggest types of nutrients that needs to be added to the soil before planning any types of crops.

"In the past the soil was following the laboratory for soil testing, but with our technology, the testing lab follows the soil in the farm," he said, adding that testing the soil in Tanzania has become a simple issue.

Dr Matafu said the mobile soil testing labs will be distributed in various parts of the country to simplify and help farmers get values for the farming inputs and other investments.

The launching of the mobile soil testing lab was also witnessed by the visiting Dutch Vice Minister of Agriculture and Food Quality, Marjolijn Sonnema, Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Joroen Verheul, Prof Elisante Gabriel, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Mathew Mtigumwe and the Agricultural Permanent Secretary and Managing Director of SAGCOT, Geoffrey Kirenga.

UNHCR urges S. Sudanese leaders to end relocation crisis, bring lasting peace

GENEVA

UNITED Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has appealed to South Sudan's leaders to speed efforts to end what has become Africa's largest displacement crisis.

At a UN media briefing here, UNHCR spokesperson Charlie Yaxley said that exactly eight years ago South Sudan gained independence and became the world's youngest nation.

"Since then, the country has tragically seen more war than peace," he said.

More than 2.3 million South Sudanese are currently living as refugees in neighboring countries, while 1.9 million have been internally displaced inside the country, said UNHCR.

The UN agency said that the Revitalised Peace Agreement, signed by the warring parties on Sept. 12, 2018, established a foundation for peace.

"Progress has been made, but with key areas of tension still unresolved, peace is far from certain,"

said Yaxley.

UNHCR said it believes it is essential that representatives from the refugee and internally displaced communities are active and meaningful participants in the peace process.

"Any convincing agreement must include clear and transparent provisions for reconciliation," said the refugee agency.

Mechanisms for seeking justice must be precise, and they must be trusted it said, noting that many South Sudanese have been displaced repeatedly.

"Their faith in these processes are vital to their success," said UNHCR.

Provisions must also be made for young people as the crisis has disproportionately impacted children, who make up nearly two-thirds of the refugee population. "Ensuring that young South Sudanese - including refugees - have access to proper education and opportunities to fulfill their potential is essential if South Sudan is to become a prosperous and peaceful nation," said UNHCR.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula (2nd-L, foreground) leaves the Geita Gold Mine Ltd premises in Geita Region on Tuesday after a meeting with members of the firm's management relating to payment of land revenue. Others are Geita district commissioner Josephat Maganga (R) and GML managing director Richard Jordison (L). Photo: Munir Shemweta

Form VI exams: Isles get four in ten worst results

FROM PAGE 1

Tanga, Nsimbo of Katavi, Mondo of Dodoma and Kiembe Samaki 'A' Islamic of Zanzibar Urban West Region.

Meanwhile, Kisimiri secondary school headmaster Valentine Tarimo told The Guardian that the school had put in place strategies

to ensure good performance of the school by enhancing supervision.

In the NECTA results, Kisimiri secondary school with 60 candidates scooped the overall top position nationwide. The school also ranked among the best 10 performers in last year's Form Six national examinations.

"We were all working together to make sure our set targets and outlined strategies are attained. It was a combined effort of the school committee, teachers, parents and the students who were motivated and determined to pass the exams," said Tarimo.

In the 2018 results, the pass rate increased slightly by 1.5 percent

to 97.6 percent from 96 per cent in 2017.

In 2018, students performed much better in General Studies, Kiswahili and Mathematics subjects, with a slight drop in History, Geography, English, Agricultural Science and Economics subjects, the director added.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TCU allows TEKU to enrol new varsity students for 2019/2020 academic year

THE state-owned Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has allowed the Mbeya-based Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU) to enrol new students for the 2019/2020 academic year.

TEKU was suspended from enrolling new students in 2017 due to shortcomings including employing unqualified lecturers

and failure to meet required academic standards.

The university's Vice Councillor, Prof Helmas Mwansoko told journalists this week that TCU has

been satisfied with a number of improvements at the university.

He insisted that all the discrepancies which led to suspension of student registration

have been worked out.

He explained that TCU requires any university to have at least three Professors at its top positions, but

TEKU had only two Professors. He said they have bought a good number of books and improved its library which is now supervised by a qualified librarian.

Prof Mwansoko noted that the university has employed five qualified Professors and 30 senior lecturers.

"We are thankful to the government for allowing us to continue offering Degree courses. We are ready to start registering students for the coming academic year", said Prof Mwansoko adding the university received a letter from TCU on June 19, 2019 that allowed them continue registering students.

He commended the government for ensuring close supervision of universities across the country insisting the punishments that TCU gave to some of the universities including de-registration will help improve the quality of education.

"This kind of punishments helps to improve provision of education as well as reminding university owners to employ qualified staffs and ensure availability of other necessary

equipments including libraries", he said.

He went on saying that the university management has suspended some disqualified staffs.

Meanwhile Prof Mwansoko called upon Tanzanians to grab employment opportunities in several countries that are looking for Kiswahili teachers including South Africa, Namibia, South Sudan and China.

In 2017, TCU announced to de-register two private universities, TEKU and the Dodoma-based campus of St John's University of Tanzania.

Charles Kihampa, TCU

Executive Secretary, said the commission has also barred universities such as Kampala International University, Marian University, Cardinal Rugambwa University, Sebastian Kolowa and United African University of Tanzania from registering new students.

Kihampa said the commission's decision came following an assessment which uncovered serious academic shortcomings in the higher learning institutions.

He said in 2016, TCU embarked on a special inspection programme to assess the quality of education provided by higher learning institutions in the country, a survey which found some of the colleges providing services below standard, affecting the education sector.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (Dawasa) board chairman General (rtd) Davis Mwamunyange (2nd-L, arms stretched) is briefed by acting CEO Kiula Kingu (to his left) on the Kisarawe-Pugu water project yesterday. The former was on a site visit to water projects whose implementation the agency is overseeing. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister vows to take stringent measures against corrupt, lazy and reckless workers

By Guardian Reporter,

Dodoma

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina has announced to take stringent measures against corrupt, lazy and reckless workers insisting them to work harder to attain the fifth government's 2015 - 2020 industrialisation agenda.

Mpina was speaking during the ministry's performance evaluation meeting for the 2018/2019 financial year held in Dodoma. He said the government will not hesitate to suspend or demote any worker who will underperform in this financial year.

According to Mpina, the ministry's good performance

has contributed into increased revenues from livestock sector whereby in the previous seven years, collected revenues was 21bn/- compared to 42bn/- collected in 2017/2018 and 72bn/- in 2018/2019.

"Collections for the just ended financial year are equivalent to 180.6 percent of the set targets which was to collect 40bn/- only," said the minister.

Mpina stated that intensified war against illegal fishing in Lakes, Rivers and the Indian Ocean has resulted into decreased fish imports by 67 percent while the country's fish exports have increased to \$ 295.8 million in the 2018/2019 fiscal year compared \$ 164.9 million recorded in the past seven years.

He asserted that establishment of the private sector desk at the ministry has facilitated availability of loans to the fisheries sector whereas 72.3bn/- has been set aside by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB). He said so far the bank has disbursed 17.3bn/- to fishermen.

According to him, TADB issued loans amounting to 900m/- in the past seven year.

Minister highlighted that to implement the various reforms under the 'Blueprint' the ministry has resolved to offer a single fishing license to be used in all the waters, instead of the previous system where every municipal was issuing

a separate permit. "We have removed a total of 16 different levies in the livestock sector as well as reduced export fees per a kilogramme of sardines from \$ 1.5 to \$ 0.3", he noted.

He directed all the institutes under the ministry to prepare business plans to be able to secure loans from banks and financial institutions. He challenged the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) to conduct researches that will help boost the fisheries sector.

He urged the officials to ensure that all the closed fish and milk processing factories

become operational as the government strives to invest in industries that will produce medicines, animal and fish feeds.

He insisted that Operesheni Nzagamba which is implemented in partnership with other ministries, agencies, police, intelligence and security department, the National Environmental Management Council and the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Governments is sustainable.

Mpina urged the heads of departments to prepare strategic plans for implementation of the 2019/2020 ministry budget by July 30th this year.

He ordered ministry officials to revive the Tanzania Fishing Corporation (TAFICO) and purchase two vessels for the company to start engaging in deep sea fishing as well as in Lakes and Rivers.

The Ministry's Permanent

Secretaries (Fisheries) Dr Rashid Tamatah and Prof Elisante Ole Gabriel responsible for livestock commanded the minister's efforts in reviving the fishing sector and improving performance of the livestock sector.

CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION



MRS. RABIA SHEKH MOHAMED P.O. BOX 594 TANGA

The person whose photograph is shown is applying to the Minister for Home Affairs for Tanzania Citizenship. His/her nationality at present is SOMALIAN His/her Occupation is HOUSE WIFE His/She has been in this country since 23/02/2008 that, any person who knows as to why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed Statement to the Principal Commissioner of Immigration Services P.O. Box 512 Dar es Salaam.

Ref: DN TA/TP/4114 FOR: PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION SERVICES

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA

MAHAKAMA YA HAKIMU MKAZI KISUTU
DAR ES SALAAM

KESI YA MADAI 73 YA MWAKA 2019
HELLMAN WORLDWIDE LOGISTICS (T) LIMITED.....MDAI
DHIDI YA
DAVE IMPEX LIMITEDMDAIWA

KWA:
THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
DAVE IMPEX LIMITED - POPOTE ULIPO

KUITWA SHAURINI

Kwa kuwa mdai ameleta madai yake ambayo maelezo ya mdai yameelezwa katika nakala ya madai ambazo zinaweza kupatikana katika Mahakama hii, kwa hiyo Unahitajwa kuhudhuria katika Mahakama hii binafsi au kwa Wakili au mwakilishi ambaye anaruhusiwa, siku ya tarehe **01/08/2019 saa 07:00 mchana.**

ANGALIA:
Kama hukuhudhuria siku iliyotajwa hapo juu, Mahakama ikithibitisha kama umepokea kuitwa shaurini, itaweza kutoa hukumu bila uwepo wako.

Hati hii imetolewa kwa amri yangu na chapa ya Mahakama hii leo tarehe **04 Mwezi wa JULAI 2019.**

HAKIMU MKAZI MKUU
KISUTU - DAR ES SALAAM

SUGAR BOARD OF TANZANIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF OTHER TYPES AND FORMS OF SUGAR FOR INDUSTRIAL USE FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 2019 TO JUNE 2020

- The Board invites registered users of industrial sugar to submit their applications of other types of industrial sugar importation for the period of 2019/2020.
- Unregistered users of other types and forms of sugar you're advised to apply for registration from Sugar Board within the window of application.
- Indicate clearly the product using white refined sugar (Industrial sugar) and those that use other types and forms of sugar.
- Applications includes all types of sugar and forms of **sucrose (saccharose), maltose, glucose (dextrose), fructose (levulose), aspartame, cyclamates and all such natural and artificial sweeteners except white refined sugar.**
- All applications are to be made on Form SBT-05 provided herein below. If items 8 and 9 show significant variance, detailed explanation and supporting evidence should accompany your application. The application should be submitted to the address below not later than 25th July, 2019.
- Please address your applications to:-

Director General,
Sugar Board of Tanzania,
6th Floor, Sukari House,
P. O. Box 4355,
DAR ES SALAAM.
Fax No. 022 2130598
E-mail: info@sbt.go.tz

SBT - 05

Product	Quantity	Product	Quantity
(i)		(vi)	
(ii)		(vii)	
(iii)		(viii)	
(iv)			

(Give details) _____

Signature: _____ Designation: _____ Date: _____

For official use

PRODUCTION (previous licence(s))

- Last Import Licence No(s). _____
- Tons imported _____
- Total tons used _____

1.0 Products produced	QNTY - Tons/Kg/Ltrs/ Cases	Sugar used Ton or Kg
(i)		Kg/ton
(ii)		Kg/ton
(iii)		Kg/ton
(iv)		Kg/ton
(v)		Kg/ton
(vi)		Kg/ton

CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATIONS OF IMPORT LICENCE (Other types and forms of sugar)

- By signing and submitting this application to the Board the applicant declares that if granted licence the other types and forms of sugar he will import will be solely for industrial use and shall not be sold or disposed of in any other manner.
- Licence granted under this application shall import other types and forms of sugar as undefined above
- This application and any licence arising there-from is governed by the Sugar Import Regulations, 2010 as amended.

Government directs all regional leaders to ensure residents register with CHF

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has directed district and regional leaders to ensure that their residents are registering with the Community Health Fund (CHF) Scheme so that they access medical facilities.

The directive was issued by the Director of Medical Services from the President's office, Regional Administration and Local government (RALG), Dr Ntuli Kapologwe (pictured) at a long-day meeting which brought together leaders from the ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and RALG.

The meeting aimed at discussing the Health Promotion and Systems Strengthening (HPSS) project which is expected to reach its climax later this year.

In the Health Financing component, improved CHF in the three regions of Shinyanga, Dodoma and Morogoro is implemented through a self-financing approach and has further proved its effectiveness and efficiency as a strong complementary health financing mechanism.

In all regions, the project continues to support the councils on the implementation of the improved CHF. Support of public financial management at health facility, and district levels have continued in order to meet the challenge of direct funding to health facility bank accounts.

According to Dr Kapologwe awareness campaigns on CHF listing were highly needed especially this time when donors in the health factor had pulled out funding, making the government to implement several projects through internal revenue sources.

"There is no any country in this world that succeeded in provision of medical services to people without a proper health insurance scheme; therefore it is important to make sure that all people have CHF Identity Cards," he said.

This comes at a time when the government is putting measures in place to table a bill that will provide for Mandatory Health Insurance for all in the next parliamentary session scheduled for September.

At the meeting, Dr Kapologwe said it was high time all people were registered in compulsory health insurance so that the culture of clearing their medical bills via windows came to an end.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Director of Policy and Planning from the ministry, Edward Mbanga said that still there were challenges in accessing services by people with CHF IDs as there were many complaints from people.

CHF project leader, Manoris Meshack said that although having CHF cards was not immunity from contracting diseases, it was important to have them because when one gets sick, it is easier for him/her to access medical services.



Dr Alex Mubiru (L), the African Development Bank's representative in Tanzania, speaks at dinner talks on Tanzania's economic growth prospects held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. It was organised by the CEO Round-table of Tanzania (CEOrt). With him: Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashungwa (C) and PricewaterhouseCoopers country senior partner David Tarimo. Photo courtesy of CEOrt

Human population pressure new threat to NCAA - official

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

INCREASING human population has been cited as one of the major threats facing conservation initiatives in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA).

NCAA chief conservator, Dr Fred Manongi revealed this when speaking at a meeting aimed at discussing challenges facing the northern Tanzania's conservancy—a unique protected area in the whole of Africa where conservation of natural resources in integrated with human development.

According to Dr Manongi, available statistics indicate that the 8,292 square kilometres of NCAA has a human

population of over 95,000 people, who are in the same area with wildlife and livestock.

"This in turn increases the demand of pastures," he said, suggesting the need for reviewing the current laws for the benefit of conservation, tourism and people living in the conservancy.

He said that human-wildlife conflict is escalating as every group is looking for the similar resources—water and pastures.

Citing examples, Dr Manongi said that in recent years, it is common for wild animals to attack human beings and livestock, something which wasn't the case in the past.

"There are diseases which move from wildlife to human beings and

livestock," he revealed.

NCAA was established in 1959, carved out of the vast Serengeti ecosystem. UNESCO declared the Ngorongoro crater a Natural World Heritage Site in 1979. Ngorongoro covers a total of 8,300 square kilometers, but since UNESCO designation both population and tourist numbers have soared.

The area was established to conserve and develop the natural resources of the Conservation Area, and promote tourism within the Conservation Area.

It is a protected area and a World Heritage Site located 180 km (110 mi) west of Arusha in the Crater Highlands area of Tanzania. The

area is named after Ngorongoro Crater, a large volcanic caldera within the area. The conservation area is administered by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, an arm of the Tanzanian government, and its boundaries follow the boundary of the Ngorongoro Division of the Arusha Region.

The 2009 Ngorongoro Wildlife Conservation Act placed new restrictions on human settlement and subsistence farming in the Crater, displacing Maasai pastoralists, most of whom had been relocated to Ngorongoro from their ancestral lands to the north when the British colonial government established Serengeti National Park in 1959.



Rise in coffee drinking culture creates big business in Kenya

NAIROBI

A number of international coffee outlets have entered the Kenyan market intensifying competition with local ones as citizens' love for the beverage surges.

Several global outlets and the local ones have established stores across the east African nation in the past years, exciting the once hitherto lackluster market.

Burger King, Dominos, Dormans, Subway, Java House and ArtCaffe are some of international shops selling coffee in the east African nation, with the businesses growing thanks to status-driven young consumers.

There are also tens of other local brands that sell coffee across the country's major towns namely Kisumu, Mombasa and Nairobi. They include Savannah, Café Espresso and Café Arabika.

While initially the global brands

targeted the high-end market, the outlets have changed their business models, and are currently going for the middle-income segment where incomes are rising.

In the capital Nairobi, that the local coffee market is growing is an open secret going by the number of outlets.

Along Mama Ngina Street in the central business district, one counts over five coffee outlets.

It is the same case for Kimathi and Banda streets, with tens of hotels and restaurants and fast-food joints selling the drink.

Kenya is a coffee growing country, exporting one of the best quality Arabica produce to the world with the sector contributing to the livelihoods of over 700,000 smallholder growers, according to the Coffee Directorate.

However, until recently, consumption of the drink was low, with data from the

Coffee Directorate showing local intake of the drink has risen exponentially in the last decade.

According to the directorate, local consumption stood at 8,498 60kg bags (509.90 metric tonnes) in 2009, rising over the years to stand at 12,405 bags (744 metric tonnes) in 2014 and in 2018, it topped 18,396 bags (1,103.76 metric tonnes).

Kenyans have certainly woken up and smelled the coffee, with citizens flocking coffee outlets in droves creating a fast-rising coffee drinking culture

Erick Wanyama, an insurance agent, is among citizens who flock coffee shops every evening.

"My nature of work involves meeting various clients. I love holding the meetings in coffee shops because, first they have excellent, tasty drink, second the environment is cool thanks to the comfy couches and third, most coffee shops have

free Wi-Fi, which means it becomes easy to access the internet," he said.

"Initially, when one visited the shop, they would be offered the processed drink but these days you are offered the locally brewed coffee," he noted.

A mug of coffee goes from 2.5 U.S. dollars in local outlets to over 10 dollars in the global outlets. The cost depends on the quality of coffee one wants.

Paul Smith, the chief executive of Java House, which is Kenya's leading coffee outlet with 65 branches across East Africa, said in a recent interview that the country's coffee market is growing fast, with the firm currently focusing on counties in its expansion drive.

The east African nation's coffee is grown on 115,570ha in 32 out of a total of 47 counties. In 2018, Kenya exported 43.3 million kilos of coffee worth 228 million dollars, according to the Coffee Directorate.



4 judges elected to UN Dispute Tribunal

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has elected four judges to serve half-time terms of office on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT).

UNGA elected by secret ballot Francis Belle (Barbados), Rachel Sikwese (Malawi), Eleanor Donaldson-Honeywell (Trinidad and Tobago) and Margaret Tibulya (Uganda) to serve half-time terms of office on the UNDT, each for seven years beginning immediately.

Half-time judges on the dispute tribunal are deployed up to a cumulative period of six months per year, as decided by the UNGA president based on the caseload and any judicial absences affecting the work of the tribunal, according to a press note released after the election.

To be eligible for appointment as a judge to the dispute tribunal, candidates must be of high moral character and impartial; possess at least 10 years of judicial experience in the field of administrative law or the equivalent within one or more national jurisdictions; and be fluent, both orally and in writing, in English or French, says the press note.

The UNDT, as the "first instance tribunal" of the UN's internal justice system, is the tribunal UN system staff members apply to when they decide to challenge an administrative decision made by an entity over which the UNDT has jurisdiction.

Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

- Nusu Lita (500ml) – TSHS. 500/=
- Lita Moja na Nusu (1.5L) – TSHS. 1,000/=
- Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima
- Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayojua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO
DRINKING WATER



Maji ya kuaminika kila siku

Govt says does not know whether missing journalist is dead or alive

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE government does not know whether a missing journalist who disappeared two years ago while investigating a series of murders of police and ruling party officials is dead or alive, Foreign Minister, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi was quoted on Thursday as saying.

Activists have cited Azory Gwanda's disappearance as a sign of worsening conditions for journalists under President John Magufuli's government, which they accuse of cracking down on press freedoms by suspending newspapers. The government denies the allegations.

