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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8433• PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA MONDAY 24 JANUARY, 2022

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'Blue economy needs right set of laws'

By Guardian Reporter,

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said that for the islands to attain goals set out for the 'blue economy' drive, a robust judicial system and good laws must be put in place to facilitate progress.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks yesterday at the launching of the Law Week activities at Nyerere Square in the capital, going in tandem with the launching of the Judiciary logo and flag, noting that legal procedures must go together with government plans to improve the lives of the people via the blue economy.

"Personally, I will be very glad if lawyers from both sides of the Union will have some serious discussions on how laws and procedures can be improved to achieve the Zanzibar government's aim in building the blue economy," he told the gathering. He referred to his remarks when opening the House of Representatives, asserting that

"Zanzibaris have no option, but to turn the ocean into their farm as all new job opportunities can be found there." Zanzibar was not bestowed with big land area as it is made up of many small islands, but its population has increased five times in 56 years. In 1964 there were 300,000 inhabitants but now the population is close to

1.6m, he stated. In his speech, Dr Mwinyi appealed to lawyers and court officials to take into account Tanzania's big economic plans and feel free to provide legal advice.

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (R) draws the curtain in Dodoma city yesterday to launch the Judiciary of Tanzania emblem in commemoration of Law Week celebrations. Left (in cap, red T-shirt) is Tanzania's Chief Justice, Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma. Photo: State House

Lake Tanganyika flooding: Big decline in fish catches

By Salome Kitomari, Kigoma

FISHERMEN and fishmongers are in dire straits following weeks of flooding on Lake Tanganyika as those who go fishing come back with paltry catches and the markets had to be shifted elsewhere.

Shore fish markets of Kibirizi and Nyobonzi are among areas affected by the changing lake ecosystem in the wake of global climate change, posing challenges to fish stakeholders in Kigoma Region.

Fishmongers say they do not get any money as their market area is flooded and fishermen do not get fish

“We were selling a lot, but after the water hit us we left the building and moved to the other side, where there is no business anymore, while shore fish

markets are being swallowed pushing fish mongers far from built markets to makeshift spots more than a hundred meters away.

Fresh fish traders in the former Kibirizi fish market say they are down financially and in spirit all of a sudden after flooding water covered all viable commercial spots.

Mlasi Juma (47) said the fishmongers had to abandon the built market, meanwhile as the steady supply of fish stumbled with the flooding. "We were selling a lot, but after the water hit us we left the building and moved to

anywhere, while shore fish

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Call for measures as crocs, hippos terrorise villagers

By Guardian Correspondent, Nkasi

LOCAL leaders in Kizumbi ward in Nkasi District Rukwa Region, are appealing to wildlife authorities to harvest crocodiles and hippos living in excessive numbers and attacking people in the area for months on end.

Ward councillor Oswald Kamsipi broke into tears at a council meeting, stating that his previous appeals for action landed on deaf ears, despite animals roaming on lake shores and inflicting damage.

The scene was at the weekend when councillors met the district economic, construction and environmental when the committee was submitting its report. The councillor was then given an opportunity to ask a question.

He said for a long time he has been appealing to the district council to send game wardens to harvest crocodiles and hippos coming ashore from Lake Tanganyika nearby and rivers and terrorized

villagers, causing deaths and injuries apart from destroying crops, but his calls fell on deaf ears.

"These beasts have virtually shifted into the villages in my ward. We live with them as if they also own houses in the areas," he said.

"In the past year 11 people have died and eight injured, some of

whom are still recovering from their injuries" he said, gasping to know how this request should be expressed if all this doesn't move the relevant authorities, then burst into tears.

Evarist Mpemba, the committee chairman said the committee's position is to call for the culling of crocodiles and hippos as they have

been a terror in villagers' lives.

For his part, council chairman Pancras Maliyatabu acknowledged the intensity of the problem in the ward and other lakeside areas. He promised no immediate help, saying that in the 2022/23 Budget estimates, the council was increasing funds for the purchase of bullets to shoot the beasts.



Zanzibar Tourism and Antiquities ministry permanent secretary Fatma Mabrouk Khamis (3rd-R) and NMB Bank Plc chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi sign an MoU in Zanzibar at the weekend focused on boosting collaboration between the two parties. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Elders: TASAF aid eases care for abandoned grandchildren

By Guardian Reporter, Handeni

THE trend of young adults having children and sending the offspring to live with grandparents is becoming common in many parts of the country but it is a heavy burden to many already struggling elders.

This came to light here at the weekend when senior citizens who are beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) highlighted the fact that substantial amounts from the money they receive end up in expenses for grandchildren whose parents are in various urban areas. Elizabeth Mganga (70), a resident of Kampene area, Kidereko ward of Handeni District said she was left with her grandchild since he was in elementary school without being assured of upkeep support. Sometimes they used to beg from

neighbours to eat, she said. "My daughter was married but unfortunately she died and had one child. Thereafter it was agreed that the child will be under custody of his father as I did not have the strength and resources for his upkeep, but surprisingly his father came and dumped the child on me and went away," the elder narrated.

"At first I thought he would be sending money or food for the child but it was not so. Hence I started bringing up my grandchild; even a single meal was problematic for us. It was hard, many times we were only drinking porridge, and if it became too hard we went to neighbours to beg for food," she said, noting that at times the child could not attend school owing to hunger.

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Elders: TASAF aid eases care for abandoned grandchildren

FROM PAGE 1

Since being registered in the TASAF programme, her life has been much better - now having three meals a day and her grandchild was now in Form VI. She has built a two-room house from her meagre savings, she elaborated, expressing gratitude for the work TASAF was doing "without which I don't know how my life would have turned into."

For her part, Amina Mwaliko (64), a resident of MsasaShule in the district said she was left with six grandchildren and found herself living a very difficult life with a meagre income.

"I lived by selling green vegetables in the streets and at that time I used to live a normal life because I had no big family. Hardship started when I was dumped with six grandchildren belonging to my two sons; they did not care about them for anything. It was really difficult," she explained. "TASAF came to my rescue through a village meeting that recommended me after seeing the life I was leading. The programme was a real saviour for me, it has helped me a lot, and from the money I receive I started a small poultry keeping business. We are now living well," she added



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa pictured yesterday moments after laying the stone foundation for Mogitu-Katesh water project in Hanang District while on an official tour of Manyara Region. Left is Water minister Jumaa Aweso. Photo: PMO

Blue economy needs right set of laws, says Dr Mwinyi

FROM PAGE 1

Both governments recognise that there are laws that can be an obstacle to attain expectations for economic and community development, hence they need to be amended to make economic planning a success, he said.

He launched Law Week activities by reminding law officials on the importance of adhering to ethics when meting out justice.

Stressing the importance of respecting the law was vital as lack of it undermines the principles of good governance by fostering corruption, embezzlement, negligence and lack of accountability, he emphasised.

The laws are crucial to building up our unity, solidarity and economic achievements, as these values depend on the rule of law and judicial probity to be realized, he added.

Uganda bank governor Mutebile dies in Kenya

NAIROBI

The governor of the Bank of Uganda, Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile, is dead. Mutebile, 72, died yesterday morning at a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya, according to an announcement by Deputy Governor Micheal Atingi-Ego.

Prof Mutebile was admitted to hospital on December 31, 2021 after he collapsed due to complications related to diabetes. He had been in and out of hospital in

recent years for the same complications.

A seasoned professional economist, Prof Mutebile has served as governor and chairman of the board of directors of the Bank of Uganda since 2001, and had just started a new term of office for which he was reappointed in 2021. He served as secretary to the treasury from 1992 to 2001 when he was appointed governor. He is remembered for

spearheading the design and implementation of the Economic Reform Programme which restored Uganda from the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s to sound economic performance during his service as the permanent secretary and secretary to the Treasury in the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

He also worked as a consultant for multilateral and regional or-

ganisations including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of East and Central Africa, UK Department for International Development, the North-South Institute in Canada and for the governments of Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Eritrea, and Nepal.

AGENCIES



Ridhiwani Kikwete (C), Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister, listens to one of the residents of Makombe village in Chalenze (in headscarf) whose houses were demolished by rains at the weekend. He is the legislator for the constituency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Somaliland's quest for recognition: UK debate offers hint of sea change

By Correspondent Matthew Gordon

While the rest of the Horn of Africa region is making waves on the battlefield, the tiny, self-declared republic of Somaliland has been having its presence felt where representative democracy and open debate lurk.

In the halls of the UK Parliament, where, on the 18th of January, around two dozen British MPs convened to discuss the recognition of Somaliland's independence.

The surprisingly large turnout and display of cross-party consensus (a rarity) gave the proceedings an air of hope, the slight rumblings of a sea change. This was despite

the fact that the government representative's concluded by insisting on stubbornly maintaining the status quo.

For the UK - and the West more generally - this has involved treating Somaliland as a region of wider Somalia. This is despite its practical self-governance and ambitions for independence.

At the same time the West has chosen to leave it up to Somalia and its African neighbours to lead a change of course, if they so choose.

Over the past three decades Somaliland has accumulated achievements in maintaining peace and holding elections. These developments have earned it special attention and praise from foreign

governments and policymakers. But they have not won it diplomatic recognition.

There are signs, however, that the country's fortunes are changing. This is partly due to the West losing allies in Horn of Africa region to China. At the same time Somaliland is establishing itself as a hub of regional trade following a deal with DP World to redevelop its Berbera port.

These developments seem to have paid off in the form of increased international attention. Evidence of this is in the recent uptick of open engagement from US political actors towards Somaliland. This has included a visit from

the first-ever staff congressional delegation to the territory last month.

The fact-finding mission was itself the direct result of lobbying of Congress members and think tanks by Somaliland's foreign minister in Washington. Somaliland's president, Muse Bihi, is scheduled to make his own trip sometime soon.

In one sense, this recent flurry of developments is just the world catching up to the reality of Somaliland. Listening to the speeches from parliamentarians, it is clear that the moral, legal, political and economic justifications for Somaliland's recognition have seeped into the bloodstream of political discourse.

Lake Tanganyika flooding: Big decline in fish catches

FROM PAGE 1

the other side, where there is no business," she stated, noting that residents in the Kibirizi area have been severely affected as houses were flooded and a number of families were forced out.

Fish markets were relocated to Mitimongi, Kabondo, Pilimahonda and some other areas, while those affected stutter as they can't figure out what else they can do to earn an income. "It's very difficult to find another business do at this point," said the mother of three.

"In the past you could buy fish at 40,000/- and be sure of a 5,000/- profit or more per day, but now I do not get any money as our area is flooded and fishermen do not get fish anymore," she explained, underlining how the situation is dire for the fishing trade community.

Unlike earlier, boats cannot reach the relocated fish markets, while fishermen get poor catch levels, such that purchasing fish at 10,000/- and selling beings up a 2,000/- at the end of the day, she elaborated.

Mlasi started the business in 2000, reminiscing that in those days the business was good but now living conditions are difficult. "I used to buy fish for 100,000/- and getting

between 15,000/- and 20,000/- a day as profit. But now things are different and lives are becoming increasingly difficult."

Dinna Jackson, a fishmonger as well, said currently the trading environment is depressed, throwing stakeholders into confusion as fish is all they have done all their adult lives. And the situation has come up just as schools are reopening, hindering a number of traders and fishermen to send back children to school.

Zabibu Hamis, another trader, said that after the floodwaters receded, fish ponds collapsed and fish returned to the lake meanwhile as traders were relocating from the shore.

"Capital went down, you don't bring in money, you just give in and end up eating up what remains of the capital. Some went to farming cassava and so on; there are children who have failed to go to school but you can't send him without shoes and school uniforms," she narrated.

She says they got into food vending and cloth embroidery but those are slow moving occupations, unlike the more vibrant fish business.

Kibirizi fish market traders' chairman, Machumu Yenda, said the biggest challenge is finding reliable fish sources, as rough

weather is inhospitable to fishing. Fish products we see now are very small from the shore of Kagunga to Kibirizi, and fishermen have to go much farther into the lake for a good catch, he said.

A good part of Kigoma residents depend on Lake Tanganyika and that the situation is getting harder, the local government official noted, appealing for government help to find better tools for fishermen to ease their current plight.

In the past the market was able to receive three tonnes of supplies per day but ends getting half a tonne a day, which reduces the output of individuals, the regions and has an impact on the wider economy, he said.

Suzanna Ezekiel, who hires fishing gear to fishermen and takes up fish for cleaning before disposing the fish on the market, said that expectations of being somewhere in the fish to market value chain were crumbling. During the rainy season as the cold weather comes in or it eases out there is no place to fish as the area is flooded.

A fisherman, George Kalea said that due to the increase in the depth the fishermen have to obtain better equipment but they have no resources to get such fishing gear.

Prisca Mziray, a researcher at the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI),

said that propitious wind speed to create waves that modify temperature currents in the lake was lacking with the rise in temperature, pushing fish to lower levels of the lake.

"The surface of the water is warm, the middle is cooler and the lower is colder," she said, noting that wind sets off currents that mix the various water layers and fish can climb to upper reaches.

The increase in activities such as agriculture near the lake shore raises the rate of had led to impairing fish breeding grounds for fish, reducing fish stocks, while untreated industrial water harms breeding capacity as well.

Ritha Mlingi, the regional fisheries officer, said that the state of fisheries is unsatisfactory as fishery products have decreased, the value of the catch decreasing significantly. Some fish species have declined and some disappearing altogether, she stated.

The current level of fish is as yet undetermined, she stated, referring to the need for research in the issue but also affirming that climate change has contributed to the decline of fish. They are among the more vulnerable species in the face of change, she declared.

Enhanced energy use in fishing activity

was another challenge, corresponding rising numbers of those making a living from the lake. This leads to difficulties in supervising regulatory requirements that one catches fish starting one kilometer from the shores.

"Whoever is caught fishing below that is engaging in illegal fishing," she said, remarking that the regional authorities had relocated women entrepreneurs selling fish products in local markets. Those in water-covered drying areas had to build new areas, she stated.

Dr Selemani Jafu, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), said that climate change has led to an increase in water levels in Lake Tanganyika by two meters, which is dangerous for economic activities in the area.

"We're currently conducting research while encouraging people to plant trees around the lake," he said, showing the difficulties authorities face in controlling the ecosystem around Lake Tanganyika—the second largest African great lake and second deepest freshwater lake in the world.

This story is produced under WAN-IFRA, Women in News (WIN) Social Impact Reporting Initiative (SIRI).

Police in Dodoma probe five Bahi family killings

By Guardian Correspondents, Dodoma

INVESTIGATION is ongoing under which five members of a family at Zanka village in Bahi District were brutally murdered by unknown people and their bodies left inside the house.

Those killed were named as Hoseah Kapande and his wife Paulina Kapande, their two children—Isack Kapande, a Form One student and Agnes Kapande, a Standard Three pupil as well as their grandchild who has been identified by one name as Heltony.

Dodoma Regional Police Commander, Onesmo Lyanga confirmed the incident saying initial investigation reports showed that the deceased were killed by unknown people. He said police are still investigating the matter, calling upon residents at the area to remain calm especially this time when the force is yet to establish the source of the murder.

Lyanga urged the villagers to provide full support to the police force by sharing information that could be useful to them. He said such cooperation between the villagers and police would help to reduce crime incidents within the community.

"There have been several murder incidences; we are organized and prepared to end such cruelty acts. The

force is determined to ensure all those engaging in crimes are arrested and arraigned," he added, noting that it is the force's responsibility to ensure Tanzanians in rural and urban areas live in peace.

Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Antony Mtaka directed security organs to investigate the cause of such kind of murders in the region. He called on relatives of the deceased family to cooperate with the police to facilitate investigations. "We want Dodoma to remain safe," said Mtaka.

Speaking at the scene on Saturday night, the deceased's brother—Ernest Kapande said that he lastly met Kapande's family on January 20th this year.

"I have not been in touch with my brother since January 20th, this year; I was shocked today when my child called me over a phone saying my brother and his family have been murdered inside their house," he narrated.

One of the villagers, Neema Mbuva said: "We are saddened by their deaths; security organs should find out the culprits and take stringent legal measures against them."

This is the third murder incidence to happen in Dodoma after two women were recently killed by spouses.



Veronica Kalamu (2nd-R), a winner of Vodacom's 'Show Love, Tule Shangwe' promotion raffle, receives a dummy cheque for 1m/- from the firm's Lake Victoria zone head of sales Ayubu Kalufya (R). This was at a prize-giving ceremony held in Kahama yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PM gives two weeks for MSD to provide gear to healthcare facilities in Manyara

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has given two weeks for the Medical Store (MSD) to ensure that by next month it should deliver all the necessary equipment to health care facilities in Manyara Region as the money has already been paid.



"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has issued a directive that all health facilities upon completion should start providing services, so MSD must ensure that it delivers equipment to those facilities as soon as possible. Service delivery facilities are complete and we want to see them used and if not used they will be damaged," Majaliwa (pictured) said

The premier issued the directive yesterday when he inspected the Mogitu health center construction project in Hanang District during a working visit to inspect development projects being implemented by the Government in Manyara Region.

Majaliwa said the government is committed to improving health

services in the country, so the completion of the Mogitu health center aims to move health services to the people and reduce the distance to follow those services at the Katesh Ward Health Center.

He also instructed the Chief Medical Officer of Hanang District Dr. Boniface Manditi should ensure that the center starts providing health services to the people as its construction has already been completed.

For his part, Dr Manditi said the cost of implementing the project is 578.9m/- of which 400m/- provided by the Central Government, 125.7m/- has been disbursed by Hanang's Council and the contribution of the people is 53.2m/-.

He assured the Prime Minister that from Monday services will be provided at the station.

Dr Manditi said the center is expected to serve a total of 11,725 residents from the three villages of Mogitu County namely Mogitu, Gabadaw, Gidagamowd and during the surrounding areas. He said the project is in the process of being finalized, including the completion of clean water and sewage systems.

Mwakibete directs TPA to employ graduates of the Bandari College

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete, has directed the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to ensure that it provides employment priority to the graduates of the Bandari College so as to promote the value of the facility.

Speaking during the 20th graduation ceremony of the college in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Mwakibete wanted TPA to ensure that in the 600 new employment vacancies which they applied to the government, to ensure that graduates from the college are given priority.

According to her, there will be no meaning of having the college while the majority of graduates complete studies and remain in the streets with the jobs being given to other people.

"We should first look at what our college produces, if their education requirements fit the job vacancies, then why not be given the jobs, our aim is to promote the college by allowing the graduates to show practically in the offices what they have been learning in all these years," she said.

She assured that the government through TPA will continue improving and strengthening the college so as to enable it to produce competent graduates who will be able to perform well in the market.

"I have heard here a lot of challenges highlighted by the college's students and leadership, on the shortage of buildings, I direct the special committee formed to supervise talks between this college and the National College of Tourism (NCT) to work and fulfil its responsibilities within scheduled timeframe to enable its decision to reach to the ministry for implementation," she explained.

Earlier, TPA director general Eric Hamissi said in 2001 the government divided some buildings of the Bandari College and gave them to the NCT, something which has remained a huge challenge to the college with the number of students increasing annually.

"It is not as we are pushing the committee which is expected to meet next month, but because we have

shortage of buildings which are essential for quality education, we are appealing to the ministry to think on bringing back the buildings to the Bandari College so as to cater the current demand," he said.

Dr Lufunyo Hussein, Principal of the college said the college has commended processes to start providing degree courses.

The college has this year produced a total

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all the interested parties and the general public that a GENERAL MEETING of the company will be held on 09/02/2022 at the registered office of the Liquidator, at 10:30 in the morning GMT, at which the Liquidator will lay an account of the winding up of the company and provide any explanation thereof.

Liquidator(s): LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE
Liquidator's address: 368 MSASANI ROAD, MIKUMI HOUSE, OYSTERBAY, P.O. BOX 9673, DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Date of appointment: 09 APRIL 2021
By whom appointed: MEMBERS

SIGNED: _____
DATE: 10/01/2022
Name in block letters: LINDA ALLAN MWAMBETE

NIC Life House 4th Floor, Wing C
Sokoine Drive/Ohio Street
P. O. Box 6100, Dar es Salaam
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ALL THAT LANDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PLOT NO. 01, VIJIBWENI DESCRIBED UNDER C.T. NO. 168760, L.O. NO. 701811 & KGMC/LD/VJ/1/636, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, we have been instructed by our client to advertise the sale by Tender process of the property captioned above.

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- INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED to submit bids for the purchase of the property in a sealed envelope clearly marked "BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT PLOT NO. 01, VIJIBWENI, KIGAMBONI INDUSTRIAL AREA DESCRIBED UNDER C.T. NO. 168760 & L.O. NO. 701811" indicating the offer for the property with full address of the bidder shown and the same should be submitted so as to reach the undersigned on the address below before 1600 hours on 29th February 2022 by 1630 hours at the office mentioned below. Bidders are invited to attend during the event if they so wish.
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Pursuant to section 8 of Electronic and Postal Communication Act, Cap 306 of the Laws of Tanzania, written comments are hereby invited from any interested person in respect of the grant of the licences to the applicants to reach the Authority, within 14 days of publication of this notice. Such comments will be taken into consideration

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giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Advisor to the EAC Secretariat for Capacity development on transboundary integrated water resources management

As a federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has commissioned GIZ to support implementation of a technical cooperation project for strengthening capacities of the EAC secretariat in transboundary, integrated water resources management (IWRM), with a focus on the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) and its subsidiary institution, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). The project is implemented under the EAC Deputy Secretary General (DSG) for Productive & Social Sectors (project holder), within the Directorate for Productive Sectors, and with the LVBC in Kisumu, Kenya (IWRM Unit).

The project is structured along three intervention areas, strengthening:

- capacities of the EAC Secretariat to create framework conditions for transboundary IWRM in the EAC;
- capacities of the LVBC Secretariat to perform its IWRM core functions; and
- cooperation between the LVBC and key actors in IWRM in the five partner states of the LVB.

For support of the EAC secretariat Directorate for Productive Sectors, GIZ is recruiting a senior institutional and water resources management specialist (WRM) as an advisor to strengthen the capacities of the EAC secretariat in transboundary IWRM.