In an interview with the BBC on Monday, Prof Kabudi appeared to confirm Gwanda's death and said a series of deadly attacks in the Rufiji area where he had been based were linked to armed "extremism", which

has now spread to Tanzania's southern neighbour Mozambique.

But in a clarification issued through Tanzania government spokesman Hassan Abbasi on Thursday, Kabudi denied that the journalist was dead.

"The reference I made on Azory Gwanda contextually did not mean that Azory Gwanda is confirmed dead. To date, the government of Tanzania has no confirmation on whether Azory is dead or alive," the spokesman quoted Kabudi as saying.

Kabudi told the BBC's Focus on Africa program earlier this week that the journalist was among several people who disappeared and were killed at the area.

"The state is not only dealing with Azory Gwanda, the state is dealing with all those who have unfortunately died and disappeared in Rufiji...." he said.

Last week an Islamist militant

group killed 11 people, including nine Tanzanians, in an ambush in northern Mozambique, the latest in a spate of execution-style attacks in the area since 2017 that have so far killed more than 100 people.

New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists has accused the Tanzanian government of failing to launch a credible investigation into Gwanda's fate after he disappeared on November 21, 2017.

"Suddenly the foreign minister mentions, almost in passing, that the journalist is apparently dead. This is wholly inadequate and distressing," said CPJ Deputy Executive Director Robert Mahoney from New York.

Gwanda had written several articles about mysterious deaths and disappearances in Rufiji for local newspapers, but his wife has said she is unsure whether his disappearance was linked to his articles.



Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyi Mwalimu (R) has a word with paediatric surgeons at Mbeya's Manda referral hospital in Mbeya while on a visit yesterday. Left is the hospital's director, Dr Godlove Mbwani. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Emmanuel Kwitema, Mwanza

Take your rightful place, Peter tells students with albinism

THE founder and CEO of Under The Same Sun (UTSS), Peter Ash has advised students with albinism under organisation's education sponsorship to stand up and take their rightful places wherever they will be.

In his closing remarks to Summer Camp 2019 which was attended by its grantees with albinism studying at different schools in Tanzania at Butimba Teachers College he said when they board their buses back to school and are ready to begin their studies they should put into their minds and practise the idea he has put forward.

Summer camp which is organised by UTSS after every three years, this time has been attended by about 180 students with albinism from kindergarten, primary to secondary school levels from July 2nd to 10th 2019.

He said as summer camp come to an end he would like to talk about his dream and explain exactly how it can apply to each one of the students and how they can live the dream into their life as young generation.

He started analysing the dream by saying, "I have a dream one day that people with albinism, that's all of you, that all of students in our education program will take their rightful places in every level of society." Let's stop here.

He went on saying, "in every level of

society, you will take your rightful place and asked what does that meant?" He said when the students are attending classes and the teacher asks questions, students will raise their hands and give the answers - they are confident, not afraid, and are not shy.

Explaining on the meaning of taking their rightful place - he said it is more like when looking for leaders for football, music activities students should step forward, volunteer themselves and take their rightful place. He gave an example when in the dormitories; it means students with albinism can be role models.

"You as a Christians, your behaviour will help you to lead others and when other students look at your life they say this student is different, is trying hard and put more efforts than other students - take your rightful place in every level." He insisted.

Giving some more examples on how to be responsible and take their rightful places he said when they see a student is sad or crying or is having a problem, they should not sit down and wait instead they should go and encourage him, and in so doing they take their rightful place.

He went on saying when there is a job to be done instead of sitting around and doing nothing and being lazy, they

should jump up and say they can do it - take your rightful place in every level of society.

He called upon students with albinism to show the world, their fellow students, their teachers and their communities that people with albinism are intelligent, capable and can do. He maintained.

Addressing the students he said he still has a dream that one day every single one of them in the hall regardless of their ages and gender they will all make a difference in the world and the world will notice their presence.

In Tanzania for example he said they will ask themselves what is going on with these people with albinism - how come they are so smart, so kind, so helpful and how come they are such amazing leaders.

"And you are the answer; you will make the dream become true and during this summer camp I already seen the dream becoming true, I saw your shining faces up, very active and you participated fully in classes." He pointed out.

He concluded by stating his dream, "I have a dream that one day people with albinism will take their rightful place in every level of the society and the days of discrimination will be a faint memory."

By Special Correspondent, Blantyre

Cyclone-hit Mozambican families ready to return home from Malawi

OVER 400 Mozambican families who crossed borders into Malawi due to the effects of Cyclone Idai in March have received food and non-food items meant to aid their return back home.

The people are from Morrumbara district in Mozambique but crossed the boundary into Malawi's border district of Nsanje down south where they sought refuge.

In total, 2,065 displaced families from Mozambique were in disaster camps in Malawi after fleeing their country.

The Department of Disaster

Management Affairs (Dodma), a Malawi government arm responsible for disasters, together with the UNHCR who have provided the relief items, made the donations in preparation for the survivors' return to their homes.

Dodma relief and rehabilitation officer Ephod Kachigwada told local media on Wednesday that the return packages were a necessity because they will help the Mozambicans integrate

well with their communities when they return home.

"It was necessary that we give them a starter packs as they prepare to return home," he said.

Other than aiding the Mozambicans, Dodma and UNHCR have also assisted 7,088 Malawians affected by floods in four districts of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba in the southern region.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRADE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EAST, CENTRAL & HORN OF AFRICA

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom, and United States of America. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC), institutions, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA, with an annual expenditure of around US\$100 million, is a leading aid-for-trade facility globally. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi with vibrant and successful operations in EAC-Arusha, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The first phase of TMEA delivered exceptional results which directly contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional economic integration contributing to reduced transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase and we aim to deliver even more large-scale impact to maximise the potential benefits of aid-for-trade interventions which lead to sustainable and inclusive prosperity through job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced economic welfare.

We are looking for high calibre, results-oriented and experienced professionals to join our team in the positions below.

Risk and Compliance Manager

The Risk and Compliance Manager will be responsible for the implementation, execution and monitoring of the risk and compliance framework. Specific risk areas include financial, information security, regulatory compliance and operational risk. S/he will manage the systems that identify, evaluate, mitigate and monitor TMEA's operational and strategic risk, and co-ordinate with all programmes and departments within TMEA by creating linkages between enterprise risk initiatives and risk at the country level. S/he will also oversee organisation-wide compliance with TMEA policies and regulations.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline such as assurance, risk management, accounting or internal/operational auditing. A professional qualification (CPA, ACA, ACCA, CIMA or other relevant qualification) is a requirement. Undergraduate degree holders will have at least 10 years' of relevant working experience while postgraduate degree holders will require at least eight years' of relevant working experience in risk and compliance. S/he will have at least three years of managing a risk related function in a corporate organisation, ideally one working in trade or development in an international context.

Communications Manager

The Communications Manager will lead various aspects of the design, planning, development, execution, and monitoring of TMEA's communications and outreach work, ensuring effective interlock between programmes and corporate communication initiatives. S/he will play an integral part in implementing the communications strategy, ensuring alignment with TMEA's corporate strategy and vision and adherence to TMEA guidelines and standards for increased visibility.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline such as Communication and PR, Media, Marketing or Social Sciences. Undergraduate degree holders will have a minimum of seven years' relevant experience while postgraduate degree holders will possess at least five years' relevant experience.

This position is open to Kenyan nationals only.

Risk and Compliance Officer (2 positions)

The Risk and Compliance Officer will, under the overall direction of the Risk and Compliance Manager, ensure the quality and compliance of TMEA's risk and compliance management framework. S/he will undertake risk and compliance checks across all guidelines, policies and procedures of the organisation. The jobholder will provide support in the planning and design of compliance checks, training in risk and compliance, and ensuring the Conflict of Interest policy is fully implemented. This role will liaise closely with colleagues in Internal Audit.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline such as accounting or risk management. A professional qualification in accountancy, risk, compliance or audit is an added advantage. For undergraduate degree holders, s/he will have at least five years of relevant working experience while postgraduate degree holders will require at least three years of relevant working experience. Application details

The detailed job profiles for these posts can be accessed on our [website www.trademarka.com](http://www.trademarka.com).

These positions are available on contract to 30 June 2023 with the possibility of renewal. Please apply online through <http://www.trademarka.com/work-with-us/> by **Friday, 9 August 2019, 5.00pm Kenyan time**. Attach your cover letter and detailed CV, including details of your qualifications, experience, and present position. Your application should also include a working e-mail address, daytime telephone contacts, and names and contact details of three referees. Interviews will be conducted in September and October 2019.

Please note that we will only consider applications received on-line through the link provided above. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. We reserve the right to accept or reject any application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified women and persons living with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Diversity & Inclusion is our pulse!

TMEA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to open and transparent recruitment processes. We are committed to a culture that supports, celebrates and respects the unique and authentic self of each of our employees and partners. We believe that our work is better accomplished, success achieved and mission realised when we fully embrace the value in our differences by establishing a workforce that reflect the communities we work with. We are therefore committed to diversity across race, ethnicity or national origins, religious and political beliefs, age, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, marital status or educational background; so that all are free to be who they are, and freely express their views and beliefs. We do so knowing that diversity and inclusion have tangible benefits not only to our organisation, but also to the communities we work with.

RC calls on traders to explore border trade opportunities

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti has challenged business community to explore business opportunities available in the border between Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

RC Maguti made the call recently when speaking during the meeting with Kagera-based traders and Tanzania Ambassador to Rwanda, Ernest Mangu.

Held in Ngara District, the meeting was meant to provide a platform for the business community and regional leaders to discuss better ways for Tanzania traders to successfully utilise the available business opportunities in Rwanda.

The RC described the borders as key in scaling up businesses for the Tanzanian traders.

"I don't see your seriousness to trade effectively with Rwanda. There are lots of untapped business opportunities...

pull up your socks and engage in serious businesses with our neighbours," the RC told traders.

"There is a good market for you, because Rwanda is a small country with a meagre land, but high population. There is a good market for bananas, maize, rice, sardines, and vegetables, which are all grown in Kagera Region," he said.

He described the Tanzania-Rwanda border post of Rusumo as key in fostering trade, but remains inactive. "It is high time we use it for our benefits and the country at large," he said, pledging to assist traders whenever they face challenges.

Ambassador Mangu also encouraged Tanzanian traders to explore business opportunities available in DRC, saying: "The distance from Kagera to DRC is between 350km to 400 km. This is a very short distance, which can make you do business easily."

In 2017, Tanzania export to Rwanda was US\$60.49 million, according to COMTRADE database on International trade.



Of Trucks & Equipment marketing officer Georg Hahn (R) briefs visitors at the firm's Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair pavilion yesterday on the graders (background) they deal in. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Correspondent

10,000 villagers in Musoma Rural to benefit from 2.83bn/- water project

OVER 10,000 villagers in Musoma District, Mara Region are expected to benefit from the 2.83bn/- water project to be implemented in the area.

Musoma District Commissioner Dr Vincent Anney said that five villages are to get clean and safe water from Lake Victoria.

He named those villages as Busungu,

Bukima, Kwikerege Bujaga and Bulinga. The project is being implemented in two groups.

He explained that in the first group it will involve Bujaga and Bulinga villages and the project is being executed by Medes Company Ltd at the tune of 1.81bn/-. The project is under

implementation since May this year.

The second group involved Busungu, Bukima and Kwikerege and the project will consume 1.02bn/- and it is being implemented by Edm Network contractor, Ltd & JV Fau Construction Ltd.

Currently construction is underway

for water tanks with capacity of storing 225,000 litres, project office, 18 water drainage stations, two waterproofing kiosks are ongoing.

"As government, we want to ensure that all 68 villages of Musoma Rural District are supplied with clean and safe water," he said.

Anney added that procedures to get a contractor for the projects in other four villages of Bugunda, Bwasi, Chimati and Kome have started.

Busungu Village Executive Officer, Charles Ndagile, said that villagers are anxious to get water from the project.

Musoma Rural MP, Prof Sospeter Muhongo thanked the government for establishing and implementing the water project in the area.

He said the completion of the project will be a redeemer to thousands of people, who have been struggling to get the precious liquid.

CHRISTIAN SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION



INVITATION FOR BIDS

TENDER FOR SUPPLYING AND FIXING PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORY FURNITURES/ACCESSORIES AT RUCU

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) has set aside funds for its operations during the year 2019. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for the supplying and fixing pharmaceutical laboratory furniture/accessories Ruaha Catholic University (RUCU)

The Christian Social Services Commission now invites sealed bids with quotations in Tanzanian Shillings from reputable suppliers as follows:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	
	ELEMENT 1: LABORATORY WORKS	As required
1	Supply and Fix central laboratory benches with size 3000mmxl	
2	Supply and fix side laboratory benches with size 7000mmxl	
3	Supply and fix stand alone cabinets	
4	Supply and fix side laboratory benches	
5	Supply fix wall cabinet	
6	Labware storage cabinet	
7	Supply and fix laboratory stool	
	ELEMENT 2: PLUMBING WORKS	
8	Supply of fix PP sink and water tapes	
	ELEMENT 3: ELECTRICAL WORKS	
9.	Supply and fix twin electrical socket to the central benches	

1. Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from the CSSC office at the address given below from 09.00 am to 04.00 pm Monday to Friday, except public holidays.

2. Each tenderer is required to provide the following information:

- Firm's profile
- Past experience
- CVs of key staff
- Evidence of being legally authorized to provide the services being tendered for.

All bids must be delivered by hand and put in the Tender Box at the CSSC Conference Room so as to reach the Executive Director of CSSC before the deadline for submission of bids. Telegraphic, Telex, Email and late received bids will not be accepted.

3. The Deadline for submission of bids is on 24th July 2019 at 12:00 pm local time.

Bids will be opened in public at 13:00 hours, on 24th July 2019 in the CSSC Conference Room in the presence of bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend.

4. Bids not received and opened in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

5. The CSSC Tender Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

6. Tender in plain SEALED envelopes and marked: "TENDER NO. 02/2019/ element 1,2,3 Laboratory furniture/accessories" indicating number as shown above should be addressed to:

Postal Address:
The Executive Director
Christian Social Services Commission
P. O. BOX 9433
Dar es Salaam

Physical Address:
Executive Director
Christian Social Services Commission
4 Ali Hassan Mwinyi Rd.
Upanga East, Dar es Salaam

215319981

Annual world population growth slowing, set to soon slip below 1pc for first time since 1950

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

World population is estimated to reach 7.58 billion this month as World Population Day is celebrated on July 11 but the U.S. Census Bureau is projecting another milestone: Annual population growth will slip under 1.0% in 2020-2021 for the first time since 1950.

The United Nations declared July 11 as World Population Day in 1989, two years after world population crossed the 5 billion mark.

The U.S. Census Bureau's International Data Base, which estimates that 7.58 billion people will be on the planet on that day, shows that world population increased by more than 50% in the 32 years since the Day of Five Billion in 1987.

Now, the Census Bureau shows how we got here and what's ahead.

From 10,000 BC through the early 1800s, the world population stayed below 1 billion globally. By the 20th Century, population totals soared (Figure 1), more than doubling between 1920 and 1980 from fewer than 2 billion people to almost 4.5 billion in 60 years.

While this growth has been rapid, annual global population growth rate actually peaked in the early 1960s at 2.2%. It has since gradually begun to decline.

In fact, the Census Bureau's International Data Base projects 2020-2021 to be the first year since 1950 where the annual population growth rate will drop below 1%. That number is expected to continue to drop.

While specific numbers and trends vary between and within nations, Total Fertility Rates (TFR), the average number of children a woman is expected to have, are generally dropping around the world.

Even regions that have traditionally had high population growth are showing similar trends. Their populations are still growing but at a continually slowing pace. In Malawi, for example, the TFR has been dropping for the past 10 years.

In countries like Japan, which have long had declining rates of population growth, the TFR has been below the replacement rate of 2.1 (enough to replace the mother and father in the population) for decades.

Much of the data that allows scientists to study these trends is drawn from national surveys and censuses facilitated through the work of the International Programs team at the Census Bureau.

While the Census Bureau is the leading provider of quality data about the people and economy of the United States, an important part of its mission is to share its expertise globally.

World Population Day provides an occasion to highlight the Census Bureau's work to improve population data for enhanced decision-making around the world.

One of the ways the Census Bureau shares its expertise is by assisting national statistics offices (NSOs) in developing countries.

Through the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Census Bureau has been able to work with over 100 countries during the last seven decades to collect and disseminate more accurate and timely population data (Figure 3).

More than 10,000 individuals have participated in its training and capacity-strengthening programs.



Sunflower farmer Peteris Olelyo of Masinono village in Musoma Rural constituency displays a sample of his produce right in his farm yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Drought, disease and war hit global agriculture

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations has warned of drought, disease and war preventing farmers from producing enough food for millions of people across Africa and other regions, leading to the need for major aid operations.

A report called the Crop Prospects and Food Situation by the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that shortages of grain and other foodstuffs have left people in 41 countries – 31 of them in Africa – in need of handouts.

"Ongoing conflicts and dry weather conditions remain the primary causes of high levels of severe food insecurity, hampering food availability and access for millions of people," U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters on Tuesday.

Southern Africa has experienced both dry spells and rainfall damage from Cyclone Idai, which made landfall in Mozambique on Mar. 14. The storm caused "agricultural production shortfalls" and big "increases in cereal import needs," added Haq.

Farmers in Zimbabwe and Zambia have seen harvests decline this year. Some three million people faced shortages at the start of 2019, but food price spikes there will likely push that number upwards in the coming months, researchers say.

In eastern Africa, crop yields have dropped in Somalia, Kenya and Sudan due to "severe dryness", added Haq.

According to the FAO, life for rural herders in Kassala State, in eastern Sudan, has been upended by a drought that has forced them to move livestock away from traditional grazing routes in pursuit of greener pastures.

"Life would be so hard if our livestock died. We wouldn't have food or milk for the children," Khalda Mohammed Ibrahim, a farmer near Aroma, in Kassala State, told FAO. "When it is dry, I am afraid the animals will starve – and then we will too."



Droughts are getting worse, says the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). By 2025, some 1.8 billion people will experience serious water shortages, and two thirds of the world will be "water-stressed".

In Asia, low yields of wheat and barley outputs are raising concerns in North Korea, where dry spells, heatwaves and flooding have led to what has been called the worst harvests the hermit dictatorship has seen in a decade, the report said.

More than 10 million North Koreans – or 40 percent of the country's population – are short of food or require aid handouts, the U.N.'s Rome-based agency for agriculture said in its 42-page study.

FAO researchers also addressed the spread of a deadly pig disease in China that has disrupted the world's biggest pork market and is one of the major risks to a well-supplied global agricultural sector.

The United Nations has warned that drought, disease and war are preventing farmers from producing enough food for millions of people across Africa and other regions. Recurring droughts have destroyed most harvests in the Sahel. Photo: IPS

China is grappling with African swine fever, which has spread across much of the country this past year. There is no cure or vaccine for the disease, often fatal for pigs although harmless for humans.

By the middle of June, more than 1.1 million pigs had died or been culled. The bug has also been reported in Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia, North Korea and Laos, affecting millions of pigs and threatening farmers' livelihoods.

The FAO forecast a five percent fall in Chinese pork output this year, while imports were predicted to rise to almost two million tonnes from an average 1.6 million tonnes per year from 2016 to 2018.

Conflict is another worry, the FAO said. While Syria and Yemen have seen "generally conducive weather conditions for crops", fighting between government forces, rebels and other

groups in both countries has ravaged agriculture.

Violence in Yemen has triggered what the U.N. calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 3.3 million people displaced and 24.1 million – more than two-thirds of the population – in need of aid.

Last month, the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) announced a "partial suspension" of aid affecting 850,000 people in Yemen's capital Sanaa, saying the Houthi rebels that run the city were diverting food from the needy.

Likewise, in Africa, simmering conflicts in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan have caused a "dire food security situation". In South Sudan, seven million people do not have enough.

IPS

Between peace and uncertainty after Ethiopia-Eritrea deal

BADME

GEBRESELASSIE Woldeabzigi, a 72-year-old Ethiopian, fled his hometown in Badme, a border town of around 2,000 people in May 1998.

It was the start of a two-year war between Ethiopia and Eritrea that killed an estimated 70,000 people from both sides.

The conflict ended after the two countries signed a peace deal in Algiers in December 2000.

The sandy plains of Badme and its surrounding areas were scenes of trench warfare which killed thousands of soldiers and, despite the December 2000 peace deal, violent and bloody outbreaks between the two armies continued for years.

Badme town, currently controlled by Ethiopia but claimed by its northern neighbour Eritrea, was considered the main symbol of the bitter standoff between the two east African countries engaged in until July last year, when Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed signed a new peace agreement.

Gebreselassie, whose wife died during the two-year conflict, says he is conflicted about the current diplomatic thaw.

While he is glad that the guns have been laid down, he worries about having to flee his home for a second time.

"I'm happy long-lost friends were able to meet with each other after 20 years of separation, however, I will not be happy if I'm asked to give up on Badme," he said.

"I have heard rumours the Ethiopian government has agreed to give up Badme. If that happens, I fear the repeat of the displacement I endured in May 1998."

Located at the edge of a triangular strip of Ethiopian land and surrounded by Eritrea, Badme is a town that seems to be suspended between the promise of a peace deal and uncertainty.

In recent years, it has seen booming businesses in artisanal gold mining, livestock business and agriculture with sesame and sorghum cultivated for domestic and international consumers.

But reminders of its bloody past and uncertain future are prominent. A memorial for fallen Ethiopian soldiers



can be seen at the entrance of Badme, but there is no paved road leading to it and no branches of Ethiopian financial institutions to take advantage of the town's increasing economic activity.

"Soldiers from across Ethiopia have died defending this land, the reconciliation between the two countries is a good thing, but it shouldn't come at the expense of us ceding Badme to Eritrea," said Gebreselassie.

While border points have not yet been opened, residents of Badme and the neighbouring Eritrean town of Shembego move relatively freely and the heavy military presence in the area has been reduced.

To the relief of its Ethiopian residents, Badme has at best become an afterthought.

Meron Estefanos, an Eritrean human rights activist, says Badme is a symbol of a wider conflict.

"The fundamental reason for the Ethiopia-Eritrea war is the competing economic interest and personal animosity between Eritrea's ruling party, Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], and the formerly dominant member party of EPRDF [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front], Tigray People's Liberation Front [TPLF] - and their leadership."

On a personal level, he added: "The peace deal has allowed me to meet my mother after 15 years. I was also able to meet my brother after 19 years, after he was able to come across the border to

Badme town is located at the edge of a triangular strip of Ethiopian land and surrounded by Eritrea. File photo

Ethiopia and meet me there."

TPLF and EPLF fought together for 17 years and their combined efforts led to the overthrow of the Ethiopian military government of Mengistu Hailemariam in May 1991.

The Ethiopian government, led by TPLF-dominated EPRDF, was the first to recognise Eritrean independence in 1993, after a referendum saw most Eritreans voting to secede from Ethiopia.

TPLF had said it fought for the creation of a federal Ethiopia, replacing the unitary state of the past and not outright independence of its home region, Tigray.

"The border is just a precedent for a complex economic organisational and personal infighting, a reason why despite a peace deal there are unresolved issues between the two countries," said Estefanos.

Border crossings closed

Despite initial high hopes, all four border crossings opened between Ethiopia and Eritrea have been closed from the Eritrean side without an explanation.

Eritrea has remained silent on the border crossings issue.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy, in a recent interview, alluded to the need to "harmonise trade customs issues" and "the non-return of Eritrean exiles" as a reason for the closures.

After the 1998-2000 border war,



FAO Director-General elect Qu Dongyu. File photo.

What should FAO's new director general focus on?

ROME

ON 23 June 2019 Mr Qu Dongyu of China was elected as the new Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. FAO is one of the largest UN specialized agencies with a budget for 2018-19 of US\$2.5 billion, offices in over 130 countries and more than 11,000 employees.

Mr Qu takes over from José Graziano da Silva who has been in the post since 2012 and completes two terms in July 2019. Mr Qu has a doctorate in agricultural and environmental sciences from Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands, and has held several senior positions including as vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. His most recent job was that of Vice Minister of Agriculture. He will take over his new position on 1 August 2019.

In his speech to the Member States prior to the election, Mr Qu outlined some of his key priorities. These include "a focus on hunger and poverty eradication, tropical agriculture, drought land farming, digital rural development and better land design through transformation of agricultural production". Over the coming weeks Mr Qu and his team will be translating these ideas into action plans. The article below provides thoughts on a few big issues mainly related to production and trade, which should have high priority on their agenda.

With regard to the first set of issues related to production, Mr Qu and his team will need to develop a vision for global agriculture in the coming decades. Climate change is bringing about new temperature and rainfall patterns across the world. At the same time, rising incomes and larger populations mean that demand for agricultural products will increase. This will be accompanied by shifts in demand patterns. In most countries this will mean a move away from staple foods, such as wheat, rice and maize towards higher-value food products, particularly livestock and horticultural products; as well as towards agricultural raw materials, including animal feeds.

Critical questions that need answers include: how these emerging demands will be met; what changes in production systems and technologies will be needed; how domestic and international trade patterns for agricultural inputs and outputs will develop; and what impact that this would have on soils, air and water quality. Within this context, the new Management will need to identify the roles of governments, private sector and civil society and to start a conversation with these actors at global, regional and country level about what role FAO could play to support these changes.

Although no blue-print may emerge from these discussions, it is likely that many of these issues will require

smart, tech-based solutions. The ICT revolution in agriculture has barely started and in the coming years new approaches such as precision agriculture and "smart" value-chain logistics will play a leading role.

Mr Qu will doubtless be aware that much of the needed technologies are imbedded in machinery, inputs and software that have been developed in the rich countries of Europe and in the USA, and come at high cost with large profit margins for the companies that developed them.

In the short run these costs will need to be lowered – the kind of negotiations done by the World Health Organization with the big pharmaceutical companies to lower medical drug prices for poor countries provides a good model to follow. However, in the medium to long run alternatives sources of technology will need to be developed. Countries with large agriculture research systems such as Brazil, India and China must lead this. Equally complex issues surround the use of Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs).

GMOs have a massive potential but issues about its proper and safe use have become mired in a poorly informed political debate. Mr Qu will need to draw on his technical knowledge and experience, as well as his instincts as a scientist, to develop new strategies and approaches for FAO.

With regard to international trade, the shift to greater and more diversified consumption will require specialization across countries and regions, and a rapid increase in international trade. Global food imports have already tripled since 2000 to US\$1.47 trillion.

Strong growth will continue as production of field crops, particularly food staples and feed (particularly soybean), will likely shift to countries with abundant land areas such as in North and South America, and Russia & Eastern Europe.

However, many countries are apprehensive about increased reliance on food imports – and for good reason. Currently, the bulk of world grains trade is handled by four companies – the so called ABCDs: ADM, Bunge, Cargill and Louis Dreyfus.

These companies have been in the grain trade business for over a century and their network of silos, ports and ships gives them a virtual stranglehold on the business. However, their dominance is now being challenged by the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO) and its international trading arm (COFCO International).

Mr Qu will need to mediate changes in the power relations underlying global trade. In doing this he will need to ensure that greater competition is generated, that the fears and apprehension of the smaller developing countries are allayed, and that mercantilist pressures in the USA and Europe do not impede this process.

Good luck Mr Qu.

Agencies



The Opening Ceremony of the 2019 South Asian and Southeast Asian Countries Commodity Exhibition and Investment and Trade Fair.

Saying BRI eroding national sovereignty is false argument

By Jia Xiudong

RECENTLY, some western politicians, think tanks and media outlets claimed that China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) jeopardizes national sovereignty of the participating countries.

They argued that Belt and Road countries might lose control over projects under China's "debt trap", and Beijing has obtained control over select infrastructure projects through equity arrangements, long-term leases, or multi-decade operating contracts.

Such arguments go against facts, and are illogical.

The BRI has been upholding the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits since it was proposed. It fully respects the sovereignty of participating countries.

The Initiative adheres to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and opposes exclusiveness, unilateral acts and forced decisions. It aims to achieve win-win results based on mutual respect, equality, mutual benefits, as well as dialogues, consultation and cooperation, allowing each participant to have a sense of gain.

Meanwhile, the Initiative highlights the alignment among the development strategies of the countries along the route.

Every country should enjoy the right to develop, and has its own development strategy and planning. So far, no Belt and Road agreement has been forced or reached unilaterally.

In addition, China places high importance on the debt sustainability of all Belt and Road countries. It never forces other countries to cooperate, nor sets "traps".

Financial integration is bedrock for Belt and Road construction, and the debt sustainability is closely linked with the BRI sustainability.

The construction of the BRI needs huge capital investment, while most of the participants are developing countries. The imperfect financial system and lack of financing channels are posing challenges for the financing and investment of BRI projects. In order to solve the problem, the BRI is committed to building new platforms of cooperation and innovative mechanisms of investment and financing, and is actively attracting various capitals.

The BRI involves both Chinese and foreign organizations that together form a capital guarantee system for the Belt and Road construction and have issued a series of risk control measures regarding investment and financing, including the Guiding Principles on Financing the Development of the Belt and Road, and the Debt Sustainability Framework for Participating Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Though participating countries of the BRI are shouldering relatively heavy

debt burden, such burden has no necessary relation with Belt and Road projects. The debts of some countries, created years before they cooperated with China on the BRI, were a result of the massive loans from other countries and international financial organizations, and China is not the largest creditor.

The debt coming from China is the efficient investment and admissible assets of the Belt and Road projects. Increasing the debt suggests increasing valid assets - assets from which the countries can receive long-term returns.

Besides, BRI projects are carried out in a variety of forms. It's farfetched to equate a certain form of cooperation with "erosion of national sovereignty".

Focusing on the promotion of interconnectivity, BRI construction involves a great number of infrastructure projects. These projects call for huge investment and involve long construction periods, and in fact create low profits and cannot produce immediate returns. In addition, they are always built in harsh environments with huge difficulties and risks. However, realization of such projects is urgently needed by the participating countries in order for them to achieve social and economic progress.

When many western enterprises are avoiding such projects, Chinese companies are rising to these challenges.

Regarding infrastructure projects such as highways, railways, ports and power stations, Chinese enterprises adopt practical solutions and make full consideration of investment, returning cycle, human resource and technology. National sovereignty is never an issue as the specific cooperation models and duration are decided through consultations.

According to US public opinion, why is it considered an "erosion" of national sovereignty to hold a long-term equity of 51% or more, while holding a short-term equity of 49% or less is not?

Is the globally-accepted BOT (build-operate-transfer) model adopted by Chinese enterprises also considered "erosion of national sovereignty"?

Based on such logic, many US enterprises are also "eroding national sovereignty" before they transfer projects, as they participate in BOT projects in China and other countries.

China has always encouraged cooperation in third-party markets based on Belt and Road construction. Since the proposal of the initiative, China has signed cooperative documents on third-party market cooperation with France, Italy, Spain, Japan and Portugal, which promotes effective alignment for China's advantageous capacity, developed countries' technology and the development needs of developing countries.

Will UN and World Bank continue to lag behind Europe in ending male leadership?

UNITED NATIONS

THE nominations of Christine Lagarde of France as the first woman to head the European Central Bank (ECB) and Ursula von der Leyen of Germany as the first woman to lead the 28-nation European Commission, have been described as significant landmarks in the higher echelons of international institutions long dominated by men.

The two women, who broke through the glass ceiling, take leadership roles at a time when fiscal policies of some European countries, including Greece and Italy, are in disarray while there are growing demands for urgent economic reforms in the Eurozone.

As Lagarde once famously said: whenever the situation is really, really bad, "you call in the woman" (as they did when she was Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund for eight years beginning 2011).

But even in the most trying circumstances, the United Nations and the World Bank (WB), where leadership has been the exclusive privilege of men, have refused to "call in the women" - primarily for political reasons.

Asked whether the two male dominated institutions will follow in the footsteps of Europe, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, former Under-Secretary-General and UN High Representative, told IPS: "As a consistent believer in women's equality of participation at all decision-making levels, I would always welcome when a woman is appointed or elected to a leadership position in an organization which has been a man's prerogative so long."

"In the same breath, I would say that unless the organizational and institutional culture of patriarchal thinking is simultaneously overhauled, nothing would change substantively," said Chowdhury, whose initiative in March 2000, as President of the Security Council, led to the adoption of the groundbreaking HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1325" UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the role of women in peace and security.

Chowdhury said the same thing hap-



World Bank headquarters

pened when Lagarde was heading the IMF, an organization which continues its arrogant imposition of policy prescriptions to the vulnerable countries without any concern about their negative impact on common people.

"I have no comment on the ECB and Lagarde at its helm as she is in her home-ground," he added.

Although the UN has lacked a woman Secretary-General, the current incumbent, Antonio Guterres, a former Prime Minister of Portugal, has been credited with achieving one of the world body's long-term goals: increasing the number of women at senior levels.

Asked about the UN's longstanding policy of gender parity, UN Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq told IPS: "Yes, we announced last year that there was an equal number of men and women in his senior management team."

According to UN Women, the United Nations made significant strides in increasing women's representation in UN leadership in 2018, with both the Senior Management Group at the headquarters and Resident Coordinators in the field, reaching gender parity for the

first time.

Barbara Crossette, former UN Bureau Chief for the New York Times (1994-2001), told IPS the United Nations and the World Bank are in a sense separate and different cases.

"Geopolitics plays into choices in both and it seems that a qualified woman could run either, if she has the necessary background. Start with the expertise and not with the idea that being a woman is the most important factor".

The UN, she pointed out, which covers everything, from peacekeeping and security to refugees, and climate change, as well as being a repository of treaties and other documents, may be said to need an administrator or manager more than a visionary or creative thinker. "The UN bends under intense political pressures from governments and regions seeking to grab good jobs - sometimes, it seems, whether or not a candidate has the requisite experience," she declared.

There are many women around the world with very strong management skills and instincts, and Christine Lagarde at the IMF is an exceptionally good

example, said Crossette, a senior consulting editor and writer for PassBlue and the United Nations correspondent for The Nation.

Chowdhury said: "If I am asked about Ms. Lagarde's move from IMF to ECB opening the door for women to lead the United Nations or the World Bank, I would only say "not so fast". "Well, the decision-making for the choice of heads of these two organizations are controlled by UN's veto system and WB's veto-like voting system", he pointed out.

So, the bottom line is that all depends on one country which enjoys control of both. It is therefore a reality that only that country's backing a woman candidate for either or both posts would make that happen - not because Ms Lagarde has been moved from IMF to ECB, he added.

Chowdhury said it is significant to keep in mind that the appointments of the WB and IMF heads are shared by US and Europe respectively as part of a post-World War II deal which needs a major overhaul in view of the widespread change in global political and economic scene.

IPS

Reform of Libya's security sector must not fail again

BY MATTHEW HERBERT

SUCCESSIVE Libyan governments and the international community have worked for eight years to stabilise and reform the country's security sector. But all this has been halted by the outbreak of war between the internationally recognised Government of National Accord and Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army.

The formality of the titles accorded to each side obscures that the fighting and the dying is being done largely by armed groups affiliated with either side. The outsized role played by these groups is not a quirk of this conflict, but rather the central weakness of the Libyan situation.

There is little surety about how the battle in Libya will be resolved. But three things are clear: the conflict has significantly altered the situation in the country; there is no possibility of returning to the old status quo; and an effective security sector reform process is more necessary than ever.

When the current fighting around Tripoli stops, Libyan and donor efforts to stabilise and reform the security forces will begin again. Rather than doubling down on approaches taken before the 4 April conflict, those involved should pause to understand what has changed, how programmes should be altered, and how Libya's security sector broadly can be improved.

Libya's security forces collapsed during the country's 2011 revolution, though they had been neglected and began hollowing out long before. During the uprising, control of security passed from the government to a variety of armed groups quasi-affiliated with state security structures or operating outside formal control.

For eight years, successive Libyan governments have attempted to claw power back from the groups. New security force units have been built and trained,



Regardless of who wins the fight for Tripoli, the power of armed groups over government is being entrenched. File photo

and steps taken to incorporate armed groups into the security architecture.

The United Nations, European Union and donor nations have supported security sector reform process, dedicating large sums of aid and contributing considerable human capital. But neither Libyan efforts nor those of donors have achieved any significant success in rebuilding an effective security sector.

Overall it remains weak and fragmented, with power and capacity remaining largely in the hands of armed groups. Even groups loosely affiliated with the state are largely unintegrated into the formal chain of command and are unaccountable for their actions. This leaves armed groups involved in a range of missions that should be the job of statutory forces, from protecting government buildings in Tripoli to defending the capital against Haftar's alliance of armed groups.

Regardless of which side triumphs in the fight for Tripoli, the conflict has further entrenched the power of armed groups over the government. This heightens the risk of further violence and conflict. If the government is to gain

this power back, an effective security sector is needed more than ever.

And so, when the current conflict ends, Libyan and international planners must ask what happens next regarding security sector stabilisation. Most important is the need for in-depth understanding of how the conflict has affected the security sector overall. This isn't just a matter of facilities and equipment damaged or destroyed.

Rather, the focus should be on networks and perceptions. What power dynamics have shifted between armed groups affiliated with both sides? How have Libyans' attitudes on security force matters been altered by the conflict, and what are their immediate security needs?

All programming on security sector stabilisation and reform should be reviewed in light of this changed context. Implementers and donors could be tempted to simply reinforce old strategies, betting that better programme management or more funding would achieve success out of failure.

Such thinking could be dangerously

wrong. Approaches designed before Haftar's move on Tripoli would probably be ill-suited or counter-productive in the changed post-conflict context. To avoid this risk, assumptions need to be questioned and programmes adapted.

Even before the conflict, reviewing and revising the myriad security sector reform programmes in Libya was overdue. Coordination among international actors has been uneven, with some donors seemingly more focused on achieving domestic political goals, mainly around migration, than on Libyan security needs. Some important actors, notably the African Union, have played only a limited role in the process.

In search of short-term operational success, some donors have focused resources on military units for civilian law enforcement missions, risking long-term dysfunction in civil-military relations. Clientelism between international donors and specific security units has led significant resources to be lavished on units that offer little immediate value to Libyan citizens.

ISS

Avoiding the mistakes of Asian nations' Green Revolution in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

RESEARCH scientists are studying groundwater resources in three African countries in order to understand the renewability of the source and how people can use it sustainably towards a green revolution in Africa.

"We don't want to repeat some of the mistakes during the green revolution that has taken place in Asia, where people opted to use groundwater, then groundwater was over-used and we ended up with a problem of sustainability," said Richard Taylor, the principal investigator and a professor of Hydrogeology from the University College London (UCL).

Through a project known as Groundwater Futures in Sub-Saharan Africa (GroFutures), a team of 40 scientists from Africa and abroad have teamed up to develop a scientific basis and participatory management processes by which groundwater resources can be used sustainably for poverty alleviation.

Though the study is still ongoing, scientists can now tell how and when different major aquifers recharge, how they respond to different climatic shocks and extremes, and they are already looking for appropriate ways of boosting groundwater recharge for more sustainability.

"Our focus is on Tanzania, Ethiopia and Niger," said Taylor. "These are three strategic laboratories in tropical Africa where we are expecting rapid development of agriculture

and the increased need to irrigate," he told IPS.

In Tanzania, scientists from UCL in collaboration with their colleagues from the local Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the WamiRuvu Basin Water Board, have been studying the Makutapora well field, which is the only source of water for the country's capital city - Dodoma.

"This is demand-driven research because we have previously had conflicting data about the actual yield of this well field," said Catherine Kongola, a government official who heads and manages a sub section of the WamiRuvu Basin in Central Tanzania. The WamiRuvu Basin comprises the country's two major rivers of Wami and Ruvu and covers almost 70,000 square kilometres.

She notes that scientists are using modern techniques to study the behaviour of groundwater in relation to climate shocks and also human impact, as well as the quality of the water in different locations of the basin.

"Groundwater has always been regarded as a hidden resource. But using science, we can now understand how it behaves, and this will help with the formulation of appropriate policies for sustainability in the future," she told IPS.

Already, the World Bank in collaboration with the Africa Development Bank intends to invest some nine billion dollars in irrigation on the African

continent. This was announced during last year's Africa Green Revolution Forum that was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

According to Rajiv Shah, the president of the Rockefeller Foundation, boosting irrigation is key to improving agricultural productivity in Africa.

"In each of the areas where we are working, people are already looking at groundwater as a key way of improving household income and livelihoods, but also improving food security, so that people are less dependent on imported food," said Taylor. "But the big question is: where does the water come from?"

Since the 1960s, during the green revolution in Asia, India relied heavily on groundwater for irrigation, particularly on rice and wheat, in order to feed the growing population. But today, depletion of the groundwater in the country has become a national crisis, and it is primarily attributed to heavy abstraction for irrigation.

The depletion crisis remains a major challenge in many other places on the globe, including the United States and China where intensive agriculture is practiced.

"It is based on such experiences that we are working towards reducing uncertainty in the renewability and quantity of accessible groundwater to meet future demands for food, water and environmental services, while at the same time promoting inclusion of poor people's voices in decision-making processes on ground-



Richard Taylor, a professor of hydrogeology from the University College London (UCL) (left), is the principal investigator in a project to study groundwater resources to understand more how to use the resource to alleviate poverty.

water development pathways," said Taylor.