Duty station: Arusha, Tanzania (East African Community)

Fixed term contract

Responsibilities and Tasks

- Strategic, conceptual and technical coordination to implement the activities for strengthening of the EAC Secretariat to create framework conditions for transboundary IWRM in the EAC (output (i)).
- Coordination between the GIZ project team and the EAC secretariat in Arusha, with the LVBC Secretariat in Kisumu and with the GIZ team advising LVBC in Kisumu, where outputs (ii) and (iii) of the project are implemented.
- Support the EAC secretariat in liaising with project teams supported by other development partners (e.g. LVB-IWRM programme supported by KfW; IUCN supporting the EAC IWRM strategy process, the Nile Basin Initiative supported by WB (NCCR-project), by GIZ and others) in the field of IWRM or other relevant topics regarding natural resources management and/or regional harmonisation and integration, regarding LVB, but as well other Basins in the EAC.
- Support coordination and communication between the EAC secretariat and national river and/or transboundary lake basin organisations of LVB and within the EAC, eventually also with neighbouring regions to the EAC (ex. Lake Tanganyika, Lake Kivu, Lake Nyasa).
- Facilitate collaboration of short-term consultants with EAC staff, stakeholders in partner countries, LVBC staff, and ensure that input and feedback of local partners is included in all final outputs of the consultants.
- Support and monitor activities of short term consultants in developing an analysis of the status of IWRM in the EAC, including an assessment of the performance of major lake and river basin organisations in EAC, with a focus on transboundary and trans-regional basins (e.g. institutional arrangements, implementation capacities, performance, challenges, level of harmonisation of respective protocols, guidelines and standards; development of a road map for the EAC how to strengthen the Lake / River Basin organisations).
- In collaboration with the international consulting company selected by GIZ, develop a gender sensitive EAC "Gender & Safeguards" proofing mechanism and guidelines for IWRM / natural resources management projects.
- Support the international consulting firm commissioned by GIZ to prepare three ready-for-finance IWRM project proposals along the new EAC-IWRM strategy, and conforming to the EAC Gender & Safeguards proofing mechanism; introduce the proposals to the relevant technical committees and decision makers of the EAC (and LVBC).
- Prepare, in collaboration with an international consulting firm to be contracted by GIZ, a concept note for a Center of Excellence on IWRM of the EAC.
- Coordinating, managing and supervising the work of short-term experts focused on IWRM in the EAC.
- Support of monitoring, knowledge management and reporting of the project to the EAC steering structures and prepare communication material for external representation (e.g. regarding knowledge sharing and dissemination, participation in stakeholder meetings and public dialogues).
- Close cross-sectoral cooperation with the EAC Secretariat and representatives of the EAC Partner States as well as with relevant regional, continental, and international institutions, academic institutions, organizations and networks.
- Cooperation and coordination with the GIZ team on site, in Arusha and at the LVBC in Kisumu, with other relevant projects, and with partner structures in the EAC region, including in identifying, developing and exploiting synergies and gathering best practices and sharing lessons learnt.

Required qualifications, competences and experience

- Completed university studies in water resources management, natural resources management, economics / organisational development, development studies or another degree programme relevant to capacity development in the area of international development of transboundary IWRM (Master degree). A focus on water resources management and/or climate change adaptation would be a plus.
- At least five (5) years of experience working in capacity development experience in water resources management / natural resources management development programmes (ideally transboundary water resources management, water supply and sanitation, climate change adaptation, solid waste management), with several years of experience in coordination and implementation of relevant projects.
- Several years of work experience in international collaboration; in particular approaches to capacity development; knowledge of GIZ procedures and processes is an advantage.
- Knowledge of policies, objectives, concepts, methods and institutions of international and regional cooperation, particularly in the thematic field of water resources management, lake or river basin organisations and related climate mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Excellent advisory skills, strong conceptual and strategic skills, high performance under pressure and a solution and goal-oriented approach.
- Strong teamwork skills in diverse, multicultural teams, cooperation and communication skills; political and strategic intuition, sensitivity and diplomatic skills as well as very good networking skills. Prior work and/or cooperation experiences with the EAC Secretariat and/or other key stakeholders in the region are an advantage.
- Fluent language proficiency in English, both written and spoken. Advanced skills in French and/or Swahili are desirable, language skills in German are an advantage.
- Preparedness to travel frequently in the EAC region.

Applications:

Interested candidates should send their letter of application together with the CV and copies of academic certificates by email to hr.giz-tanzania@giz.de.

Please use the subject line **"Advisor IWRM EAC"**. Closing date for submission: **05.02.2022**
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

GIZ Tanzania is an equal opportunities employer and encourages applications from all qualified and eligible candidates regardless of their gender, origin, religion/belief, disability, or any other minority group.

EABC and TMEA out to unlock trade barriers

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) with support from Trade-Mark East Africa (TMEA) rolled out border visits and public-private dialogue with customs, immigration and other stakeholders in the transportation sector to unlock trade barriers at Malaba, Busia, Mutukula, Rusingu and Kabanga borders.

The visits are conducted under the programme integrating public-private dialogue for increased trade and investment.

Transport stakeholders included in the dialogues includes customs, immigration and other trade facilitation agencies, transporters, importers, exporters and women cross border traders.

EABC Chief Executive Officer, John Bosco Kalisa said the council and the Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) commends the Ministers of Works and Transport from

Uganda and Kenya following the bilateral meeting that will reduce the congestion of 4000 cargo trucks at Malaba border.

EABC and PSFU took part in the bilateral meeting at Malaba (OSBP) and welcomes the resolutions of the meeting that are set to reduce the 12km and 40km current cargo traffic queue at Busia and Malaba One-Stop Border Post respectively.

During the meeting, the officials resolved that Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) should increase staff at the entry point into Uganda to 5 and 4 per 8hr shift respectively.

They also agreed to suspend cargo scanning on the Kenyan side, security agencies to reduce on security checks along highways to facilitate quick movement of trucks conveying cargo and suspension of weigh-bridge activities until after clearance of the backlog.

Others resolutions include remov-

al of weigh bridge activities, empty and small trucks including those of perishable foods be diverted to Lwakhakha, COVID-19 test certificates to be valid for 14 days equivalent to turn around time for a cargo delivery trip and verification of cargo by URA to be done at D and G yard 2km from Malaba OSBP.

The EABC-TMEA border visit and public-private dialogue at Malaba and Busia scheduled for January 24th and 25th 2022 will monitor the implementation of the resolutions and discuss new developments related to trade facilitation, solutions to Non-Tariff Barriers and hurdles businesses face while trading across EAC borders.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents significant challenges to the cross-border trade due to measures and restrictions that have led to a slow pace for cargo clearance across EAC borders and increased the costs of doing business.



Faustina Urassa (in wheelchair), founder and CEO of Moshi-based charitable organisation called Songambe Initiative Organisation, pictured last week with students of the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists at KCMC Hospital in the municipality shortly after attending a disability training session. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Govt to empower grape farmers establishing processing factories

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER for investments, Industry and Trade, Dr Ashatu Kijaji has said the government was ready to empower grape farmers in Dodoma region by building processing factories to add value to the crop.

Dr Kijaji made the remarks here at the weekend during her inspection visit of areas for the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) at Nala area.

She said Dodoma Region is a strategic area and grapes produces cannot be cultivated in any other areas in the world.

"We lack factories, and when harvest time arrives, you Regional Commissioner start to worry, I therefore invite foreign investor to invest in Dodoma as it is one among three strategic regions," she said.

"Apart from grapes, we have sunflower, also a strategic crop, we must see how we can utilise it," she added.

EPZA Director General, Charles Itembe said since its establishment, the Authority has issued licences to 18 companies.

He said the companies have invested a total of USD 2.549 billion and provided employment to 64,159 people by December 2021.

He added that efforts by the Ministry for Investment, Industry and Trade, the Office of the Dodoma Regional Commissioner and the Office of Dodoma City Director have made possible the allocation of the area as a special investment area.

"According to its legal responsibilities, EPZA will develop the area as a special trade, logistics and industrial park," he said.

He said other sectors that are depended upon to woo investors in the area includes construction, minerals, drugs and garments.

"The government established EPZA in February 2006. The decision was implemented through amendments to Act No 11 of 2002 passed by Parliament to oversee the Export Processing Zone programme," he added.

27 pct Form I students report for classes in Mbarali district

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

TWENTY-SEVEN per cent of students who passed STD VII examinations to join Form I from 6,200 in Mbarali district, Mbeya region have so far reported at schools for lessons.

This was revealed last Friday by the Mbarali District Executive Director, Missana Kwangura, who added that due to this response, he had mobilised parents to send their children to school.

He added that even if they had no school uniforms, they should start lessons rather than staying at home, and we shall make visits from house to house to mobilise the students to get their basic right because the government has built all the necessary infrastructure for them."

"We are appealing to parents to send their children to school to start lessons, as the response is very poor despite all infrastructures having been completed," he said.

He added that the enrolment of students for elementary schools and Standard I have so far reached 30 per cent only hence they continue to mobilise parents to register their children who have attained the necessary age.

He said satellite centres continue receiving students for elementary schools to reduce the inconveniences of walking long distances to normal schools.

The Headteacher of Manienge Primary School, Bryson Lutambi, who also caters for Mabambila satellite centre said they received 80m/- for the construction of four classrooms.



It's graduation day for these Vocational Education and Training Authority (Forestry) college students, as held at Mafinga in Mufindi District, Iringa Region, at the weekend. The chief guest was Daniel Pancras, acting deputy director (Beekeeping Development) in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Improved infrastructure attracts patients to Sekou Toure hospital

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Sekou Toure Referral Hospital is overwhelmed with patients following the government's improvement to its infrastructure for service delivery, including the availability of medical equipment and drugs that has made many patients going straight to the hospital instead of starting at the dispensaries and health centres level.

The remarks were made Wednesday by the Acting Mwanza Regional Medical Officer, Dr Silas Wambura to reporters soon after receiving 200 bedsheets valued at 2.5m/- assistance from Insignia Ltd, a private firm.

Dr Wambura said apart of deficiencies in some areas, but as for now the government has invested a lot of money in infrastructures, medical equipment, drugs and health workers to make sure the hospital continues to offer better services to the people.

He said due to the hospital improvement to its environment, patients have increased even to the point of health workers be-

ing overwhelmed by them.

However, he said despite the influx of patients no one visits the hospital to be denied service needed as it is well organised with the existing resources.

Dr Wambura said earlier many people used to start their treatment at lower hospitals - dispensaries, health centres and district hospitals, but now many of them come directly to Sekou Toure Referral Hospital.

He added that the hospital expects to construct a maternity wing and other infrastructures. He also appealed to various stakeholders to assist the hospital in various areas including infrastructures, medical equipment, beds, bedsheets and other items that will help improve service delivery.

For his part, Insignia Ltd Marketing Officer, Adam Kefa said they decided to provide the bedsheets as assistance after being requested by the Doris Mollé Institution.

Apart from the bedsheets, Kefa said his firm decided to repaint the walls to the entire children wing at a cost of 5.5m/-.

BRI opening up development opportunities in Africa on win-win outcomes, says AU

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

ANCHORED on win-win outcomes, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is opening up development opportunities across the African continent, the African Union (AU) official has said.

Albert Muchanga, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry of the AU Commission, stressed that a growing number of African countries are now implementing the BRI,

which is driving development across the continent.

"The Belt and Road Initiative in Africa is really opening up opportunities for the development of infrastructure, including energy as well as the promotion of road development; and we in Africa welcome that," said Muchanga.

"By involving a lot of African countries, we are broadening the process; and by increasing the areas of coop-

eration we are deepening it," the AU commissioner said.

Muchanga recalled the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AU and China's National Development and Reform Commission within the framework of the AU-China Cooperation Plan on the Belt and Road, covering priority sectors such as health, food security, infrastructure and energy.

"A number of countries

across Africa are implementing the Belt and Road Initiative; and the recently signed MOU reflects the fact that it is also going to be implemented at the level of the African Union Commission, which is very, very, very good," he said.

"The cooperation is anchored on win-win outcomes and this is good for the two partners -- the African continent on one hand and China as a country on the other

hand," the AU trade and industry commissioner added.

According to Muchanga, the MOU that was signed virtually last month is a commitment to realize the objectives of what was agreed upon between China and Africa towards the successful implementation of the BRI.

"The coordination mechanism is a platform for ensuring that whatever commitments that have been made between Africa and China

are going to be implemented; and to show commitment towards its implementation," he said.

"Through this signature we say 'we are ready, we are willing and we are going to do it,'" Muchanga added.

China has been Africa's largest trading partner for more than a dozen years. Under the Belt and Road Initiative, the two sides have multiplied their efforts to cooperate. Over fifty African

countries and the African Union Commission have so far signed cooperation agreements with China.

Amid the growing list of African countries cooperating with China under the BRI mechanism, many African countries have realized new deep seaports, thousands of kilometers of roads and railways that have transformed logistics across Africa, among other development projects.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

Tender No. SMZ/P01/W/ICB/2021-2022/27

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND TESTING OF PRECISION APPROACH LIGHTING SYSTEM CATEGORY 1, BARRETTE PATTERN TO AAKIA RUNWAY 18 AND REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PAPI AND THRESHOLD LIGHTS ON RUNWAY 18 AT ABEID AMANI KARUME INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (AAKIA)

Invitation for Tenders

Date 24th January 2022

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in Zanzibar Leo Issue no 6343 of 16 September 2021,
- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through Ministry of Infrastructure Communication and Transportation (MoICT) has set aside funds for the operation of the Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) during the financial year 2021 - 2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for **Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Precision Approach Lighting System Category 1, Barrette Pattern to AAKIA Runway 18 and Rehabilitation of the Existing Infrastructure for PAPI and Threshold lights on Runway 18 at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA)**
- The Ministry of Infrastructure Communication and Transportation (MoICT) now invites sealed tenders from eligible Bidders registered in Zanzibar or any other statutory recognized institution toward Operating the above said assignment.
- Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding specified in the Public Procurement (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender) as per public Procurement Act No. 11 of 2016
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary, Tender Board, Ministry of Infrastructure Communications and Transport, P.O.Box 266, email pmu@mo-ic.go.tz, from 8.00 am up to 3:00 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document (s) in English.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security in the form of Bankers Guarantee or Bankers Cheque amounting to **USD 5000** or convertible currency into Tanzania Shillings.
- All bids in One (1) original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the Secretary of the Ministerial Tender Board located at Fumba Road- Kisauni, Room No.22, at or before 10:00am on Tuesday 22nd February 2022. The outer envelope should be marked **"Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Testing of Precision Approach Lighting System Category 1, Barrette Pattern to AAKIA Runway 18 and Rehabilitation of the existing Infrastructure for PAPI and Threshold Lights on Runway 18 at Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA)"** not to be opened before **Tuesday 22nd February 2022**.
- Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening ceremony at the MoICT's Conference room at Kisauni Head Office.
- A pre-bid meeting will take place at 10.00 hrs on **Wednesday 9th February, 2022** at the Ministry, Kisauni Head Office building conference room, together with site visit at their own bidder's cost.
- Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, bids not received, and not opened and not read out in public at the Bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

AMOUR HAMIL BAKAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT
P.O.BOX 266,



Dr Pindi Chana (L, gesturing), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination, addresses Dodoma Rural members of the CCM elders council who toured the Government City project at Mtumba in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

President Dr Mwinyi witnesses signing of agreement on Malindi Port construction

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has witnessed the signing of the agreement for the grand plan in the feasibility studies for the construction of the new Malindi port that will cater for tourists as well as a new modern city in Bwawani area in Zanzibar.

The signing event took place at the weekend at Zanzibar State House whereas the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Communication and Transport Amour Hamili Bakari signed on behalf of the government of Zanzibar and Sheikh Nasser Al-Harthi signed on behalf of Oman Investment Authority while Nahaaat Mahfoudh, the Director of Zanzibar Ports Corporation signed on behalf of the ministry.

Speaking soon after the signing ceremony, Dr Mwinyi said in the project for the new Malindi Port, will be built after the construction of the new container Terminal at Mangapwani area, will be transformed into a tourist port, while making the entire area from Malindi port to Bwawani Hotel to be an area for new buildings for entertainment as well as residential area.

He said the area designed to a new tourists' city is estimated to be 30 hectares some of the land that will be reclaimed from the sea.

He expressed his satisfaction by steps being taken by the government in looking for investors from various areas, including the government of Oman which apart from entering into agreement with the Government for the construction of the new container terminal, it has again put its signature for the agreement to construct for the new tourist city.

Use internal experts in devising strategic projects, CDF calls on army units

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), General Venance Mabeyo has called on Tanzania People's Defence Forces (TPDF) units to utilise internal experts for inventing strategic projects and sensitise for ethics in the completed projects.

The army chief made the remarks at the weekend as he was inaugurating a fuel station

for R 971 unit at Ihumwa in Dodoma.

He said the army, as an institution can accomplish big things but what is needed is self-trust, have positive concepts at all times and above all it must show creativity at all times.

"There is nothing that cannot be done, if others have done so why can't we? There are many professions within the army which we have to remain idle, we must utilise them for the

benefit of the army and the nation in general, I still believe that can be done," he said.

He said despite the fact that the government has the responsibility to facilitate the military 100 percent; there is still the need for the army itself to have its contribution for the country just as it is for other countries' armies in the world in creating various projects.

"I had the opportunity to visit other countries' armies, they do a lot of things and contribute

to their nations' economies and incomes, but here we have been depending on the government by 100 per cent.

"True, it is the government's responsibility to facilitate the army, but don't we have any contribution, to make sure we spur the country's economic development as well as our basic responsibility in defending the nation," he stressed.

Gen Mabeyo also stressed upon army units to continue strengthening the projects that

had already been completed and moot for even bigger strategic projects.

"This has to go in tandem with creativity, we should moot for big strategic projects such as this fuel station. Many people do not understand that fuel station business is a strategic project, if there is no fuel, the entire country paralyses and if that happens there will be no security at all, that is why I thought that we must do this as it is both a strategic and security issue," he said.

He said as for now the army is looking into the possibility of importing fuel directly from foreign for the country to have fuel reserves, and added an army team was in foreign oil producing countries for talks.

"We should also reach a time for refining crude oil, as if we do so we shall get many products including jet fuel, kerosene and bitumen with strategies to store fuel in various places," said the TPDF Chief.

He said R971 Unit is among

three units, including I2KJ and 27KJ that have established strategic projects and pledged to provide the unit with 100m/- as a boost to its capital.

He also hailed the national service (NS) for implementing various strategic projects including an irrigation scheme.

Earlier, the Commander of Ihumwa R971 Unit, Col. Justus Kitta said the fuel station has been constructed at a cost of 280m/- and has fuel reservoirs of 60,000-litre capacity.

EMEDO establishes environmental resource centre to train community

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE Mwanza-based environmental management and economic development organisation (EMEDO) has established an environmental resource centre to train and educate the community around the firm on how they can utilise used plastic bottles to produce various products.

Apart from getting income, the move will also help the society conserve the environment.

EMEDO director, Editrudith Lukanga said this recently here when speaking to journalists on the importance of protecting

the environment for sustainable development.

Plastic bottles can be used as resources to form decorated products and many other things so that waste cannot wreak havoc to the environment and endanger lives of living organisms including people.

Citing an example, she stated that due to the ongoing rains, Lake Victoria receives a lot of wastes including plastic bottles, something which causes harm and disruption of the biodiversity of the water body that hosts different aquatic species such as fish that are a source of protein to people.

She pointed out if left in the lake, the plas-

tic wastes can continue causing harm to the species, environment and the people, therefore knowledge given by the resource centre will significantly help to protect the lake and give people income.

"We expect to impart knowledge to the community on how they can separate perishable from imperishable waste for easy management of the materials in a bid to ensure that the environment is not degraded by the plastic bottles," she said.

Plastic bottles will no longer be a challenge if members of the community are fully aware of environmental hazards caused by the materials, she said, noting that it is important to create awareness to them to control the problem.

However, she noted that there is a need to conduct research to establish the amount of plastic materials entering Lake Victoria every year in a bid to control the litters not to negatively affect the environment of the water body.

According to her, apart from the water body being used for transport, fisheries and provision of drinking water, it also supports the lives of over 30 million people in East Africa.

Currently EMEDO is implementing two programmes that include environmental management and management of natural resources in the fisheries sector educating and supporting fishing communities particularly women to fight poverty through the sector.



Janeth Mawinza, director of a Dar es Salaam women's community-based organisation known as WAJIKI, speaks at a stakeholders' empowerment meeting on sexual corruption targeting students. Participants included teachers, students, motorbike taxi riders, police officers, clerics and community development officers. It was held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

PCCB in Iringa confirms arrest of traffic police officer over corruption allegations

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Iringa region has confirmed the arrest of a traffic police officer, Steven Mchomvu over bribery allegations.

Recently a video and pictures showing the traffic police officer with funds went viral on social media and raised debate among stakeholders.

Head of PCCB in Iringa, Domina Mukama said Mchomvu was arrested on January 18 at around 11:00hrs near the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), Ipogolo area in Iringa municipality and is still under police arrest waiting to be arraigned in court any time after investigation is completed.

"You will see in the pictures that were spread on the internet, there are police officers apart from the traffic officer. In that situation I had to call the Iringa Officer Commanding District (OCD) so as to work together to arrest the sus-

pect," she said.

She said the traffic officer was arrested while receiving money from buses and cars and keeping the funds in his pocket.

"After arresting him, we wanted to know from him how much he had in his pocket but he had no answers and then we searched and found him with 152,000/-," she said.

Mukama wanted all traffic police officers to ensure that they read well and adhere to operational guidelines (PGO) carefully so as to avoid corrupt practices that could tarnish them and the sensitive institution.

She said they are still working with the police force to investigate the matter and once all the formalities are completed, the traffic will be taken to the court to answer charges.

Meanwhile, Commander Mukama said during the period from October to December 2021, they inspected various developmental projects including looking at quality control and completeness of projects, including classrooms,

built with loan funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"A total of 12 development projects worth more than 7.1bn/- in the education, construction and health sectors were audited with the aim of ascertaining whether the real value for money has been considered," she said.

She said during the period, they received 48 complaints, 26 of which involved corruption and investigations on other cases were at various stages. "We have been achieving all our plans and interventions due to support from the government and other stakeholders in the fight against corruption. There are 10 corruption related cases which are ongoing in the court," she said.

Mukama further said in the period January and March 2022, the bureau is committed to continuing to address citizens' concerns related to corruption calling on public servants to adhere to their work ethics and refrain from such practises.



Shaaban Robert Secondary School

FORM V ADMISSION 2022

Application forms for the Form V -2022 are now available at the School office Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for the following combinations:-

Physics, Chemistry, Biology	-	(PCB)
Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics	-	(PCM)
Physics, Geography, Mathematics	-	(PGM)
Chemistry, Biology, Geography	-	(CBG)
Economics, Commerce, Accountancy	-	(ECA)
Economics, Geography, Mathematics	-	(EGM)
History, Geography, Economics	-	(HGE)
History, Geography, Language (English)	-	(HGL)
History, Kiswahili, Language (English)	-	(HKL)

1. Applicant should not be above 18 years of age.
2. Fee for Registration is Tshs. 25,000/- only.

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UNICEF seeks \$255million to scale up nutrition in Africa

By Special Correspondent

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has appealed for US\$255 million to ramp up its emergency nutrition response in priority countries in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2022.

The UN agency said the funds will also be used to support children with adequate and life-saving nutrition services, including treatment for severe wasting.