After a few years of intensive research in Tanzania's Makutapora well field, scientists have discovered that the well field—which is found in an area mainly characterised by seasonal rivers, vegetation such as acacia shrubs, cactus trees, baobab and others that thrive in dry areas—can only be recharged during extreme floods that can also destroy agricultural crops and even property.

"By the end of the year 2015, we installed river stage gauges to record the amount of water in the streams.

Through this, we can monitor an hourly resolution of the river flow and how the water flow is linked to groundwater recharge," Dr David Seddon, a research scientist whose PhD thesis was based on the Makutapora well field, told IPS.

Taylor explains that Makutapora is known for having the longest-known groundwater level record in sub-Saharan Africa.

"A study of the well field over the past 60 years reveals that recharge sustaining the daily pumping of water for use in the city occurs episodically and depends on heavy seasonal rainfall associated with El Niño Southern Oscillation," Taylor said.

According to Lister Kongola, a retired hydrologist who worked for the government from 1977 to 2012, the demand for water in the nearby capital city of Dodoma has been rising over the years, from 20 million litres in the 1970s, to 30 million litres in the 1980s and to the current 61 million litres.

"With most government offices now relocating from Dar Es Salaam to Dodoma, the establishment of the University of Dodoma,

other institutions of higher learning and health institutions, and the emergence of several hotels in the city, the demand is likely going to double in the coming few years," Kongola told IPS.

The good news, however, is that seasons with El Niño kind of rainfall are predictable. "By anticipating these events, we can seek to amplify them through minimal but strategic engineering interventions that might allow us to actually increase replenishment of the well-field," said Taylor.

According to Professor Nuhu Hatibu, the East African head of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, irrigation has been the 'magic' bullet for improving agricultural productivity all over the world, and "that is exactly what Africa needs to achieve a green revolution."

CBA, Vodacom unveil strategies to transform mobile financial services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) and Vodacom yesterday unveiled strategies to transform mobile financial services in Tanzania with the aim of reaching unbankable people across the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the 5th draw for the 5-year of Mpawa promotion, Solomon Kawiche, Marketing Manager said: "As players in the

financial sector we're planning to invest more in the product to ensure that it goes in line with the current development in science and Technology and enable the service users on an App."

Citing examples, Kawiche said that for the past five years, M-Pawa has recorded a number of successes, and "this has been experienced in the ongoing promotion, which is part of celebrating five-year of the services in the country."

According to him, CBA and Vodacom have been conducting a savings and loan repayment promotion for the last five weeks and have had up-to 340 M-Pawa users walk away with double balance starting from 1,000 - 200,000/-, Smart Phones, and airtime vouchers weekly.

He said: "M-Pawa began with 8.5million users and have Simplified the lives of the Unbanked population by providing access

to banking services at affordable rates, for instance, one can borrow 1,000/- which cannot be done in traditional banking."

According to Kawiche, M-Pawa has been able to provide Deposit accounts at a lower amount of 1/-, there is no other bank in Tanzania providing that and this has Simplified the banking system to no paperwork needed for a transaction to be made, no need for visiting bank branches all this together with

Mpawa customers gaining profit from their savings. Also customer funds are more secured with Mpawa because there are no hidden bank/service charges.

"M-Pawa has raised the standards of livings of millions of Tanzania especially small business owners also not forgetting providing security in emergencies: one can borrow at any time anywhere with M-Pawa," he said.

Commenting on the future of mobile money transaction, Ka-

wiche said: "Being the first Digital product in Tanzania, M-Pawa will continue to touch more lives of the unbanked population, and remain focused on financial inclusion for all."

Detailing on digital financial services such as M-Pawa, the manager said: "Digital financial products in this new age are not to be ignored, specifically M-Pawa because it is Less Costly, reliable and very convenient."

He further said: "M-Pawa is

accessible on your mobile handset, it's a convenient banking service for wherever you are, with affordable rates and a customer gets to earn interest on savings without hidden dynamics. This the game-changer for the Mpawa product."

He revealed that the grand draw prize winner of the 5 years of Mpawa promotion will be rewarded with 15 million Tanzanian shillings take home at the end of the draws next week.

Official: Uganda-Tanzania business forum launched to reinforce business ties

By David Lumu

THE Uganda-Tanzania business forum has been launched, platform officials say, will open floodgates for investors to tap into vast trade opportunities between the two East African Countries.

According to Dr. Philemon Mateke, the Uganda's state minister for regional affairs, the main objective of the Uganda-Tanzania forum is to create an enabling platform for business organisations in both countries.

"The two Governments have created an enabling environment for trade. There is peace in both countries, and infrastructure has been worked on and created. So, there is no excuse for not carrying out trade between the two countries," he said during the launch of the forum on Wednesday at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala.

Scheduled for September 4-5 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre, the Uganda-Tanzania business forum is organised under the theme, 'promoting bilateral trade and investment for growth and sustainable development.'

"The forum will bring together business leaders, policy makers and other stakeholders to explore opportunities in the two countries and the region in general," Richard Kabonero, the Ugandan High Commissioner in Tanzania said.

Kabonero said that during the forum, business people will also interact with President Yoweri Museveni and his Tanzania counterpart John Magufuli on a wider number of issues affecting trade between the two countries.

The Tanzania High Commissioner in Uganda, Aziz Mlima, said as a mechanism to lay ground for the efficient trade relations between Uganda and Tanzania, efforts are underway to weed out trade barriers, especially tariffs and other related restrictions to enable traders access the opportunities that the two countries present to traders.

Officials say the volume of trade between Uganda and Tanzania has increased over the years, with the value of Uganda's exports to Tanzania now at \$69m.

"I would like to thank our two missions in Dar es Salaam and Kampala for organizing this forum. This is the first ever business forum between Uganda and Tanzania," Mateke said.

Getting to zero malaria cases in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter and

Agencies

NEW research led by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, Ifakara Health Institute and the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program suggests that a better understanding of human behavior at night - when malaria mosquitoes are biting - could be key to preventing lingering cases. The Center for Communication Programs (CCP) is based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The new study, published July 1 in Malaria Journal, found that targeting men who work and socialize outside the home in the evenings and travelers and seasonal workers who may bring malaria to the islands from mainland Tanzania could accelerate elimination of the disease.

Zanzibar has maintained malaria prevalence below one percent for the past decade, but elimination of the deadly mosquito-borne disease remains elusive, despite the widespread use of insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying.

"We've seen such great progress, but it's hard to eliminate the remaining cases," says CCP's April Monroe, PhD, who led the research. "It's the typical last mile problem: Sometimes the hardest part of the journey comes at the end. To get there, we need to focus our attention now on human be-



havior, instead of solely on mosquito behavior as we did in the past."

The World Health Organization estimates that between 2000 and 2015, the rate of new malaria cases declined by 37 percent globally and malaria deaths fell by 60 percent, with 6.2 million lives saved. Three quarters of those gains can be attributed to interventions such as insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying for mosquitoes.

For the study, Monroe and her colleagues analyzed data from 62 in-depth interviews with community members and leaders conducted in December 2016 and April/May 2017. The researchers also looked at data

from night time observation of routine community activities, such as buying and selling at local shops, watching television in public spaces and socializing in small groups, as well as large-scale community events such as weddings and religious ceremonies.

The researchers found little evidence of people using protection against mosquitoes outdoors. "Participants reported that topical repellents were not widely available in the community and were only sold at shops in town," the authors noted.

As one woman who was interviewed remarked, "When you are outside, you really can't wear the bed nets, can you?"

In low-transmission settings like Zanzibar, children under five are no longer considered the population most at risk for malaria infection. They are sleeping under their nets and are typically at home or near home after dark. It is men who are often outside at night, whether working or socializing, which could put them at higher risk.

Zanzibar is made up of a series of islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania, where transmission of malaria is more common. Travelers from the mainland are understood to bring many of the malaria cases found in Zanzibar with them. When a mosquito bites a person infected with the parasite, it infects the mosquito which can then transmit the disease to some-

one else.

Seasonal workers from mainland Tanzania come to Zanzibar for a variety of reasons, including to work in the fields from planting to harvest time and they often do not have mosquito nets. Some communities in Zanzibar have instituted a process by which newcomers register with community leaders who can connect them with testing for malaria (and treatment, if need be) as well as to offer malaria prevention information. Monroe says these community-designed systems could be scaled up in other areas of Zanzibar.

There is a great opportunity to explore the use of mosquito control tools beyond nets and spraying alongside social and behavior change interventions to help address these identified gaps in malaria prevention that occur after dark, she says.

"Building on these existing systems to target interventions should be explored so as to limit both local and imported malaria cases," the authors note.

"Human behaviour and residual malaria transmission in Zanzibar: findings from in-depth interviews and direct observation of community events" was written by April Monroe, Kimberly Mihayo, Fredros Okumu, Marceline Finda, Sarah Moore, Hannah Koenker, Matthew Lynch, Faiza Abbas, Abdullah Ali, George Greer and Steven Harvey.

In era of reform, Ethiopia still reverts to old tactics to keep press under siege

NAIROBI

ON June 22, Ethiopia was plunged into an internet blackout following what the government described as a failed attempted coup in the Amhara region.

In the aftermath at least two journalists were detained under the country's repressive anti-terror law, part of an uptick in arrests that CPJ has noted in the country since May.

While internet shutdowns and anti-terror laws being turned against journalists are nothing new in Ethiopia, their use in recent weeks is in stark contrast to the Ethiopia that welcomed the international media community for World Press Freedom Day celebrations in May and whose prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, has been feted as taking bold steps in opening up the space for a free press.

Yared Hailemariam, the executive director of the Swiss-based Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia, described the June 22 shutdown to CPJ as "a very wrong and old strategy of the government." But it wasn't the only blackout last month.

The country was hit by intermittent network disruptions affecting internet and SMS services between June 11 and June 18, according to the Open Observatory of Network Interference, a global open sourcing network for tracking blocks.

Several outlets, including Bloomberg and CNN, said speculation inside Ethiopia was that authorities cut internet access in those instances to prevent students cheating during examinations.

Alongside the blackouts, in the past two months authorities also arrested several journalists and, on July 8, Ethiopia's Ministry of Defense said in a press conference that it planned to file charges against "individuals and media creating distrust between the public and the army," the state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting reported.

All this leads to the inevitable question: did we celebrate the opening up of Ethiopia too early?

Most journalists and human rights defenders with whom CPJ spoke said there are concrete wins: journalists



who had been imprisoned for years were freed in 2018 and the government is carrying out positive legal reform.

Haimanot Ashenafi, a senior editor at the weekly Addis Maleda, said journalism in Ethiopia today is different from the profession which for years was characterized by "shock and trauma".

Zelalem Kibret, an Ethiopian academic and former blogger, said that he was "ambivalent" as to whether recent events were a case of "an old habit struggling to fade away or a renewed attack on the press."

However, several of the people with whom CPJ spoke said they were concerned about the future for the media.

"It doesn't look as bright as it was a few months ago. My optimism is dimming though I am still hopeful," said Elias Kifle, the chief executive of the online news outlet Mereja TV. He added that the problems reflected polarization in the country.

Belay Manaye, an editor at the privately-owned Satellite Radio and Television (ASRAT) and co-founder of the newspaper, Berera, said, "The way we manage this political crisis will manifest which way we could go in the near

Ethiopians read newspapers in Addis Ababa on June 24. Following what the government refers to as a failed attempted coup, access to the internet was cut and journalists were arrested. Photo: Reuters

future: are we getting back to the dark times or will we manage the crisis and move forward? I hope we can manage."

Key to moving forward, the journalists said, is greater openness with the public and the media.

The government has not provided an official explanation for the internet shutdowns, which journalists say disrupted their work and made it difficult to communicate with sources.

When CPJ asked Billene Seyoum, a spokesperson in the Prime Minister's office, about the disruptions she said only that connectivity had been restored. Cherer Aklilu, executive director of the country's sole service provider, Ethio Telecom, did not respond to CPJ's June 28 call or request for comment sent via text message.

Attempts to reach Cherer via phone on July 3 were unsuccessful. Ethio Telecom apologized for the shutdowns on June 18 and July 5 via statements posted to its Twitter account.

Haimanot told CPJ that while she believed a shutdown might have throttled "dangerous" speech online on June 22, it could not be the main solution to tackling misinformation. She said that during earlier blackouts that month, conspiracy theories emerged, some of which she had to debunk: a task made difficult because she could not communicate as easily with sources.

Befekadu Hailu, also from Addis Maleda, told CPJ he was disappointed at the shutdown which, he said, was unjustifiable and meant that "the government monopolized the narrative" about events, with the only information available coming from state media.

CPJ experienced the difficulties of reporting during a network disruption first hand. In the absence of a secure means of communication, and with news trickling out of Ethiopia through the diaspora community, misinformation sprouted, including at least one report of a journalist being

abducted—a story later debunked by the Amharic service of the German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

Anti-terror law back in use
Over 200 people were arrested in the aftermath of the alleged attempted coup, Deutsche Welle reported. Of those, at least two-ASRAT manager Berihun Adane and Getachew Ambachew, a volunteer at the station—were detained under Ethiopia's anti-terror law.

The law was used to crack down on dissenting journalists under previous administrations. The Abiy government has prioritized its reform and Cabinet approved a draft law in May and referred it to parliament, according to media reports.

"I'm very concerned about its resuscitation in this delicate time for murky allegations against journalists," said Zelalem, who was previously convicted under it.

On June 26, a court ordered Getachew, Berihun, who also works for Berera, and four others to be detained for 28 days, pending investigations on allegations of terrorism in connection to the unrest, according to Berihun's lawyer Henok Aklilu, and the Addis Standard.

Neither the police nor the court specified evidence of the alleged terrorist activity and the journalists have not been charged, Henok and ASRAT editor Betre Getahun told CPJ.

Some of those detained alongside the journalists are members of the Balderas Council, a political movement founded by prominent Ethiopian journalist Eskinder Nega that claims to advocate for the rights of Addis Ababa residents, and is considered by some as controversial.

Eskinder, Henok, and ASRAT editor Betre Getahun said that the pair were not part of the council and that they thought the journalists' arrests could be linked to the strident editorial line of Berera and ASRAT media. Both outlets are both pro-Amhara, which is

one of Ethiopia's largest ethnic groups.

Separately, a third journalist, ESAT television station reporter Amanuel Mengistu, told CPJ he was arrested from his home in Addis Ababa on June 24 and released unconditionally on June 26.

He said that security searched his home, saying they were looking for weapons, but did not interrogate him or tell him why he was arrested or whether it was connected with his work at ESAT. Before he became a journalist, Amanuel was a member of the Ginbot 7, a group that was previously banned by Ethiopian authorities.

Government spokesperson Billene told CPJ that she did not have specific details about the arrested journalists, but that authorities were investigating people "from various walks of life, professions and parts of the country" in connection to the events of June 22.

Even before the current crisis, authorities were harassing journalists with brief detentions.

Police on May 22 detained Mesganaw Getachew, a reporter with the Ethiopian newspaper, while he was reporting on the demolition of homes in the Arat Kilo neighborhood of Addis Ababa, his editor Eskinder, told CPJ. Mesganaw was released without charge on bail, Eskinder said, adding that police beat and slapped the reporter.

Two days later, Tamirat Abera, a journalist with the privately owned Ahadu FM, was arrested from the station's office in Addis Ababa by police from the Oromia region, the journalist told CPJ. And Gettye Yawel, an online reporter, told CPJ that he was arrested on May 26 when he went to visit Tamirat in jail.

Both journalists were freed on May 27. Gettye's release was unconditional, but Tamirat and three of his Ahadu FM journalists face prosecution in connection to their reporting on alleged misconduct in the courts, according to Tamirat, Gettye, and a Facebook post by Ahadu FM. **IPS**

The plight of South Sudanese sexual assault survivors

DADAAB, KENYA

TERESA* (not her real name) gathers her three children outside her shanty, which was provided by aid agencies in Dadaab, a sprawling refugee camp in Kenya where she has lived for six years.

The 33-year-old mother of three pulls out a plastic chair to sit on from a makeshift kitchen adjacent to her home.

She picks up her youngest, a baby, and puts him on her lap.

Eight years ago, she had been living in Juba when South Sudan gained independence on July 9, 2011, from Sudan.

"My family was still in a celebratory mood. We had gained independence ... and every dream we had was shattered before my eyes," she said.

Together with her husband, she was struggling to raise a young family until December 2013, when South Sudanese President Salva Kiir fell out with Riek Machar, then vice president.

This led to a conflict between the country's two main ethnic groups, which displaced about four million people, including Teresa and her children.

During her last days in Juba, the South Sudanese capital, she was sexually assaulted.

"We were hiding for days when the war broke out. It was December 17, 2013, when seven armed men in uniform forced their way into our house. Inside, they found my husband and his two brothers. They took them outside and shot them," she said, tears balancing on her eyes.

"I tried to run out for safety with my children but they captured me and started raping me repeatedly. They took away my two children and I have never seen those kids since then."

Teresa is among an escalating num-



ber of South Sudanese sexual violence survivors.

Organisations and aid agencies in the world's youngest nation have documented some of the cases.

In February, the United Nations published a report saying girls as young as eight were among 175 cases of rape recorded between September and December 2018.

Its investigation was carried out after September 2018, when the last South Sudanese peace deal was signed.

"It is not the whole picture, but they found 175 women and girls who had been either raped, gang-raped or sexually assaulted or physically harmed in other ways.

According to the UN, girls as young as eight were among 175 cases of rape recorded between September and December 2018. File photo

"And 49 of those girls who were raped, were children," said Rupert Colville, a spokesperson for the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In November 2018, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported that "125 women and girls ... were raped, beaten and brutalised in Rubkona county, northern South Sudan, in the 10 days between November 19 and 29, 2018".

The organisation said this was high compared with the 104 cases reported in the previous 10 months.

However, the government was quick to deny these figures.

Awut Deng Acguil, the gender, child and social welfare minister, described the numbers as "unfounded and baseless", adding that, "there are no facts found to verify the rape cases".

But many survivors choose to remain silent.

It took two years for Teresa to report what she went through.

"I never wanted to report it because I was mentally tormented after that incident. Every time I see a group of men, I get re-traumatised. Images of the raid in our Juba home flashes in my mind. I don't think I will ever move on from this," she said.

Weak justice and stigma

In addition to the physical and mental trauma, survivors often risk being ostracised from their families and communities, said Wangechi Wachira, executive director of the Nairobi-based Centre for Rights Education and Awareness, an organisation that advocates for the rights of girls and women.

"Rape takes away someone's dignity and causes a lot of anger and depression. Sometimes women blame themselves for what happened because of how societies frames this issue. This leads to high number of victims going

silent," said Wachira.

And there is usually little justice for survivors.

"I feel like justice cannot be done in my case. The seven men who sexually assaulted me were soldiers whom I did not know. They came from the government that was supposed to protect me. They raped me and killed my family members," Teresa said.

According to Fatuma Ali, an associate professor of international relations at the United States International University-Africa, armed actors in South Sudan have systematically deployed sexual violence against civilians as a weapon.

"The devastating role of sexual and gender-based violence as a strategic weapon of war has positioned women and girls as a battlefield between the warring groups. This has led to the dichotomy between the protectors versus the protected hence ethnicising and feminising the war.

"This clearly shows that South Sudan has no capacity to stop these atrocities, leave alone give justice to its victims," Ali told Al Jazeera.

Back in Dadaab, Teresa starts to feed her children; she depends on food rations to survive.

After the rape, she got pregnant. She gave birth in Kenya eight months later.

"I will never go back to South Sudan. I hope the free education my children get here will help their futures. I have told the UN and other aid agencies to never take me back to South Sudan."

Agencies

TTB TO SHOWCASE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AT 'KILIMANJARO GARDEN' IN SEOUL



Tanzania Tourist Board's Managing Director, Devota Mdachi (L) accompanied by the Board's Chairman, retired High Court Judge, Thomas Mihayo (C) and Tanzanian Ambassador to South Korea, Matilda Masuka in a souvenir photo at a 1,000 square meters of land earmarked for 'Tanzania Kilimanjaro Garden' in Sucheon, South Korea.

By Beatrice Philemon

A UNIQUE and creative idea to lure South Korean tourists to choose destination Tanzania has seen Tanzania Tourist Board acquire a 1,000 square meters of land at Suncheon Bay National Garden located in Suncheon in South Jeolla Province. The area of the garden is 1,112 square kilometers plus 28 square kilometers of Suncheon Bay.

Speaking to journalists at the ongoing 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, TTB Board Chairman, retired High Court Judge Thomas Mihayo said the 1,000 square meters area will be named, "Tanzania Kilimanjaro Garden."