The UNICEF warned in a statement released in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi that at least 1.5 million children are not receiving life-saving treatment for severe wasting in Eastern and Southern Africa. It said the number represents almost half of the estimated 3.6 million children in urgent need, who are not being reached in time to save their lives or keep them from permanent development damage.

"Nothing is more devastating than seeing children suffering from severe wasting when we know it could have been prevented and treated," Mohamed M. Fall, the UNICEF regional director for Eastern and Southern Africa.

He said despite gradual improvement in wasting treatment outreach in the region, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with climate shocks and ongoing conflict, continues to push children and families to the brink. In addition, consistent shortfalls in funding remain a barrier for the UNICEF's humanitarian response.

The UNICEF said more than 255,000 children received treatment for severe wasting in 2021 in Somalia, whilst the country still undergoes one of the worst droughts ever recorded. Moreover, at least 65,000 children in Kenya were reached in 2021 with treatment services for severe wasting.

The UN agency said families across the region are currently dealing with multiple crises, including rising levels of food insecurity, economic deterioration, disease outbreaks, unprecedented cycles of floods and droughts, and conflict. And millions have to reduce the quantity or quality of the food they eat in order to survive. In many cases, families are forced to do both.

It said the situation in the region remains dire and any disruptions to an already stretched humanitarian operation could further aggravate what is already a long-running nutrition crisis.

"This is a looming nutrition tragedy that can -- and must be averted. With unhindered access and predictable funding to reach children in need, the UNICEF and partners can save the lives of nearly every child admitted for severe wasting in the region," it said.

In Ethiopia, the country with the largest child population in the region, the UNICEF and partners reached an estimated 500,000 severely wasted children in 2021.

In South Sudan, where an estimated 1.4 million children under five years of age are acutely malnourished, including over 310,000 children suffering from severe wasting, UNICEF and partners provided treatment to more than 240,000 children last year.

The UNICEF said prevention remains the best way to ensure that children survive, avoid permanent cognitive and physical damage, and evade the life-long suffering that results from childhood malnutrition.

DART passengers to access tickets via mobile phones

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

PASSENGERS using the rapid bus transport will now be able to access tickets through their mobile phones following the introduction of a new e-ticketing system, the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport Agency (DART) has said.

DART's officer for Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Deus Felix made the statement over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when presenting a topic during the one-day workshop between members of Editors Forum (TEF), journalists and DART officials.

Felix said through the system named "Dar City Navigator", passengers will be able to get bus tickets on their mobiles phones even without going to DART bus stations, the situation which he said will help to reduce the congestion.

He added that the system passed the trial process three months acknowledging that many people are still unaware of it, saying that the agency will continue informing and educating the public on the new system.

He urged passengers to learn how to use the system so that they can access their bus tickets in an easy way.

"Instead of wasting time in long queues at the bus stations, passengers will now feel relief as they will be accessing the tickets easily wherever they are, what they are required to do is to download the Dar City Navigator application which is available in Google Play Store then follow procedures to start enjoying it," he said

The ICT officer further said the system was also created to enable passengers to access different information from DART and provide feedback to the agency conserving various challenges they face.

"With the digital system, a passenger can select where he/she will board the rapid bus, for example if you are at Kimara, you write Kimara and the ticket will be valid for three hours before expiring. We would like to welcome our clients to learn and use the system," he explained.



PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Issued pursuant to regulation 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (Disclosure) Regulations, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

(AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)		
	CURRENT QUARTER 31.12.2021	PREVIOUS QUARTER 30.9.2021
A. ASSETS		
1 Cash	748	1,625
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	965	4,883
3 Investment in Government Securities	-	-
4 Balances with Other Banks and financial institutions	11,463	11,133
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6 Interbranch float items	-	-
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	-	-
9 Interbank Loan Receivables	-	-
10 Investments in Other securities	-	-
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts	30,395	28,728
(Net of allowances for Probable losses)	-	-
12 Other Assets	883	972
13 Equity Investments	-	-
14 Undervriting accounts	-	-
15 Property, Plant and Equipment	6,500	6,793
16 TOTAL ASSETS	50,954	54,134
B. LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	7,204	8,953
18 Customer Deposits	30,837	28,323
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-
20 Special Deposits	-	-
21 Payments orders / transfers payable	-	-
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	-	-
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	232	199
24 Acceptances outstanding	-	-
25 Interbranch float items	-	-
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	403	371
27 Other Liabilities	1,027	1,909
28 Borrowings	4,152	7,519
29 TOTAL LIABILITIES	43,855	47,274
30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)(16 MINUS 29)	7,099	6,860
C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		
31 Paid up Share Capital	37,320	36,401
32 Capital Reserves	-	-
33 Retained Earnings	(26,586)	(27,223)
34 Profit/ (Loss) Account	(3,725)	(3,096)
35 Other Capital Accounts/Capital Advance	-	-
35a. Other- Statutory Reserve	90	777
35b. General Provision Reserve	-	-
36 Minority Interest	-	-
37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	7,099	6,860
38 Contingent Liabilities	-	-
39 Non-Performing Loans and Advances	4,235	4,652
40 Allowances for Probable Losses	2,912	2,658
41 Other Non-Performing assets	-	-
D. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(I) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	14%	13%
(II) Non Performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	12%	13%
(III) Gross loans and advances to total deposits	88%	84%
(IV) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	60%	53%
(V) Earning Assets to Total Assets	82%	74%
(VI) Deposits Growth	2%	14%
(VII) Assets Growth	-6%	1%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND LOSS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(AMOUNT IN MILLION SHILLINGS)				
	Current Quarter 31.12.2021	Comparative Quarter 31.12.2020	Current Year Cumulative 31.12.2021	Comparative Year Cumulative 31.12.2020
1 Interest Income	4,045	3,572	15,079	18,435
2 Interest Expense	(655)	(1,574)	(4,356)	(6,054)
3 Net Interest Income (1 Minus 2)	3,390	1,998	10,723	12,381
4 Bad debts written off	(7)	-	-	-
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(767)	(1,656)	(2,499)	(5,682)
6 Non-Interest Income	662	750	3,334	3,118
6.1 Foreign exchange profit/(loss)	(9)	(25)	(54)	(219)
6.2 Fees and Commissions	452	999	1,744	2,218
6.3 Dividend Income	-	-	-	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	219	(224)	1,644	1,119
7 Non-Interest Expense	(3,839)	(4,092)	(15,208)	(18,876)
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(1,500)	(2,345)	(6,794)	(9,126)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(90)	(35)	(327)	(381)
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(2,159)	(1,712)	(8,087)	(9,369)
8 Operating Income/(Loss) before tax	(554)	(3,000)	(3,650)	(9,059)
9 Income Tax Provision	(75)	(110)	(75)	-
10 Net income (loss) after income tax	(629)	(3,110)	(3,725)	(9,059)
11 Other Comprehensive income/(Loss) for the year	-	-	-	(110)
12 Total Comprehensive income/(Loss) for the year	(629)	(3,110)	(3,725)	(9,169)
13 Number of Employees	229	283	229	283
14 Basic Earning Per Share	(17)	(91)	(100)	(269)
15 Number of Branches	20	19	20	19
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS				
(I) Return on average total assets	-1.20%	-5.01%	-7.09%	-14.78%
(II) Return on Average shareholders' funds	-1.71%	-9.36%	-10.11%	-27.58%
(III) Non interest expense to gross income	81.56%	94.68%	82.59%	87.58%
(IV) Net Interest margin to average earning assets	-1.56%	-7.16%	-9.26%	-21.10%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)						
	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory Reserve	Special Reserve	Others
Current Year (2021)						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	34,102	-	(27,455)	972	-	7,619
Loss for the year	-	-	(3,725)	-	-	(3,725)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	(13)	-	-	(13)
Transactions with owners	3,218	-	-	-	-	3,218
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	882	(882)	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the current period	37,320	-	(30,311)	90	-	7,099
Previous Year (2020)						
Balance as at the beginning of the year	31,575	-	(18,823)	1,599	-	14,351
Loss for the year	-	-	(9,259)	-	-	(9,259)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	2,527	-	-	-	-	2,527
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	627	(627)	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at the end of the previous period	34,102	-	(27,455)	972	-	7,619

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE QUARTER/YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

(AMOUNTS IN MILLION SHILLINGS)				
	CURRENT QUARTER 31.12.2021	PREVIOUS QUARTER 30.09.2021	CUMULATIVE CURRENT YEAR 31.12.2021	CUMULATIVE PREVIOUS YEAR 31.12.2020
I Cash flow from operating activities:				
Net income/(Loss)	(554)	(79)	(3,650)	(6,059)
Adjustment for:	-	-	-	-
- Impairment/Amortization	1,213	382	2,266	(685)
- Net change in loans and advances	(1,667)	(1,465)	(1,658)	23,899
- Gain/Loss on sale of assets	-	-	-	23
- Net change in Deposits	765	4,517	8,650	(4,715)
- Net change in Short term negotiable securities	-	-	-	-
- Net change in Other Liabilities	(817)	(138)	(2,063)	(2,267)
- Net change in Other Assets	89	74	296	964
- Tax paid	-	-	-	-
- Others (Specify)	(75)	-	(78)	-
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(1,046)	3,291	3,763	11,160
II Cash flow from investing activities:				
Dividend Received	-	-	-	-
Purchase of fixed assets	(920)	(24)	(1,156)	3,401
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	(23)
Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	9,072	-
Others (Equity investments)	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	(920)	(24)	7,916	3,378
III Cash flow from financing activities:				
Repayment of long-term debt	(3,272)	(3,525)	(10,377)	(19,621)
Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of share capital	906	(0)	3,167	804
Payment of lease liabilities	-	-	-	-
Net change in other borrowings	(133)	-	(150)	9,678
Others (Specify)	-	-	-	-
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	(2,499)	(3,525)	(7,360)	(9,139)
IV Cash and Cash Equivalents:				
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(4,465)	(258)	(4,318)	5,399
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the Quarter/year	17,641	17,899	8,658	16,916
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the Quarter/year	13,176	17,641	13,176	22,315

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes be explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Edward Zakaria Talawa (Chief Executive Officer)	(Signed)	24 th January 2022
Deusdeth Edward Mulindwa (Head of Finance)	(Signed)	24 th January 2022
Peter Kaisi (Internal Audit Manager)	(Signed)	24 th January 2022

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Name	Signature	Date
1. Nasama Massinda Board Chairman	(Signed)	24 th January 2022
2. Mary Pascal Mabiti Board Member	(Signed)	24 th January 2022

MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND TARRIFS

Number	Item/Transaction	Charge/Fee
1 Savings Account (TZs)		
	Mkwana (TZs)	
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	0
(b)	Required minimum operating balance	0
(c)	Monthly Services Fees	1,500
(d)	Interim Statement per page	1,500
(e)	Monthly Services Fees	0
(f)	Withdraw charges over the counter	1,000
(g)	Interest payable	0
Hakika Individual (TZs)		
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	0
(b)	Monthly Services Fees	0
(c)	Interim Statement per page	1,500
(d)	Interest payable	2%
(e)	Balance enquiry	4%
(f)	Withdraw charges over the counter	1,000
Hakika Legal Entity (TZs)		
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	0
(b)	Monthly Services Fees	0
(c)	Interim Statement per page	1,500
(d)	Interest payable	3%
(e)	Balance enquiry	0
(f)	Withdraw charges over the counter	2,000
Moto (TZs)		
(a)	Required minimum opening balance	0
(b)	Monthly Services Fees	0
(c)	Interim Statement per page	1,500
(d)	Interest payable	4%
(e)	Balance enquiry	0
(f)	Withdraw charges over the counter	1,000
2 Mobile banking Charges (TZs)		
(a)	Balance enquiry	100
(b)	Minimum Statement	100
(c)	Full Statement request	0
(d)	Finca Mobile (In Finca Account)	400
(e)	Finca Account to Finca Account Transfer	100
(f)	Finca Mobile (In and Out Finca Account)-Finca Account to	1,000
3 Loans (TZs)		
Business Loan -Small		
(a)	Interest	4.8%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	3.00%
Business Loan - Medium		
(a)	Interest	3.8%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	3.00%
Business Loan - Large		
(a)	Interest	2.5%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	3.00%
Small Enterprise		
(a)	Interest	3.0%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	3.00%
Micro Business		
(a)	Interest	6.3%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	2.00%
Lien Loan		
(a)	Interest	2.0%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	1.02%
Education provider		
(a)	Interest	4.8%, 3.8% & 2.5%
(b)	Loan Processing Fees	3.00%

The Guardian

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

As to hawkers creeping back, meaning business is way out

DAR ES SALAAM authorities are said to be looking for improved formulas to ensure that hawkers are nowhere in the city's streets, as hawkers appear to seek ways of sidestepping the curbs raised against their presence. Some reports say that they trade a bit during the day and more freely at night, but everyone knows that trading at night is nearly unfeasible as most people are tired at that time, alighting from buses to walk home, not to seek out items from a nearby pile. One has to have decided to actually follow a hawker, in the knowledge of being available at that time, while hawking has to do with chancy attraction.

A municipal official told this newspaper that hawkers find their way back because a security company tasked to keep guard, SUMA JKT, has staff accepting coins from hawkers to let them do their business, an accusation that a media official for National Service Headquarters flatly denied. The city official economised his assertions as he ought to have owned up that city militia have a habit of hitting hawkers and seize their goods, while JKT personnel work more professionally, in observing limits of what is allowed and what is not. Actually the work they do is consonant with 'rearranging' hawkers, as policy.

Municipal officials don't appear to appreciate that President Samia Suluhu Hassan appealed to regional administration to reorganize the hawkers, improve the way they conduct their business, which means alleviating the space infringement prevalent earlier. Most of that has been cleared but

extremes are also being observed, where municipal authorities figure out that hawkers are an aspect of dirt in the city, especially the rudimentary constructs they put up. And surprisingly, in what an adage says 'the spear is best for the pig,' they are absolutely persuaded the skimpy far off areas they 'designate' are feasible.

Rearranging hawkers means at least allowing reasonable concentrations of petty traders in markets that usually stand next to major bus stops, as people will know where to go for their cheap clothing without being inordinately inconvenienced. In that case hawkers can still survive with restrictions as to lining up major roads and instead through restricted market spaces, clustering hawkers as it were, while respecting directives on leaving waste water infrastructure free, etc. That they throw things into troughs - often the deciding feature municipal officials cite - is a non-issue, as collecting such dirt is minor periodic work.

What lacks in city authorities' thrust of will is that there is no visible sympathy that hawkers be able to make ends meet, and that is what riles sections of the public, such that in some instances guards seeking to clear some lady food vendors were pelted with stones in the neighbourhood of ITV bus stop, where the eating spot serves scores of factory workers nearby, etc.

The Dar city population has generally been supportive of easing the streets of numerous hawking installations - but isn't agreed that they disappear.

Sports betting lifestyle in Africa: Let us keep the industry in check

SPORTS betting remains a very polar subject in Africa. Some will argue that the rapid rise in online sports betting has been a great thing for Africa and Tanzania is no exception, while another school of thought has been keen to question the morality of betting and stress the ill effects of all forms of gambling.

Whichever side of the divide you stand, one thing is for sure: the betting industry continues to grow from strength to strength.

There is no doubt that betting has contributed its fair share of positives to the economy, but it also presents plenty of danger to the Tanzanian youth.

Part of the positives include job creation and increased tax revenue for the government, but the flip side is that the large influx of betting companies into the country has given rise to unethical operators and many other vices.

These operators are only interested in how much money they can make from the market; and aren't particularly bothered about the laws of the land or the well-being of their customers.

They are the sort of sites that condone under-age gambling, evade tax and indulge in other betting malpractices.

Sports betting can be great and enjoyable when you bet on great betting sites in Africa, but it can be very frustrating and damaging if you run into an unscrupulous bookie. It is time for the African authorities to sit up, tighten their regulations and flush out shady betting companies from the system.

Apart from weeding out the bad eggs from the industry, Africa must also do better to protect its youth from gambling addiction.

Some protagonists of sports

betting have argued that betting has helped reduce crime rate by taking youths off the streets and giving them an alternative means of making money, but herein lies another problem.

Many young Africans invest heavily in sports betting in the blind belief that they will hit the jackpot someday.

Of course, it is possible to hit the jackpot and earn a massive payday from sports betting, but the chances of that happening are very slim. Betting is very much dependent on luck, which no one has any control over.

And while chasing that jackpot, many bettors slip into gambling addiction and its inherent problems, like financial and mental troubles. Some go as far as borrowing money to place bets, and subsequently run into debts. It is important for young Africans to be educated about problem gambling and all the other issues associated with it.

One way of doing this is by insisting that all betting companies in Africa have responsible gambling sections on their sites, where they advise, enlighten, and help their users guard against gambling addiction. Betting companies can help their customers set spending limits, take breaks and seek professional help when needed.

Also, all betting advertisements and commercials, whether they are on television, radio, billboards, or any other platform, must include responsible gambling messages.

Online betting is very entertaining when done in the right way and with the right intentions, but it is also very easy for bettors and operators to be tempted into cutting corners in their bid to gain a share of the multi-million-dollar industry.

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What science tells us about future of Covid-19 - I

By Umair Haque

IS Omicron just Covid-19 "evolving to become the common cold"? Right about now, you're hearing that from a dozen places or more. Here, here, here, here, and here. But is it true? Or is it just a myth?

I want to share with what science - actual science - has to say. You can form your own conclusions.

I am not going to take a "side". If you're the kind of person who wants to pick sides, then you are politicising science and, in my estimation, you are a fool. Please go where fools go.

Read pundits at the New York Times, who fly into a rage every time I write things like this, and call me names, instead of engaging with the science.

I am not on any side. I am only here to try and think through the science. That is all I am going to do, and you can join me if you want to learn something, too. If not, please don't read this, and go away.

Let's begin at the beginning. Do viruses "evolve to become less severe"? That is the pop theory this particular one - Omicron is evolving into the common cold - is based on.

"There is a widespread belief that infectious diseases evolve to become less virulent, leaving many hopeful that Omicron will be less severe for everyone, regardless of age or vaccination status. This is false. Viruses do not necessarily get selected to be milder or more severe."

That's not me. That's Dr William Hanage, professor of the evolution and epidemiology of infectious disease at Harvard and the co-director of the Centre for Communicable Disease Dynamics. He is saying that the pop theory is false. It is a myth that viruses "evolve to become less severe".

You should note that plenty of the people spreading this myth are not epidemiologists. They are pundits, or talking heads, or doctors, or all three. But they appear to have a poor understanding of epidemiology and virology.

Wait, you might say. Come on. That's not right. Viruses do evolve to become less severe. Don't they?

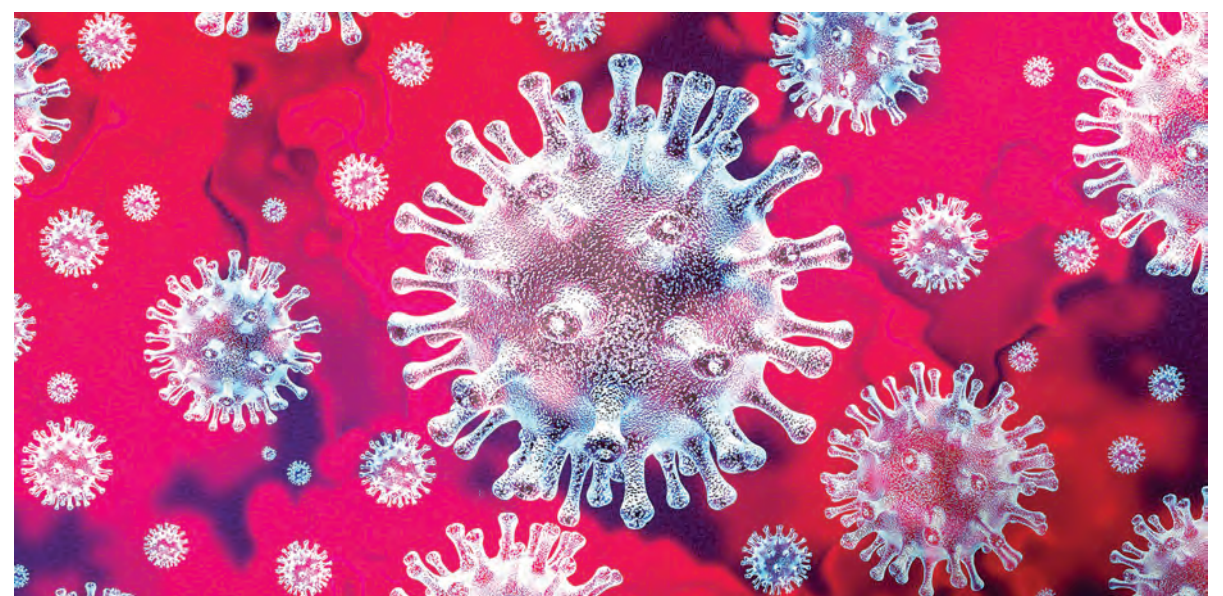
Think it through. If "viruses evolve to become less severe", we would never have needed vaccines. Remember all the terrible diseases of...not so long ago.

Polio was nearly eradicated in the 1970s. The eradication of smallpox - probably humanity's greatest achievement - only happened in 1977.

They'd been around for millennia. And they had never evolved to "become less severe". They just went right on killing and crippling and disfiguring people.

If you think about it, in fact, just using the knowledge in more or less everybody's mind, there is no example whatsoever of a virus "evolving to become less severe".

Go ahead, just think about what you already know about any virus there is. Did any of the following evolve to become "less severe"? HIV? Nope. Hepatitis? Nope. Rabies? Nope. In fact, HIV and Ebola grew to become more severe over



time.

What Dr Hanage is trying to point out - despite the myth pundits are peddling - is precisely correct. Viruses don't evolve to become less severe.

So why do we think they viruses "evolve to become less severe"? Well, it appears to be wishful thinking, which ends up making us fall prey to selection bias.

We see a milder wave of a pandemic, and we interpret it as "evolution." But when a worse wave arrives, we tend to discount that one.

In this case, we see the movement from Delta to Omicron as evidence of "evolution". But evolution is not what is happening here. At least not scientifically - it just appears to be. So what is happening here?

Wait. So why don't viruses "evolve to become less severe"?

Here's Dr Hanage again: "If virulence (the severity of the disease) is not connected to transmission (the factor that makes a virus successful or not), there's no real link between the two in most real situations. The great majority of Covid-19 transmission occurs before people become seriously ill, and so the virus has already moved on."

Now think about polio and smallpox. If you got polio, you would get crippled years or decades later. You would get the virus in childhood, but not get disfigured until adulthood. The virus had "moved on".

Smallpox was different - it proceeded swiftly in terrible outbreaks which would kill scores of people in towns or villages or cities, and then rise again and again.

Those are two poles of viruses not "evolving to become less severe" for different reasons - because the virus "moves on", as Hanage says, or because the outbreak burns itself out - but not before travelling elsewhere.