Justice Mihayo said the garden will help convince Koreans choose to come to Tanzania because various attractions found in the country such as mankind's original home, Olduvai Gorge in Ngorongoro Crater, Laetori foot prints of the oldest man and others.

"As TTB right now, we are at initial stage of this marvelous

project. We want to consult with Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to see how best we can invest in this area together," Mihayo said while pointing out that Tanzania is the first African nation to have the dedicate garden allocated by South Korean authorities.

He said as the country targets to increase foreign tourist arrivals to two million by 2025, new niche markets especially those in Asia are being poached. Mihayo who led the country's delegation that visited the Asian nation recently, further pointed out that the garden will also enable potential Korean visitors to learn more about the people and culture of the country which will also give them

the urge to visit.

"Many Asians including South Koreans know very little about our country which is why we as TTB have gone this extra mile to put in place a physical permanent area with the country's unique attractions on display," he added.

Tanzania has joined a dozen other countries which include: France, Japan, Mexico, Italy, USA, UK, Turkey and Netherlands in having such a garden which showcases tourist attractions only.

The TTB Board Chairman paid tribute to the South Korean Government for allocating the country the 1,000 square meters of land which clearly

shows that the two countries bilateral relations are strengthening.

While in the Asian nation, the TTB delegation also met with Korean Tourism Association (KTA) Executive Secretary, Byeong-Sam Kim with whom they had face-to-face discussion on how Korean tour operators can collaborate with TTB to market destination Tanzania.

Kim promised TTB to bring 20 tour operators from South Korea to Tanzania next October as part of their collaboration during which they will participate in Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) that will take place in Dar es Salaam.

Ghana parliament drops \$200m chamber idea citing public opposition

ACCRA

GHANA'S parliament has dropped a planned project aimed at building a new chamber after public outrage over the matter throughout last week.

A statement confirming the move read in part: "The Board (Parliamentary Service), has, upon reviewing representations made to it by well-meaning Ghanaians, accordingly taken the development of the new Chamber block out of its present agenda."

A cross-section of Ghanaians expressed anger on local media outlets and social media at the proposal of the chamber at an estimated cost of \$200 million.

It was amongst others, meant to expand the seating capacity of the facility to 350 seats. The parliament currently has 275 members.

The leadership of parliament had struggled to contain the outrage amid a trending social media hashtag #DropThatChamber and calls for a "2 million march," which march has since been suspended.

"The development of the the parliamentary enclave and a new Chamber block and offices shall however, remain an essential and integral part of future plans of the Legislature, in a bid to provide a strong, accountable, responsive and transparent parliament to serve the purpose of Parliament," the statement added.

The Majority Leader and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu is on record to have justified the project saying it was: "necessary due to inadequate space in the chamber, near exchange of fist-cuffs, security threat among others".

People across social media platforms - Facebook and Twitter - are demanding answers from the MPs on why the chamber is a priority in the face of daunting development challenges.

The parliament is Ghana's second arm of government. It is led by the Speaker who is the third most powerful man in government. He is sworn in as president in the absence of the substantive and his vice.

Hotels face Sh800m hit over Dusit attack

NAIROBI

THE effects of a terrorist attack in January at the DusitD2 Hotel complex and offices are set to affect this year's hotel earnings, a report by audit firm PwC on the tourism industry projects.

The report dubbed Hotels Outlook 2019 released Wednesday has predicted a 13.4 percent dip in visitors coming to Kenya in the wake of the attack at 14 Riverside in Westlands, Nairobi, that led to the death of 21 people, and travel alerts issued against Kenya by countries like the UK and US thereafter.

The lower tourist numbers, the report estimates, will lead to a 1.6 percent decline in room revenues to \$503 million (about Sh51.8 billion) this year when compared to \$511 million (about Sh52.6 billion) in 2018.

However, PwC reckons that the effects of the dusitd2 attack are only temporary as it projects that sector revenues will then increase significantly in 2020 by 12.1 percent to hit \$564 million (about Sh58 billion).

"Assuming that the security situation remains stable and

tourism grows, we look for real GDP (gross domestic product) to grow faster beginning in 2020 and to average 5.8 percent compounded annually for the forecast period as a whole," PwC says.

Notably, the actual hotel occupancy rate for 2018 was 53.2 percent against PwC's projected figures of 49.3 percent. Recorded guest nights were also 3.9 million, above the expected 3.6 million, while there was a 14.6 percent increase in room revenue above the firm's projection of 5.7 percent increase.

"The increase in international tourist arrivals in 2018 demonstrates Kenya's attractiveness and reputation as a destination. Unfortunately, the period of peace and security was interrupted when the country experienced an attack at a hotel and office complex in Nairobi in January 2019," the report said.

The firm noted that aggressive marketing under the Magical Kenya campaign, more flights to Kenya by Qatar Airways, Air France and Kenya Airways, improved transportation within Kenya, and a convenient e-visa



DusitD2 Hotel complex in Nairobi.

process that is available to travellers from most countries were major factors driving growth

in 2018. The uptake of vacation rental site Airbnb grew by 68 percent

in Kenya in the past few years, as tourists preferred the popular homestay accommodation model

to hotels. The report said the growth in demand for Airbnb is set to continue cutting into

the traditional hotel market, threatening their existence in the process.

NBC NOW CLOSING BRANCHES BUT DIGITISING AS JOBS LIKELY TO FALL

By Francis Kajubi

AS the banking industry goes digital following successes made by mobile phone services companies in operating mobile money platforms, National Bank of Commerce has said it won't be closing its physical branches soon.

The bank which is one of the largest in the country in terms of branch network with 49 branches said it will simply modern them with digital technology. "After realizing that closing down was not an option for us then we have to employ innovation to overcome the challenge. We are turning our branches into pure digital with facilities that do not accommodate big number of workers," said acting Director of Retail Banking, Gaudence Shawa.

Shawa said NBC has huge number of brick and motor branches which are already operating on high-tech hence the rest will follow suit countrywide.

According to him, in line with the bank's digital banking platforms, NBC will keep its branch operations alive by transforming them to align with modern technologies. He said as a result of digitization, the branches which take up to 30 workers to operate effectively will now only need five to ten people.

"Speaking of digital banking NBC has gone far not only in the use of cards and mobile money services but also has gone



NBC headquarters in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

into paperless banking technology," he noted.

He asserted that majority of the banks' operations rely on asset and liability as a key modal of doing business with the central bank or among themselves. Since interest rates have been so competitive, generation of profit in this case has been so tight forcing many commercial banks to close down branches.

Senior Lecturer in Economics at Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy, Dr Lenny Kasoga backed Shawa's observation saying high interest rates are a source of loss of appetite to borrowers hence lowering profits for banks.

"Majority of the banks are charging interest rates on loans that go above 16 percent while interest rates paid on deposits are not more than four per cent. Lenders are striving to maximize their profits while reducing costs in terms of money paid to depositors which may discourage people from saving," Dr Kasonga warned.

A number of commercial banks have been closing physical branches and uprooting ATM machines as digitization takes its toll on jobs and real estate in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam and elsewhere in the country.

Veta to build training centres in 24 districts with 40bn/- budget

By Beatrice Philemon

IN supporting government's industrialization agenda, Vocational Education and Training Authority will construct 25 training centres in 25 districts of the country valued at over 40bn/- this fiscal year.

Veta's Communication Officer, David Edward said at the on-going 43rd Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair earlier this week that Treasury has already allocated the money through Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Edward said the 25 Veta training centres will be constructed in Mbalali district, Chunya, Kilindi, Korogwe, Ukerewe, Igunga Pangani, Kishapu, Rufiji, Uyui, Kwimba, Bahi, Mafia, Longido, Mkinga, Uvinza, Ikungi, Iringa rural, Lushoto, Monduli, Buhigwe, Ulanga, Masasi, Butiama, and



VETA Urambo's administrative block. File photo.

Chemba districts.

"For a country to have sustainable industrial development, it needs skilled labour force and as Veta we have begun to improve our infrastructure used to train students," Edward noted saying the centres are also being equipped with modern technology tools so as to enable the trainees cope with on-going science and technology advancements.

He explained that in ensuring that the country has qualified skilled labour force to work in industries and play a key role in achieving middle income status by 2025, Veta has been entrusted with doling vocational skills among youth. "We have already constructed Veta training centre in Urambo district of Tabora region which will produce skilled vocational people who are currently in demand by the market," the Veta Communications Officer added noting that the centre was inaugurated this week by Minister

of Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako.

He said the construction of Veta centres countrywide is the government's strategy to ensure more youths get necessary skills needed in the market to propel economic growth through direct employment and self employment.

After training the youth theoretically, Veta also links them with industries for field attachment to undertake practical lessons amongst which include: Kioo Limited, Toyota Tanzania, Tanesco, Tanzania Breweries Limited, Woiso Original Leather Products.

"As VETA we appreciate support that we get from these companies and many others which allow our students to undertake practicals," he noted while calling on other factory owners to allow Veta students undertake field attachments at their premises.

Rwanda courts investors for tech, infrastructure development

KIGALI

RWANDA is courting investors in digital and traditional infrastructure development at the on-going annual General Shareholders Meeting of Africa50, a pan-African infrastructure investment firm.

With Africa50's investor base currently composed of 27 African countries, the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), and Bank Al-Maghrib, the government is keen on showcasing opportunities across various sectors in the country.

Among the avenues of investments that Rwanda is showcasing for investment include the Kigali Innovation city, which has 11 components at a cost of \$420 million with a number of opportunities present.

KIC currently features an innovation and knowledge hub consisting of world class learning institutions and tech companies with room open for additional firms. The project also features the Rwanda Innovation Fund, a privately managed \$100 million fund for the development of world class technologies with the private sector invited to join in.

The Minister for ICT and Innovation, Paul Ingabire, said that Rwanda had created an enabling environment for investment in multiple sectors including technology with room for public private partnership. She said that by investing alongside the private sector, the government was de-risking the sector as well as exhibiting confidence in the



One of the investment opportunities that Rwanda is showcasing is the Kigali Innovation City.

opportunities.

She added that Rwanda was also open to a proof of concept model where solutions can be tested before being rolled out across the continent. Already solutions such as Tap & Go have been successfully tested and are currently being rolled out in other markets.

Guy Baron, Chief Investment Officer of Rwanda Development Board, said that over the past years, Rwanda had done much to create an environment to become an innovation hub

on the Continent.

Giving his firm's experience investing in Rwanda, Patrick Buchana the Chief Executive of Tap and Go said that the country is also ideal in that it does not have a stifling regulatory environment which limits firms from growing. He said that the legal environment is progressive enough and does not stifle innovation.

Experts say that to make gains in the digital age, countries ought to create ecosystems that allow for research and development of

concepts. Alain Ebobissé, Chief Executive of Africa50, said that its by having vibrant ecosystems and conducive environments, such as Rwanda's, that countries can leverage on disruptive technologies.

"In Africa we won't be able to close the infrastructural gap by following traditional infrastructure technologies. We need to find disruptive technologies to leapfrog so we can close the gap," he said. Africa50 is one of the investors in Kigali Innovation City (KIC) having signed an agreement with the Government last year.

Inheritance battles delay Sh4.6bn SGR land compensation NAIROBI

CCOURT battles, inheritance fight cases and family disputes have delayed release of Sh4.6 billion compensation to 660 persons whose properties were compulsorily acquired to pave the way for construction of the Nairobi-Naivasha section of the standard gauge railway (SGR).

The National Land Commission (NLC) told Parliament on Tuesday that the billions lie idle in the bank due to fights over the SGR proceeds. The commission has wired Sh13.1 billion to 1,337 families whose property gave way to the 120km line and it awaits Sh2.45 billion from the Treasury for disbursements, pushing the land compensation for the mega-project to Sh20.3 billion.

Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC) had earlier in the year sued the NLC for sitting on Sh17.7 billion meant for land compensation that had stalled construction of the Nairobi-Naivasha line. The payout delay, according to KRC, has forced it to breach the May completion deadline, raising fears that the Chinese contractor could slap taxpayers with a compensation claim for delayed works.

Ms Kabale Tache, the acting NLC chief executive told Parliament that out of Sh17.75 billion it received from KRC, Sh13.1 billion has so far been disbursed to compensate 1,337 persons. "Chairman, Sh4,651,256,098 for 660 project affected persons is yet to be disbursed, partly due to court cases, succession cases, family disputes, encumbrances and lack of ownership documents," Ms Tache told the Senate committee on Transport.

PROPERTY MARKETS

SPANIARDS FIND PROPERTY OWNERSHIP INCREASINGLY OUT OF THEIR REACH



A real estate agency in Madrid.

MADRID

In late June, a law put forward by the Catalan government in Spain to permit rent caps amid soaring prices was rejected by the Catalan parliament. The block highlights the difficulties Spain faces in reaching a consensus on measures to stop tenants from being priced out of their neighbourhoods and cities.

Housing became a defining issue in Spain in the wake of the crippling 2008 financial crisis that took years to start recovering from. In a country with historically high home ownership, renting is viewed as a temporary phase for those who are not yet in a financial position to buy, says Alejandro Inurrieta, an economist and author of a forthcoming book on Spain's real estate market.

Spain's Institute of Statistics put unemployment for 2018 just under 15 per cent, the lowest in a decade but the second highest in the eurozone. For youth, it's worse: 34 per cent nationally, and closer to 50 per cent in the regions of Andalusia and Extremadura.

With unemployment, low salaries and unaffordable housing, around 80 per cent of Spaniards under 30 still live with their families, according to the Council for Youth in Spain. It's not just younger people who are struggling with high housing costs. On average, families in Spain spend 30 to 50 per cent of their total income on rent or mortgages.

The financial crisis, says Mr Inurrieta, upended the Spanish dream of buying a property, as the country's banks became more stringent with mortgages, and today rarely finance more than 80 per cent of a property's value. Together with low salaries, many people were forced into the rental market.

Although Spain's economy has started growing again, a large proportion of the population continues to have difficulty accessing the buying and rental markets, says Beatriz Toribia, head of research at property website Fotocasa.

"The growth rate of prices is much higher than the evolution of the purchasing power of Spaniards, which has barely grown since the crisis broke out." However, the latest statistics indicate that the Spanish real estate sector is recovering, says Ms Toribia, with Madrid, Catalonia and the Balearic and Canary Islands leading the way.

Overseas buyers have been impor-

tant to that recovery, says Barbara Wood of real estate service The Property Finders. Last year was an all-time record for foreign buyers, up 30 per cent from the pre-crisis peak with over 103,000 purchases, two-thirds made by EU citizens, she says. Despite the devalued pound amid Brexit uncertainty, Britons remained the biggest group of buyers, followed by the French and Germans.

Chinese, Russian and Latin American buyers make up much of the rest, says Mr Inurrieta, although data from luxury property agent Lucas Fox show a surge in Middle East buyers, accounting for 10 per cent of coastal sales last year. Spain's golden visa scheme, allowing investors to earn residency for minimum investments of €500,000 (Dh2 million), has grown steadily since it was implemented in 2013.

While foreign purchases are at all-time highs, the real estate market remains difficult for Spaniards to access. In 2018, the domestic market saw 30 per cent fewer transactions by residents than pre-crisis levels, says Ms Wood.

Pushed into the rental market by tighter lending conditions and decreased purchasing power, the heightened domestic demand for rentals eventually coincided with tourism booms in Barcelona and Madrid.

With record-breaking arrival numbers over the past six years, Spain is now the second most-visited country globally. Once touted as a way for the country to navigate its way out of the crippling downturn, tourism has since tipped out of balance, leaving residents to grapple with changes that have at best caused inconvenience and at worst left locals struggling to afford accommodation.

The tourism boom in Spain's most popular cities stems from a convergence of factors many trendy European destinations are grappling with: the growth of Airbnb and similar platforms; the rise of budget airlines; and the increasing popularity of city-breaks.

Barcelona is among the most impacted places in Spain, with 20 million visitors descending annually on a city of 1.6 million. Locals must now compete for accommodation among investors, second homeowners and the short-term rental market geared towards tourists.

At the height of the financial crisis, Cerberus, Blackstone and other investors began purchasing portfo-

lios of mortgage debt and recovered property. Although many investment funds have since entered the Spanish property market, says Mr Inurrieta, between 90 and 95 per cent of homes are still individually owned. Social housing, meanwhile, accounts for less than 2 per cent.

Short-term rentals offer higher profit margins, up to 10 per cent more than standard long-term contracts, especially in city break destinations that are year-round markets. Consequently, many owners have pulled their properties from the traditional long-term market. With fewer long-term rentals on offer, prices have gone up.

According to Fotocasa data, rental prices in Madrid and Barcelona have now exceeded pre-crisis levels, says Ms Toribia. "And though prices have stabilised in the rest of the country, they continue to rise in both cities."

One consequence has been a steady stream of evictions: 700,000 across the country since 2013 - the highest rate in the EU, says Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca (PAH), a social movement fighting for housing rights.

Along with gentrification, the short-term rental boom has transformed the face of neighbourhoods across the country. As tourists are ushered in, Spanish families are driven out of neighbourhoods they've lived in for generations, fracturing community ties in the process.

Valencia and Malaga, fast becoming popular city break destinations, are now facing the same problems of rising rents and evictions, gentrification and noise. Aware of what has happened in Barcelona and Madrid, officials in Valencia and Malaga are trying to put in place controls before the situation worsens.

A key reason behind the rental price surge is the lack of social housing, says Mr Inurrieta. In the fallout of the crisis, Madrid sold what little public stock it had to investors. Despite making up a small share of the total housing market, social housing had worked to stabilise prices, he says. Now, social housing makes up around 2 per cent of the total housing market in Spain, far short of the European average of 18 per cent.

To create enough stock to start making a difference in prices would take 15 to 20 years, says Mr Inurrieta, and that's if the political will is there. With the Madrid city hall about to be back in conservative hands, Mr Inurrieta predicts this won't happen,

and that what little stock remains will be sold off.

In Barcelona, where €647m is being invested to protect the right to housing, it's a different story. Last year, the municipal government launched 72 projects within its "Right to Housing" plan to increase the stock of social housing by 50 per cent in the next six years.

Alongside this, other measures include the allocation of 30 per cent of all new build-homes and major renovation projects to affordable housing; the right of first refusal to the city council to acquire buildings and land plots and the revival of a stalled policy to appropriate from banks properties that have been empty for more than two years.

Until more affordable housing becomes available, local governments are left to try and mitigate the immediate effects on renters through regulations that are proving difficult to agree on. Critics of price controls say they won't increase the supply of homes for rent and may cause more owners to put their properties on the short-term rental market instead.

Indeed, in May, two months after imposing a battery of national rent-suppression measures for new leases, rents rose at a 7.5 per cent annual pace, according to property website Idealista.com, which supplies data to Spain's central bank. That was an acceleration from 6.6 per cent in March when the measures were enacted.

The Barcelona Tenants Union says more social pressure is needed to call for greater changes that will have a larger impact. In the meantime, people who find themselves squeezed out of the market or unable to secure mortgages will continue to pay the greatest price.



A foggy morning on Reem Island.

Reem Island sees most property deals in Abu Dhabi in first half

ABU DHABI

REEM Island recorded the most real estate transactions in Abu Dhabi in the first half of 2019, according to official statistics released for the first time as part of a government initiative to boost transparency and provide the private sector with more data for decision making.

Abu Dhabi's real estate sector overall saw 10,000 transactions in the first six months of this year worth Dh31 billion. With deals totalling Dh4.37bn, Reem Island topped the volume of transactions in the capital, according to a report by the Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities (DPM).

"This is the first government report on this topic and the aim is to increase the level of transparency and disclosure," Majed Ahmed Al Jaber, acting executive director of real estate sector at DPM, told reporters on Sunday.

The report follows the government's commitment to an "open data" initiative, which aims to offer more transparency to businesses, giving them access to government-collected information. Boosting transparency for investors and businesses alike is part of a nine-point policy programme under the Ghadan 21 initiative, which was announced by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, in 2018.

The open data programme will enable potential investors and businesses to ask the Abu Dhabi Data Authority for information held by various government entities to help them make informed decisions and create an "open data culture."

The debut real estate transactions report has compiled data on the value and volume of transactions for plots of land and real estate units spread across different areas of the emirate as well as the number of mortgage deals done in the reporting period.

The DPM is studying the addition of more data categories in its upcoming reports, based on feedback from industry stakeholders. The report aims to provide official information that, as well as helping buyers, sellers, developers and brokers make informed decisions, will raise confidence in the market, Mr Al Jaber said.

In terms of locations with the most sales activity, Reem Island was followed by Al Reef with transactions worth Dh1.78bn and Yas Island with Dh1.59bn worth of deals. Abu Dhabi's real estate sector

saw a total of 6,374 property sales worth Dh12.5bn, while the number of mortgages in the emirate reached 3,712 with a total value of Dh18.5bn. The DPM declined to provide comparative figures for the 2018 period.