Both mean that the selection pressure on the severity of the virus is relatively small, and so it does not evolve to become less severe.

Viruses don't evolve like we do. This myth is easy for us to believe in because we apply our own understanding of evolution to viruses.

But viruses are not like us. We don't need a host. They do. They

aren't sexually reproducing to seek some kind of fitness advantage.

They're just out there replicating and recombining. Not just in us, but sometimes with us - that is what retroviruses do, write themselves into our DNA. And "there is little evidence that recombination is favoured by natural selection to create advantageous genotypes." That is, viruses recombine because it's what they do. It's not because recombination is "favoured by natural selection". That is what they are.

That is what I mean when I said viruses are not like us. It's a really alien concept to wrap your head around. Viruses just swap genes, in a kind of alien free for all. Sure, there are chemical preconditions and so forth.

The point is that they are really not like us. We can't and don't recombine. We have children - two of us.

Viruses? The "virophere," as virologists call it, is an alien world, of beings which are existentially Schrödingeresque, not really alive but not not alive either, recombining in the quadrillions, each of them able to acquire stuff from others, and then jump across species.

Viruses aren't like us at all. And that is why they don't evolve like us - meaning cellular organisms, especially vertebrates - at all, either.

Our primary evolutionary mechanism is sexual reproduction and mutation. Theirs is recombination. We couldn't be more different.

In fact, viruses evolve...us. If you really want to understand evolution and viruses - and us - then the slightly creepy but also weirdly cool fact is that viruses evolve us.

"Viruses have been proven to be drivers of evolution (Villarreal and Witzany, 2010), including the human genome, which by at least 45 per cent is composed of sequences related to retroviruses.

In addition, endogenous retroviruses supplied the syncytin genes that are essential for the development of the mammalian placenta, and allowed the growth of embryos without its rejection by the maternal immune system (Dupressoir et al, 2012)."

This is related to the fact that vi-

ruses don't "evolve to become less severe". If anything, the opposite happens. We evolve to outcompete or cooperate with them, sometimes by fusing with them.

Think of how those "endogenised retroviruses" literally allow us to have children, allowing the maternal immune system not to reject embryos.

In the really big picture, we co-evolve with viruses. Viruses don't evolve to "become less severe". That is a far more accurate view of how evolution really works.

Now let's come back to Covid-19. So why does it look like Omicron is just Covid-19 becoming the common cold? Are my eyes lying to me?

Think of the flu. Even that hasn't "evolved to become less severe". It still affects millions people a year, killing almost a million.

People at risk. Like elderly people and the immunocompromised. What saves their lives? Flu shots. The virus didn't evolve to become less severe. We just developed vaccines. And we have to redevelop them every single year.

A big, big part of why Omicron appears to be Covid-19 "evolving to become less severe" is that we have vaccines. So, for those who are vaccinated, it does not end up producing severe symptoms, on average. But that isn't "evolution", it's science.

And it is science that has a few implications, too. One is that we need our shots to keep on holding against new variants.

You probably think that a booster shot protects you from Omicron forever. You're wrong. You probably don't know what the latest data say.

I don't blame you. It's brand new. Even booster shots hit under 50 per cent efficacy in ten weeks. Presumably, after that - which is all the data we have so far - it falls farther and faster.

A Medium/Eudaimonia & Co. dispatch. Umair Haque is the Director of the London-based Havas Media Lab and heads Bubblegeneration, a strategy lab that helps discover strategic innovation. To be continued in tomorrow's issue. - Editor

START THE WEEK WITH CYNTHIA STACEY

Bulldozers at work: 'Development' which ended my love affair with Dar es Salaam

GREETINGS for the week and thanks to those of you who keep giving me feedback. I'm always grateful, especially if it's of architectural interest.

And one area where this has been applied in the past was the desecration of much of the fine buildings in the city centre, which was the very heart of Dar es Salaam, yet it was demolished to make way for some of the worst building examples in the country.

Demolition has been a lucrative business here, and with multiple road projects requiring mass removals, there's been endless scope for more..... and not forgetting also, that at the stroke of a powerful pen, buildings on a conservation list could be 'de-conserved', for the bulldozer and the predatory so-called 'developers'.

But is there anything left to conserve, and what happened to facilitate the destruction of so much over the years, that had been valued...then suddenly weren't.

In March 2007, the government de-gazetted all buildings in Dar's central business district, earlier protected for their historical value. It was an act that shocked many people who well remembered their significance.

Consequently, we learnt that "according to a GN (government notice) Number 51 of March 2nd 2007, all sites for the 110 protected buildings were then open to re-development



One of two remaining buildings that predate German colonial era, built under Sultan Sayyid Majid bin Said in 1866. Such historical structures are rapidly being replaced by skyscrapers. File Photo

in a move intended to modernise the city.".....and so ended my love affair with Dar es Salaam!

A local newspaper of 25th July the same year stated that "investors would still need special permits to pull down some buildings, in order not to

altogether lose touch with the past".

To compound this, the then Minister for Resources and Tourism Prof Jumanne Maghembe used the same ploy, saying ".....the government valued protection of historical buildings....but there is the

equally important imperative for modernisation".

The de-gazetting was a collective Judas' agreement.....and as the Bible says...the cockerel crowed three times....or rather the National Housing Corporation maybe crowed with delight.

.....Because the most telling fact was that the NHC had already entered into contracts with 24 'developers' and allocated fifteen buildings to investors, a decision as the "state daily" quaintly put it, had been 'paralysed' by the conservation. Given this dubious back-

ground, it's not surprising that over the years, so much related to the construction industry appears to have been a scandal, ethics-free building boom. With few exceptions, much of it has been defined by randomly sited and badly configured high rise blocks.

.....and it's a tragedy that a beautiful-well planned city with public parks and other amenities is unlikely to arise from this costly cultural destruction.

But there is another aspect apart from the aesthetic one. On the 29th March 2013 when a fourteen story building in which NHC had a 25 per cent share collapsed, killing 36 people, and among the causes listed were the building inspectors' failure to spot the poor workmanship that was responsible for the collapse.

Three years earlier in 2010, a probe team investigating two corrupt Kinondoni senior land officers, discovered that out of 1,240 files studied, 1,116 had been 'manipulated'.

.....a shocking statistic to further erode public confidence.

I have a sad file, in which the NHC and the Ministry of lands featured largely for a decade and a half. And in the mid to late nineties, the mass destruction of the city centre, certainly made it resemble a battle site.

Memorable among those who benefited was a company which illegally destroyed the homes of dozens of families living on Zanaki corner, near Bibi Titi Mohamed road. If I recall correctly, the company direc-

tor along with an employee, was given a month's prison sentence (which they never served) for being in contempt of court, as they overruled the injunction to save the building.

Most telling of all in this case was that the tenants of the property, were raising the purchase price for the block, and should have been given priority buying rights from NHC. But instead, this sturdy building, was declared unfit for human habitation, and offered to the 'developers'...a misnomer if ever there was one.....this was a perfect example of classic corruption in principle and action, and surely was one of many.

The prevailing propaganda at the time was that the demolitions were an exercise in inner city improvement, but they were really about collusion and profiteering by greed ridden government officers, in cahoots with the then City Commission and the National Housing Corporation... yet again in their history, they escaped censure and investigation, and smartly stepped aside.

There were other even more shocking examples of 'corruption in action', notably on Samora Avenue, where homes and business were literally crushed, many along with their contents in a mad orgy of official premature destruction, because the site was then left empty for nearly a decade. This was sanctified banditry for which no one was called to account....and I saw it happen. Hallelujah for better times!

THE LAW & YOU

Tanzania's obligation to promote learning, transform education

By Telesphor Magobe

TODAY, Tanzania joins other countries across the world to celebrate International Day of Education, which since 2019 is marked each year on January 24. This year's theme is "Changing Course, Transforming Education."

Article 26(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace."

Having this in mind, International Day of Education becomes meaningful to each one of us because it is meant to remind us as individuals and world nations to take affirmative action that leads to the implementation of Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

This was a commitment made at the World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea on May 19-22, 2015. This global forum adopted the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030, which sets out a new vision for education - the implementation of Goal 4 of SDGs. The forum involved over 1,600 participants from 160 countries across the world.

Education is a constitutional right in most national constitutions, but not in all of them. Article II(2) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania (1977), as amended until 2005, states: "Every person has the right to access education, and every citizen shall be free to pursue education in a field of his [or her] choice up to the highest level according to his [or her] merits and ability."

Sub-article 3 states that: "The government shall make efforts to ensure that all persons are afforded equal and sufficient opportunity to pursue education and vocational training in all levels of schools and other institutions of learning."

However, Article II of the Constitution



is not part of Part III: the Basic Rights and Duties (the Bill of Rights), which although circumscribed by clawback clauses, may be enforceable in court. Article II, which in the case of Tanzania covers the right to education, falls under Part II of the Constitution: Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy.

Article 7(2) of the Constitution states that: "The provisions of this Part of this Chapter are not enforceable by any court. No court shall be competent to determine the questions whether or not any action or omission by any person or any court, or any law or judgment complies with the provisions of this Part of this Chapter."

As we said last week about other Articles, this Sub-article (2) is also an ouster clause that bars any person or court from enforcing this right. Yet, education is a basic right and all members to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have an obligation to take necessary steps to ensure education becomes not only declarative, but also an enforceable right and citizens may demand it and be able to seek court redress if it is not.

Article 9 of the Constitution states: "The object of this Constitution is to facilitate the building of the United Republic as a nation of equal and free individuals enjoying freedom, justice, fraternity and concord... Therefore, the state authority and all its agencies are obliged to direct their policies and programmes towards ensuring - (f) that human dignity

is preserved and upheld in accordance with the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

As Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2018), is quoted to have said "The power of the Universal Declaration is the power of ideas to change the world. It inspires us to continue working to ensure that all people can gain freedom, equality and dignity. One vital aspect of this task is to empower people to demand what should be guaranteed: their human rights."

It is through education that citizens become enlightened to take part fully in the affairs of their government. Paragraph II (see also paragraph 14) of Agenda 2030: The Africa We Want states: "By 2063, African countries will be amongst the best performers in global quality of life measures. This will be attained through strategies of inclusive growth, job creation, increasing agricultural production; investments in science, technology, research and innovation; gender equality, youth empowerment and the provision of basic services, including health, nutrition, education, shelter, water and sanitation."

Tanzania has made great strides in setting up infrastructure for the provision of education. What remains is adequate investment in the provision of better education that translates into having critical and intelligent citizens capable of transforming their own country into a better place to live in. We cannot contribute positively to the transformation of the world if we cannot transform our own country first.

So, this year's theme of International Day for Education: "Changing Course, Transforming Education" is well chosen for it calls all of us as individuals and nations to change ourselves first in the way we think and behave. In fact, we should train ourselves not just thinking, but thinking critically and intelligently - that's thinking smartly.

Today's proverb: "A clean fast is better than a dirty breakfast."

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China leads with wisdom for addressing global pandemic, development challenges

BRUSSELS

"SMALL boats may not survive a storm, but a giant ship is strong enough to brave a storm," Chinese President Xi Jinping has said during a special address to the 2022 World Economic Forum (WEF) virtual session.

As global leaders from political, business and academic circles explored new driving forces for economic growth, new models for social life, and new paths for personnel exchanges during the five-day session that ended on Friday, Xi's remarks have once again demonstrated China's wisdom for addressing the pressing challenges facing mankind.

The proposals China made during the event - to uphold multilateralism, promote win-win cooperation and share development opportunities - have offered fresh hope for the world out of the global pandemic and economic woes.

The number of global infections had exceeded 320 million by Monday, with several countries registering a new record high of daily cases, according to data from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The World Bank's latest "Global Economic Prospects" report noted that due to such factors as the pandemic, inflation, debt and income inequality, global growth is expected to "decelerate markedly" in 2022 and 2023.

"Only 16 percent of respondents feel positive and optimistic about the outlook for the world, and just 11 percent believe the global recovery will accelerate," said the WEF's Global Risks Report 2022 published on Jan. 11.

"Recovery remains fragile and uneven amid the lingering pandemic, persistent labor market challenges, ongoing supply chain disruptions, rising inflation and looming debt traps," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the forum on Monday.

Stressing that "the climate

crisis remains the biggest long-term threat facing humanity," Zurich Insurance Group's Chief Risk Officer Peter Giger said that "failure to act on climate change could shrink global GDP (gross domestic product) by one-sixth." "Everyone hopes that in 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the crises that accompanied it, will finally begin to recede.

But major global challenges await us, from climate change to rebuilding trust and social cohesion," said WEF Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab.

"To address them, leaders will need to adopt new models, look long-term, renew cooperation and act systematically," he said.

Against the backdrop of the pandemic woes, many participants of the event reiterated the urgent need for global solidarity, equality and cooperation. While more than half of the world's population having been fully vaccinated, the rate is only 7 percent in Africa.

"Being able to use those vaccines equitably is not only a fair and important humanitarian objective, it's the best way for us all to get out of the pandemic phase that we're currently in right now," said Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Program.

Anthony Fauci, the U.S. top infectious disease expert, noted Monday during the event that inequality in public health is an important reason for the severe pandemic situation in the United States.

"We should have had a much more coordinated global response, as I've said so many times. A global pandemic requires a global response, and we have to keep in mind the issue of equity all the time because you can't have a situation where you have the virus circulating freely in one part of the world," Fauci said.

"Collaboration within societies and among the international community will be fundamental to ensure a more even

and rapid global recovery," said Saadia Zahidi, the WEF's managing director. "Global leaders must come together and adopt a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach to tackle unrelenting global challenges and build resilience ahead of the next crisis," she stressed. "We will no longer wait for the slowest and least ambitious," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, adding, "we need a paradigm shift in global climate policy."

To shed new light on addressing the challenges of the times, Xi stressed "the need to foster new opportunities amidst crises, open up new horizons on a shifting landscape, and pool great strength to go through difficulties and challenges" during his special address on Monday.

Xi called on the international community to embrace cooperation and jointly defeat the pandemic, resolve various risks and promote a steady recovery of the world economy, bridge the development divide and revitalize global development, and discard Cold War mentality and seek peaceful coexistence and win-win outcomes.

Former Prime Minister of Croatia Jadranka Kosor said Xi's remarks show the path of win-win cooperation for the benefit of people around the world.

Xi's words constituted an "important milestone" in promoting global cooperation following the COVID-19 pandemic, said Schwab. Dialogue and cooperation leading to joint solutions is "the only key" for humanity to live in peace and prosperity, he said, echoing Xi's remarks in 2017 on building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Schwab also thanked China for its active role in the global effort to combat common challenges.

Indeed, China has been actively contributing to the global anti-pandemic fight as well as the world economic recovery. In an effort to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good, China has donated and delivered billions of doses to countries in need.

Human rights violations and culture of impunity in South Asia

New Delhi

AS countries across South Asia continue to battle the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, causing serious public health and economic crisis, this region, which is home to almost 2 billion people, is also grappling with the erosion of democratic norms, growing authoritarianism, the crackdown on freedom of press, speech and dissent.

Despite the committed efforts of human rights defenders across South Asia, achieving human rights objectives remains a challenging task. Almost all countries in the region – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – face a common trend of human rights violations and a culture of impunity.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the Taliban rule has had a devastating impact on the lives of Afghan women, girls, journalists and human rights defenders. “The crisis for women and girls in Afghanistan is escalating with no end in sight. Taliban policies have rapidly turned many women and girls into virtual prisoners in their homes, depriving the country of one of its most precious resources, the skills and talents of the female half of the populations,” said Heather Barr, associate women’s rights director at Human Rights Watch in this report.

This report states, “the Taliban’s return to power has made members of some ethnic and religious minorities feel more vulnerable to threats even from those not affiliated with the Taliban. Taliban authorities have also used intimidation to extract money, food, and services. Fighting has mostly ended in the country, but people expressed fear of violence and arbitrary arrests by the Taliban and lack of the rule of law and reported increased crime in some areas.”

A group of three dozen Human Rights Council appointed experts in this report said, “waves of measures such as barring women from returning to their jobs, requiring a male relative to accompany them in public spaces, prohibiting women from using public transport on their own, as well as imposing a strict dress code on women and girls. Taken together, these policies constitute a collective punishment of women and girls, grounded in gender-based bias and harmful practices.”

The UN high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, has urged the UN security council to hold all perpetrators of human rights violations accountable, “I ask the security council to ensure that the perpetrators of these violations are accountable, I ask all states to use their influence with the Taliban to encourage respect for fundamental human rights. Denial of the fundamental rights of women and girls is massively damaging to the economy and the country as a whole,” Bachelet said.

The Taliban victory propelled Afghanistan “from humanitarian crisis to catastrophe”, with millions of Afghans facing severe food insecurity due to lost income, cash shortages, and rising food costs. Afghan refugees constitute one of the world’s largest refugee populations, with more than 2.2 million refugees. “Afghanistan’s displacement crisis is one of the largest and most protracted in UNHCR’s seven-decade history,” says UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

Bangladesh

While Bangladesh, despite making economic progress and getting upgraded by the United Nations from the category of least developed country to developing country last November, the country continues to be in the news for enforced disappearances, abductions, torture and extrajudicial killings by its security forces with impunity.

In this letter written by 12 organizations to Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix, urging the United Nations Department of Peace Operations to ban Bangladesh’s notoriously abusive paramilitary Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) from UN deployment.

As many as 600 people, including opposition leaders, activists, journalists, business people, and others, have been subjected to enforced disappearance since 2009. In this report, Dhaka-based rights organization Odhikar said that “some of the disappeared persons resurfaced in government’s custody after being arrested under the draconian Digital Security Act 2018.”

“Human rights defenders, journalists, and others critical of the government continue to be targeted with surveillance, politically motivated charges and arbitrary detention,” says this report. Earlier in November 2021, the United States slapped sanctions on elite Bangladeshi paramilitary force, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), stating it threatens US national security interests by undermining the rule of law and respect for human rights and



South Asian countries are grappling with the erosion of democratic norms, growing authoritarianism, the crackdown on freedom of press, speech and dissent, a report by Human Rights Watch says. File photo

fundamental freedoms, and the economic prosperity of the people of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is the only South Asian country other than Afghanistan to receive US sanctions since 1998.

India

In 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government in India was downgraded from a free democracy to a “partially free democracy” by global political rights and liberties US-based nonprofit Freedom House. Following this, a Sweden based V-Dem institute said, India had become an “electoral autocracy”. The country has slid from No. 35 in 2006 to No. 53 today on The Economist’s list.

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommended India be designated as a “country of particular concern, or CPC, for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act in its report.

In its World Report 2022, Human Rights Watch said, “Indian authorities intensified their crackdown on activists, journalists, and other critics of the government using politically motivated prosecutions in 2021. “Attacks against religious minorities were carried out with impunity under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Hindu nationalist government.”

Indian authorities have continued to press charges against students, activities, journalists, including counter-terrorism and sedition laws. To undermine rights to privacy and freedom of expression, reports of Pegasus spyware, developed and sold by Israeli company NSO group, were used to target Indian human rights defenders, journalists, and opposition politicians.

The ongoing harassment of journalists, including particularly those reporting from and in Kashmir, including the recent crackdown on Kashmir’s independent press club being shut down, arbitrary detention of journalists, alleged custodial killings, and a broader pattern of systematic infringement of fundamental rights used against the local population,” the report said.

According to this report, calls for genocide have become more common than ever, “where Hindu extremists organized 12 events over 24 months in four states, calling for genocide of Muslims, attacks on Christian minority and insurrection against the government. In this interview, the founding president of Genocide Watch, has warned: “Genocide could very well happen in India.”

Nepal

In Nepal, lack of effective government leadership, inadequate and unequal access to health care, and a ‘pervasive culture of impunity’ continue to undermine the country’s fundamental human rights. “A lack of effective government leadership in Nepal means that little is done to uphold citizens’ rights, leaving millions to fend for themselves without adequate services such as for health or education, said Meenakshi Ganguly, South

Asia director, Human Rights Watch.

“Systemic impunity for human rights abuses extends to ongoing violations, undermining the principles of accountability and the rule of law in post-conflict Nepal. The report states that the authorities routinely fail to investigate or prosecute killings or torture allegedly carried by security forces,” the report states.

In October 2020, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) published 20 years of data, naming 286 people, mostly police officials, military personnel, and former Maoist insurgents, “as suspects in serious crimes, including torture, enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killings”.

Along with this, the situation of women’s and girls’ human rights continues to be alarming in the country. According to this report, Nepal has the highest rate of child marriages in Asia, with 33 percent of girls marrying before 18 years and 8 percent by 15. Reports also indicate there has been an increase in cases of rape in 2021, with widespread impunity for sexual violence.

Patriarchal Citizenship Law in Nepal which does not treat men and women equally, has been criticized for undermining Nepali women’s identities and agency, subordinating them to the position of second-class citizens – also impacting children.

Pakistan

The Pakistan government, on the other hand, “harassed and at times persecuted human rights defenders, lawyers, and journalists for criticizing government officials and policies,” said this report by Human Rights Watch. Significant human rights issues include freedom of expression, attacks on civil society groups, freedom of religion and belief, forced disappearances by governments and their agents, unlawful or arbitrary killings, extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary detentions, terrorism, counter-terrorism and law enforcement abuses.

“Pakistan failed to enact a law criminalizing torture despite Pakistan’s obligation to do so under the Convention against Torture,” the report said. The country’s regressive blasphemy law provides a pretext for violence against religious minorities, leaving them vulnerable to arbitrary arrests and prosecution.

According to this report by Human Rights Without Frontiers, 1,865 people have been charged with blasphemy laws, with a significant spike in 2020, when 200 cases were registered.

This piece highlights the plight of thousands of Pakistan’s Baloch who security forces have abducted. International human rights law strictly prohibits enforced disappearances, in Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan vowed that a draft law to criminalize enforced disappearances would be “fast-tracked”. A bill about enforced disappearances, which the National Assembly passed, mysteriously went missing after it was sent to the Senate.

The continued attack on journalists and activists for violations of the Electronic Crimes Act, the use of the

National Accountability Bureau (NAB), an anti-corruption agency to target critics, attacks and well-coordinated campaigns and attacks on women journalists on social media, and reported intimidation of nongovernmental organizations, including harassment and surveillance are all crackdowns which are only getting worse.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, the government continued to ‘suppress minority communities and harassed activists, and undermined democratic institutions.’ According to Human Rights Watch’s World Report 2022, “President Gotabaya Rajapaksa seems determined to reverse past rights improvements and protect those implicated in serious abuses. While promising reforms and justice to deflate international criticism, his administration has stepped up suppression of minority communities,” Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said.

The report highlights the harassment of security forces towards human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and the families of victims of past abuses and suppression of peaceful protests. As covid-19 cases surged in the country, military-controlled response to the pandemic “led to serious right violations”.

A major concern from the minority Muslim and Christian communities in Sri Lanka was the government’s order not to allow the bodies of Covid victims to be buried. According to this report, “several bodies were forcibly cremated, despite experts saying that bodies could be buried with proper safety measures.” This order, which rights activists said was intended to target minorities and did not respect religions, after much criticism was reversed.

A leading British religious freedom advocacy group, CSW, in its report titled, “A Nation Divided: The state of freedom of religious or belief in Sri Lanka,” said the Muslim community experiences “severe” religious freedom violations. A key factor in the violations is the perception by Sinhalese-Buddhist nationalists that Muslims are a threat to both Buddhism and the Sinhalese. The report also noted attempts to “reduce the visibility of Islam through the destruction of mosques and restrictive stances on religious clothing.

IPS

RADIO

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Stanbic Bank re-inaugurates its branch in Dar's Kariakoo

By Guardian Reporter

STANBIC Bank Tanzania has re-located and re-opened its full-service branch in Kariakoo, Dar es Salaam city, following the fire outbreak at the Kariakoo market where the branch was impacted.

The branch is now located at Plot no 24, Block "56", Narungombe/Sikukuu Street, Kariakoo area.

Speaking during the launch, the bank's chief executive, Kevin Wingfield said the move was strategic and meant to continue serving the SMEs located in Kariakoo and nearby areas.

The launch ceremony was graced by Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla.

"Our Kariakoo Branch has existed for over 10 years. We have chosen to stay in the Kariakoo area because we understand the importance of the contribution of SMEs in Kariakoo to the national economy as well as neighbouring countries."

Wingfield added that through this newly located branch, the bank will continue addressing

the unique financial needs of its customers including: individuals, entrepreneurs, and businesses, as well as showcase its products and services to a whole new set of potential customers within the footfall of the branch.

RC Makalla, applauded Stanbic Bank for their continuous efforts to ensure that Kariakoo residents receive convenient financial services

"I congratulate Stanbic Bank for re-opening this branch, I believe the residents here will benefit abundantly from your services," he said.

Stanbic Bank head of consumer and high net worth clients, Omari Mtiga, said that with a rich history of over 25 years of operation in Tanzania, Stanbic Bank has a wealth of expertise and capabilities to spur investment within Tanzania and the region in particular.

He said customers will enjoy the expertise of a team of financial experts committed to assisting them to make the best of their banking experience.



Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla cuts ribbon to launch the reopening of Stanbic Bank Kariakoo branch recently. Others are the bank's chief executive officer, Kevin Wingfield (2nd-L), and Stanbic Bank head of consumer and high net worth clients, Omari Mtiga (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Belgium envoy discusses education opportunities for Tanzanians

By Special Correspondents

AS the world celebrates the International Day of Education, which is January 24 every year, it is worthwhile to discuss the progress we are making and plans for the future in regards education. Quality education is a necessity, especially for a country with dreams for a brighter future like Tanzania.

In this view, a direct phone call rang from Manchester, UK to Brussels, Belgium by Shimbo Pastory, a Tanzanian who is passionate about human integral development to Jestas Abouk Nyamanga who serves as the Ambassador of Tanzania to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.

Ambassador Jestas Abouk Nyamanga discussed the various education opportunities that the Belgian Government and the European Union avails for Tanzanians who are interested and meet the necessary requirements as we bring them forth.

Educational diplomacy is rapidly moving beyond the realm of government sponsored initiatives to a much wider array of actors and activities beyond the national

borders. Education is one of the central dimensions in the diplomatic relationship between Tanzania and Belgium as well as the European Union.

"We all believe that education is a force multiplier to turn potentials into prosperity. At the national level, Tanzania is investing heavily in the education sector in terms of both human resources and infrastructure development," the envoy said, adding:

"The aim is to enable young people to acquire skills and knowledge that keep pace with the global dynamics and matches with the current and future global demand. To capture the opportunities afforded by the globalisation, the government through its diplomatic missions abroad is also working hard to ensure that we cast our net wide and get prepared to look beyond our shores and learn from others."

"It is therefore no coincidence that Tanzania through its bilateral cooperation with Belgium and the Europe Union has placed the great significance on the cooperation and partnership on educa-

tion." Belgium offers scholarships to Tanzanians through various programmes for courses and trainings specifically aimed at students from developing countries. Tanzania is among the only 29 countries in the world that are eligible for the VLIRIOUS Scholarship, a Programme offered to study in Flanders higher learning institutions in Belgium.

Tanzania is also eligible for ARES Scholarship Programme. ARES offers scholarships to study in one of the higher learning institutions of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation in Belgium. Through these programmes, Belgium offers scholarships for short courses, bachelor degrees, and master's degrees.

In addition, Tanzania is also eligible for the Erasmus + Programme offered by the European Union, which among others, aims at supporting through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sport.

The Erasmus+ which can be reached through has been offering scholarships

for short- and long-term mobility to students and staff from all over the world. We know that this kind of learning mobility has a very positive impact.

There is also another program known as the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMDs). This is the EU-funded scholarships to Master students from around the world that cover tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years in which students study in at least two different European countries, and obtain a joint, double degrees, or multiple degrees. Institutions from Tanzania can also be part of the consortia that deliver these programmes.

It is generally acknowledged that students who spend a period outside their own country develop better transversal skills. They are better at tackling new challenges, making decisions and solving problems. They have more confidence and understand their own strengths and weaknesses better. They are capable of critical thinking and more tolerant towards other people's values and behaviour.

Our cooperation also benefits young people outside academia. Through Erasmus+, Tanzanians and European youth organisations can also develop partnership projects to boost the mobility of youth workers and young people. I urge our young people to get the best out of these opportunities, identify their own niche, and make a mark on their endeavours. It is my conviction that we can make a better future through these programs.

Research is another area of our cooperation with the Belgium institutions. Tanzania is an important partner country of VLIR-UOS. From 2003 to 2021 VLIR-UOS spent around € 21.8 million in cooperation with Tanzania, including long-term Institutional University Cooperation (IUC) Programmes with the Sokoine University of Agriculture (finalized), Mzumbe University and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology.

The two ongoing IUC partnerships with Mzumbe University and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology are

running towards the end of a 2nd Phase of cooperation and 18 projects that started since 2017 are the cornerstones of the cooperation of VLIR-UOS with Tanzania.

It is exciting to learn of the accomplishments made by the Sokoine University in collaboration with the Belgium research institute -APOPO which save lives by training rats and other animals to rid the landmines and tuberculosis. We are proud to note from the results of this project that our acclaimed researchers have scaled new heights.

It also delighted to see our universities joining hands with their counterparts over the world in undertaking cutting-edge research projects that make significant contributions to education worldwide. It is an appeal to our universities to capitalize fully on the opportunities provided to Tanzania under the Short Initiatives (SI) Vliros through www.vlirious.be.

As the Ambassador, Jestas says, he treasures every opportunity in the education partnership, and the Embassy of the Tanzania in Brussels will keep working hard

to ensure that every opportunity is secured and fully utilized.

It is unfortunate that many Tanzanians are not yet aware of these opportunities as most of these scholarships, applications are made online. Tanzanians should be steady in embracing these opportunities, so as to be able to acquire skills and knowledge that could be vital for their career development for the wider interest of the nation. We particularly encourage actions to be taken in this season of applications.

On behalf of Tanzanian government and all Tanzanians, Ambassador Jestas is profoundly grateful to the Belgium government, the EU and all other development partners for being always supportive to the development agenda of Tanzania; offering of these vital scholarships and research programs is a good case.

"Our cooperation in education will remain a key in bringing our peoples closer together. As an ambassador I look forward to taking this strong bilateral partnership and friendship to the greater heights."

NGO constructs school building for 500 pupils

By Guardian Reporter, Mkuranga

MORE than 500 pupils at Mwarusembe ward in Mkuranga District are expected to benefit from a newly constructed Kinene primary school which has been built by the African Reflection Foundation (ARF) in support of the government's efforts to develop the education sector.

Before the construction of the model school by the non-governmental organization in collaboration with other development stakeholders, pupils at the area were forced to walk for more than five kilometers to and from school.

Speaking shortly after visiting the school over the weekend, ARF Chief Executive Officer, Maryvonne Pool said they are supporting the government in strengthening the education sector.

Pool, who is also the school matron, said they are expecting to make Kinene primary school a model in the district and ensure it benefits many pupils.

The challenged pupils to concentrate on their studies taking into consideration that President, Samia Suluhu Hassan has shown the way

by improving school infrastructures in line with the good vision of providing equal opportunity for all children to access quality basic education.

"Teachers should be creative and dedicate their efforts and commitment in teaching pupils. Children are the nation's future and a foundation for the country's development; teachers are the bridge in achieving these successes," said Pool.

Kinene primary school Head teacher, Fatuma Mpulaki expressed her sincere gratitude to ARF for its dedication to the children as well as in supporting the education sector. She promised to work together with the stakeholders to promote excellence and keep the school clean all the time.

"We will not let you down, we are committed to ensuring the school remains clean and all the infrastructures maintained throughout. Pupils will, apart from other studies, be taught hygiene and discipline for them to be a good example in the district and the nation as a whole", said Mpulaki.

One of the pupils, Nasra Mohamed said: "I am happy to be in this school, I started my education at Mwarusembe primary school from standard One to Five. I used to walk long distances



Some students of Kinene Primary School in a group picture shortly after its inauguration. The school is in Mkuranga District, Coast Region. It has been constructed by the African Reflection Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, in collaboration with various other development stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

every day."

According to her being admitted at the new school would reduce the waking hours to and from school and enable her to perform better in exams. She thanked the NGO for coming up with

such an idea because they learning adjacent to their homes.

She added: "Since the new school is close to my home, I will be able to concentrate on my studies and have extra time to participate in other extra-

curricular activities"

The school was built by ARF, in partnership with Sky Is Not Limited, Drilling for Hope and GullamHussein Electra Charitable Trust. It was inaugurated on September 29th 2021 and has a total of

seven classrooms and one teachers' house with a capacity to accommodate 2 families.

The school is expected to have 288 students from Standard One to Seven. Pupils expected to join the school will be trans-

ferred from Mwarusembe primary school.

Kinene primary school is going to help more than 500 children who were previously walking for more than 5 kilometers to and from school, reduce congestion in the classrooms and enable pupils to learn in a better environment.

EFF's apparent U-turn on pan-Africanism raises questions about its stance on immigrants

By Giuseppe Rajkumar Guerandi

The Economic Freedom Fighters have recently come under fire for what appeared to be backtracking on their historically pro-immigrant political stance. Amid this principled confusion, how do the party's most recent actions fair against their past?

EFF leader Julius Malema made the rounds on 19 January at the Mall of Africa to inspect the employee lists of various restaurants, apparently with the intention of assessing the ratio of foreign-born to local employees working at these establishments.

The action, accompanied by a call from Malema to hire more locals, prompted many to question whether the party had abandoned its previously established stance as a Pan-Africanist organisation that once called for the abolishment of South African borders.

Human Rights Watch reported in 2020 that xenophobic harassment and attacks against non-nationals in South Africa were widespread and committed by citizens, police and politicians alike. Looking at the EFF's position on paper, their least populist political stance has been in their support for African immigrants and the condemnation of their subjugation.

During the party's 2019 general elections manifesto launch, Malema envisioned a South Africa free of xenophobia in his address.

In that address that was resoundingly applauded by EFF members in attendance, Malema called for a borderless Africa. Zimbabwe, Mo-

zambique, Botswana, the DRC is our home, he said.

"We were divided by those who imposed borders on us. Those borders were imposed on us by the colonisers. We are one people," he said, telling his "fighters", "let us not be too local, let us be international. We exist in a globe, let us not be too isolationist".

In full Pan-Africanist mode, he went on to say, "Let's stop xenophobia... let's stop self-hate. If you attack others, you don't love yourself." He said, to loud cheers, that the resources of Africa should benefit Africans, and not "white people".

"Any African, a Nigerian, a Ghanaian, all over. The pain of Africans is our pain," he continued. He said Africans were suffering in the diaspora worldwide: "When they come back home, you still make them suffer. Why? What did those Africans do to you? Let us protect one another, let us love our continent. Let Africa one day realise its own freedom, let Africa one day stand on its own feet."

The party's physical manifesto does not actually make mention of combatting xenophobia, but it does highlight that xenophobia against Africans is on the rise in a section dedicated to the effects of landlessness.

In terms of actionable policy, that manifesto does not offer anything concrete. When it does mention the interests of 'foreigners', this writing, as with much of the EFF's official policies, suffers from ambiguity as to the specific 'foreigners' in question.

For example, point seven under



Julius Malema, President and Commander-in-Chief of Economic Freedom Fighters party

the 'Land' subsection of the 'Commitment and Plan of Action' section reads: "The EFF government will abolish foreign land ownership." Point three under the 'International Relations' section reads: "The EFF government will lead a progressive programme to reject foreign and in particular Western domination of

African economies."

The distinction between foreigners from the African continent and foreigners from beyond is unclear.

The former are relevant to the Pan-Africanist ideology that the party has espoused, the latter is relevant for the sovereignty from external, particularly Western, in-

tervention that the party has demanded. Moreover, it is unclear where foreigners from the broader Global South and developing world fit into this stance.

In the party's 2013 founding manifesto, point 59 reads: "It can never be correct that the state operates only with the "hope" that the still colonial and foreign-owned, and thus unpatriotic, private sector, in particular, will voluntarily underwrite the developmental agenda and pursue the agenda of job creation, poverty reduction and sustainable development with the same vigour that should define government."

The interchangeable use of 'foreign' with 'unpatriotic' in this excerpt signals a problematic lack of clarity on this issue from the moment the party took its first steps. The pejorative tone of deeming that which is foreign as unpatriotic has the same undertones of a xenophobic mantra.

Ultimately, if the party is both pro-sovereignty and pro 'United States of Africa', it does not communicate effectively on paper.

At a press briefing on 26 October 2020, Malema called on employers to maintain a minimum of 60% South African staff.

According to non-profit fact-checking organisation Africa Check, Malema's remarks were conflated to mean that 40% of South African jobs should be allocated to African foreigners, when in fact it was more a suggestion for an employment floor that could very well be increased for South African workers.

While many found Malema's recent trip to the Mall of Africa to be overstepping his political mandates and generally regarded it as a bullying tactic, the EFF backed up its actions as part of a mission to ensure

that employed foreign nationals are not being exploited for their labour, at the expense of labour law regulations and South Africans obtaining employment.

This defence is generally in line with its blink-and-you'll-miss-it stance in their 2021 Local Government Elections manifesto commitments to various municipalities.

In a brief point under the Musina Local Municipality in Limpopo section, point 19 reads: "The EFF Municipality will ensure that established businesses and farmers who still prefer to employ foreign nationals at lower wages are held accountable through applicable laws by 2022." The list of general commitments outlined in the same year's manifesto made no mention of foreigners.

It's worth noting that the EFF has provided the closest thing to a definitive, mainstream pro-immigrant stance in the contemporary South African political landscape.

Both the ANC and DA have largely reiterated commitments to tighter border control with broad stroke promises to crack down on illegal immigrants.

But the EFF's most recent actions have clearly cast doubt on the cogency of their position on this issue. While it has largely maintained a welcomin

g attitude to foreigners, advocating for a majority South African workforce through aggressive inspections as a mechanism for minimising the exploitation of foreign workers seems misguided at best, and ironically xenophobic at worst.

When asked if he would like to provide clarity on this question, EFF spokesperson Vuyani Pambo tersely declined. "You'll have to listen to our clips," said Pambo. "We don't talk to Daily Maverick."

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 210 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters RAT, EAT, BYE
 4 letters MERE, MENU, OSLO, OMAN, REIN, HATE, MEED, ORES, BULL,
 5 letters AMPERE, RACHIS, DINER, NOBLE
 6 letters BUCKET, PLENARY, SOMALIA, TEASED
 7 letters BROWSER, BULGARE, OMADHAUN
 8 letters EMINENCE, DYNAMITE
 9 letters CALAMITY,

CLUES: Across
 1 to reprimand
 5 sex that fertilizes the ovum
 6 unkind, cruel
 9 Overpopulated country in Africa
 13 Animal of Australia
 14 to stay
 16 coloured tropical freshwater fish
 17 barrier constructed to hold back water
 19 stopped, ceased
 20 small flat cake
 22 highest point
 23 largest horned African antelopes

Down:
 1 Italy's Capital
 2 bed cover
 3 infidel
 4 human beings
 7 Niger's capital
 8 chain around a prisoner's ankle as a restraint
 10 insect which sucks
 11 an Indian actor
 12 barbary sheep
 15 friendly and sociable with fellow members not outsiders
 17 duces
 18 a walking stick
 19 used as an expression of pain
 21 large tailless primate

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS: RIVER, ENTER, MOUSE, DEER, SPAIN, TRIBE, ACTING, MODERN, BREAK, HINA, SOWER, DENY, PLUNGE, KARATE, EASY, LEAVES, SPELLS, ELYESO, MUSCATA

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: 1. REPRIMAND, 5. OVUM, 6. CRUEL, 9. ETHIOPIA, 13. KANGAROO, 14. REMAIN, 16. SALMON, 17. FLOOD WALL, 19. STOPPED, 20. CRACKER, 22. MOUNTAIN, 23. RHINOCEROS, DOWN: 1. ROME, 2. COVER, 3. INFIDEL, 4. HUMANS, 7. NIAGARA, 8. SHACKLES, 10. TICKET, 11. SHAKHARAI, 12. GOATS, 15. PEACEFUL, 17. LEADS, 18. STICK, 19. PAIN, 21. GORILLA

RADIO One **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

INVESTMENT

World Economic Forum pleads for financial support to rescue African digital start-ups

DAVOS

As part of its ongoing effort to help policymakers on the continent make the transition to a knowledge-based digital economy, the World Economic Forum released a new report, which is titled, "Attracting Investment and Accelerating Adoption for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Africa."

Developed in collaboration with Deloitte, the report was released few months after Google announced a \$1 billion investment to support digital transformation across Africa. Estimates from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) say that Africa's digital economy could add nearly \$180 billion to the continent's growth by the middle of this decade. Despite this, Africa is the world's least connected continent, with only 39% of the population accessing the internet.

Even though it raised a total of \$1.2 billion in funding in the year 2020, which is a six-fold increase in five years, this is still less than a tenth of the \$156 billion raised by US start-ups in that year. The African continent invested less than half a per cent of GDP in research and development in 2019, which is less than one-quarter of the global average.

The head of the World Economic Forum's Africa Division said that African

governments need to push more money into the tech and knowledge sectors. Putting incentives in legislation and investing in science and technology skills are ways that policymakers can make a difference.

The following are the three policy enablers discussed in detail in the report: Pass legislation such as "Start-up Acts" designed to spur private sector innovation, reduce the burden of regulation and promote entrepreneurship, in which Tunisia and Senegal are leading the way; Embed incentives for start-ups in legislation, such as start-up grants, rebates on efficiency gains through technology implementation, co-investment of critical infrastructure, tax-free operations for the early years, and incentives for R&D; and Invest in workforce education, skills and competencies. Currently, only 2% of Africa's university-age population holds a STEM-related (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) degree.

"African governments urgently need to drive greater investment in the tech sector and the knowledge economy," said Chido Munyati, Head of Africa Division at the World Economic Forum. "Policy-makers can make a difference by reducing the burden of regulation, embedding incentives within legislation and investing in science and technology skills."



Chido Munyati, Head of Africa Division at the World Economic Forum.

TECH SAVVY

DART to debut smart passenger and fleet control system in July

By Francis Kajubi

THE Dar Rapid Transit Agency (DART) is set for procurement of a 10bn/- system that will facilitate efficiency into fare collection, easy traffic control and that will simplify an operator to passenger information delivery of the city's rapid transit network.

Dubbed, 'Intelligent Transportation System,' the ITS has been on the government's plans since 2020 and will likely be operational before July this year as procurement procedures are at an advanced stage.

DART's Information and Communication Technology Manager, Ng'wanashigi Gagaga said in Dar es Salaam last week at a meeting with media editors and journalists that the system has three components and includes an Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS) which is intended at monitoring aspects of vulnerability that may hamper cyber criminals from attacking the agency's computer systems.

"It has taken us almost two year discussing the system not only regarding costs but also on



DART's ICT manager, Ng'wanashigi Gagaga.

the emphasis that we need to have a well and complete set up that will fully complement the city's logistic plans. The system will be monitored by ICT security experts," Gagaga said.

According to him, other functions of the AFCS is to control unre-

stricted multiple logins by the same user on different machines, and users having visibility to application features not related to their roles.

He pointed out that the second component of the ITS will be the Passenger Information Integrated System (PIIS) which will play a role

of controlling time that the bus is supposed to wait for passengers at terminals and way stations. The system will also issue information about the bus routes.

"The third component will be the Traffic Management System (TMS) which is more advanced than the existing ones. This system will prevent rapid transit buses from staying a couple of minutes in traffic jams. In other words the system will eliminate a good number of traffic police in controlling traffic," he asserted.

Seconding Gagaga, acting Director Transport Development at DART, Fanuel Kalugendo said the agency and its project partners, Usafiri Dar es Salaam-Rapid Transit will from next month start procurement of 95 articulated buses to make up 305 operational buses in the BRT network up from the current 210 buses.

Kalugendo said UDA-RT owns 51 percent of shares in the project and the government through DART owns the remaining 49 percent. "As we speak the BRT services transport almost 180,000 passengers a day with 210 buses from 76,000 passengers in 2016 when the project had only 140 buses," he revealed.

EMPOWERMENT

Women entrepreneurs talk of benefits of Nia Moja account

By Guardian Reporter

WOMEN entrepreneurs in the country have expressed satisfaction with services being offered by 'Nia Moja' account which was introduced by CRDB Bank Plc several years ago.

In a random survey last week, the women said the account has assisted them save earnings made from their businesses easily but also help manage funds of their village credit community bank (Vicoba).

Tanga based fashion and clothing business woman, Miriam Mdoe said the account has assisted their Vicoba to manage its funds well. "This account has enabled us easily manage funds because we can digitally manage it," said Mdoe.

She said since her childhood days, she was obsessed with being a fashion designer because her mother was a tailor who nurtured a similar culture in her. "My ambition was always to invest in the fashion industry," she said.

Mdoe further noted that through the Vicoba group, she has managed to save and borrow to invest in modern sawing machines and related equipment to realise her dream of being a fashion icon. "When you save as a group, its easy to realise set goals hence CRDB's 'Nia Moja' account has simply helped us meet our set targets," she noted.

She narrated that when they started the Vicoba group with money given to a treasurer who kept it in a pig bank at home, the risk were high compared to depositing



Tanga-based Miriam Mdoe displays merchandise at her tailoring mart last week. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

cash with the bank which also pays interest.

"We also had difficulty keeping records because everything was done manually with very limited expertise till when one of our colleagues heard about 'Nia moja' account," she noted while adding that the account has also made it simply to monitor cash flow, loan disbursement and repayment by members.

A Vicoba group to open the account, it needs an identification letter from local government offices in their area, its constitution and 20,000/- cash. Currently, the account has more than 10,000 Vicoba groups countrywide.

A food vendor from Dar es Salaam's Manzese area, Mwanahiba Yusufu said apart from enabling

women develop their businesses rapidly through affordable loans, 'Nia moja' account also teaches them financial discipline.

"We often get expert advice from CRDB officials on how best to manage our businesses, set targets and strictly adhere to budgets when spending cash," Yusufu noted adding that use of digital platforms such as SimBanking and CRDB Wakalas has meant that they are more efficient and organised.

"I thank CRDB management for coming up with this account and urge women groups to join and enjoy the benefits," she added while stressing that any business woman who wants to prosper should join Vicoba which has the 'Nia moja' account.

Commenting on the account's performance, CRDB Director of Corporate Communications, Tully Mwambapa said the bank has commitment to back women's economic emancipation through 'Nia moja' account.

"Apart from 'Niamoja' account, we also have several other products targeting women such as 'Malkia' account, tailor made loans targeting women (Wafi) and others," Mwambapa said adding that the bank is still mobilising women to use it various products and services through an ongoing campaign called, 'Unachostahili ni CRDB Bank.' The campaign started earlier this month and covers the whole country, she added.

STABILITY

SA's biggest power users want more predictable tariffs

JOHANNESBURG

A group representing the biggest electricity consumers in South Africa including Anglo American Plc and Glencore Plc appealed for more predictable power-price increases.

The Energy Intensive Users Group, which accounts for about 40% of the nation's power consumption, wants "stable and predictable tariff increases to promote medium- to long-term investment planning," it said in a presentation to the regulator on Friday. Public hearings have taken place this week over a proposal by state-owned utility Eskom Hold-

ings SOC Ltd. to raise its fees by 21% for the 2022-23 financial year.

South Africa over the last two decades has gone from having a surplus of cheap electricity to contending with an unreliable supply. Eskom's coal-powered plants have been poorly maintained and prone to breakdowns, resulting in nationwide power cuts. The utility has said cost-reflective prices are needed to turn the loss-making business around.

Eskom and the National Energy Regulator of South Africa, which sets the electricity prices have sparred off several times in

court over its determinations. Some costs have jumped more than 30% since 2009, although they have rarely reached double digits in recent years.

The EIUG proposed that the consumer inflation rate plus 2 to 4 percentage points would be a reasonable annual tariff hike. It also asked the regulator to consider proposing incentives for Eskom to improve its power supply.

Meanwhile comparisons presented by Eskom to show that its tariffs are low compared to those in many other countries were met with scepticism on Thursday during the

fourth day of energy regulator Nersa's public hearings about the utility's application for an increase of 20.5% from April 1.

Nersa panel members asked about the validity of the comparisons and the chair, Nersa full-time regulator member Nhlanhla Gumede, asked Eskom to show the composition of the tariffs that are being compared. Gumede cited the example of the fuel price that is high in South Africa compared with neighbouring countries because of the inclusion of several taxes and government levies.

Eskom senior engineer Dr Ulrich Minnaar had presented depictions of residential and

industrial tariffs around the world in US cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) - based on BloombergNEF and International Energy Agency (IEA) data - as shown below.

Minnaar's presentation came after Eskom CFO Calib Cassim pointed out on Wednesday that vulnerable customers are being protected against unaffordable tariffs. Cassim referred to government's electrification programme that subsidises access to electricity for the poor, providing free basic electricity to the poor, as well as earlier decisions by Nersa to limit the increases to households using small volumes.

PARTNERSHIP

NMB Bank to back Zanzibar's tourism development as part of blue economy

By Guardian Reporter

IN an effort to support Zanzibar's blue economy development, NMB Bank Plc has signed an agreement aimed at backing such efforts.

Speaking after signing a memorandum of understanding between the two sides, Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Fatma Mabrouk Khamis and NMB's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi said the agreement details how the bank and the isles government will cooperate in three specific areas that are key in the boosting of the tourism sector.

"We have agreed to work together in destination marketing and position of Zanzibar's tourism; in diversifying tourism supply and facilitation of experience as well as in the empowerment of youths and the community," Khamis said.

She said the deal will directly impact the de-



Foreign tourists stroll at Stone Town in Zanzibar.

velopment of the blue economy because tourism benefits a lot from the isles Indian Ocean resources such as beautiful beaches and islands which also host world class hotels.

In his remarks after signing the agreement, Mponzi said the bank de-

veloped to become part of the Spice Islands tourism development because it forms the basis of the blue economy, which is the focus of Zanzibar's economic development blueprint.

"NMB Bank takes tourism development seriously and this

is why we have been designing a number of solutions in an effort to push the sector's rapid growth," Mponzi said while adding that the Dar es Salaam based lender also understands that growth of the tourism sector will benefit the isles

in a number of ways, including job creation and increased revenue.

Detailing what is contained in the deal, the NMB chief further noted that the bank will also streamline tourism operations by investing in digital channels in order to allow visitors pay the government digitally.

"The bank will distribute point of sale machines at all tourist attraction centres for easy collection of government revenue and allow tourists pay fees and levies directly through their Mastercard, Visa and UnionPay cards," he noted adding that some 100 PoS are already being deployed to various tourism hotspots on the isles.

Many more PoS will be distributed across various hotels, restaurants, recreational centres and shops in an effort to ensure that a tourist does not need hard cash while in Zanzibar. Apart from the government, NMB's digital payments channels have been deployed to members of the Hotel Association Zanzibar (HAZ) and Zanzibar Association of Tour Operators (ZATO).

DECELERATION

Angola Endiama estimates diamond production down for the year 2022

LUANDA

Angolan state diamond company Empresa Nacional de Diamantes (Endiama) said Monday it estimates it will produce 10.5 million carats of diamonds this year and collect US\$1.4 billion (1.2 billion euros), which is less than initially expected.

The projections for production and revenue collection for 2022 were given today by the chairman of the board of Endiama, José Ganga Júnior, stating that they were "very conservative" projections. Endiama initially expected to produce 13.8 million carats of diamonds this year and have revenues of around US\$1.9 billion (1.6 billion euros), but due to the "current context and market prices," the company has "corrected" its initial projections.

The figures were presented Monday at a press conference to assess activities in 2021 and projections for 2022 as part of the celebrations of the company's 41st anniversary, marked on 15 January.

According to Endiama's chairman, the diamond sub-sector has a workforce of 19,461 workers, spread across several professions, of which 15,096 are direct and 4,365 indirect, with Endiama absorbing 454 employees.

At least 39 diamond projects are prospecting in the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Malanje, Kwanza Sul, Huambo and Bié and 13 mines are already in production, 10 of which are in secondary deposits and the remainder in primary deposits.

Ganga Júnior also spoke about semi-industrial mining activity which currently has 264 licensed cooperatives with 62 in operation, of which 29 are prospecting, 33 are in production and 202 are at a standstill. The semi-industrial diamond exploration activity, in 2021, allowed for the recovery and marketing of 50,750 carats of diamonds and generated revenues of US\$7.10 million (6.2 million euros).

The signing of a mining investment contract with multinational Rio Tinto, for exploration of the Chiri Project, and the acquisition of geology and drilling company GEOANGOL, to boost Endiama's geology research capacity are also other gains for the sector.

Endiama's director for Human Resources and Legal Affairs, Osvaldo Jorge Van-Dúnem, explained that procedures are currently being drawn up for the public tender for the sale of the Hotel Diamante, in Luanda, and preparation of the accounts for the privatisation of Alta 5, a security company owned by Endiama, is already concluded. Van-Dúnem also said that a specialist company had been hired to determine the value of the shares to be sold on the stock exchange corresponding to Endiama's 40 percent stake in its share capital.

DIGITALISATION

Zimbabwe government's new plan to tax e-commerce

HARARE

Zimbabwe has contracted British Virgin Islands company Daedalus World Limited to collect taxes from e-commerce operators, digital advertisers, content platforms and sports betting outlets.

The Southern African country wants to increase state revenue and after its initial focus on telecommunications and mobile money, it has now turned its attention to e-commerce. In a public notice dated 19 January 2022, ICT Minister Jenfan Muswere said Zimbabwe had entered into an agreement with Daedalus World Limited to assist with revenue collections from the new tax brackets.

The notice reads: "The Republic of Zimbabwe entered into a public-private partnership agreement with Daedalus World Limited of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in terms of which Daedalus World Limited will assist the Republic of Zimbabwe by providing a revenue collection service through taxing qualifying companies."

It adds that businesses that provide "digital advertising, content, cloud computing, e-commerce, gambling, betting, gaming and cryptocurrency services to persons and organisations within the

territory of the Republic of Zimbabwe" would be targeted. The agreement, in line with Section 46 of the Zimbabwe Investment and Development Act, was signed last year and approved by Zimbabwe's Cabinet in November.

However, the notice did not provide a schedule of the taxation parameters or thresholds for targeted businesses. It is expected that the development will affect international content and digital advertising companies such as Google, YouTube and Facebook.

With COVID-19 enforcing closure of borders and movement restrictions, Zimbabweans had increasingly turned to e-commerce, pivoting on the use of virtual international credit and debit cards to make international payments.

Audit and accountancy firm BDO has previously commented on "payment of income tax on e-commerce" transactions in Zimbabwe, saying "satellite broadcasting and electronic commerce services provided from outside Zimbabwe by non-resident persons are subject to Income tax at a flat rate of 5% on turnover. "Foreign providers of electronic services are required to register for VAT. In addition, foreign radio and TV broadcasting services are required to register for VAT," the firm said in 2021.



Zimbabwe ICT minister Jenfan Muswere.

APPRECIATION

Woolworths registers growth in SA food business sales steered by 55.8pc



Woolworths' food shop in Johannesburg.

JOHANNESBURG

Woolworths, Australian retail chain and grocery stores owner with operations in South Africa, expects its headline earnings for the half-year to December 26, to fall by between 30% and 40%, compared to the same period in the previous year.

The slump in profit earnings is attributed to civil unrest in South Africa and lockdown restrictions in Australia. According to the trading update, group turnover and concession sales for the 26 weeks decreased by 2.1% and by 0.3% in constant currency terms. Its noteworthy, sales in the last six weeks of the period increased by 3.0%, and by 3.5% in constant currency terms.

"Trading momentum across all divisions except Fashion Beauty Home (FBH) improved over the last

six weeks of the period supported by more targeted Black Friday promotions, positive festive season trade, and the lifting of lockdown restrictions in Australia," the company said. In a sign of the pressure on consumers in an economy that still bears scars from the Covid-19 outbreak, the food business, traditionally a star performer, barely grew.

Its food business in South Africa grew sales by 3.8% for the six months, accelerating its momentum to 5.8% in the last six weeks of the period. Sales in comparable stores grew by 2.8%, with price movement of 2.6% and underlying product inflation of 3.7%.

"Sales growth should be considered in the context of the high Covid-19 base in 2020, which benefitted from increased home consumption," Woolworths said. On a two-year basis, sales have grown by

a cumulative 15.2%, relative to the comparative 2019 period.

The food segment growth was propelled by rise in online sales which increased by 55.8%, contributing 3.1% of South African sales. This is up from 2.3% in the prior reporting period ended June 27, 2021, supported by the expanded Click-and-Collect offering and the rollout of its on-demand delivery service, Woolies Dash.

Beefing up its delivery service, Woolworths recently embarked on a trial phase for use of electric panel vans as part of its online delivery fleet. Undertaken in partnership with renewable vehicle company Everlectric and logistics company DSV, the initiative move is in line with Woolworths' vision of becoming the most sustainable retailers in the world.

WORLD

IMF, ECB leaders voice concern over volatile global economic outlook at WEF meeting

GENEVA

ON the last day of the World Economic Forum's (WEF) "Davos Agenda 2022" virtual event, the leaders of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Central Bank (ECB) discussed the future of the global economy and called for urgent policy actions to ensure an equitable recovery.

During the WEF's week-long dialogue that began on Jan. 17, several heads of state and government, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, heads or senior officials of international organizations, chief executive officers and other leaders reflected on the forum's theme-setting Agenda on the "State of the World" and discussed the critical challenges facing the world today.

In the "Global Economic Outlook" session on Friday, the IMF's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva emphasized that "The response to the pandemic crisis has been anything but orthodox."

In a highly coordinated fashion, the world's central banks and financial authorities have prevented the world from falling into yet another great depres-

sion." "We have to be data-driven and we have to be flexible."

If I were to offer policymakers a new year's resolution, it would be policy flexibility," she stressed. Georgieva continued: "On the positive side, we anticipate the recovery to continue."

But it is losing some momentum and it is faced with the renewal of infections, on top of that the much more persistent than anticipated inflation, and on top of it all the record-high global debt levels at 226 trillion U.S. dollars."

In its December 2021 update of the Global Debt Database, the Washington D.C.-based IMF said that global debt rose by 28 percentage points to 256 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020. In its World Economic Outlook issued in October last year, the IMF projected the global economy to grow 5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022.

For China, it forecast a GDP growth rate of eight percent in 2021 and 5.6 percent in 2022. The IMF is set to release an update of the World Economic Outlook on Jan. 25.

Georgieva also warned of a growing divide and divergence between countries: "Conditions in countries are very differ-



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva

ent. We cannot anymore have the same policy everywhere, it has to be country-specific. That makes our job in 2022 so much more complicated." "My main message here is to recognize that the world must spend the billions necessary to contain COVID in order to gain trillions in output as a result," she stressed.

On inflation, Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, said she did not expect to see a similar rise as in the United States, although the consumer price index in the eurozone hit a new record high of five percent in December last year, mainly triggered by the soaring energy prices in Europe.

"In Europe, we are not seeing inflation spiral out of control. We assume energy prices will stabilize from the middle of 2022, bottlenecks will also stabilize in 2022 and gradually inflation numbers will decline."

The consumer price index in the U.S.

rose seven percent in December from a year earlier, which was the largest 12-month increase since 1982, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

"When I look at the labor market, we are not experiencing anything like The Great Resignation, and our employment participation numbers are getting very close to the pre-pandemic level," she said. Lagarde also said that core inflation, a measure that excludes transitory or temporary price volatility, is at 5.5 percent in the U.S. and at 2.6 percent in the eurozone.

However, she stressed that "In Europe, we are unlikely to face the kind of inflation increases that the U.S. market has faced." "More recently, we have learned the lesson of humility, the ECB, IMF, OECD and others all underestimated the recovery, the employment participation and, obviously, inflation," she said.

New Zealand Ardern cancels her wedding amid new Omicron curbs

SYDNEY

NEW ZEALAND Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has cancelled her wedding as the nation imposes new restrictions to slow the community spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, she told reporters yesterday.

New Zealand will impose mask rules and limit gathering from midnight on Sunday after a cluster of nine COVID-19 Omicron cases showed community spread from the North to South islands after a wedding.

A family returned to Nelson in the South Island by plane after attending a wedding and other events in Auckland in the North Island. The family and a flight attendant tested positive.

New Zealand will move to a red setting under its COVID-19 protection framework, with more mask wearing. Indoor hospitality settings such as bars and restaurants and events like weddings will be capped at 100 people. The limit is lowered to 25 people if venues are not using vaccine passes, Arden said.

"My wedding will not be going ahead," she told reporters, adding she was sorry for anyone caught up in a similar scenario. Ardern had not disclosed her wedding date, but it was rumored to be imminent.

Asked by reporters how she felt about the cancellation of her wedding to longtime partner and fishing-show host Clarke Gayford, Ardern replied: "Such is life."

She added, "I am no different to, dare I say it, thousands of other New Zealanders who have had much more devastating impacts felt by the pandemic, the most gutting of which is the inability to be with a loved one sometimes when they are gravely ill. That will far, far outstrip any sadness I experience."

New Zealand's borders have been shut to foreigners since March 2020. The government pushed back plans for a phased reopening from mid-January to the end of February out of concern about a potential Omicron outbreak as in neighbouring Australia.

People able to travel to New Zealand under narrow exceptions must apply to stay at state-managed quarantine facilities. The government last week stopped issuing any new slots amid a surge in the number of people arriving with Omicron.

About 94 percent of New Zealand's population over the age of 12 is fully vaccinated and about 56 percent of those eligible have had booster shots.

Pfizer CEO sees annual virus jab rather than frequent boosters

OTTAWA

Pfizer Inc Chief Executive Albert Bourla said on Saturday that an annual COVID-19 vaccine would be preferable to more frequent booster shots in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

Pfizer/BioNtech's COVID-19 vaccine has shown to be effective against severe disease and death caused by the heavily-mutated Omicron variant but less effective in preventing transmission.

With cases soaring, some countries have expanded COVID-19 vaccine booster programs or shortened the gap between shots as governments scramble to shore up protection.

In an interview with Israel's N12 News, Bourla was asked whether he sees booster shots being administered every four to five months on a regular basis.

"This will not be a good scenario. What I'm hoping (is) that we will have a vaccine that you will have to do once a year," Bourla said.

"Once a year - it is easier to convince people to do it. It is easier for people to remember."

"So from a public health perspective, it is an ideal situation. We are looking to see if we can create a vaccine that covers Omicron and doesn't forget the other variants and that could be a solution," Bourla said.

Bourla has said Pfizer could be ready to file for approval for a redesigned vaccine to fight Omicron, and mass produce it, as soon as March.

Citing three studies, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Friday that a third dose of an mRNA vaccine is key to fighting Omicron, providing 90 percent protection against hospitalization.

A preliminary study published by Israel's Sheba Medical Center on Monday found that a fourth shot increases antibodies to even higher levels than the third but was likely not enough to fend off Omicron. Nonetheless, a second booster was still advised for risk groups. Sheba said.

Agencies

US and Russia agree to keep talking after meeting on Ukraine

GENEVA

THE top US and Russian diplomats made no major breakthrough at talks on Ukraine on Friday but agreed to keep talking to try to resolve a crisis that has stoked fears of a military conflict.

But both said they were open to further dialogue, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken saw grounds to hope that mutual security concerns could be addressed.

"Based on the conversations we've had - the extensive conversations - over the past week and today here in Geneva I think there are grounds for and a means to address some of the mutual concerns that we have about security," Blinken said.

He described the talks as "frank and substantive", while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the ball was in Washington's court.

Describing the meeting as open and useful, Lavrov said Moscow would understand whether talks were on the right track once it had

received a written response to its sweeping security demands from the United States.

"I can't tell you if we're on the right track or the wrong track. We'll understand this when we receive the American response on paper to all the points in our proposal," Lavrov said.

Russia's demands include a halt to NATO's eastward expansion and a pledge that Ukraine will never be allowed to join the Western military alliance.

Blinken said he expected to share with Russia "our concerns and ideas in more detail and in writing next week" and said he and Lavrov had "agreed to further discussions after that".

Russia and the United States could hold another meeting next month to discuss Moscow's demands for security guarantees, Russia's RIA news agency quoted a source in the Russian delegation as saying.

Lavrov said Russia had worries of its own, "not about invented threats, but real facts



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken greets Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov before their meeting, on Saturday in Geneva, Switzerland. AP

that no one hides - pumping Ukraine with weapons, sending hundreds of western military instructors".

Asked about the possibility of a summit between President Vladimir Putin and US

President Joe Biden, Lavrov was circumspect.

"Let's not get ahead of ourselves, President Putin is always ready for contacts with President Biden, it's clear these contacts need to be se-

riously prepared," he said.

Blinken's deputy, Wendy Sherman, and Lavrov's deputy, Sergei Ryabkov, also met in Geneva last week, without a breakthrough.

Agencies

South Africa gets 750 million USD loan from World Bank for fighting COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG

THE World Bank has approved a loan of 750 million U.S. dollars to South Africa to fight COVID-19, said the national treasury on Friday.

The national treasury said the development policy loan (DPL) would help tackle COVID-19, protect the poor and vulnerable from the adverse socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and support a

resilient and sustainable economic recovery.

"The World Bank budget support is coming at a critical time for us and will contribute toward addressing the financing gap stemming from additional spending in response to the COVID-19 crisis."

It will assist in addressing the immediate challenge of financing critical health and social safety net programs

while also continuing to develop our economic reform agenda to build back better," said Dondo Mogajane, the director-general of the National Treasury.

The World Bank Country Director for South Africa Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly said the loan is part of the bank's program to help stimulate investment and job creation. "With this DPL, we have partnered with

the government to provide much-needed relief from the impacts of the most serious economic crisis South Africa has experienced in the past 90 years while tackling long-standing challenges to growth and development.

This support aims to put the country on a more resilient and inclusive growth path by leveraging South Africa's strength to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis

through their strong social safety net and by advancing critical economic reforms," she said. *Xinhua*

The World Bank budget support is coming at a critical time for us and will contribute toward addressing

Agencies

US health officials caution against optimism over COVID-19 peak

NEW YORK

A wave of Omicron cases may be cresting in the northeastern United States, but the number of COVID-19 patients is at a record high and climbing, overwhelming hospitals whose staffs have been hollowed out by the coronavirus, major U.S. news portals have reported.

Public health leaders warn that while the number of Americans getting infected every day remains dangerously high, "there is no guarantee that the population is building enough natural immunity to hasten the day the virus becomes a manageable part of daily life," said The New York Times on Tuesday.

Anthony Fauci, U.S. top infectious disease expert, was asked on Monday at the online World Economic Forum whether this might be the year when that happens. "I would hope that that's the case," he said, "but that would only be the case if we don't get another variant that eludes the immune response."

U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy expressed a similar note of caution Sunday on CNN, saying that despite apparent Omicron peaks in pockets of the Northeast, much of the country isn't there yet. "We shouldn't expect a national peak in the next coming days," he said. "The next few weeks will be tough."

Meanwhile, Pfizer chief executive

officer Albert Bourla predicted that "we will soon be able to resume a normal life," given pandemic mitigation measures including tests and vaccines. But he also said that doesn't mean an end to the coronavirus. "We've had so many surprises since the start of the pandemic," he said.

MIXED SCENARIO

New York's battle against the Omicron COVID-19 variant continues to head in the right direction following the dramatic surge in the midst of the holiday season, with numbers seemingly leveling off of late and officials seeing a possible light at the end of the tunnel, reported NBC on

Monday.

Hospitalizations held steady on Sunday, staying under 12,000 for the second consecutive day, the first time that has happened in more than a week; the number of ICU patients went down, and there were 1,000 more discharges than on Saturday, according to state data.

As for cases overall, there were just over 204,000 tests conducted statewide on Sunday, with a positivity rate of 13.12 percent, slightly up from the day before (12.9 percent), but still lower than any other day since Christmas.

Meanwhile, on the West Coast, U.S. Los Angeles County on Monday reported 31,576 new COVID-19 cases,

nearly 10 times the 3,360 new daily cases reported on Dec. 17, 2021, said the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

The department also reported 27 additional deaths from COVID-19 on Monday, bringing the county's cumulative caseload and death toll to 2,289,045 and 28,086, respectively.

CONTRADICTORY RESULTS

The promise of at-home tests to tell people whether they are infectious has been undercut by preliminary data that suggests some of the rapid tests may be less sensitive to the now-dominant Omicron variant, reported The Washington Post on Tuesday.

Studies suggest they detect infections most reliably two to five days after exposure in people with high viral loads who are experiencing symptoms, which is why people are urged to take the tests serially. But even then, they are not foolproof.

"And for those who have taken pains to find out whether their sniffle and sore throat might be harbingers of COVID-19 to protect others, contradictory test results are often dismaying," said the report.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration acknowledged the issue on Dec. 28, noting that "early data suggests that antigen tests do detect the Omicron variant but may have reduced sensitivity." *Xinhua*

Russia does not rule out military provocations from US, Kiev regime, says diplomat

MOSCOW

Moscow expects provocations from the United States and the US-led Kiev regime, without excluding military provocations, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Saturday.

"We are expecting provocations from the US and the Kiev regime led by them, both informational and, it cannot be ruled out, military ones," she wrote on her Telegram channel. "They may do it, especially since they have a plenty of experience."

Zakharova (pictured) focused attention on the Bloomberg publication, which cited "one diplomat in Beijing," claiming that Chinese President Xi Jinping had allegedly asked Russian President Vladimir Putin not to invade Ukraine during the Olympic Games, which Beijing hosts on February 4-20, "in order not to ruin the celebration."

"It is no longer a fake, but already a special information operation by US respective agencies through Bloomberg," the diplomat said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson noted ironically that "a diplomat in China" is actually Americans.

"No one who was supposed or who was likely to have this information was approached by 'Bloomberg undercover journalists' for confirmation. Although Bloomberg used to abide by a 'golden rule' in the old and not so evil days that at least two, or even three, verified sources should confirm the information obtained," she said.

"I understand that, in the US media's version, Russia should have 'invaded'



[Ukraine] a long time ago," Zakharova continued and addressed the 2022 World Economic Forum (WEF) virtual session in Beijing on Jan. 17, providing China's answers to the question of how to beat the pandemic and how to build the post-COVID world from the perspectives of history and philosophy.

By their logic, it is the perfect moment - the Olympics in China, which the US media have been smearing for months at Washington's behest.

Bloomberg mixes the two topics and shoots, but misses. Since everyone will remember now who does like to commit acts of aggression during the Olympic Games in China," she said.

The diplomat recalled that Georgia's attack on South Ossetia took place in the run-up to the Beijing Summer Olympics in August 2008.

The West and Kiev have recently been spreading allegations about Russia's potential 'invasion' of Ukraine. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov castigated these claims as "empty and unfounded", serving as a ploy to escalate tensions, pointing out that Russia did not pose any threat whatsoever to anyone.

However, Peskov did not rule out the possibility of provocations aimed at justifying such allegations and warned that attempts to use military force to resolve the crisis in southeastern Ukraine would have serious consequences.

Xi's calls on world to work together for better post-COVID world at virtual Davos meeting

By He Yin

CHINESE President Xi Jinping attended and addressed the 2022 World Economic Forum (WEF) virtual session in Beijing on Jan. 17, providing China's answers to the question of how to beat the pandemic and how to build the post-COVID world from the perspectives of history and philosophy.

He elaborated upon the right direction in which the international community can work jointly to defeat the pandemic, the ultimate solution to promoting steady recovery of the world economy, practical approach to bridging the development divide and suggestions for countries to get along with each other.

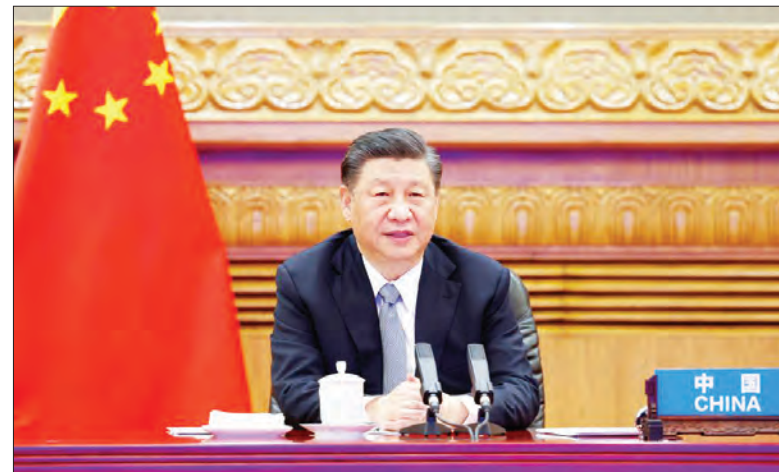
His remarks showed China's firm determination to work together with the rest of the world to survive the trying times and jointly create a better post-COVID world.

"As a Chinese saying goes, 'The momentum of the world either flourishes or declines; the state of the world either progresses or regresses.' The world is always developing through the movement of contradictions; without contradiction, nothing would exist. The history of humanity is a history of achieving growth by meeting various tests and of developing by overcoming various crises. We need to move forward by following the logic of historical progress, and develop by riding the tide of development of our times," said Xi at the virtual session.

Xi's insightful remarks embody the scientific methodology of dialectical materialism, providing important guidance for grasping the trend of history and riding the waves of the times in the turbulent international situation.

Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, believes that Xi's speech pointed the way to a better future for China and the world.

In the face of profound and extensive changes of the times, countries can only see clearly the right direction for human society through the "telescope" of history.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

Although the once-in-a-century pandemic has created many obstacles to the communication between peoples of different countries, facts have shown once again that countries are not riding separately in some 190 small boats, but are rather all in a giant ship on which their shared destiny hinges. Only through cooperation can they usher in a brighter future.

The recovery and development of the world economy are faced with many constraints, but economic globalization has never and will not veer off course. Only by building an open world economy can countries fully unleash the vitality of the world economy.

Although problems like a widening North-South gap, divergent recovery trajectories, development fault-lines and technology divisions become more prominent, mankind's beautiful dream of common development will never fade. Only by adhering to a people-centered philosophy of development can countries realize balanced development worldwide and revitalize global development.

Despite the resurgence of Cold War mentality, protectionism and unilateral

ism, peaceful development and win-win cooperation remain the right way forward for humanity. Different countries and civilizations can open up new space for global peaceful development only by prospering together on the basis of respect for each other, and seeking common ground and win-win outcomes by setting aside differences.

In the face of the profound and sweeping changes of the times, the international community must forge ahead with confidence and fortitude and push the wheel of history toward a brighter future with practical actions.

To take the initiative in the course of history, countries must pluck up the courage to overcome stubborn resistance and strong countercurrents along the way for a better future.

"We need to learn from comparing long history cycles, and see the change in things through the subtle and minute. We need to foster new opportunities amidst crises, open up new horizons on a shifting landscape, and pool great strength to go through difficulties and challenges," Xi said at the event.

He encouraged the international community to face the issues of the times and

create a better future with actions.

Crises and opportunities are interconnected and dialectically united. Only by figuring out the way forward, grasping the general trend, observing the situation through dialectical thinking, gaining a deep understanding of opportunities and challenges and actively creating conditions can countries turn crises into opportunities.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, people from various countries have supported and helped each other, showing humankind's courage, resolve and compassion in front of a major crisis and kindling a flame in the dark hour.

To build a better post-COVID world, the international community also needs to join hands to surmount all kinds of obstacles on the way forward with courage and strong will.

Throughout the history of humanity, human society has managed to progress no matter what kinds of risks, disasters or countercurrents were along the way. Humanity shall and will continue to stride forward.

As long as various parties follow the trend of history, embrace cooperation to defeat the virus, resolve various risks, bridge the development divide, and discard Cold War mentality, the international community will certainly create a better post-COVID world.

People's Daily

Syria condemns US airstrikes in Hasakah

DAMASCUS

THE Syrian Foreign Ministry on Saturday accused the US forces and its allied Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) of committing acts that left civilians killed in Syria's northeastern province of Raqqqa, according to the state news agency SANA.

In a statement following the chaos in Hasakah that resulted from the escape attempt of Islamic State (IS) militants from a Kurdish-controlled prison and the US airstrikes that ensued, the Syrian ministry said the US Air Force has committed "barbaric" acts, leaving innocent civilians, including women and children, killed.

The ministry said the chaos and the clashes between the IS militants and the SDF amid the airstrikes of the US forces had forced thousands of civilians to flee their homes in Kurdish-con-

trolled areas to government-controlled ones in Hasakah.

The fleeing civilians received proper treatment upon reaching the government-controlled areas, it noted.

The ministry also reiterated its demand for the withdrawal of the US forces from Syria, especially after the targeting of civilians during the hunt for the fleeing IS militants.

On Thursday, the IS attacked a Kurdish-run prison in Syria's northeastern province of Hasakah in an attempt to free IS inmates. Around 80 inmates managed to escape, positioning in nearby buildings, an incident that triggered clashes and airstrikes by the US forces.

Hasakah province is largely controlled by the US-backed SDF, with certain areas, particularly in the city of Qamishli, still under the control of the Syrian government.

Agencies



Kurdish security forces deploy in Syria's northern city of Hasakah yesterday, amid ongoing fighting for a third day with the Islamic State group. AFP

Bangladesh shuts schools as coronavirus cases surge

DHAKA

BANGLADESH on Friday closed all schools and colleges for two weeks to counter an "alarming" rise in COVID-19 infections, just four months after ending a 1-1/2 year school closure imposed due to coronavirus.

The south Asian country reported 11,434 new cases on Friday, the biggest single-day jump since Aug 9, pushing the positivity rate to 28.5 percent.

"We are seeing an uptick in infections in schools and colleges. This is really alarming," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told reporters.

He added that public gatherings like political rallies and religious functions involving more than 100 people had been prohibited, although the duration



Students arrive to attend their classes at the Rajuk Uttara Model College in Dhaka on Sept 12, 2021, as Bangladesh schools reopened after 18 months in one of the world's longest shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. File photo

of the ban was not immediately clear.

The healthcare system would be overwhelmed if the situation deteriorates further, Maleque said, adding more than a third of

the hospital beds in the capital, Dhaka, have already been occupied by coronavirus patients.

Bangladesh has so far administered at least 151 million doses of vaccine since an inoculation

drive began a year ago, with 47 percent of the population having had two shots.

Booster shots are administered to people over the age of 60 and healthcare and frontline workers.

The authorities have so far inoculated 2.89 million children aged 12-17 years.

Schools in Bangladesh reopened in September after one and half years, one of the world's longest coronavirus shutdowns.

It can take days to confirm the strain of a virus through genomic sequencing, and Bangladesh has so far confirmed 62 Omicron cases. Since the pandemic first swept into Bangladesh in March 2020, the country has recorded 1,664,616 cases, including 28,192 deaths.

Agencies

With external and internal pressures mounting, Europe ushers in challenging 2022

BEIJING

THE year 2021 was a tough one for Europe as the conflict between the European Union (EU) and Poland deepened, the rift between Europe and America grew, and talks between the West and Russia ended without a breakthrough.

A bumpy road awaits for Europe in 2022 with plenty of unresolved issues, including EU integration and strategic autonomy.

GLOOMY INTEGRATION

EU integration has encountered several obstacles in 2021. Poland challenged the primacy of EU law and far-right forces raised their heads, all of which test the bloc's cohesion.

In the new year, the dispute between Poland and the EU over "laws primacy" may continue.

Poland and Hungary hold the idea that the national constitution takes precedence over some EU laws, while the Netherlands and Belgium support the primacy of EU law.

As tensions between the

two sides escalate, some European media even envisaged Poland exiting the EU. France's presidential election is scheduled for April 2022. Incumbent President Emmanuel Macron is currently leading in opinion polls though he has yet to formally declare his candidacy.

In the election campaign, Macron could face a significant challenge from Marine Le Pen, head of the far-right National Rally.

Italy is scheduled to hold a presidential election in January 2022. Mario Draghi, prime minister and former head of the European Central Bank, is seen as the most likely candidate for the presidency because of his high political prestige.

However, if Draghi becomes president, a new challenge may emerge. The need to choose a new prime minister may stir up Italian politics and bring fresh uncertainties to the European integration process, with several political parties in the Italian parliament, including Eurosceptic forces.

CONFINED STRATEGIC

AUTONOMY

A series of U.S. moves vexed Europe in 2021: days after its hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan, the United States inked a security pact with Britain and Australia, barely consulting the EU; tech giants from America monopolized European digital markets; and Washington used Ukraine to test the nerve of EU-Russia relations for the sake of its own hegemony.

The EU has an increasing desire for strategic autonomy, with Germany's new government pledging to make Europe "strong and sovereign," a desire later echoed by Macron as Paris assumed the bloc's rotating presidency. Yet it lacks the willingness to shed dependence on the United States.

Calling strategic autonomy "an ideal goal," Feng Zhongping, director of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told Xinhua that the EU will continue its policies regarding the United States in 2022, and maintain tensions with Russia in order to keep Washington happy.

On the other hand, internal splits threaten any hope of stra-



The EU flags fly at half-mast as a tribute to European Parliament President David Sassoli, outside the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium, Jan. 11, 2022. (Xinhua/Zheng Huansong)

tegic autonomy.

While the "old Europe" guard like France and Germany yearn for independent defense and de-escalation with Russia, most of the "new" states, such as the Baltic countries, remain hawkish on Moscow and turn to U.S.-led NATO for support.

PROMISING RELATIONS WITH CHINA

In 2021, the comprehensive strategic partnership between

Europe and China flourished despite challenges.

The two sides' economic interests are closely intertwined, with annual trade volume expected to exceed 800 billion U.S. dollars.

China and the EU reached broad consensus on such areas as multilateralism and global governance, and saw promising results jointly addressing climate change and fighting COVID-19.

Still, there was plenty of European interference in China's internal affairs including Hong Kong, Taiwan and Xinjiang. Ignoring other EU members, Lithuania blatantly violated the one-China principle.

Feng underlined the resilience in China-Europe practical cooperation, saying that 2022 will be a year for both sides to manage differences and expand coopera-

tion. The Chinese market is indispensable to Europe's economic recovery, he said, adding that the European side needs to join hands with China on global governance and other issues.

According to analysts, enhancing win-win cooperation between China and Europe stands to benefit the entire world.

Xinhua

The Guardian

SPORT



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates after defeating Adrian Mannarino of France in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, yesterday, Jan. 23, 2022. (AP Photo)

Nadal reaches Australian Open quarterfinals for 14th time

MELBOURNE, Australia

RAFAEL Nadal finally got the better of a crazy, long tiebreaker and knew he'd won half the battle.

After saving four set points and missing with the first six of his own, Nadal finally clinched a tiebreaker that lasted 28 minutes and 40 seconds to set himself on course to secure a spot in the Australian Open quarterfinals for a 14th time.

After his 7-6 (14), 6-2, 6-2 fourth-round victory over fellow left-hander Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, Nadal is potentially just three wins away from a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

He later reflected on a tiebreaker where momentum swung wildly; where chants of "Let's go Rafa, Let's go!" rang out; where a point was decided on a 25-shot rally with both players scrambling at full stretch; and which ended only when Nadal volleyed from deep in the court and Mannarino's reflex reply skewed wide.

"Well, you know, I played a couple," he said, smiling, in reference to long tiebreakers. "But, yeah, (it was) a crazy one, chances for both. And, yeah, lucky to win that tiebreak at the end, no?"

"Half of the match in the tiebreak, without a doubt."

Nadal will next play Denis Shapovalov, the 22-year-old Canadian who finished off a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Olympic gold medalist Zverev on Margaret Court Arena less than an hour later to reach the last eight in Australia for the first time.

Nadal is now tied with John Newcombe in second spot on the all-time list for most quarterfinals in Australia, one behind Roger Federer's 15.

It's also the Spaniard's 45th time into the last eight at a Grand Slam tournament, which is third on the all-time behind Federer (58) and Novak Djokovic (51).

He shares the men's record of 20 major titles with Federer and Djokovic. But he's the only one of the trio playing in this tournament. Nine-time Australian Open champion Djokovic was deported on the eve of the tournament because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination rules. Federer is recovering from injury.

Mannarino, who didn't finish his 4-hour, 38-minute four-set, third-round win over No. 18 Aslan Karatsev until after 2 a.m. on Saturday and appeared to be hampered at times by an abdominal or upper leg injury, threw everything at Nadal in the opening set on Rod Laver Arena, where temperatures approached 33 Celsius (91 F).

"After first set I couldn't really fight against Rafa," said the 33-year-old No. 69-ranked Mannarino. "You know, he was playing too well for me not to be 100%. The second and third set just went all the way for Rafa, so that's it."

The first set lasted 85 minutes, including the 'breaker, but after getting early breaks in the second and third

sets the match was over in 2 hours, 40 minutes.

"I'm very happy I survived that first set, without a doubt," said the sixth-seeded Nadal, who saved one of the only two breakpoint chances he faced, and converted five of 17. "That crazy first set was so important."

The No. 14-seeded Shapovalov spent almost 11 hours on court through the first three rounds, winning twice in four sets and once in five, and was surprised by the relative speed of his 2-hour, 21-minute win over Zverev.

"Probably the one I least expected to finish in three," he said. "Definitely happy with where the game is at. I played pretty smart today."

Shapovalov reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals in 2020 and was a semifinalist at Wimbledon last year, his career-best run to date at a major. He'll have to step it up against one of the greatest in the game to again reach the final four.

"It's always an honor to go up against a guy like Rafa," Shapovalov said. "It's always fun. Always going to be a battle against him."

In the women's draw, French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková breezed to a 6-2, 6-2 win over two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka to reach the quarterfinals for the third time in four Grand Slam events.

The fourth-seeded Krejčíková will next play Madison Keys, who reached the semifinals in Australia in 2015 and was runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Open.

Keys overpowered eighth-seeded Paula Badosa 6-3, 6-1 in the first of the fourth-round matches on Day 7 at Rod Laver Arena.

The 26-year-old American, who beat 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin in the first round, hit 26 winners and made only 18 unforced errors against Badosa to continue her unbeaten start to 2022. She claimed her sixth career title at a tune-up tournament in Adelaide last week.

Krejčíková went into her match against Azarenka believing the former 32-year-old, former No. 1-ranked player from Belarus was the favorite to win.

But the 2012 and 2013 champion made 28 unforced errors and dropped five service games, and it was all over in 85 minutes.

"She's a champion here. She likes this court. She's very experienced on this court. I have a lot of respect for her," Krejčíková said. But, "I was doing everything to get this one, really preparing for a dream like this."

"And yeah, I'm in the quarterfinals." Top-ranked Ash Barty was playing in a later match against No. 60-ranked Amanda Anisimova, who saved two match points before upsetting defending champion Naomi Osaka in the third round.

The winner of that match between Barty and Anisimova will play No. 21-seeded Jessica Pegula, who beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 7-6 (0), 6-3.

Why the regional stadiums' scenario is a disaster for our soccer prospects overall

By Correspondent John Kimbute

SOCCER pundits in radio stations' morning talk shows often raise the point about either stadium conditions or pitch situation generally in examining how the city rivals, Simba SC and Yanga, play when in up-country appearances, underlining the state of the turf and why a well-organized game is difficult to enterprise (plan and put into action).

What is often not either discussed or raised in passing is the size that those pitches measure.

This situation was especially visible in the last weekend's Simba SC versus Mubwa Sugar encounter at Manungu Stadium, a marginal pitch.

What came to mind in looking at how the game was going on is that the usual expectation of what sort of work a player is likely to do on the pitch collapses when play is taking place on such ground.

And if a team constantly plays in such an environment, that is when it is host to other regional teams or when it visits those whose pitches resemble their own, the result is to methodically depress the state of soccer, as our players are not put to the rigours of 90 minutes play on a proper pitch but a reduced one.

When the parameters of the pitch are significantly different from what is expected, the work the players do is tamed.

Such a point is aired time and again, for instance when a pundit suggested that the Mbeya City FC's coach was successful in handling the Simba SC challenge for he laid out a game plan, and the visiting team more or less followed it.

The pundit was affirming that the defending champions could not apply the technique of spreading out where some techniques work better than in a closed environment where the ball almost constantly comes back to the space just before the



Sokoine Stadium as pictured in Mbeya recently.

18-yard goal area.

The point he was making is that the visiting side failed to crack the wall, it would require that the space out, and there is no broader space.

If proper regulations were governing African football, which is recognized or must be approved by the world football governing body (FIFA), such grounds would not be used for Premier League football, or explicit rules be set out as to how many players are on the pitch, depending on pitch size.

Reduced pitch size would thus lead to reduced men on the pitch so that they are taxed in the same manner as those playing in a regular pitch (110m/yards to 85m/yards), but precisely how the diminution of players would be conducted is something that would need regulatory specification.

Having 11 players on a small pitch reduces the quality and work input of Premier League football, and structurally weakens our teams.

When one talks about player stamina, it ought to be presumed that one is figuring out how he covers a significant

length of the pitch in whatever position, not unavoidable crowding as the pitch is small and the next player is just nearby, without having had to do any inward running, etc.

The whole issue about pitch parameters is that it is the duel between a player and the space to be covered for game feasibility, use of technique and stamina, set out for 90 minutes in two halves, is the match itself, and thus we have just a bit of it in the NBC Premier League, not much of it.

The reason is that players have little space to cover in dribbling, outflanking, overlapping, etc for their physical endurance and skills to be tested.

That is where the dichotomy between soccer development and pitch ownership resurfaces, as the continental federation knows the prerogatives which different ruling structures in each country have set out for themselves or for 'elites' in control of land where those pitches are built.

In that context it is for them a matter of expectation that those in charge of such issues will see the need for improve-

ment of pitch conditions and put up regulations of where Premier League football is to be held, that is, where appropriate pitches are found.

Ideally, it ought to have the same parameters as in global ramifications.

So the need to rationalize ownership of soccer stadiums ought to shift to being able to build a proper FIFA size playing pitch and maintaining the quality of the ground and the grass, where preference at the starting point would go to sponsors of current regional champions.

Others would have leeway to build such stadia on their own as we heard of Simba SC and admittedly their rivals next door is rapidly trying to catch up.

Using CAF leeway as to pitch conditions, size, and relevance of 11 players on the pitch with a reduced size as a non-issue is in fact sabotage, we build weak sides each encounter as the players are never really tested to the limit.

In exam psychology, only testing to the limit amounts to a proper test.



Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando (seated, in white T-shirt) poses for a picture with the district's wards' councilors and Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) officials from the district after visiting tourist attractions found in Lushoto District, Tanga, last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Morogoro targets to improve tourist attractions

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Lushoto

MOROGORO District Council has scheduled sustainable plans to promote tourist attractions that are found in the district to increase revenue.

Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Chairman in Morogoro District, Fikiri Juma, made the plans known at a four-day study tour in Lushoto District, Tanga last week.

It was organized by Morogoro Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA), aiming at sharing skills on how to overcome climate change.

Juma promised cooperation with Morogoro Municipal Mayor and the Municipal Director to set strategies on how to provide social services around tourist attractions at Choma waterfalls to increase revenue.

The strategies will be implemented after the officials had

learned from the tour of Lushoto tourist attractions, namely Kisasaw falls and Kigulu Hakwewa peak.

"Failure to collect revenue at Choma waterfalls is associated with poor social services at the area, changing rooms, wash-room services, and steps from the top towards the waterfalls," he disclosed.

Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando, said skills acquired in Lushoto will be transferred to the Uluguru mountains to ensure the attraction generates revenues.

"Improving tourist attractions will include planting trees, which will protect water sources and increase other insect species like butterflies," he said.

Msando insisted Morogoro District's ward officials should conduct an empirical study to solve problems that hinder the completion of development projects in their respective ar-

reas.

"Let ward officials play their part, I don't like politics in the matter, it's a time for a change, today the youths in Lushoto are proud of their government because it has set a friendly environment for them to adhere to by-laws on environmental protection," he said.

Tourism municipal official, Khalifa Mutabuzi, said there is a need to improve tourism centers at Uluguru mountains.

According to the official, the revenues' total collection reaches 2.4m/- annually. He pointed out efforts are done to boost the revenues to 5m/-.

He noted: "Charges are not related to the status of the area, we have set such charges due to poor infrastructures."

"We have failed to charge over 5000/- per one foreign tourist, it's time for the municipal council to apply knowledge from Lushoto to improve this area,"

he disclosed.

He called upon the municipal council to allocate a budget for the tourism department to protect the tourist attraction's flora and fauna that include Uluguru Bushirike, three-horned chameleon, and Uluguru grasshoppers that have national flag's colours.

Mutabuzi mentioned other historical sites as Commonwealth graves, national heroes' tower, first Roman Catholic Church, and Old German Boma. Zinduna Kombo, Kilimani Ward's Councilor, said apart from setting a budget to improve waterfalls, there is a need to improve infrastructures like roads and discover another historical site.

"Apart from Choma waterfalls, there are other waterfalls but they have not been discovered, I call upon tourism stakeholders and media to promote them, aiming at increasing municipal's income," she insisted.

Nigeria to meet Ghana in African World Cup play-offs

YAOUNDE

NIGERIA, the top performers so far in the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon, were paired with arch rivals Ghana in the African World Cup play-offs draw in Douala on Saturday.

Ghana will have home advantage first and both legs will be played between March 21 and 29 with the aggregate winners securing a place at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Egypt face Senegal, Cameroon meet Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo play Morocco and Mali tackle Tunisia in the other ties.

Only Mali among the 10 contenders have never qualified for the world football showpiece while Cameroon hold the record for appearances by an African team with seven between 1982 and 2014.

The pairing of Egypt and Senegal means either the reigning African Footballer of the Year, Sadio Mane, or his predecessor, Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah, will miss out on the finals.

Nigeria brushed off a troubled build-up to the Cup of Nations, including the sacking of German coach Gernot Rohr, to be the only team among the 24 in Cameroon to win all three group matches.

While the Super Eagles look forward to a last-16 clash with Tunisia on Sunday, Ghana were shock first-round casualties, finishing bottom of a group after a stunning 3-2 loss to minnows the Comoros.

Serbia-born Ghana coach Milovan Rajevac, who guided the Black Stars to the 2010 World Cup quarter-finals, insisted he would not resign after the humiliating loss.

- 'Primary ambition' -

"My primary ambition from the time I took over as coach last October was to qualify Ghana for the World Cup in Qatar," he said, amid rumours that he faces the sack.

Nigeria are seeking to qualify for the World Cup a seventh time and, from 1994, have missed only one of seven editions. The last of three appearances by Ghana was in 2014.

The World Cup qualifying rivalry between the west African nations stretches back to the 1962 edition and Nigeria and Ghana have beaten each other twice with four matches drawn.

Algeria, the Cup of Nations defending champions and shock early departees from the tournament, will face Cameroon, an in-form team with captain Vincent Aboubakar scoring five times in three group games.

After going 35 matches unbeaten since last 2018, Algeria lost to Equatorial Guinea and were then outplayed by the Ivory Coast to make an embarrassingly early exit.

Egypt boss Carlos Queiroz is another coach who insists his priority is the World Cup, saying "the main goal when I signed was to qualify for the 2022 World Cup".

Mali will fancy their chances of a historic first appearance at the finals after defeating Tunisia in Cameroon last week through an Ibrahima Kone penalty.

AFP

Africa's soccer show a virus risk and a vaccine opportunity

YAOUNDE, Cameroon

THE risk is obvious when you hold a major international soccer tournament right after the emergence of the omicron variant and in a country with precariously low COVID-19 vaccination levels.

Less evident is the opportunity it may bring in the fight against coronavirus infections.

The Central African nation of Cameroon is treading a line amid the resurgent pandemic this month by hosting the African Cup of Nations, Africa's biggest soccer tournament. It has brought 24 teams, more than 600 players based all over the world, hundreds of officials and an unknown number of fans into the country. Judging by the outbreaks in teams alone, many have arrived with the virus.

Cameroon is a vulnerable country where less than 3% of the population of 26 million is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to the global tracker from Johns Hopkins University. By all indications, it's exposing itself to a surge in cases.

But there's a possible upside, a rare opportunity maybe, to boost vaccination levels in a country low on the global list.

Cameroon authorities have made it mandatory for fans to be vaccinated before they can watch any of the 52 games at the stadiums in five cities. After months of trying to convince Cameroonians to get their jabs and meeting resistance and hesitancy, they now have a tangible reward to entice soccer-mad skeptics.

So, here's the sell: If you want to see Cameroon's own Indomitable Lions, or Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah playing for Egypt, or other top stars on the field in your hometown in perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime chance (Cameroon last hosted the tournament 50 years ago), get vaccinated. Fans are able to get free shots and virus tests outside stadiums ahead of games, where tents have been thrown up and tables and chairs put out. Health workers await.

"I haven't vaccinated myself yet because of the myth behind the vaccine. But I'm considering it, especially with the excitement that surrounds this AFCON," said soccer fan Fon Lionel, using the common abbreviation for the African Cup of Nations. "Not watching at least one game in my own country will be like deciding to stop being a football lover."

AP

Five players to watch in AFCON knockout stages

YAOUNDE

AS the Africa Cup of Nations heads into the knockout phase, AFP Sport looks at five stars of the group stage who will be hoping to make an impact in last-16 ties over the coming days:

*Jim Allevinah (Gabon) Gabon's hopes of a successful AFCON appeared torpedoed before the tournament even started as star man Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and influential midfielder Mario Lemina tested positive for Covid-19 and were then allowed to return to their clubs.

However, the Panthers -- who have never won a knockout tie at the Cup of Nations -- made it through their group by beating the Comoros and then holding more illustrious opponents in Ghana and Morocco.

French coach Patrice Neveu needed attacking inspiration from somewhere without Aubameyang and Allevinah has helped provide that. The 26-year-old, born in France where he is enjoying his debut Ligue 1 season with Clermont,



Abie Jallow has scored two of the goals of the tournament so far to help debutants Gambia reach the last 16 (AFP)

already scored twice for Gabon in World Cup qualifiers against Egypt late last year.

In Cameroon he came off the bench to score a fabulous late equaliser against Ghana before returning to the starting line-up against Morocco and pouncing on a defensive error to open the scoring in a 2-2 draw.

*Abie Jallow (Gambia) Gambia are the

lowest-ranked team at the tournament but they have made the last 16 in their first ever appearance at the Cup of Nations after taking seven points in a group containing Mali, Tunisia and Mauritania.

Jallow's role in their reaching the knockouts and a tie against Guinea was crucial, as he scored one of the goals of the group stage to beat

Mauritania and struck a superb injury-time winner against Tunisia. In between, the same left foot sent a free-kick off the upright in the draw with Mali.

Like most members of the Scorpions' squad, Jallow is based in Europe. The 23-year-old belongs to French club Metz but is currently playing on loan in Belgium.

*Vincent Aboubakar

(Cameroon)

The 30-year-old is the top scorer at this year's AFCON having netted a remarkable five goals in the first three matches to already equal Odion Ighalo's leading tally at the 2019 Cup of Nations.

Aboubakar netted two penalties as Cameroon beat Burkina Faso in the opening game and followed that with two from open play in a 4-1 win over Ethiopia before striking again in the draw with Cape Verde.

Cameroon's captain, now based in Saudi Arabia after a decade in Europe, was already their match-winner in the 2017 final against Egypt and could be about to fill his boots in the last 16 against a Comoros side set to be without a recognised goalkeeper after being ravaged by Covid-19.

*Ibrahim Sangare (Ivory Coast)

The long-legged midfielder, standing 1.91m tall, has been excellent for the Elephants in wins over Equatorial Guinea and Algeria either side of a draw against Sierra Leone.

Playing in a midfield three with Jean Michael Seri and AC Milan's

Franck Kessie, Sangare showcased his ability to get forward as he set up a goal for Nicolas Pepe against Sierra Leone and headed in his side's second goal in the 3-1 defeat of Algeria.

Aged 24, Sangare is in his second season at PSV Eindhoven but clubs from Europe's biggest leagues will be watching his progress closely.

*Iban Salvador Edu (Equatorial Guinea)

Equatorial Guinea was once a Spanish colony and a majority of their players were born in Spain. Among them is Iban Edu, unmissable with his hair dyed in the red of his country and with his socks rolled around his ankles.

The wide midfielder was man of the match in the stunning win over Algeria and set up the goal that beat Sierra Leone, sealing a last-16 place and a tie against Mali.

Once at Valencia and now in Spain's second division at Fuenlabrada, the 26-year-old is competing in his second AFCON having featured in the side that reached the semi-finals as hosts in 2015.

AFP

Rangnick is fixing Man United's mess, and win over West Ham proves it

MANCHESTER, England

RALF Rangnick celebrated as though he had just won the Champions League for Manchester United when Marcus Rashford tapped home Edinson Cavani's cross from 2 yards, three minutes into stoppage time, to secure a 1-0 victory against West Ham at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Man United's interim manager turned to the directors' box with both arms aloft and punched the air repeatedly as the players on the pitch raced to congratulate Rashford following his second goal in two games. Rangnick was so animated because his team had just turned a disappointing draw into a potentially crucial victory -- one that ensured United climbed above West Ham and into the top four for the first time since Oct 2.

But the man charged with stabilising the team following Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's dismissal as manager in November had another reason to celebrate Rashford's goal: For the second successive game, the former RB Leipzig and Hoffenheim coach had made a big call with his substitutions and got it right.

At Brentford on Wednesday, Rangnick sparked an angry, even petulant, reaction from Cristiano Ronaldo when substituting the 36-year-old for Rashford. Six minutes later, Rashford scored United's third goal in a 3-1 win to make the game safe and enable Rangnick to explain to Ronaldo, in full view of the television cameras, just why he was right to make the change, regardless of the

former Real Madrid forward's status as a football icon.

And as United toiled away against David Moyes's West Ham, Rangnick boldly chose to go all-out attack in a bid to find a goal in the closing stages. Having replaced Anthony Elanga with Rashford on 62 minutes, Rangnick threw on Cavani and Anthony Martial for Fred and Mason Greenwood in the 82nd minute, and instructed United to operate a 4-2-4 formation. It was win or bust, and it almost went bust when Tomas Soucek headed inches wide on 87 minutes, but Rangnick's gamble paid off when all four forwards linked together in the same move for Rashford to score the winner.

"Those are the best kind of wins, when the other team has not time to come back," Rangnick said. "We had to take some risks in the last 15 minutes, but in the end I wanted to show the players it is about winning this game, and I'm more than happy we scored the goal in the last minute."

Moments like that matter for a manager when he is trying to gain the trust of a new group of players. If you take a risk and it backfires, the players question your judgment, but if it comes off, it certainly helps to dilute any doubt that may have taken hold in the dressing room.

Rangnick still has plenty to do at Old Trafford to secure the full, unequivocal support of his players and, considering he is only likely to be in charge until a permanent manager is appointed this summer, he might never get close to universal backing. But in



Ralf Rangnick

a slow, painstaking manner, the 63-year-old is gradually steadying the ship at United, even if it can still be hard to watch at times.

Under Rangnick, United have lost just once in 10 in all competitions -- a 1-0 defeat at home to Wolves earlier this month. Yet, they have managed to score just seven goals in six home games -- and three of those came against Burnley, the Premier League's bottom team. Man United have conceded just seven goals in 10 games under

Rangnick, too, and tightening up at the back was crucial with Solskjaer's side conceding a staggering 25 goals during his final 10 games in charge.

Rangnick has turned off his side's dripping tap in defence, but the downside is that it has created a drought of chances and goals at the other end of the pitch. Against West Ham, Manchester United had 18 efforts on goal, but only three hit the target -- with such a poor conversion rate, it is no surprise that they are finding it difficult to beat teams comfortably.

Ronaldo, for instance, has scored just two goals in seven appearances under Rangnick and one of those was a penalty. He played in a central role against West Ham and did little to affect the game. His main contribution was heading the ball at the near post when defending corners, and as important as that is, it is not why Ronaldo was brought back to the club last summer.

The key to any successful football team, however, is a solid defence. Once those foundations are in place, a team can

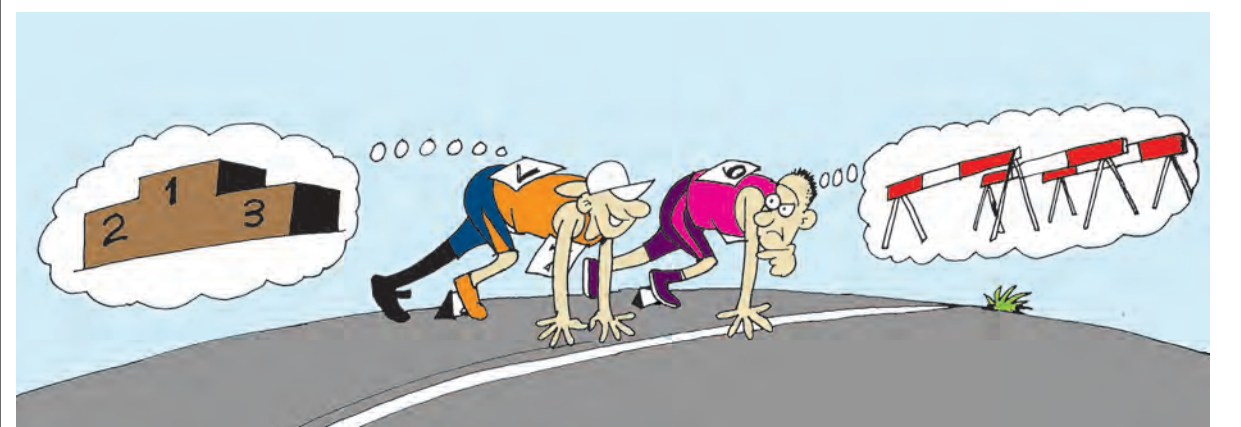
break forward and attack with the confidence that they are safe to leave gaps at the back. Man United aren't at that stage yet, but progress is being made, and Rangnick is able to look ahead to the international break having seen his team win back-to-back games for the first time since he took charge in December.

The race for fourth is intense, with Man United, West Ham, Arsenal, Spurs and Wolves separated by just four points, but Man United have a run of fixtures in February that give them the opportunity to pull clear of some of their rivals. They face Burnley, Southampton, Leeds and Watford next month before a daunting March against Manchester City, Tottenham and Liverpool, but Man United are in a better place than they were when Rangnick arrived, so there are positives to focus on.

And everything looks better after a stoppage-time victory, no matter how uninspiring the performance may have been.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Five players to watch in
AFCON knockout stages

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Bawa, Raghuvanshi centuries power massive India win

TAROUBA

OPENER Angkrish Raghuvanshi struck 144 and No. 4 Raj Bawa smacked 162 to give India the second-biggest win in the history of Youth ODIs as the Covid-hit team trounced Uganda by 326 runs in their final Group B encounter in Tarouba.

The pair's partnership of 206, that propelled India to post the tournament's first 400+ total, was also the highest third-wicket stand in Under-19 World Cup history.

The 16-year-old Raghuvanshi started attacking the Uganda bowling right from the first over when he cut one square for four, and then dominated a 40-run opening stand with Harnoor Singh by playing the short balls offered by the Uganda bowlers on both sides behind square.

He displayed his wristwork by flicking shots off his toes through midwicket and playing strong drives down the ground to reach his fifty in 49 balls.

Raghuvanshi, on 50, was joined by Raj Bawa after Nishant Sindhu fell for 15, and together they dominated for the next 22.4 overs where they scored 206 runs together.

Bawa started his innings by putting away a low full toss through midwicket, and after a short period of quiet batting till the 21st over, the duo broke free.

The 22nd over went for 20 runs as Raghuvanshi hit two fours and Bawa smacked back-to-back sixes, the 26th had Raghuvanshi playing two sweeps for four and one drive past the bowler, and in the 27th over, Bawa played a sublime punch through deep cover and followed it up with pull to the long-on boundary to push India to 172 for 2.

Bawa reached his fifty in 44 balls in the 28th over in style slog-sweeping a six over the leg side and by the end of the 30th over, India had breached 200.

Raghuvanshi reached his 93-ball century next over by pulling a short ball for four, and with at least one boundary coming off their bat till the 34th over, India's run rate was hovering near seven and the chances of a 400+ score was looking like a reality for the first time in the innings.

Bawa then tore into Uganda bowler Joseph Baguma by hitting consecutive sixes off full-tosses and on 90, offered the first real chance when he edged a shot past the vacant slip cordon for four.

He followed it up to move to 98 with a square cut that raced through the carpet. He reached his century in only 69 balls with a single to midwicket.

With both batters in triple digits, it appeared like the duo had shed all inhibitions and looked to tonk every ball out of the ground.

Raghuvanshi went 6, 4, 4 in the 38th over, however, he was out on 144, top-edging a swipe to the wicketkeeper.

Bawa, though, was not going to stop, and he brought up India's 300 in the 40th over with a six over extra cover.

He kept finding the boundaries with ease and buried a six down the ground to reach his 101-ball 150 by easily flicking a shot over deep midwicket.

With Kaushal Tambe not lasting long, Bawa needed someone from the other end to also bring out the fireworks to help India breach 400, and wicketkeeper Dinesh Bana offered that aid by hitting a quickfire 14-ball 22.

Bawa then saw off the innings in Aneeshwar Gautam's company as their six-run 50th over took India to 405 for 5.

Uganda did not get going in their chase at all, with six batters failing to score a run.

Rajvardhan Hangargekar rattled the top order with his two wickets and the stand-in captain, Nishant Sindhu, who had bowled tight through the tournament but without the wickets to show for it, then ran through the middle order with a four-for, including the scalp of Uganda captain Pascal Murungi (34).

Vicky Ostwal and Vasu Vats, drafted into the India squad hours before the match, took a wicket apiece to complete the rout. India will next play Bangladesh in the quarterfinals.

AGENCIES

Taifa Stars set for 2023 AFCON qualifiers' group stage



Taifa Stars' players celebrate a goal netted by the squad's forward, John Bocca, when the squad faced Malawi in an international friendly duel that took place in Dar es Salaam last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' is set to battle it out in the group stage of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers, with the tournament's finals set to take place in Ivory Coast from June 23-July 23.

Taifa Stars has got the opportunity after having a lot of coefficient points on the quality standards in Africa.

Tanzania and the other 41 teams will automatically enter the group stage while waiting for six teams from the previous round to make a total of 48 teams that will be put in 12 groups.

The senior national side secured a place in the group stage after a pre-round draw took place in Douala, Cameroon, last week.

The draw was held by former players, Emmanuel Amunike (Nigeria) and Rigobert Song (Cameroon), assisted by CAF tournament director, Samson Adamu.

The draw included 12 teams that will play in the previous round and, after that, there will be six winners who will go on to face 42 teams in the group stage.

The preliminary round

will be played in home and away format, which will start on March 21, and the replay will take place on March 29, 2022.

After 39 years, Tanzania successfully participated in the 2019 AFCON finals in Egypt, but the senior national squad failed to qualify for this year's tournament, which is taking place in Cameroon.

The 2023 AFCON is scheduled to be the 34th

edition of the Africa Cup of Nations, the biennial international men's football championship of Africa organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The tournament is scheduled to be hosted by the Ivory Coast, the second time the country would host the competition.

The Confederation of African Football changed the dates of the tournament to

June and July rather than the usual January, which will come into play as of the 2019 tournament.

It will allow the tournament to avoid conflicting with other major tournaments.

The showdown will further allow prominent players to play for their nations' sides in the tournament without missing games for their European clubs.

Mvomero MP pledges to support stadium construction

By Correspondent Michael

Sikapundwa, Mvomero

MOROGORO'S Mvomero Constituency's Member of Parliament, Jonas Zeeland, has promised to support the construction of a modern stadium in the area.

Zeeland noted the venue, which will be owned by the Mvomero District Council, will be located near the Dis-

trict Council Executive Director's office.

The MP told The Guardian at Manungu Stadium in Mvomero last weekend that the construction of the stadium is a must as Manungu Stadium, another stadium located in the district is owned by Mtibwa Sugar Estates Limited.

Zeeland pointed out that the construction of another venue seeks to see to it Pre-

mier League, Championship, and First League clashes are held in the constituency.

He stated: "I would like to thank Morogoro Regional Football Association (MRFA)'s management for assisting soccer promotion in my district."

"I particularly thank Manungu Stadium's owners for seeing to it the facility meets criteria set by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) and ulti-

mately secure approval to host Premier League matches."

"Manungu Stadium would not have managed to host an NBC Premier League match between Mtibwa Sugar and Simba SC, had there been no cooperation between MRFA and Manungu Stadium owners."

Zeeland said Mvomero District Council has set a budget for promoting soccer through

the construction of the stadium.

The council has moreover set a budget for supporting health development projects as the number of health centers in the district is not related to population density.

"Mvomero has scattered villages, a resident has to walk over 10 kilometers to look for health services, hence, we have set a budget for both health and sports," he said.

Zeeland further congratulated President Samia Suluhu Hassan for implementing her political pledges, particularly in the education sector, as the government has allocated enough budget for the construction and completion of classrooms.

The MP stated: "To support the President's initiatives, I have started a soccer competition involving 72 villages."

"The tournament's champions will be presented with a set of jerseys, the runners-up will receive soccer balls to encourage the villages' residents to participate in fitness exercises."

"The tournament moreover seeks to offer the villages' youths an opportunity to showcase their talent."



Dar es Salaam's Mnaa Theater group's artists sing a poem at a capacity building workshop for stakeholders in the fight against sexual harassment of students, organized by the Women in the Development Initiative (WAJIKI) in the city last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