"Mortgages [value] is higher than sales, an indication of confidence in the [property] sector," Mr Al Jaber said. Aldar, Abu Dhabi's biggest-listed property developer, said the new report "reflects their [DPM's] unwavering commitment to transparency and will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing investor confidence."

Government reforms and initiatives, such as the Ghadan 21 and a new land freehold law, are "already impacting the economy and enhancing Abu Dhabi's reputation as an attractive destination to live, work and invest," said Talal Al Dhiyebi, chief executive of Aldar, adding that the developer expects the momentum of sustained sales growth to continue in the coming months.

Earlier this year, Abu Dhabi for the first time allowed foreigners freehold ownership of properties in designated free zones as it seeks to attract foreign direct investment into its real estate market. The new freehold regulation replaces the leasehold law.

"We will start to see investors we have not seen before, which is the aim of the [new] law. We will start to get investors, newcomers to the market, who are interested in freehold," Mr Al Jaber said. "We can't say whether there will be a rise or not [in real estate transactions] but we have a lot of queries on our market and the laws from people who are newcomers."

The UAE property consultancy Bayut.com in a separate report on Sunday echoed the findings of the DPM data, saying prime areas such as Al Reem Island, Yas Island and Saadiyat Island were the firm favourites for sales in the first half of 2019. Affordable suburbs such as Mohamed bin Zayed City, Khalifa City A and Al Muroor take the lead for rental deals in Abu Dhabi, according to the Bayut.com report.

Property advisory firm JLL said in its first quarter market report in April that conditions in Abu Dhabi remained subdued but that an uplift in sentiment was expected on the back of Ghadan 21 reforms. Rental and sales prices fell in the first three months of this year amid falling transaction volumes, JLL said.

SA shopping mall investor reduces exposure to Africa

JOHANNESBURG

HYPROP Investments, South Africa's largest listed specialized shopping centre owner, on Friday said that AttAfrica Limited, in which it owns a 37.5 per cent stake, had concluded an agreement to dispose of its interest in Achimota Retail Centre in Ghana.

Hyprop announced progress on its strategy communicated to the market in March this year, where it stated its intention to reduce its exposure to sub-Saharan Africa excluding South Africa ("SSA") to focus its attention and capital on its South African and Eastern European businesses.

AttAfrica - in which Hyprop owns a 37.5% equity stake - has disposed of its interests in Achimota Retail Centre in Ghana for an undisclosed sum. Hyprop CEO Morné Wilken said: "At interims in March 2019, we stated clearly our intention to curb Hyprop's exposure to sub-Saharan Africa."

Hyprop initiated, negotiated and concluded the transaction." At December 2018 the group had reported an impairment in the SSA portfolio of R1.07 billion and cautioned of right-sizing of malls in the portfolio down the line. The sale of the asset was done at the December 2018 book value.

Hyprop will use its share of the proceeds to reduce its USD debt.

Following the transaction, the SSA portfolio will comprise 7.5% of Hyprop's global property portfolio, down from 8.3% previously. The remaining SSA investment comprises stakes in Accra Mall and West Hills Mall in Accra, Ghana; Kumasi City Mall in Kumasi, Ghana; Manda Hill Centre in Lusaka, Zambia; and Ikeja City Mall in Lagos, Nigeria.

Hyprop and the shareholders of AttAfrica intend to further reduce the exposure to SSA over time. The sale of another shopping centre is expected in the near future, and Hyprop is dealing with several parties regarding the sale of the four other shopping centres.

Hyprop has provided c.70% of AttAfrica's capital to date. A contraction of AttAfrica's portfolio through the disposal of Achimota Retail Centre will reduce Hyprop's US Dollar debt and impact positively on the group's Loan to Value ratio, while at the same time enabling the group to focus on key regions of South Africa ("SA") and Eastern Europe ("EE"). At December 2018, distributable income had grown by 8.8% in the SA portfolio and by 16.6% in the EE portfolio.

WORLD

Britain says it fended off Iranian attempt to block its oil tanker

LONDON

THREE Iranian vessels tried to block a tanker passing through the Strait of Hormuz but backed off when confronted by a Royal Navy warship, the British government said yesterday, raising the stakes in a test of nerves between Tehran and the West.

Britain urged Iran to “de-escalate the situation in the region” after the British Heritage oil tanker operated by BP (BPL) was approached. The incident took place exactly a week after British Royal Marines seized an Iranian tanker, which London said was violating sanctions by bringing oil to Syria.

“HMS Montrose was forced to position herself between the Iranian vessels and British Heritage and issue verbal warnings to the Iranian vessels, which then turned away,” a British government spokesman said in a statement.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif dismissed as “worthless” the British allegation that Iran had sought to block the ship.

The incident followed President Donald Trump's warning he would soon “substantially” increase U.S. sanctions on Iran as part of a drive to curb Iran's nuclear program and force Tehran to change its regional behav-

ior.

The United States blames Iran for a series of attacks on shipping in the world's most important oil artery since mid-May, accusations Tehran rejects but which have raised fears the long-time foes could slip into direct military conflict.

They came as close as ever last month, when Iran shot down a U.S. drone and Trump ordered retaliatory air strikes, only to call them off minutes before impact.

“I'd expect the Iranians to continue to seek opportunities to harass and obstruct without sliding into war,” said Jon Alterman director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank.

The United States quit an agreement last year between Iran and world powers to curb Iran's nuclear program in return for granting it access to world trade. Washington sharply tightened sanctions against Iran since May with the aim of bringing its oil exports to zero. Iran responded by stepping up production of enriched uranium beyond limits in the nuclear deal.

Washington's European allies disagreed with Trump's decision to quit the nuclear pact and have tried to appear neutral. But Britain stepped into the crisis when it seized the Iranian

tanker Grace 1 last week. Although EU states have not followed Washington in imposing sanctions on Iran, they have sanctions in place that forbid selling oil to Iran's ally Syria.

A senior Iranian military commander on Thursday said Britain and the United States would regret detaining the vessel. Other Iranian officials have made similar statements, and some figures have been quoted as threatening to retaliate against British shipping.

KEY SHIPPING LANE

U.S. sanctions have effectively driven Iran from mainstream oil markets, depriving it of its main source of revenue and of the benefits it was meant to receive from its nuclear deal. Iran says it will return to full compliance with the agreement only if sanctions are lifted and Washington rejoins the pact.

BP CEO Bob Dudley, asked about the situation in the Gulf at an event at London's Chatham House on Wednesday evening, said: “We've got to be super careful about our ships”.

An escalation in the Strait of Hormuz, the main outlet for Middle East oil traded around the globe, could drive up crude prices. LCOCl

Maritime security sources said Britain was aiming to protect shipping lanes but there was no formal policy of escorting all UK ships through the area. The Montrose was there to ensure the safe passage of UK flagged ships when needed, they added.

Ship tracking information from data firm Re-finitiv shows four other UK registered tankers now in the Gulf.

Bob Sanguinetti, chief executive with the UK Chamber of Shipping trade association, told Reuters the situation was tense and called for a de-escalation.

“UK shipowners are in regular contact with the relevant authorities and agencies regarding the security situation in the region, and we are confident that the RN (Royal Navy) will provide the necessary support to their vessels,” he said.

Oman, which hosts a joint British military base and shares the Strait of Hormuz with Iran, did not immediately comment. It has mediated between Tehran and the West and also allows the British and U.S. navies to use its ports on the Arabian Sea.

The United States is hoping to enlist allies in a military coalition to safeguard strategic waters off Iran and Yemen, Marine General Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said on Tuesday.

Britain, France and Germany have sought to avoid being dragged into U.S. sanctions but say Iran must return to full compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal they were instrumental in brokering.

They have so far avoided triggering a dispute resolution process contained in the deal. Iran says it could take new steps in the next two months, including restarting dismantled centrifuges and purifying uranium to a sharply higher threshold, unless it is allowed to resume normal oil sales.

Francois Lecointre, the French armed forces chief, described the friction between the United States and Iran as a “clash of wills”. **Agencies**



A British Royal Navy patrol vessel guards the oil supertanker Grace 1, suspected of carrying Iranian crude oil to Syria, as it sits anchored in waters of the British overseas territory of Gibraltar (File photo)

ROK seeks US help in bitter trade spat with Japan

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK) is seeking US help in a bitter diplomatic row with fellow American ally Japan over its moves to tighten controls on high-tech exports.

The government said yesterday that Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (pictured) discussed the issue with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo by phone and conveyed Seoul's view that Japan's “undesirable” trade curbs could disrupt global supply chains and hurt trilateral cooperation among the countries.

The ministry said Pompeo expressed an “understanding” of ROK's position and agreed to help facilitate communication through diplomatic channels among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo.

Tokyo last week tightened the approval process for Japanese shipments of photoresists and other sensitive materials to ROK companies, which need the chemicals to produce semiconductors and display screens used in TVs and smartphones.

The diplomatic dispute over that has further soured relations long troubled over Japan's brutal colonial rule of ROK before the end of World War II.

“(Minister Kang) expressed concern that Japan's trade restrictions would not only inflict damage to our companies, but could also disrupt global supply chains and cause negative effects not only to US companies but also to the global trade order,” the ministry said in a press release.

“This would not be ideal for the bilateral friendship and cooperation between South Korea and Japan and also the three-way cooperation between South Korea, the United States and Japan,” it said.

The ROK is also referred to as South Korea.

Kim Hyun-chong, deputy chief of ROK's presidential National Security Office, arrived in Washington on Wednesday and told reporters he would discuss the trade spat with Japan with US officials. His trip came a day after ROK President Moon Jae-in urged Japan to refrain from pushing the situation to a “dead-end street” and respond to Seoul's efforts to resolve the matter diplomatically.

“I came because there are a lot of bilateral issues between South Korea and the United States to be discussed in meetings with the White House and also the Senate and House,” Kim told ROK reporters at Dulles International Airport. When asked whether ROK would ask the US to mediate in the trade dispute with Japan, Kim said, “That issue will be discussed too.”

Agencies

Kremlin urges parties involved in British tanker incident in the Gulf to show restraint

MOSCOW

RUSSIA keeps a close eye on developments concerning the alleged incident involving a British tanker and Iranian boats in the Persian Gulf, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

“We are keeping a close eye on the information flow regarding what is going on in the Persian Gulf area,” he said. “We have taken note of the information that such an incident had allegedly taken place. We also took note of a statement by Iranian representatives that this information contradicts reality.”

“Anyway, we believe that the freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz must be ensured without any reservations.

This is extremely important for the global economy and for the global economic environment,” Peskov (pictured) stressed. “We continue to call on everyone to show restraint in the Persian Gulf so as not to up the ante and resolve the situation through dialogue.”

The incident and parties' statements

On Wednesday, CNN reported citing some US officials that five boats that could belong to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) tried to stop a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz. The tanker was reportedly leaving the Gulf when the boats approached it.

The vessel's crew was ordered to change course and stop in Iran's territorial waters. According to CNN, the tanker was escorted by the Royal Navy's HMS Montrose frigate. Its crew insisted that the alleged Iranian military servicemen immediately back off, which they did.

On Thursday, Reuters reported that London had confirmed that the Iranian boats tried to impede a British merchant vessel in the Strait of Hormuz. According to the British side, three Iranian boats were involved in the incident.

On July 11, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps denied reports saying that its boats were trying to impede a British tanker in the Persian Gulf. **Agencies**



Experts denounce US decision to sell arms to Taiwan as interference in China's affairs

BEIJING

THE U.S. State Department's recent approval of a plan to sell weapons worth about 2.22 billion U.S. dollars to Taiwan has attracted worldwide attention, with some experts saying the U.S. move interferes in China's internal affairs and severely violates the one-China principle.

It remains a convenient tool for unreconstructed Cold Warriors to keep the tensions alive between the United States and China, said William Jones, Washington bu-

reau chief of the U.S. publication Executive Intelligence Review.

At this point, one might also suspect that the moves are part of an agenda of the neo-conservative hard-liners in the U.S. administration to take the edge off the recent relatively successful meeting between the two presidents in Osaka and to keep relations as icy as possible, Jones added.

Last year, there was a so-called normalization of U.S. military-technical cooperation with Taiwan, when the United States began to routinely approve such

transactions, ignoring the protests from China, said Vasily Kashin, head of the Department of International Military-Political and Military-Economic Issues of the National Research University-Higher School of Economics.

The exacerbation of the Taiwan issue can seriously damage the stability in the region, Kashin added. U.S. arms sales to Taiwan muscle in on China's internal affairs, seriously breach the one-China principle that the United States has repeatedly asserted, and break the basic rules of in-

ternational laws and relations, said Ronnie Lins, director of the China-Brazil Center for Research and Business.

Taiwan is an inseparable part of China, and if the United States plays sneaky tricks on the Taiwan issue, it is doomed to failure, Lins said. The massive new arms sales to Taiwan “is a move that could clearly flare up tensions” in Asia, said Hasim Turker, a senior researcher at the Ankara-based think tank Bosphorus Center for Asian Studies.

China has clearly stated that the

Taiwan issue concerns its core interests, and despite this fact, the Trump administration has crossed the line here, said Turker.

The U.S. arms sales to Taiwan is once again a serious provocation against China, said Ling Xing-guang, a professor emeritus at the Fukui Prefectural University in Japan, adding that the U.S. move will seriously affect China-U.S. relations, and that China as well as peace-lovers from across the world should make their voices heard and protest against the U.S. move. **Xinhua**

South Sudan leader says ready to meet rebel leader to implement peace

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan President Salva Kiir is open to meeting rebel leader Riek Machar as recently suggested by the African Union to expedite the implementation of the outstanding issues in the peace deal both parties signed last year in Ethiopia, a government official said on Wednesday.

Michael Makuei Lueth, minister of information and broadcasting told Xinhua that Machar, leader of the main rebel group the Sudan People's Liberation Army-In Opposition (SPLA-IO) is welcome to Juba to have face-to-face talks with Kiir on speeding up peace implementation as the parties are left with only four months before the

formation of the transitional unity government in November.

“For us of course we have no problem with Riek Machar meeting the president, if Machar wants to meet the president the doors are open for him to meet him. So he can come to Juba anytime if he so wishes to come and meet the president,” said Lueth in Juba.

Lueth allayed fears of the warring parties failing to meet the pre-transitional deadline, saying that they could still accomplish all the outstanding issues that include screening and cantonnement of forces, determining the number of states and demarcation of ethnic boundaries.

“We are now in the process of establishment of the cantonnement



sites, all the other issues are in place,” he said. The AU on Tuesday called for immediate political engagement by the Troika (US, Britain and Norway), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the AU with the

leaders of South Sudan to impress upon them the imperative for engaging in direct talks in order for them to provide the required leadership and cohesion in the implementation process.

According to the revitalized peace agreement mediated by the regional body IGAD, the Technical Border Committee (TBC) is tasked with demarcation of tribal boundaries and the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) will determine the number of states.

Experts have long said that the tasks of the TBC and IBC are challenging due to the fact that president Kiir increased the number of states to 32 from the initial 10 states in 2014 which now remains a contentious issue as debate rag-

es on whether to revert to the former 10 states.

The SPLM/A-IO have already supported the reverting to the 10 states but the government is eager to maintain the 32 states.

Lueth said that both the TBC and IBC bodies have failed to fast-track border demarcation and determination of the number of states within the period stipulated in the revitalized peace agreement.

South Sudan descended into conflict in December 2013, pitting forces loyal to Riek Machar against troops loyal to President Salva Kiir which has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions of people both internally and externally. **Xinhua**

Interconnection generates synergies for world economy

HOW to further build an interconnected world economy has become a common task facing the international community when unilateralism and protectionism are seriously impacting the international economic order and markedly adding risks and uncertainties to the world economy.

The G20 is a premium forum for international economic cooperation. It represents two thirds of the world's population, about 90 percent to the world's GDP and nearly 80 percent of the global trade volume.

China claims that G20 members, which are big in size, should shoulder greater responsibility for world economic growth and make a difference.

The 2016 Hangzhou summit is generally commended as the most fruitful summit in the history of G20, during which the G20 Leaders' Communiqué and 28 specific outcome documents were issued and the “Hangzhou Consensus” aiming to promote the robust, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth of world economy was reached.

One year later, the Hamburg summit, which stressed shaping an interconnected world, continued in the same vein with the Hangzhou summit.

In 2018, the Buenos Aires summit, under the theme of Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, prioritized development in global macro-policy coordination, showed support to the connectivity of infrastructure and helped developing countries realize sustainable development, which echoed the Hangzhou Consensus.

Promoting interconnected development and global cooperation demonstrates China's ambition of achieving win-win development and building a community with shared future for mankind.

During the Hangzhou summit, the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and Least Developed Countries and the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance Initiative were proposed to support industrialization with action plans and deepen cooperation in food secu-

city and inclusive business.

China holds that all sides should enhance policy coordination for sustainable development, establish a global partnership for interconnectivity, and develop high-quality infrastructure so as to drive the economy of all countries.

These action plans and pragmatic results will relieve the issues of unfair and unbalanced global development, and bring tangible benefits to the people in developing countries.

Besides, they will help realize the

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and make contribution to the common prosperity of human beings.

Interconnectivity plays a fundamental role in world economic development, said Piet Steel, Chairman of the EU-Asia Centre.

The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative is a vivid example of interconnected development and has been well-received by the international community, he added.

People's Daily

International forum on US-China relations calls for continued collaboration for win-win progress

HONG KONG

A HIGH-LEVEL international forum on U.S.-China economic relations concluded here Wednesday with calls for continued collaboration between the world's top two economies to proceed with trade negotiations and realize win-win progress.

U.S., CHINA NEED EACH OTHER

"The United States and China both need each other. Our economies are very intertwined," former U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus said on the sidelines of the forum themed "U.S.-China Trade and Economic Relations: What Now, What Next."

"We're joined at the hip in trade of goods, trade of services and investment. We're going to need each other more and more, as years go by," he added.

Since the establishment of U.S.-China diplomatic relations in 1979, economic ties between the two countries have been strengthened with booming two-way trade and investments.

History has proven that bilateral cooperation can create tremendous gains for both countries, said Jeff Moseley, CEO of the Texas Association of Business.

Texas has in particular benefited from the increasingly closer ties with China, its third largest trading partner, Moseley said. "We are enjoying strong investments from China in Texas, and we know that a lot of our companies are depending on the relationship."

Moseley said he hopes to attract even more Chinese investments to Texas in such areas as energy, agriculture, healthcare and technology.

Mark Kirk, former senator from the U.S. state of Illinois, said the state's top employers, such as healthcare company Abbott Laboratories, "really depend on doing well in the Chinese market."

"It's just in our interest to have good



Ed Feulner, chairman of Asian Studies Center at the Heritage Foundation, speaks during the opening ceremony of a forum titled "U.S.-China Trade and Economic Relations: What Now, What Next to review the status quo and explore prospects of China-U.S. trade and economic relations in Hong Kong, south China, on Tuesday. (Xinhua)

relations with China. When you look at these big Illinois employers, they all look forward to the future in China as the best way to improve the company," Kirk said. "You have to look at building the relationship from the ground up."

David Lampton, an Oksenberg-Rohlen fellow and research scholar at Stanford University's Asia Pacific Research Center, said that the two countries have "very compatible economies in many respects."

"China needs products in agriculture, energy and technology, and the United States needs many of the things that China manufactures. Investment from China creates jobs

in the United States," he said. "So in principle, we have a very compatible economic status, and we should cooperate."

HOPE FOR SUCCESSFUL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Many participants at the two-day forum, including prominent politicians, scholars and business leaders, expressed hope that the trade negotiations between the two countries could eventually lead to a successful conclusion.

The Osaka summit held last month was important because leaders of the two countries "said to their people, both on the staff level and the people

generally that 'We want to solve this. We want to work together,'" said Edw. Feulner, founder of U.S. think tank The Heritage Foundation.

"If we can get rid of some of the nagging, continuing problems, we will be able to solve it," said Feulner, who was fundamentally optimistic about the two countries working together.

To get rid of the possible obstacles to future cooperation, Lampton suggested that leaders of the two countries should "think strategically and long term."

"This is a time to move away from the confrontation," said Stephen Roach, a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

Jimmy Flannigan, city council member of Austin, in the state of Texas, called for collaboration rather than a "battle for winners" in the negotiations.

"If we perceive these negotiations in this relationship as a battle for winners and losers, there will only be losers. That's the difference between competition and collaboration ... We want to see these trade deals come in a way that is mutually beneficial."

Some speakers at the forum also refuted the rhetoric that China is taking advantage of the United States.

The U.S. trade deficit is tied more to the country's own macroeconomic imbalances, said Roach. "We cannot address multilateral imbalances with over 100 countries by fixing the bilateral deficit with one country, China."

"Our bilateral relationship has had bumps in the road but has produced a classic win-win scenario," said Neil Bush, son of former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, on behalf of the Bush China Foundation.

BILATERAL COOPERATION BENEFITS WORLD

Attendees of the forum agreed that putting U.S.-China economic ties back on track will not only give

a boost to bilateral cooperation, but also be a boon for the world at large.

If a good agreement is reached and lasts for a long time, China and the United States will establish a good precedent for the cooperative engagement of major economies in the future, Kirk said.

Participants agreed that the cooperation between the two countries has already brought positive spillover effects to the rest of the world in the past 40 years and it is expected to continue to influence the world in the future.

"During China's improvement and rise to the world's second largest economy, not only the United States and China have benefited, but the whole world has benefited," Roach said.

Feulner said China and the United States should see the negotiations as an opportunity to reach the "shared goal" of remodeling and upgrading the economic relationship.

"The world economy for the next 50 years is going to be impacted by the Chinese and American economies together," Feulner said. "We have to work together and I think we are on track to start doing that."

Strengthened economic ties of the world's top two economies will be especially significant amid the sluggish global trade and poor investment climate, attendees said.

"In the face of a slowing global economy, the two sides should find a new cooperative approach to make the 'economic cake' bigger and also help drive the development of other areas in the world," said Wei Jianguo, vice chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges.

"Our high-level opening-up will spur China's further integration into the global economy, bringing benefits to its own people and also contributing to the development and peace of the globe," said China's former Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao.

Xinhua

Russia ready for talks on Ukraine after new govt is formed in Kiev, says Putin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is ready for any kind of talks on Ukraine but a new government needs to be formed in Kiev, Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters yesterday.

"We never refused to hold any kind of talks, including the expansion of the Normandy process," he said in response to a question about Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky's initiative to hold a meeting that would also involve the leaders of the US, Great Britain, France and Germany.

"However, first, there is a need to make thorough preparations for a Normandy process summit," he added. "Second, it will only be possible to discuss things after a new Ukrainian government is formed and a parliamentary election takes place in the country," the Russian president noted. "Third, I don't know how other participants [of the Normandy Quartet] will react," he said.

Putin pointed out that British Prime Minister Theresa May was going to step down soon and he didn't know if she was ready to accept such an invitation. "What was the reaction of the US administration? We don't know," he went on to say. "How will German and France respond? These are the questions that need answers," the Russian president noted.

"We never refuse to build contacts if they are meaningful. So this [initiative] may turn out to be interesting," Putin said.

In his Facebook video address on July 8, Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky called on Russian leader Vladimir Putin to hold a meeting in Minsk, mediated by the United States, Great Britain, German and France. **Agencies**

Uganda calls for family planning to empower women, reduce population growth

ADJUMANI

FATUMA Modong, a South Sudanese refugee in the northern Ugandan district of Adjumani, has had two miscarriages in less than six months.

Modong told Xinhua in an interview on Wednesday at Mungula Health Center IV, where she has been admitted, that she had a miscarriage in February and the health workers advised her not to get pregnant until six months later.

Three months later, however, Modong got pregnant after her husband declined to heed the medical advice.

"I told my husband we go for family planning, but he refused. I have explained to him the situation (I) am going through, but he has refused to understand," Modong said, lying on her hospital bed.

Modong is among thousands of women in Uganda who are trapped by negative social norms that prevent them from engaging in family planning.

Dennis Mayamba, a midwife at the health center, told Xinhua that he personally spoke to Modong's husband but the appeal did not work.

Many men in Uganda do not want to engage in family planning, and believe that women should give birth to as many children as possible, Mayamba said.

Dulu Angel Mark, a legislator, told a press conference held here ahead of World Population Day on



Family planning is a key factor in reducing poverty. It is central to gender equality and women's empowerment. (File photo)

Thursday that some communities believe they should produce more children because their population is small compared to other tribes in the country.

Experts argue that the situation is compounded by the increasing number of teenage pregnancies. Although it is illegal, some communities still practice child marriages. Girls who are raped are forced by their parents to get married to their tormentors.

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a majority of adolescent females in Uganda have an unmet need for family planning. The young girls do not have the means, accessibility, right information and good quality services that prevent them from getting pregnant.

The UNFPA said that half of the adolescent pregnancies are unintended at birth and a third of the pregnancies end up in unsafe abortions. This explains why a third of the maternal deaths in the

country involve young girls.

"This is something very important, because when we talk about empowering young people, we stop teenage pregnancies so that a girl who does not want to be pregnant can finish school ... and can plan their family with their partner if and when they want," said Alain Sibener, UNFPA representative in Uganda.

Uganda is grappling with a high population growth rate. Figures by the National Population Council (NPC), a state agency that advises the government on population issues, show that the country has a population growth rate of 3.3 percent per annum, ranking third in the world. The country's population, currently at 40 million, is projected to reach 75 million people by 2040. Over 78 percent of the population are youths below the age of 30, according to the NPC.

John Ssekamatte, a consultant with Uganda's National Planning Authority, said Uganda has to ad-

dress the challenge posed by high population growth to achieve its aspiration of attaining upper middle income status by 2040.

"For us to achieve that, we must meaningfully engage the population as a productive force," Ssekamatte said.

Other experts argued that if a large number of youths cannot find jobs and earn satisfactory income, they are likely to become a potential source of social and political instability.

Jessica Ababiku, an Adjumani woman member of the parliament, argued that there is a need to design a holistic approach towards family planning. Religious and cultural beliefs that the locals have must be integrated in the family planning campaigns, she said.

She said sensitization must start at the family level, with parents being warned of the dangers of child marriages.

The UNFPA said that family planning sensitization should continue, noting that empowering women to choose the number, timing and spacing of their pregnancies is not only a matter of health and human rights, but also touches on many multi-sectoral determinants vital to sustainable development.

"Family planning saves money. For every additional U.S. dollar spent on providing family planning services in Uganda, more than three dollars would be saved in pregnancy-related medical care," it said. **Xinhua**

AU envoy urges greater involvement of youth in anti-terrorism war

NAIROBI

AFRICAN countries should harness the energy and creativity of the youth to revitalize action on violent extremism that has gained foothold amid poverty, conflicts and social exclusion, an African Union (AU) envoy said yesterday.

Aya Chebbi, AU youth envoy said that success of counter-terrorism initiatives in Africa depends on robust engagement of the continent's youthful population in policy formulation and awareness on the menace.

"Our governments should change policies that discriminates the youth in leadership and policy formulation to ensure they play a meaningful role in peace, security and prevention of violent extremism," Chebbi (pictured) said on the sidelines of a Pan African counter-terrorism forum underway in Nairobi.

The 31-year old Tunisian peace activist said the African regional high-level conference on counter-terrorism presented an opportunity to discuss greater involvement of youth to fight a vice that is a drawback to the continent's quest for stability, development and peace.

"Senior leadership and policymakers in this continent have a duty to engage the



youth as partners in the war against terrorism," said Chebbi.

The youth are in a better position to fight radicalization through countering divisive narratives spread by militant groups," she added.

She urged governments and multilateral lenders to finance youth led grassroots campaigns to prevent spread of violent ideologies in marginalized regions.

"Governments should support existing efforts to combat violent extremism that are led by the youth. We need to create space for the youth to make them feel they are part

and parcel of efforts to fight terrorism," said Chebbi.

She credited the success of counter-terrorism initiatives in northern Nigeria, Tunisia and Kenya to the meaningful engagement of young people.

"The youth in these countries are engaging religious and cultural leaders to address the root cause of violent extremism and offer sustainable solution," said Chebbi.

She said that providing vulnerable youth with scholarships to pursue higher education combined with sports and culture can be effective in countering spread of violent ideologies. **Xinhua**

Opening-up expands space for global economic growth

ADHERING to building an open world economy is an important experience of the G20 in coping with the international financial crisis, as well as an inevitable requirement for advancing world economic development.

China is an advocate and promoter of an open world economy. It insists on opening the door for development, vigorously facilitating free trade, and fully fulfilling its WTO commitments. As Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly stressed, China's open door will not be

closed – it will only be opened wider.

Actions speak louder than words. From jointly building the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), to establishing pilot free trade zones, and from exploring the development of free trade ports with Chinese characteristics, to successfully hosting the first China International Import Expo and actively preparing for the second one, China has continuously expanded opening up.

To date, the country has become the largest trading partner of more than 120 countries and

regions, and contributed more than 30% to the world economic growth for many years in a row.

China will expand market access for foreign investment in more areas, intensify efforts to enhance international cooperation in intellectual property protection, increase the import of goods and services on an even larger scale, more effectively engage in international macro-economic policy coordination and work harder to ensure the implementation of opening-up related policies.

The above reform and open-

ing-up measures announced by Xi at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation demonstrated China's determination to further expand opening-up.

The G20 is a major forum for international economic cooperation. At present, unilateralism and protectionism have seriously impacted the international economic order, and the risks and uncertainties facing the world economy have risen markedly.

In April, the WTO revised its global growth forecast for 2019

down from 3.7 percent to 2.6 percent. International organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have also expressed that the world economy is in a "subtle moment", as uncertainties such as the escalation of trade friction are mounting, and global trade is under pressure.

At previous G20 summits, Xi has reiterated the significance of opposing protectionism and unilateralism and jointly safeguarding the multilateral trading system. China supports an open, transparent, inclusive and

non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, promotes trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and will make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

With the rise of unilateralism and protectionism, the G20 Hangzhou summit, which called for the building of an open world economy, is of important practical significance, said George N. Tzogopoulos, director of EU-China Programs at the Centre International de Formation Européenne (CIFE).

Openness and cooperation is an important magic weapon to promote economic growth, and adhering to multilateralism and building an open world economy is an important task that the international community should focus on, he added.

Economic globalization is an inevitable and irreversible trend. As the world's second largest economy and the largest trader of goods, China has effectively integrated into the world while opening up.

People's Daily

SPORT



Indian fan reacts during the ICC Cricket World Cup Semi Final against New Zealand at Old Trafford in Manchester, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

Cricket: Indian fans hurt by World Cup exit but proud of team

MUMBAI

INDIAN cricket fans were feeling pain rather than anger on Thursday as they tried to come to terms with their team's shocking World Cup semi-final defeat to New Zealand.

Cricket is like a religion in India, where players can enjoy godlike status when they win but see their effigies burnt and houses pelted with stones when they lose.

While Virat Kohli's men had been favourites to go all the way at the World Cup, their exit did not spark a furious response for fans back home who had been captivated by their run to the last four as the tournament's top team.

Their efforts lauded on social media, the team were also congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who said he was proud of the way they played during their run at the World Cup, which also saw them wrest the world No. 1 ranking from England.

"A disappointing result, but good to see #TeamIndia's fighting spirit till the very end," Modi tweeted after India's 18-run loss in Manchester.

"India batted, bowled, fielded well throughout the tournament, of which we are very proud.

"Wins and losses are a part of life. Best wishes to the team for their future endeavours."

REUTERS

... 'Miracle in Manchester', New Zealand in shock at win over India

WELLINGTON

NEW Zealand's victory over heavy favourites India in the Cricket World Cup semi-finals was as surprising to fans at home as it was to the thousands of Indian supporters at Old Trafford and millions more watching on television.

Kane Williamson's side produced an 18-run victory over India to advance to Sunday's final at Lord's against either Australia or hosts England. They also made the 2015 final in Melbourne where they lost to the hosts.

"Miracle in Manchester", several media outlets used as the headlines for their online reports on Thursday, with special praise reserved for a one-handed catch by James Neesham and a run out by Martin Guptill that swung the game in their favour.

The New Zealand Herald said Guptill's run out of Dhoni, arguably the world's best finisher in ODI cricket, was redemption for a poor run of form with the bat, while Stuff Media said he had gone "From zero to hero".

Just a few hours earlier, few had given the team much hope after they stumbled into the semi-finals on the back of three successive losses.

Opting to bat first in the rain-hit contest played over two days, New Zealand's 239 for eight looked far from imposing against India's formidable batting lineup.

Superb swing bowling by Matt Henry and Trent Boult, however, reduced India to 5-3 before arguably the catch of the tournament by

In his post-match news conference, a glum captain Kohli said it was heart-breaking that his team, also the bookies' favourites to lift the trophy on Sunday, had to exit the showpiece due to some ordinary cricket in a 45 minute spell.

That sentiment was mirrored by many back home too.

"We need an Indian version of the movie 'Hangover'," tweeted Anand Mahindra, chairman of Indian conglomerate Mahindra Group.

"To describe the blunt pain in the head & the bitter taste in the mouth that a country experiences when it wakes up & remembers that it's no longer in the race for a title that was supposed to be in its destiny."

"The sun will still rise tomorrow," was the main headline on the sports page of India's largest selling English daily The Times of India, while the Hindustan Times described the team's failed attempt to win a third title as the 'Knockout Blues'.

Indian media and fans were also united in their praise for Ravindra Jadeja, whose all-round brilliance in just his second match of the tournament was not enough to lift India to Sunday's final at Lord's.

Neesham left the 2011 champions in trouble at 24-4.

A 116-run partnership between Ravindra Jadeja (77) and MS Dhoni brought India back into the game and the pair looked well set to launch in the final three overs.

Jadeja's dismissal in the 48th over, then Dhoni's run out from a direct hit by Guptill four balls later effectively ended India's chances of reaching the 240 needed. They were bowled out for 221 with three balls remaining.

Fans in New Zealand stayed up into the early hours of Thursday watching the India innings unfold, with the country's Sports Minister Grant Robertson providing a running commentary on his Twitter feed.

"One for the true believers," Robertson, who is also the country's finance minister, wrote at the conclusion of the match. "What a game from Kane Williamson with bat and with captaincy. How proud? PROUD."

Robertson's fellow politicians in Britain for their own Parliamentary Cricket World Cup told Radio New Zealand they had descended on a local pub to watch the game and erupted into cross-party hugs and high fives after the result.

Grant Elliott, who hit a six off the penultimate ball in the 2015 semi-final against South Africa that propelled them to the final against Australia, had a message for the team.

"Finals time!" the all-rounder wrote on Twitter.

"Let's go one better than 2015."

REUTERS



Kawhi Leonard and Paul George (AP file photo)

Kawhi Leonard, Paul George officially join LA Clippers

LAS VEGAS

PAUL George and Kawhi Leonard are now officially with the Los Angeles Clippers, moves that bring both of them back to their native Southern California.

It might not be forever: Both can become free agents in only two years.

The Clippers completed their blockbuster trade with the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday, acquiring George for guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, forward Danilo Gallinari and five first-round draft picks – along with the chance to swap draft places in two other years.

"Paul George is one of the greatest two-way players in our game," Clippers President Lawrence Frank said. "He is both an elite scorer and a relentless defender whose versatility elevates any team. When you have the opportunity to acquire a contributor of his caliber, you do what it takes to bring him home."

George can become a free agent again in 2021 if he chooses to exercise that option, and Leonard will be in the same situation as well. A person with knowledge of the situation said that the deal Leonard signed Wednesday is a three-year max that could be worth nearly \$110 million, though the third season is at Leonard's option. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Clippers did not release contract terms.

The Athletic first reported the three-year term and option provision in Leonard's deal. When Leonard decided that he was leaving Toronto for the Clippers last week, he and the team had talked about a four-year max worth \$141 million – but this move, which would make Leonard a free agent after his 10th season, gives him the maximum amounts of flexibility and future earning power.

"This is a historic moment for our organization and our fans," Frank said. "We are grateful and honored that Kawhi Leonard has decided to come home and join the L.A. Clippers. Kawhi is a peerless two-way player, a relentless worker and a natural fit for the serious, professional culture our group has established."

Another major deal got completed Wednesday: Klay Thompson, who will miss part of next season while recovering from a torn ACL, signed his five-year deal to stay with Golden State for nearly \$190 million – the largest free-agent one agreed to this summer. Portland's Damian Lillard signed a \$196 million extension that begins in two years, but he wasn't a free agent. The Warriors also waived Shaun Livingston, who was part of all five of their NBA Finals teams over the last five seasons.

"He has been a tremendous credit to the Warriors organization and our community for the last five years,"

Warriors co-chairman and CEO Joe Lacob said of Livingston.

Leonard will cost the Clippers a lot of money.

George is costing them a lot of money and a lot of picks.

The Clippers surrendered their first-round picks in 2022, 2024 and 2026, plus sent ones for 2021 and 2023 that were obtained through Miami, to Oklahoma City to complete the George trade. Oklahoma City also has the right to swap first-round picks with the Clippers in 2023 and 2025.

"From the time that Paul and his representation made us aware of what had been transpiring and their subsequent request, our focus as an organization was identifying the best paths for our future," Thunder general manager Sam Presti said. "Resiliency has been a staple of our city and our franchise, and this challenge provided us with another opportunity to demonstrate that."

The Thunder also now have a \$10.4 million trade exception.

"Our goal with this transaction was to create value both in the short and long term and help reposition and replenish the organization's future platform," Presti said. "We are thrilled to welcome two extremely talented and efficient players in Shai and Danilo."

It's unclear if Presti is done making big moves this summer. The Thunder has engaged teams in conversations about the possibility of trading All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook, a person familiar with that situation told the AP. Miami is one of the teams that has been part of those talks, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Thunder have not revealed specific details.

Presti said he wished George well.

"We are proud that Paul is a part of our history as an organization and that some of the best basketball of his career was in Oklahoma City," Presti said. "He should be remembered fondly; we wish him and his family the best."

George averaged a career-best 28 points

last season even while dealing with shoulder issues that required surgery, and the Thunder couldn't get out of the first round in either of his two seasons in OKC. George was a finalist for both NBA MVP and Defensive Player of the Year this past season, when he led the league with 2.21 steals per contest.

Leonard is also coming off the best season of his career. Leonard averaged a career-high 26.6 points in the regular season and was even better in the playoffs, averaging 30.5 points for the Raptors in their run to the title. He won NBA Finals MVP honors for the second time, adding this one to the one he got as a member of the San Antonio Spurs in 2014.

"His expectation, and ours, is to contend for championships," Frank said.

Also Wednesday:

– The Philadelphia 76ers completed the signings of forwards Tobias Harris (who ended last season with Philly) and now-former Boston Celtics standout Al Horford. Both of those deals were agreed upon last week.

"We're excited to welcome one of the NBA's best frontcourt players in Al Horford to Philadelphia," 76ers general manager Elton Brand said. "He has built his reputation around hard work and a tradition of winning, which are the same qualities that have formed the foundation of the 76ers. Al's playmaking, elite defensive talents and veteran leadership confirm why he is a crucial addition to our roster."

– Washington completed the signing of two-time All-Star Isaiah Thomas to a one-year deal. He fills a major position of need for Washington, which is bracing to be without John Wall next season.

Thomas said he's simply looking for a chance to prove himself again. Injuries have limited him to 44 games over the last two seasons.

"I want to compete. I want to win," Thomas said. "That was one of the most important things in the Wizards' meeting. I'm coming here to win. I don't know any other way. They felt the same way."

AP

Taylor Swift shakes off Kardashian clan as highest-paid celebrity

LOS ANGELES

SINGER Taylor Swift was named the world's highest-paid entertainer on Wednesday but was closely followed by two members of the wider Kardashian clan - reality star turned cosmetics queen Kylie Jenner and rapper Kanye West.

The annual Forbes Celebrity 100 list also saw soccer stars Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar among the top 10, along with British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and 1970s soft rock band The Eagles, who embarked on a new tour in 2018.

West, the husband of Kim Kardashian, returned to the list after a four-year absence. Forbes estimated his pre-tax earnings at \$150 million, driven mostly by his popular



Taylor Swift performs at the iHeartRadio Wango Tango concert in Carson, California, US, on June 1, 2019. REUTERS

Yeezy sneaker line, putting him in third place. Kim Kardashian ranked No.26 on the list.

Swift, hot off her 2018 "Reputation"

tour and album, earned an estimated \$185 million to take the No. 1 spot. The 29-year-old pop star also topped the list in 2016 after her best-selling "1989" tour

and album.

Jenner, 21, the half-sister of Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian, came in second place after bringing in an estimated \$170 million thanks to her booming online lip kits and cosmetics company.

Earlier this year Forbes declared Jenner to be the world's youngest billionaire.

Forbes compiled its 2019 list by estimating pre-tax earnings from June 2018-June 2019, before deducting fees for managers, based on data from Nielsen, touring trade publication Pollstar, movie database IMDB and interviews with industry experts and many of the celebrities themselves.

The magazine said the world's 100 highest-paid celebrities pulled in \$6.3 billion pre-tax over the past 12 months.

American boxer Floyd Mayweather and actor George Clooney took the top two spots on last year's list but landed outside the top 10 this time.

REUTERS

Difficult to find positives' after last-gasp defeat, says Baxter

CAIRO

SOUTH Africa coach Stuart Baxter admitted it was tough to draw any positives from Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Nigeria in the quarter-finals of the Africa Cup of Nations.

Bafana Bafana stunned the hosts Egypt in the last 16 but were eliminated four days later in Cairo after William Troost-Ekong bundled in a late winner for three-time champions Nigeria.

"It's difficult when you've lost a game in the dying minutes, it's difficult to find positives. I'm sure in one week's time I will find some positives, but at this moment I'm finding it very difficult," said Baxter. "I thought in the first half we weren't brave enough, brave enough to get on the ball in tight space, and brave enough to press higher. In the second half we tried to do that better, and we managed to get a better more mobile possession which gave Nigeria more problems, but we still couldn't find that last strike on goal."

Nigeria took the lead through a first-half goal by Samuel Chukwueze but South Africa hit back 20 minutes from time when Bongani Zungu's header was awarded with the aid of VAR, being used at the tournament for the first time, after the linesman had originally flagged for offside.

"Nigeria were always dangerous, really well organised and have good players, and because we didn't defend as well as we could and we tried to press higher, we left some spaces down the flanks where their good players could attack," said Baxter.

"And then you make the choice as a coach: you go defensive and try to have 1-1 and go to extra time, or you try to win the game."

"This is a tournament, you get nothing for a draw. If I had suddenly gone defensive it would be admitting I didn't think we were good enough to beat Nigeria. I think in the tournament you've got to take that chance."

"So we tried to win the game but we lost it in the dying minutes which is tough to take, but congratulations to Gernot (Rohr) and his team, I'm sure they'll be one of the teams competing to lift the trophy."

Meanwhile, William Troost-Ekong said his late goal that earned Nigeria a 2-1 victory over South Africa and a spot in the Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals was a "dream moment".

The centre-back knocked home a corner in the 89th minute in Cairo as Nigeria advanced to the last four of the competition for the 15th time in 18 appearances.

"I dream about moments like this. To score and for it to be important for the team is amazing," said Troost-Ekong.

"It's not my job to score, I'm a defender so I was happy we didn't give away too many chances. After they scored from a set-piece I thought that I wanted revenge."

"We were confident we could score again. We didn't want to go to extra time because we were going to be tired but I think it was the same for South Africa."

Nigeria, who won the last of their three titles in 2013, will face Algeria or Ivory Coast on Sunday for a place in the July 19 final.

"I think every game is tough now. We've seen big teams lose and go out of the tournament so it's going to be difficult whoever we face," said Troost-Ekong. "We came here to try and win the trophy."

AFP

Meet Ahmed, the inspiring volunteer who interviewed Sadio Mane

CAIRO

VOLUNTEERS are the backbone of every major tournament. And the 2019 Total Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt is just another proof for that. But there are some stories worth telling.

Ahmed Gamal is one of the media volunteers in Cairo International Stadium. Despite losing his sight he never surrendered and was graduated from Media College in 2017. But he couldn't find a chance to work in the field he loves, till he heard about volunteering in AFCON 2019.

And things just became better. Ahmed, who supports Liverpool since 2005, dreamt of interviewing The Reds Superstar Sadio Mane. When Senegal came to Cairo Stadium to face Uganda in the Round of 16, he hoped Mane could come to the pre-match press conference to meet him, but that never happened. Yet, he asked Coach Aliou Cisse who immediately agreed to take him to the Teranga Lions training session, where he made his dream come true.

"I was very happy to meet Sadio Mane. I'm a Liverpool fan since 2005 and I personally love Mane, same like (Mohamed) Salah. He is a very friendly and humble per-

son. When I asked him for a short interview he welcomed and I was thrilled to meet him."

"My first practical experience is volunteering in this AFCON, so to have Sadio Mane is my first ever interview is just awesome. I was very nervous when I met him. Time was short and I wanted to ask him more questions but I'm really satisfied to interview a superstar like him. I hope this is a good omen for my career."

He later went on to have another interview with Nigeria's and Arsenal star Alex Iwobi. It seems his dream is going to other level.

Ahmed owes a lot to the idea of volunteering in Africa's football showpiece. "Volunteering in AFCON 2019 is a great experience. I met many other volunteers who did that before but that was my first experience in such stuff. I love football so once I heard the LOC are asking for volunteers I applied. Thank God I was accepted as a media volunteer in Cairo Stadium. This experience is amazing and will add to me as I'm dealing with people from all over the world and that was something I'm really happy with. It's just the start for my career", he concluded.

(Agencies)

Ex-FIFA executive Jack Warner ordered to pay \$79 million

NEW YORK

A FORMER Caribbean soccer official fighting extradition in the FIFA bribery scandal has been ordered to pay \$79 million in damages from a related U.S. lawsuit.

U.S. District Judge William Kuntz ordered the default judgment against Jack Warner in the 2017 civil action accusing him of embezzling tens of millions of dollars from the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football.

The written ruling was issued in federal court in Brooklyn on Tuesday after Warner failed to contest the claim.

The soccer association "intends to pursue all available avenues to enforce the judgment in any jurisdiction where CONCACAF has reason to believe Mr. Warner may have assets," plaintiff lawyer John Kuster said in a statement Wednesday.

Warner, 76, is a defendant in a sprawling criminal investigation that has resulted in convictions of several top soccer officials. He's out on bail while challenging a U.S. extradition request to Trinidad and Tobago, where he's denied any wrongdoing.

There was no immediate response Wednesday to an email sent to one of his lawyers.

(Agencies)

Nigeria, Senegal in African Cup semi finals; VAR in spotlight

CAIRO

NIGERIA and Senegal went through to the semifinals and VAR was straight into the spotlight on its debut at the African Cup of Nations on Wednesday.

This time, the often-contentious referee video review system got its right.

Nigeria beat South Africa 2-1 with a winning goal bundled in from a corner by William Troost-Ekong with just a minute to go.

Samuel Chukwueze gave Nigeria the lead in the first half at Cairo International Stadium. Bongani Zungu equalized in the 71st for South Africa when his looping header from a free kick, ruled out initially for offside, was correctly allowed to stand after a VAR referral that took about five minutes.

Zungu's was one of three goals to be looked at by VAR on the first day the system was being used at the African Cup. It's in play in Egypt from the quarterfinals onwards.

That VAR decision became decidedly less important when defender Troost-Ekong forced in a corner off his knee at the very end to win it for three-time champion Nigeria.

"We are lucky in the end to score this second goal," Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr said. "But we are happy."

Senegal was the first team through to the last four and is a step closer to its first African title after beating Benin 1-0 across Cairo at the 30 June Stadium, where Liverpool forward Sadio Mane had two goals ruled out for offside through VAR in a frantic second half.

But in between the disallowed goals, Idrissa Gueye scored in the 70th minute. Gueye made a surging run from deep and was played in by a deft touch from Mane, who was often the catalyst for Senegal. Going at full pace, Gueye swept his shot past Benin goalkeeper Owolabi Kassifa to seal it.

Senegal turned up the pressure on Benin in the second half.

Mane's header from a free kick shortly after halftime was ruled offside after Algerian referee Mustapha Ghorbal briefly consulted VAR through his headset.

Mane also broke clear and scored straight after Gueye's goal but was adjudged offside again after another review by Ghorbal - this time for a little longer. The second disallowed goal was very tight, but also correct.

The referee didn't need to go to the side-



Senegal's Papa Alioune Ndiaye fouls Benin's Emmanuelle Imorou in front of Senegal's head coach Aliou Cisse during the African Cup of Nations quarterfinal soccer match between Senegal and Benin in 30 June stadium in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, July 10, 2019. (AP Photo)

lines to check the TV screen on either occasion.

Zungu's goal in the Nigeria-South Africa game was more dramatic. Referee Redouane Jiyed of Morocco needed much longer to consult over the headset before indicating, by making the outline of a square with his hands and then pointing to the center circle, that the header stood.

Senegal's Mane, who had three goals in three games coming into the quarters, was a constant threat to Benin's last line of defense.

As well as his two disallowed efforts, he missed out when 1-on-1 with Kassifa, he made the save, and defender Moise Adilehou followed up with a goal-saving tackle.

Senegal had a flurry of chances in a few crazy minutes after the goal.

Benin, which was playing in the knockout stages for the first time, had defender Olivier Verdon sent off late in the match to effectively end the underdog's hopes.

Verdon was red-carded for chopping down Gueye on the edge of the penalty area with seven minutes to go when Gueye was again clean through.

Senegal will play Madagascar or Tunisia in the semifinals as it aims to finally lift the African Cup at its 16th attempt. Senegal, with Mane in strong form, is now the favorite after host Egypt's exit at the hands of South Africa in the last 16.

Egyptian fans still haven't forgiven South

Africa and cheered for Nigeria on Wednesday night.

Nigeria faces the winner of the Ivory Coast-Algeria quarterfinal.

AP



Zimbabwe can remain optimistic despite Afcon disaster

HARARE, Zimbabwe

FAILURE and heartbreak have long been familiar themes in Zimbabwean football, and it was perhaps inevitable that the Warriors' 2019 Africa Cup of Nations campaign would end in despair.

The Southern Africans flew to Egypt amid a rising tide of optimism after some encouraging displays in the qualifiers only to return home a miserable lot, with a 4-0 defeat by Democratic Republic of Congo ensuring an inglorious end to the dream of a first ever appearance in the knockout stages.

Yet the future might not be as gloomy as the results from Egypt suggest. In fact, Zimbabwe produced enough evidence in their first two matches to suggest they are gradually coalescing into a cohesive unit with some genuine quality across all departments.

Indeed, the one inspiration Warriors fans can draw from the Afcon campaign is that their team took a significant step towards having an established frame with enough talent to ensure continuity over the coming years.

Zimbabwe have struggled to come up with an established team of consistent performers since the turn of the decade, with so many prospects failing to summon the quality needed for an enduring international career. This has left the Warriors looking more like a team in perpetual transition.

From the squad that was in Gabon two years ago for instance, only four of the regular starters, namely Knowledge Musona, Khama Billiat, Marvelous Nakamba and Nyasha Mushekwi, made it onto the pitch for Zimbabwe's opening group match against Egypt. Kuda Mahachi, who started all three group matches in Gabon, had to be content with a peripheral role this time around.

But the evidence from the both the qualifiers and the first two matches in Cairo -- the 1-0 defeat by Egypt and the 1-1 draw with Uganda -- suggest things are about to take a turn for the better.

"We have a team which consists of some good young talent," Zimbabwe legend John Phiri told ESPN.

"We did very well in the first game against Egypt for instance, despite the loss. After watching that match, and the Uganda game as well, I actually thought we would have a great tourna-



Knowledge Musona

ment."

The back-four, to begin with, is taking on a more predictable shape after being wholly reconstructed since Gabon 2017, when the quartet of Hardlife Zvirekwi, Onismo Bhasera, Elisha Muroiwa and Costa Nhamoinesu did duty.

The class of 2019 looks much younger, with new fullbacks Divine Lunga and Tendayi Darikwa bringing some much needed dynamism to the channels. Lunga's ability to run at defences and deliver useful balls should prove a valuable asset in future battles, while Darikwa also adds some quality down the right when the team is on the offen-

sive. The emergence of the two is one of the key reasons why Zimbabwe's play is increasingly looking more coordinated and less disjointed.

Lunga, 24, along with 23-year-old centre-back Teenage Hadebe, are still at a stage when defenders are vulnerable to making errors, but they have started gaining international experience early enough, and they could yet swell the team's ranks of European-based talent.

The final third has again lacked quality and depth in recent times, with Zimbabwe having to rely heavily on the duo of Musona and Billiat for both invention and execution. Musona has scored 22 goals in 39 appearances while Billiat has weighed in with another 15 goals.

The centre strikers have struggled to complement the duo, however, with Nyasha Mushekwi managing just six goals in 21 appearances. Cuthbert Malajila, for his part, has scored nine goals in 31 caps.

The arrival of Talent Chawapiwa means more options for the wide midfield positions, where Mahachi is also still available to contribute. Among the emerging centre strikers, Tino Kadewere and diaspora-born Macauley Bonne look set to begin their reign when the FIFA World Cup qualifiers be-

gin later this year.

In central midfield, one big question still centres around whether Marshall Munetsi can be the ideal partner for Marvelous Nakamba. The 23-year-old centre-back Teenage Hadebe, are still snapped up by French Ligue 1 outfit Reims, was mostly deployed in central defence during his time at South African giants Orlando Pirates. He did not quite find his range when handed a central midfield role in Egypt.

Further up the field, the No. 10 position might also be in need of renewal. Veteran Ovidy Karuru is now 30, and although he did a decent job in Zimbabwe's first two matches in Egypt, his days at the top look to be coming to an end. Former Zimbabwe Under-20 coach Jairo Tapera is impressed with the team that is shaping up, although he would want enough focus on talent development to ensure more depth and continuity.

"I have worked with most of these young players at junior level," Tapera told ESPN. "I have no doubt that the likes of Lunga, Hadebe, Munetsi and Kadewere, among others, will enjoy better days in the national team."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Nigeria, Senegal in African Cup semis; VAR in spotlight

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



MS Dhoni

Dhoni should have come in to bat earlier - Gavaskar

LONDON

"BAFFLING."

That was the word former India captain Sunil Gavaskar used to express his disappointment with the Indian team management's decisions ahead of, and during, their World Cup 2019 campaign. India had topped the league stage of the tournament, but lost by 18 runs against fourth-placed New Zealand in a thrilling semi-final.

Matt Henry and Trent Boult had reduced India to 5 for 3 in their chase of 240, but there was some surprise about MS Dhoni's batting position, with the most experienced member of the team coming in at No.7, with all of Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya sent in ahead of Dhoni.

Dhoni didn't walk out even when India became 24 for 4 in 10 overs, with Jimmy Neesham taking a spectacular one-handed catch to send back Karthik. The general expectation was that the situation was ideal for Dhoni's experience and calm, but it was Pandya who came out to join Pant.

Both young players put their heads down in a 47-run stand for the fifth wicket, playing with confidence and composure. However, Pant went for the slog-sweep against Mitchell Santner, with the bowler having built up pressure through tight bowling, and was caught at deep midwicket. Pandya was out to a similar shot, as the asking rate mounted.

Gavaskar felt that Dhoni should have been the one to join Pant when the fourth wicket fell, since he could have settled any nerves that Pant, as a rookie, might have felt.

"At that stage (24 for 4) you did not need two players playing in the same mould," Gavaskar told Star Sports on Thursday, the day after India's defeat. "Both (Pant and Pandya) are attacking players. It could have been an MS Dhoni coming in at this stage and talking to Rishabh every second delivery."

"He would have assessed from the non-striker's end what exactly Rishabh Pant is feeling; is he getting a little impatient? You have sent two people whose natural game is to go bang-bang, and at that stage, with the ball doing all kinds of things and the pressure being there, four wickets gone - you wanted somebody to hang in there. That was baffling."

When India's captain Virat Kohli was asked why Dhoni walked in at No. 7, the lowest he has batted in the tournament, he said the role Dhoni had been given some games into the tournament was to be there at the end. "Well, he's been given that role after the first few games of being in a situation where he can, if the situation's bad, control one end, like he did today," Kohli said. "Or if there is a scenario where there are six or seven overs left, he can go and strike."

Gavaskar pointed to Ambati Rayudu as one batsman who would have had the ability and experience to handle the situation following the top order collapse. Rayudu had been on the list of standbys for India's World Cup squad, but wasn't called up despite two men being rendered unavailable through injuries, following which he announced his retirement from all cricket.

Rayudu had batted 14 times at No.4 since his return to the Indian ODI squad last year in the Asia Cup, but he wasn't called up to the team, with Pant flown in when Shikhar Dhawan was ruled out and Mayank Agarwal included when Vijay Shankar had to exit.

"Let's face, there have been a lot of baffling decisions over the last couple of years. Ambati Rayudu for example - he should have been brought here," Gavaskar said. "Why and how can you explain to me you bring in a Mayank Agarwal? He hasn't played a single ODI as yet. He just came before the Sri Lanka game, the last league game, (so) you want to him to make his debut in a semifinals or a final in case a slot was open? Why not bring in an Ambati Rayudu, who is your standby? Very disappointing to see what happened yesterday."

VVS Laxman, too, was critical of the selectors and the Indian team management for preferring Vijay Shankar over Rayudu in the original squad. "Yes, Vijay Shankar can contribute with the ball (too), but what about the experience the Indian middle order required?" Laxman said. "Who is that batsman at No. 4? It has been musical chairs: 13 players have been tried and tested, but they have not been given enough opportunities."

AGENCIES

Vettori hopes New Zealand can build on 'best ever' one-day display

LONDON

NEW Zealand's thrilling semi-final victory over Cricket World Cup favourites India ranks as one of their best ever limited-overs performances, former skipper Daniel Vettori has said.

Kane Williamson's side sealed an 18-run victory and advanced to Sunday's title clash at Lord's, where they face Australia or hosts England, with several media outlets calling the shock win the "Miracle in Manchester."

Vettori, who guided New Zealand to the 2011 semi-finals, heaped praise on pace bowlers Trent Boult and Matt Henry after they dismissed India's top three of KL Rahul, Rohit Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli for one run each.

"To bowl as outstandingly as they did in a high-pressure game makes victory over India one of New Zealand's best ever one-day performances," Vettori wrote in his column for the International Cricket Council.

"Trent Boult and Matt Henry's opening spell was one of the best you'll see, and to dismiss three incredibly talented India batsmen to have them five for three takes something special."

"A semi-final adds so much pressure, so when you're able to deliver under that type of strain - it's something else... they bowled impeccably... and that pressure tells on the batsmen, so they really earned the wickets."

Boult and Henry shared five wickets while spinner Mitchell Santner claimed two in a tight display to snuff out India's hopes.

The victory sent 2015 runners-up New Zealand to their second consecutive World Cup final and Vettori said they would be full of confidence.

"As a New Zealand fan you would be hopeful of them doing it again in the final," Vettori added.

"But whatever happens it's going to be a great occasion, and the Black Caps can go into that game with a lot of confidence behind them."

REUTERS



Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Managing Director, Devotha Mdachi (R) and national team's skipper, Mbwana Samatta, sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which will see Samatta turn into the country's tourism ambassador. Looking on are TTB Board Chairman, Thomas Mihayo (Standing R) and Samatta's representative. The ceremony was held at TTB offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: BEATRICE PHILEMON

TTB names Samatta as tourism ambassador

By Beatrice Philemon & Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MBWANA Samatta has been named Tanzania's tourism ambassador by Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB).

The senior national team's skipper signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TTB to promote Tanzania's tourism potentials in all areas where he will go for either football matches across the world or other business issues.

"We have signed the MoU with Samatta so that he can help us market Tanzania and the tourist attractions that we have across the world," TTB Managing Director, Devotha Mdachi, said.

Devotha said the player, who turns out for KRC Genk of Belgium, was named the ambassador due to his outstanding performance both at his club and the national team.

She said they expect Samatta to carry out his ambassadorial role well for the benefit

of the country.

"We settled for Mbwana Samatta because of his performance in Belgium, where he plays for KRC Genk, and the senior national team, our expectation is that he will carry his duties well," she said.

Samatta said he will do all he can to promote the country's tourist attractions.

He thanked TTB for honoring him with the ambassador role.

"It's an honor for me to be appointed the tourism ambassador, I will do all I can to promote my country to the world," he said.

The appointment of Mbwana Samatta as the country's goodwill ambassador has come at a good time as the national team skipper is linked to a move to a top European club.

If the move will not materialize he can still promote the country's tourist attractions as his current side KRC Genk has qualified for this year's UEFA Champions League.

Mbwana Samatta, according to Devotha, has been using his social media accounts to

market the country's tourism potentials.

Devotha noted he will get a chance to visit different tourists attractions existing in the country to help him see and understand what the country has to offer in the tourism sector in terms of wildlife, cultural tourism, beach tourism, historical sites and others.

The MoU will help Tanzania become well-known for what it is endowed with and attract more international visitors to visit the country, the TTB boss disclosed.

Samatta thanked TTB for appointing him as a goodwill ambassador to market Tanzania's tourism potentials and attract more tourists to visit the country.

"I am extremely pleased to have Devotha and TTB's Board Chairman, Thomas Mihayo, with me here today to sign the MoU that will in turn help Tanzania's tourism potentials be well-known in many countries across the world," he noted.

Mihayo thanked TTB management for appointing Mbwana Samatta as the goodwill ambassador.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

MY CAR USES FOSSIL FUEL



SO THAT SMOKE IS OLD BONES BURNING!

EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kofi Za Wana
14:00 Radio: Planet Bongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM