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IGP: Dar gun attack big lesson to police

By Henry Mwangonde

THE attack by a lone gunman which led to the killing of three on-duty police officers and a private security guard in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday has handed a big lesson to the force, Inspector General Simon Sirro has declared.

Speaking at a farewell ceremony for the officers, he said the biggest lesson is that police officers should be alert at all time, never trusting anyone.

He explained that the assailant, Hamza Mohammed, went to the shed where the two police officers were resting, shot them dead with his pistol and took their assault rifles with which he shot others.

"We are all trained police officers but a smart officer is the one who can detect danger and act proactively," he said.

His sentiments were echoed by Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene who called upon police officers to be alert all the time, insisting that a qualified police officer is one who can quickly detect a security threat and act before it causes damage.

However, the minister called upon the general public to be proactive to security threats by reporting to the police on suspicious behavior posing a risk to security, pointing out that social media reactions after the incident helped the police to quickly find out the culprit's identity.

People were relaying information on how they knew the culprit and this helped the police to figure out where to start investigations, he said.

The slain officers lost their lives on Wednesday after an assailant shot and grabbed their rifles while on duty. There was an exchange of fire after the assailant moved from Selander Bridge up to the French Embassy gate, firing randomly as police started to close in.

The drama began somewhere near Selander Bridge and continued along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, ending with the fatal shooting of the gun-wielding assailant by police outside the embassy gate. Six other people were injured in the incident.

In another development, police in Dar es Salaam are holding one man

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Minister for Home Affairs George Simbachawene and Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro lead mourners to pay last respects on the bodies of four police officers at Police Barracks ground along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Caskets bearing the bodies of four police officers lined up during the last respects ceremony at Police Barracks ground along Kilwa Road in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Religious leaders want UHC law to cover more, chronic diseases

By Geoffrey Tusime, (TUDARCo)

CLERICS under the Intefait Standing Committee for Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCEJIC) have appealed to the government to include coverage of more diseases in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) bill that is expected to be tabled in the National Assembly next month.

Speaking at a breakfast debate on healthcare in Tanzania organised by the Policy Forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday, religious leaders from the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) and the Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) urged that the anticipated law should not be discriminatory in terms of disease

Presently the biggest percentage of the country's health budget is donor-funded

coverage if it is to effectively serve the interests of the common man.

Currently available health insurance plans do not cover some illnesses including long-term non communicable diseases, which are a major public health burden, they observed.

Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) chairman, Bishop Dr Frederick Shoo (pictured) commended the government for efforts to ensure the smooth running of the improved Community Health Fund (ICHEF) targeting poor households. Its efforts should also ensure that hospitals are properly stocked with all essential drugs, he urged.

"It is quite frustrating that even with health insurance covers, patients are sometimes told that their prescribed drugs are out of stock so they have to go and buy them elsewhere," he said.

He urged the government to come up with permanent revenue sources through

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Samia to grace vaccination drive at home festival peak

●Event is her first in native village as Union President

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is today scheduled to grace the mass Covid-19

vaccination drive at the end of a popular cultural festival.

Unguja South regional commissioner Rashid Hadid Rashid told reporters here yesterday that the presence of the Union President is expected to encourage Zanzibaris who are yet to be vaccinated to take the jab.

The event will take place at Kizimkazi Dimbani grounds to mark the end of the Kizimkazi Music Festival—an annual cultural event popular with locals as well as tourists. The festival started on Monday.

Rashid appealed to all residents of Zanzibar who have not taken the jab for one reason or the other to grab the opportunity and

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Denmark closing Dar embassy in an 'adjustment of priorities'

●Ends bilateral development cooperation in three years time

By Guardian Reporter

DENMARK has announced that it is moving towards closing its embassy in Tanzania as part of adjustment of priorities in development cooperation.

The statement by the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Jeppe Kofod, relayed by the Royal Danish Embassy said the embassy will close down in three years time.

"This will happen as part of an adjustment of Denmark's international presence. The adjustment entails a scaling up of some existing diplomatic missions and the closure of others," the minister

Denmark remains dedicated to continue working closely with Tanzania at the bilateral level and with regard to broader regional and international issues

said, referring to the country's new global strategy, "The World We Share."

The strategy has a strong emphasis on addressing fragility, countries in conflict or crisis, displacement and irregular migration. In Africa, this entails an increased geographical focus on the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, along with its neighboring countries, he explained.

"Against this background, the Danish government has decided to phase out the bilateral development cooperation in Tanzania and close the Danish Embassy in Dar es Salaam in 2024. This was by no

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects the ongoing construction of Katavi Regional Referral Hospital at Rungwa in Mpanda district yesterday. Left is Katavi Regional Commissioner Mwananvua Mrindoko. Photo: PMO

Samia to grace vaccination drive at home festival peak

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get vaccinated in a rare occasion attended by the president.

"I'll personally be there to take the jab together with my family," the RC said, noting that the president will be accompanied some Union cabinet ministers, leaders of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and some diplomatic representatives.

He said the Head of State will use the visit to launch various development projects implemented at Kizimkazi village, her native village, he stated.

Hamid Abdulhamid Khamis, the deputy secretary of the festival coordination committee, said routine festival activities will start in the morning while the vaccination event will be held later in the afternoon.

Zanzibar started administering Sinovac shots early last month for front-line workers and at-risk groups. The drive has since been expanded to the general public after the Isles received a donation of 100,000 doses from China.

Omar Said Shaaban, the Isles Minister of Trade and Industrial Development and the Chinese Consul General in Zanzibar, Zhang Zhisheng and various government officials attended the handover ceremony of the vaccines at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport late last month.

It was the second batch of vaccines donated by China to Zanzibar after it made the first donation for frontline health workers.

Speaking after the handover ceremony, the minister said the vaccines would play a major role in helping Zanzibar fight the pandemic.

Denmark closing Dar embassy in an 'adjustment of priorities'

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means an easy decision to make," he affirmed.

Denmark will honour already agreed financial commitments as it wishes to consolidate the many achievements that Denmark has contributed to over the past six decades with its Tanzanian partners, the minister noted.

Additional funds for exit activities have been set aside to ensure a gradual and responsible phasing-out of the longstanding development cooperation in Tanzania. "Denmark is determined to work closely with partners to find the best possible way ahead," he stated.

"Denmark remains dedicated to continue working closely with Tanzania at the bilateral level and with regard to broader regional and international issues."

In a document on country policies available in the Danish foreign affairs ministry, the country describes Denmark's cooperation with Tanzania as "long-standing, strong

and in continuous development."

"Tanzania was the first African country with which Denmark initiated a development assistance partnership, in 1963. This was just one year after the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) passed the first Danish law on international development cooperation and shortly after Mainland Tanzania, called Tanganyika, became independent.

Over the past 50 years, Tanzania has received more Danish development assistance than any other country, amounting to more than 14 billion Danish kroner. Today, Tanzania continues to be one of the main partners for Danish development assistance and will remain so over the medium term, the minister observed.

Throughout the 50 years of cooperation, the main objective of Danish development cooperation has been to contribute to Tanzania's nation-building efforts and to the struggle against its massive poverty," he added.

TANROADS regional managers urged to reshuffle attendants at the weigh bridges

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DEPUTY minister for Works Mwita Waitara has directed the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) regional managers to reshuffle attendants in weighing bridges to control corruption.

Waitara made the call yesterday in a virtual conference held in Dar es Salaam after receiving complaints from drivers and vehicle owners.

He also tasked the TANROAD headquarter to oversee the trend of the dishonest managers conspiring with their working to take corruption.

The deputy minister said the administrators must conduct monitoring and evaluation assessment on the performance of the workers in weighing bridges across the country and identify all those soliciting bribes and later take action.

He noted that it was shameful to the government for one of its staff attempting to solicit bribes from the commercial or private drivers or owners.

"I have been receiving phone calls from drivers and transport stakeholders complaining about the behaviour of our staff in weighbridge accusing them of demanding corruption," he stated.

"I therefore direct the regional managers to reshuffle staffs and swap all served for a long time in one station," he cautioned.

He named some of the weighing

bridges earmarked with corruption habits including Mikese and Dakawa in Morogoro, Wende in Mpemba in Tuduma, and vigwaza in Chalinze district in Coast region.

"Managers should list a number of challenges they are likely to face in their respective area and report to the permanent secretary office for further implementation," he urged.

For his part, the director for Maintenance at TANROAD headquarters Vicent Tarmo asserted that his office will conduct regular seminars to sensitize transporters on how to avoid the vice.

"We shall take the step following increased complaints over corruption especially at Weigh Bridges and Tanroads will closely supervise the exercise," he assured.

Tarmo underscored that the move will enable and build the capacity of heavy commercial truck drivers and the owners on their rights and how to work on eliminating the unhealthy conduct.



I therefore direct the regional managers to reshuffle staffs and swap all served for a long time in one station

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for allegedly killing two security guards who were manning his former property which was recently auctioned by a bank.

Zonal police commander Jumanne Muliro told journalists yesterday that the police are holding Mohammed Jumaa Radhi for killing two security guards employed by Forty Security Co.

"The suspect deliberately killed the two people using a lorry with number T 176 CVP which had a trailer showing no numbers," he

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said.

The suspect arrived at the site to collect his belongings but only entered the lorry and drove it out.

"He then drove the lorry back to the gate at a high speed hitting the

security guards and killing them instantly," the zonal commander elaborated, noting that six other people were injured during the incident.

The suspect has a case at the

High Court in which he was sued by Access Bank for failing to repay a loan, ruled against the suspect and the site was handed over to Fahad Mohammed who contracted the firm to guard the area, he added.



Ukongu MP Jerry Silaa in the conference hall waiting to be questioned by the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee in Dodoma yesterday. On Thursday the committee ordered the police to arrest him after failing to attend the meeting. MP Silaa is being accused of various allegations against him including lying and degrading Parliament's status. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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"ring fencing" by deducting a certain percentage of tax from the country's natural resources to support the iCHF initiative that will help to improve the fund's efficiency.

"Presently the biggest percentage of the country's health budget is donor-funded," he stated, pointing out that the government accounts for 35 per cent, development partners (37 per cent) and private sector agencies (28 per cent).

On his part, Bakwata chairman Sheikh Khamis Mataka said the bill if passed into law would be a big relief for many Tanzanians living in

Religious leaders want UHC law to cover more diseases

absolute poverty.

"We need the government to come up with a special fund to support the marginalised and poor Tanzanians who cannot make insurance cover contributions on their own," he urged.

National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai earlier this year underscored the relevance of the universal health insurance bill

and directed the Social Services Committee of the legislature to push the government to draft and table the Bill.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, officiating at the inauguration function for the new National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) board of directors last month,

maintained that the Universal Health Coverage bill will be tabled in the National Assembly.

The sixth phase government is committed to improving the provision of health services across the country, in which case developing a reformed iCHF for nation-wide rollout is part of initiatives towards universal healthcare coverage, the minister intoned.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba shares a light moment with World Bank Tanzania country director Mara Warwick shortly after holding talks in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Ministry of Finance

Minister highlights need for youth's development skills

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) Jenista Mhagama has directed municipal councils to identify all youth sponsored by the government to undertake vocational training courses through the Vocational Skills Development Program (VSDP) so that they are provided with capital loans.

The program aims to improve the access of youth to quality vocational skills development which would result in employment or self-employment opportunities in the world of work.

Minister Mhagama made the remarks yesterday during her tour at the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) College in Mufindi District which is run by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT).

"The government introduced the programme to ensure youth have needed vocational skills so that they can employ themselves and create jobs for others," she said.

According to her, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has already instructed municipalities to identify the youth and establish a database which can be used to track them whenever the demand for their profession occurs. She said identified youth would be given priority in job recruitments.

The Minister noted that a survey conducted by the government revealed that most of the youth do not have the required vocational skills to enable them secure jobs. She said the VSDP was purposely meant to produce a good number of skilled labourers.

She said the apprenticeship programme which is implemented in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar is also aimed at strengthening skills development system to promote access to

quality training and employability, especially for young Tanzanians.

She explained that under the apprenticeship programme, trainings through classroom learning are conducted by between 40 and 45 percent with the remained course conducted practically.

After the training, youth are encouraged to form groups to be able to access funds from financial institutions and banks for establishment of businesses.

"Trained youth can also access loans at district level through the program targeting special groups—women, youth and the disabled. These loans are meant to empower people economically. The law requires each of the districts across the country to set aside 10 percent of its internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups," she said.

Each of the groups receives a certain amount of money whereas women get 4 percent, and two percent of the fund goes to people with disabilities

Mhagama said that a total of 80,000 have so far applied for the apprenticeship programme, but the government's capacity in the first phase is limited.

Mufindi VETA college coordinator, Pokea Moses said they received a total of 500 requests from youth in need of joining the programme, but they had a capacity to accommodate 100 youths only.

“The government introduced the programme to ensure youth have needed vocational skills so that they can employ themselves and create jobs for others

By Guardian Reporter, Mtwara

PASS Trust sponsors loans worth 13.5bn/- to cashew nut processors, buyers and importers

THE Private Agricultural Sector Support (PASS Trust) has sponsored loans worth over 13.5bn/- to small-scale cashew nut processors, buyers and importers of farm inputs this year.

PASS Trust managing director, Yohane Kaduma revealed this yesterday in Mtwara Region when speaking at cashew stakeholders' forum, that involved a number of players including the minister for Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda.

He said during the period, PASS Trust has sponsored 231m/- for small-scale cashew nut processors, 2.3bn/- for cashew buyers and 10.97bn/- for farm input importers.

"And the process is underway with applications for 23.5bn/- for importers of cashew inputs and packaging," said Kaduma, adding:

"In order to ensure that we sponsor the entire cashew crop chain, for this season we have set ourselves the target of reaching 70 buyers and processors where more

than 27bn/- will be guaranteed."

Kaduma said: "PASS Trust has been working with financial institutions including CRDB, BOA, Equity bank, NMB, NBC and TADB in ensuring farmers and agricultural stakeholders in the southern regions, get loans, through PASS sponsorship."

He said the challenges of capital among farmers still exist and will continue to exist, and there is a need to apply to other institutions other than finance, to look at how to increase the amount of money allocated for agricultural loans. "I urge our fellow financial institutions to ignore the notion that agriculture is 'bankrupt' so that we can unite in uplifting and improving the lives of Tanzanians through access to agricultural loans."

Kaduma also urged farmers to ensure that loans are repaid so that we can continue to empower and

uplift other small, incapacitated farmers.

"I can assure you (agricultural stakeholders) that the PASS Trust will continue to work with the Tanzanian government through the Ministry of Agriculture in ensuring the growth and rise of this sector through access to funding for farmers, including our goal of eradicating poverty, in the country. Also, we will not tire of finding more creative ways to ensure that this is done at an ever-growing, sustainable level," he told the gathering.

According to Kaduma, PASS Trust has been providing guarantees ranging from 20 - 80 percent to corporate banking as a way to increase sufficient securities to enable farmers to get loans.

He said: "As an institution, we are proud of our contribution to the agricultural sector in the country, including benefiting approximately

1,7000 farmers through our sponsorship and creating two and a half million jobs since we started providing these services, 20 years ago."

PASS Trust has six branches that are spread across the country and in southern regions the branch is located in Mtwara—serving Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma regions by enabling cashew farmers to access funds in financial institutions through the sponsorship of PASS Trust.

For many years, the PASS Trust has given priority to the cashew industry by ensuring that we enable farmers to obtain loans for farm maintenance, equipment and also to facilitate access to inputs through AMCOs. "We have also enabled raw cashew buyers and processors to obtain capital to buy and process raw cashew nuts to complete the entire cashew nut value chain."



INVITATION FOR BIDS TO PROVIDE SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO TRAIN 200 FARMERS ON IMPROVED BEEKEEPING AND PROVIDE THEM WITH IMPROVED BEEHIVES IN BUHINGU WARD

1.0 Background

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International (PI) in Tanzania are jointly implementing an integrated Program known as Tuungane which addresses Population, Health and Environment (PHE). Agriculture which forms the main livelihood activity on the terrestrial environment has been blamed for the increasing siltation of Lake Tanganyika through unsustainable farming practices. To reduce the soil sediments that have adverse effect to the lake fisheries productivity, Tuungane program aims at supporting smallholder farmers in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in improving their agricultural practices through adoption of conservation agriculture/Climate Smart Agriculture.

Tuungane program has been implementing some alternative Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to reduce overdependence on agriculture and fisheries for the community livelihoods. Improved beekeeping is one of the IGAs the program is planning to promote as a low capital investment to enhance both conservation and increased community income. Farmers who will be engaged in beekeeping are expected to reduce their farm sizes and hence contribute to the reduction in sedimentation of Lake Tanganyika and rivers.

Currently, Tuungane program seeks short term consultancy services from an expert in beekeeping to train 200 farmers in improved beekeeping and provide them with improved beehives, honey pressing machines and honey harvesting gears.

2. Consultancy Services

The following is the list of needed consultancy services:

- 2.1 Form a group of 200 beekeepers and train them in improved beekeeping using a standard training guide.
- 2.2 Prepare and distribute 200 improved beehives to beekeepers.
- 2.3 Provide beekeepers with 8 honey pressing machines and 80 sets of honey harvesting gears.
- 2.4 Select appropriate sites for apiaries and ensure that the beehives are strategically situated in the apiaries to attract the attention of bees.
- 2.5 Link beekeepers to honey buyers and facilitate an effective contractual business between them.
- 2.6 Coach the farmers on how to conduct improved beekeeping for 6 months.
- 2.7 Prepare and submit to TNC/Tuungane program management a monthly project progress report.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

Eligible consultants should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Minimum of Bachelor of Science in beekeeping, forestry, or agriculture.
- Have an experience of at least 3 years in training local communities in improved beekeeping and providing extension services on the same (attach list of completed similar assignments and CV of key personnel).

4.0 Application procedures

Interested organizations or individuals with technical skills and appropriate experiences on the above-mentioned assignment are warmly welcome to submit their electronic Technical Proposals which include a well Itemized Financial Budget and activity time schedule on or before 10th September 2021 by email to: hshilinde@tnc.org. Also attach legal business documents as per Government requirements (License, registration, and TIN/VAT number). Please, note that all application received after the deadline will not be honored.



INVITATION FOR BIDS TO PROVIDE SHORT TERM CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH 20 DEMONSTRATION PLOTS FOR IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH THROUGH NATURAL MEANS

1.0 Background

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Pathfinder International (PI) in Tanzania are jointly implementing an integrated Program known as Tuungane which addresses Population, Health and Environment (PHE). Agriculture which forms the main livelihood activity on the terrestrial environment has been blamed for the increasing siltation of Lake Tanganyika through unsustainable farming practices. To reduce the soil sediments that have adverse effect to the lake fisheries productivity, Tuungane program aims at supporting smallholder farmers in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in improving their agricultural practices through adoption of conservation agriculture/Climate Smart Agriculture. Specifically, the program will build the capacity of farmers to improve fertility of their soils through natural means by the application of farmyard manure and compost onto their farmlands. Apart from improving soils fertility, this will improve soil structure of the farms and become less prone to soil erosion.

Currently, Tuungane program seeks short term consultancy services from an expert in soil fertility to establish 20 demonstration plots for improving soil health through the application of farmyard manure and compost in Buhingu ward.

2. Consultancy Services

The following is the list of needed consultancy services:

- 2.1 Train farmers on how to prepare compost, prepare 100 tons of compost in collaboration with local community members and distribute them to 15 farmers to improve fertility of their soils. The 15 farmers will host demonstration plots. The treatments will include compost, farmyard manure, compost + farmyard manure and no compost + no farmyard manure.
- 2.2 Train farmers on how to apply farmyard manure and procure 100 tons of farmyard manure from local livestock keepers and distribute them to 15 farmers to improve fertility of their soils. The 15 farmers will host demonstration plots. The treatments will include farmyard manure, compost, compost + farmyard manure and no compost + no farmyard manure.
- 2.3 Ensure that farmers prepare their farms, sow the seeds as per recommended best agricultural practices.
- 2.4 Provide agricultural extension services at demonstration plots to ensure observation of recommended agricultural best practices for 3 months.
- 2.5 Prepare and submit to TNC/Tuungane program management a monthly project progress report.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

Eligible consultants should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Minimum of Bachelor of Science in agriculture, soil science or agronomy.
- Have an experience of at least 3 years in training farmers, establishing, and supervising agricultural demonstration plots (attach list of completed similar assignments and CV of key personnel).

4.0 Application procedures

Interested organizations or individuals with technical skills and appropriate experiences on the above-mentioned assignment are warmly welcome to submit their electronic Technical Proposals which include a well Itemized Financial Budget and activity time schedule on or before 10th September 2021 by email to: hshilinde@tnc.org. Also attach legal business documents as per Government requirements (License, registration, and TIN/VAT number). Please, note that all application received after the deadline will not be honored.

EAC and RECSA to enhance cooperation on cross-border security matters, official says

By Guardian Reporter

THE Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and bordering states (RECSA) and the East African Community (EAC) have agreed to enhance commitment in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit manufacturing, trafficking in, possession and use of small arms and light weapons in the sub-region.

RECSA Executive Secretary, Badreldin Elamin paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General Dr Peter Mathuki on Thursday at the EAC headquarters in Arusha where they discussed several issues touching on regional peace and security including the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa.

"RECSA plays a very important role in the EAC regional integration agenda, for integration will never work if there are no systems in place to ensure there is peace and security for the people of the region," said Dr Mathuki.

Dr Mathuki reaffirmed the EAC's commitment to enhancing cooperation between the EAC and RECSA, nothing the need for the two institutions to develop a cooperation framework that will guide the joint implementation of activities in the region.

RECSA Executive Secretary, Badreldin Elamin hailed the long standing partnership between the EAC and RECSA in the peace and security sector, which he said was a key enabler to the integration process in East Africa.

The Executive Secretary noted the need for collaboration in implementing programmes that

address cross-border as well as pre- and post-election security challenges in the region.

The EAC-RECSA cooperation framework is set to provide for areas of cooperation on matters of peace and security in the region, including initiatives focused on disarming the mindset, ensuring compliance to instruments governing peace and security as well as establishment of information sharing mechanisms that will facilitate rapid and timely response to cross-border threats.

The EAC and RECSA partnership has implemented various programmes targeting illicit small arms and light weapons in the past including: a regional standard firearms marking system that can easily identify and trace fire arms; the destruction of small arms and light weapons in post-conflict societies; as well as voluntary civilian disarmament initiatives.

RECSA is an intergovernmental organization that was established in June 2005 and is mandated to coordinate the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

RECSA comprises 15 Member States including; Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

"RECSA plays a very important role in the EAC regional integration agenda, for integration will never work if there are no systems in place to ensure there is peace and security for the people of the region"



Tanzanians living with HIV/AIDS coordinator Mossy Ismail briefs journalists during a seminar for religious leaders and people living with HIV. The workshop has been funded by UNAIDS. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

TPDC draws strategies on LNG project pace

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemani has directed the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) to install visible signs around the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project in Likong'o area, Lindi Region in order to strengthen security.

Dr Kalemani issued the directive here after visiting the area to oversee how things are going at the project.

He was accompanied by Deputy Minister Stephen Byabato, Lindi District Commissioner, Shaibu Ndemanga, Commissioner for Petroleum and Gas, Adam Zuberi,

some heads of institutions that are under the ministry and investors of project from Equinor and Shell.

"We have visited here to oversee how it is progressing, so it is important to put visible signs instead of just putting up a poster. By putting the signs will enable the area to be identified by the people and thus bar them invading or misusing it, we have a responsibility to protect this area," Dr Kalemani said.

He issued five days ultimatum for the TPDC to finalise procedures of getting a contractor from within Lindi Region who will set the boundary marks.

Once found, the contractor should

commence work immediately," he said.

In addition, he instructed TPDC to ensure that the 2,071-hectare area is cleaned and urged residents not to invade the area as it has been taken over by the government and the eligible people compensated.

Earlier, before visiting the project area, the leaders met with stakeholders in the region and some members of parliament representing the area so as to inform and discuss the progress of the project.

Dr Kalemani told the stakeholders that the government last year issued approximately 5.72bn/- to compensate people who were

evacuated from the area.

He said that, in May this year the government initiated discussions with investors about the implementation of the project and expected to end in October, this year.

Deputy Minister, Byabato, said that the government will continue encouraging and mobilizing people in Lindi to grab opportunities available in the area including natural gas.

He said that the sixth phase government has allocated and issued sufficient funds to support power production and supply projects in the country.



Energy Regulators Association of East Africa (EREA) executive secretary Dr Geoffrey Mabea (L) presents a project document to Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla for the construction of the East African Energy Regulatory Training Institute which is expected to be built in Tanzania when he paid a courtesy call on Second Vice President's Office at Vuga in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has submitted a draft amendment for four regulations about the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (EPOCA).

The reviews are meant to help in distinguishing between online content providers such as the media and those who provide contents that are not related to the media.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has brought together stakeholders in Dodoma to discuss and give suggestions on how to improve the specific regulations which are licensing regulations, online content regulations, digital broadcasting infrastructure regulations and radio content regulations and television.

Some stakeholders who have already provided their opinions on the regulations are Coalition of the Right to Information (CQRI),

Govt submits draft amendment of the Electronic, Postal Communications Act

Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania chapter, Tanzania Mobile Network Operators Association (TAMNOA), Media Owners Association of Tanzania (MOAT), decoder owners and the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF).

TRCA head enforcement and compliance, Dr Philip Filikunjombe said the amendments are expected to improve operations and bring changes in the information and communication sector.

Dr Filikunjombe said the regulations' changes will address the issue of who should be licensed to post content online as well as lower the fees for such licenses.

He said the license application according to the draft amendment

has dropped from 100,000/- to 50,000/- and the annual license fee has dropped from 1,000,000/- to 500,000/- per year.

Dr Filikunjombe added the current regulations require radio and television service providers to apply for a license that would allow them to air the same content in the media and online.

He said the improvements to the regulations would reduce the license fee for radio and television broadcasts by 30 percent, allowing radio and television stations to join other stations to broadcast their content without obtaining approval from TCRA.

All they will have to do is to send a timetable indicating that he will join another station, he added.

Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Dr Jim Yonazi said that the government has seen the need to seek stakeholders' views because they are the implementers of the regulations.

Dr Yonazi told the stakeholders that the government would wish to further improve the environment for communications service providers to ensure Tanzanians enjoy quality broadcasting services.

MOAT Chairman, Samweli Nyalla urged the TCRA to work on their opinions to ensure smooth operations. He said since they have been in the industry for a long period, their views are likely to further improve broadcasting services in the country.

Infrastructure top as African leaders' meet outgoing German Chancellor

By Correspondent Nimi Mweto

SEVERAL African Heads of State yesterday met German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the last time before she leaves office next month or thereabouts.

African news analysts in the mainly Africa-targeting DW news channel say that the meeting is a testimony of goodbye and sentiments of end of an era in German-African relations, with what comes next being largely unpredictable.

Latest reports indicated that the chancellor's party is having problems finding the right candidate to contest the post in the coming month, as the Social Democratic Party and the Greens appear to be leading the field.

That leaves plenty of things in the open as to what will be the outlook of German policies on Africa not just in the immediate future but down the years, as Germany is also clustered with strong anti-immigrant parties but lacking a solid following as in Italy, France, Austria and other countries.

Germany-Africa Berlin 2021 meet is a continuation of previous meetings, the last being in 2019 and a year earlier, smacking of competition with Chinese and Japanese period summits with African leaders, none of which appear to be realizing the goals they were intended to pursue.

In the opening session of the meeting attended by presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Macky Sall of Senegal, Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and Felix Tshisekedi of DRC, who also chairs the African Union at present, the chancellor called for increased investments in the continent.

Observers were at a loss to figure out what can be achieved in the meeting, as Germany like the UK, France and other European states are concerned about waves of migration from African states which are defended by humanitarian organisations in Europe and raise militancy in the streets to oppose the settling of thousands of migrants from North Africa and the Near East. One area of interminable discussion is what kinds of investment will enable African youth to prefer to remain in their countries instead of

taking up perilous journeys to the shores of European Union member states, where the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have not been of much help.

Looking at the rival conferences of China and African countries in particular, and much less so the Japan meetings, and compare with United States demands on African countries, the theme that comes up is opening up African economies not just to industrial investment but infrastructure.

African countries emphasise reduction of the foreign debt, as the late President John Magufuli demanded at the height of the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, Africa needs to be lessened its foreign debt servicing to be able to set enough funds to meet the ravages of the pandemic.

While that position is an unavoidable theme in current fiscal support diplomacy, it has proved problematic to obtain debt cancellations, for instance Tanzania was still looking to get its remaining payments for the TAZARA railway cancelled.

Africa has considerable cultural links with European countries in comparison to Asia but since the early 1980s Asia has shown itself to be capable of economic reform, like liberalising share ownership in utilities so as to facilitate large investments and cancel large portions of the debt.

Decades of nationalist sentiments preclude African states accepting large scale privatization and private ownership of land which would enable capital to migrate from Europe to Africa. Even where Europeans are noticed in farming, the pressure is to retake the land as it was grabbed from various tribes earlier, measures which ruin African economies further.

South Africa is rapidly descending in global rating of its foreign debt and is now considered junk debt by several broker agencies, but is unlikely that Chancellor Merkel can obtain any promise from South Africa or any of the leaders present in Berlin to make some headway towards liberalization and enhanced investments.



National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) central committee chairman Sheikh Khamis Mataka speaks during religious leaders meeting on health insurance law organised by Policy Forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt directed to bring together all street children for further care

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Parliamentary Standing Committee of Social Services and Community Development has directed the government to bring together all children in the country's street and accommodate them at one centre to facilitate provision of essential services.

The committee's chairman Stanslaus Nyongo made the directives yesterday when the committee toured and inspected the Kikombo children centre located in the outskirts of Dodoma.

Nyongo said the problem of street children in the country is big with many still in the need to get quality services from the centres due to the hard lives they have.

"Let me call upon the ministry responsible for children welfare to continue gathering these children from streets and bring them to such centres because the problem is now increasing," he said.

He said the fact that the centre was the only one of its kind, the government needs to put more emphasis on servants who help the children to ensure quality service delivery.

He said efforts to bring the children at the centre should be intensified because the Kikombo children centre has the capacity to accommodate 250 children at a time.

A member of the committee, Salome Makamba advised the centre to provide vocational training to the children for self-dependency. She said providing children with accommodation and food was not enough because they will need skills to be able to live on their own in future.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr John Jingu said the centre was constructed in 2017.

Dr Jingu added that the government has until now spent nearly 12bn/- to run the centre.

Promote innovation, prepare students for self-employment, universities told

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

HIGHER learning institutions in the country have been urged to promote innovation amongst students to help graduates build confidence for self-employment.

The statement was made during a seminar aimed at addressing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) challenges which took place in Tanga Region.

The lead researcher for Tanga town improvement project Prof Ally Namangaya said one of the

problems that face graduates in Tanzania and the East African region is that lessons are more theoretical.

He said a policy has been passed to ensure that universities improve their innovation departments.

"Through ICT graduates can employ themselves because through the EAC, a policy has been approved for universities to increase their innovation skills instead of depending on being employed," he said.

Stakeholders who attended the

seminar said if the ideas given during the seminar were taken into use could be useful to improve the beauty of Tanga considering that it was among the regions chosen to be on pilot trials for improvement.

The projects focus on opening opportunities on use of statistics in Tanga municipal council to improve provision and delivery of services.

He further said upon completion, the project will help in improving land planning and other sectors including service delivery.

Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing, AfCFTA to be high on agenda during China-Africa summit

By Hudson Kuteesa

ACCELERATING the integration efforts of Africa and supporting the continent's medical industry towards increased local manufacturing of drugs are some of the topics that are expected to be on agenda during the upcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit, a collective cooperation meeting between China and African countries.

Held after every three years, the upcoming edition is expected to be held in Dakar, Senegal towards the end of this year at a date that is yet to be confirmed.

Like previous ones, it is expected to bring together various African heads of state and their Chinese counterpart Xi Jin Ping, to collectively look at the next steps in the continent's corporation with China.

A report released this week by the China-Africa Business Council, highlighted some of the expectations and suggestions that the summit may focus on when it convenes.

Among these, is looking into how to foster Africa's integration, for example by supporting the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) that came into effect at the beginning of this year.

"As the African Continental Free Trade Agreement has come into

effect, further efforts should be made to support African and regional economic integration, facilitate intra-African trade and investment, and promote the connectivity of cross-regional infrastructure," the report reads.

"Furthermore, in line with the AU's Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA) and African Mining Vision (AMV), efforts should be made to focus and scale up Chinese investment cooperation on manufacturing, and value-addition to the mining, extractive and agricultural sectors," it adds.

In addition, the report also tips the speeding up of local manufacturing in the African medical industry alongside the unification of African standards as a topic of interest for the summit.

"Local manufacturing is vital to African economies, a challenge made especially clear with the supply restrictions that have arisen during the Covid-19 pandemic," the report says, adding:

"Establishing the AU and African regional organisations, the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and the AU technical standards certification organisation as quickly as possible will be very useful and will complement renewed efforts from the Chinese side to encourage investment in local manufacturing of pharmaceutical and medical

products, rather than export."

Among other things, the report also talks about the need to look into the investment in the continent's digital economy.

"Currently, policies on the digital economy vary greatly among African countries and a lack of infrastructure reduces the willingness of foreign-funded enterprises to invest in Africa on a large scale," it reads.

"The digital economy is critical to African development. Chinese enterprises are encouraged to explore supporting digital development in Africa at all levels, from increasing access to the internet, increasing data storage and bandwidth capacity, to locally manufacturing and reducing the costs of digital equipment, and investing in digital skills and education."

The FOCAC Forum can also be looked at as an opportunity for African countries to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), trying to recover from the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic that has led to lower FDI flows from China to the world, including to Africa.

At the previous FOCAC summit (2018), China pledged to provide USD 60 billion in financial support to Africa. In 2019, trade between China and Africa hit USD 208.7 billion, and total Chinese FDI in Africa reached USD 44.4 billion.

Tanzania applauds Nigeria for strong diaspora engagement

By Rahila Lassa

THE Nigerian government has been commended for its frontline strides in her engagement with her Diaspora for nation building.

Tanzanian High Commissioner to Nigeria Ambassador Benson Alfred Bana stated this when he visited the chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, NIDCOM, in Abuja.

The Tanzanian envoy said nothing will dampen the good relationship both countries have enjoyed since 1972.

Dr Bana said he admired the role the NIDCOM boss played all through the years, right from the days of her being a member of the House of Representatives to her current position.

Ambassador Bana stated further that he came to tap from the wealth of knowledge and experiences of the NIDCOM team and also to

know how the Federal Government is able to engage her Diaspora to contribute meaningfully to their country, adding that all over the world Nigerians are excelling in all their endeavours.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for showing interest in Nigerians in the Diaspora.

For her part, NIDCOM boss Abike Dabiri-Erewa was delighted to receive the Tanzanian envoy to her office.

She remarked that the Nigerian President is the number one Diaspora champion.

She stressed that any country the president visits, he meets with the Nigerian Diaspora and encourages them to be the best in whatever they do.

She commended President Muhammadu Buhari for ratifying and adopting the national Diaspora policy.

She therefore urged the Tanzanian government to create an agency that deals strictly with their Diaspora.

"It is not about the number, but what they are able to do" she noted.

According to her, despite the few activities of some Nigerians that tend to dent the image of the country abroad, the commission will always celebrate Nigerians doing well in various countries.

The NIDCOM boss told the visiting envoy that the commission was engaging the younger generation of Nigerians in the Diaspora to bring their knowledge back home.

The Nature Conservancy

Protecting nature. Preserving life.

TUUNGANE
creating a healthy future for people and nature

GRANT FOR 1 MILLION KAYA ANTHOTHECA, 1 MILLION FICUS AND 150,000 PINE TREE PLANTING IN TANGANYIKA, UVINZA AND BUHIGWE DISTRICTS:

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.0 Introduction

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is among the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. TNC has been working in Tanzania and Africa at large for over seven years.

Under the auspices of the Tuungane Program, TNC invites qualified and credible local NGOs and CBOs operating in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem (GME) in Tanganyika and Uvinza districts to apply for tree planting grants as shown in the Terms of reference below.

2.0 Terms of Reference for Tree Planting in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem

The GME located in Western Tanzania is a 4.8 million-acre forested landscape of incredibly high biodiversity and is home to 93% of Tanzania's endangered chimpanzees – and more than 200,000 people. However, the forests in the GME are under increasing pressure from inappropriate agricultural practices such as slash and burn farming, charcoal making, indiscriminate dry season fires, illegal settlements by immigrant farmers and pastoralists. In order to ensure a healthier future for people and biodiversity in the GME, there is an urgent need to plant trees on deforested general and villages' lands as community woodlots (Pines caribaea Swahili: Msindano) and riverine ecosystem of Malagarasi river under Lake Tanganyika Basin and Katuma river under Lake Rukwa Basin by transplanting native species of Khaya anthotheca, Swahili: Mkangazi and Ficus sp. Swahili: Mkuyu respectively so as to restore them into their original conditions and thus continue to provide the environmental benefits for people and biodiversity.

2.1 Objectives

The main objective of the tree planting grants is to support local NGOs and CBOs to plant trees in degraded or deforested lands and riverine in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem in Tanganyika, Uvinza and Buhigwe districts. The specific objectives are outlined below:

1. To establish and maintain tree nurseries of mentioned species per respective selected village by working with local members/potential beneficiaries in a way that will promote community participation and knowledge transfer.
2. Give tree planting and management knowledge to potential pre-selected beneficiaries before actual tree seedling transferring and on the days of tree seeding transferring.
3. Organizing and conduct tree planting campaign (s) where local leaders and community members will be motivated in tree planting and caring for trees.
4. Conduct transplanting and planting tree seedlings on their lands and selected riverine areas in collaboration with communities and water user groups whenever they exist.

3.0 Detailed bidding information table:

| Lot Number | Lot name | District Location | Total number seedlings targeted | Species involved | Source | Nursery duration ready for transplanting |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | Malagarasi riverine | Buhigwe and Uvinza districts | 500,000 seedlings | Khaya anthotheca Swahili: Mkangazi | Seeds | Between 20-30 cm tall |
| | | | 500,000 seedlings | Ficus sp. | Vegetative parts | Between 20-30 cm tall |
| 2 | Katuma Riverine | Tanganyika district | 500,000 seedlings | Khaya anthotheca Swahili: Mkangazi | Seeds | Between 20-30 cm tall |
| | | | 500,000 seedlings | Ficus sp. | Vegetative parts | |
| 3 | Community Pines trees | Buhigwe district | 150,000 seedlings | Pinus caribaea | Seeds | Between 20-30 cm tall |

4.0 Expertise and qualifications required

Local NGOs and CBOs applying the grant must be legal compliant, registered by relevant authorities and have office and experience of working in the target area. They should provide good track record and evidence that they have done similar work in the past and must have good financial management records and capacities including to have a bank account. Previous working experience of establishing and raising of tree nurseries of more than 200,000 seedlings will be an added strong advantage.

5.0 Application procedure and selection criteria.

Suitably qualified Local NGOs and CBOs should submit their technical and financial proposals, resume/CV, of their personnel with technical skills, appropriate experiences evidence on the above-mentioned assignment, legal compliant documents such as certificate of registration, certificate of incorporation, Tax registration, Tax clearance, Financial capacities such as organization assets and at least six-month bank statement. Should the applicant have recent (one year old) financial audited report, will be an added advantage to submit. Submit the lots by email to: hshilinde@tnc.org. Please, note that all application received after the deadline will not be honored. Subject line: Application for tree planting grant in the Greater Mahale Ecosystem. **All applications must be submitted by 20th September 2021.**

N.B: Each bidding lot above in section 3.0 (3 lots) should be treated separately. Applicants can submit all 3 lots applications or 1 or 2 lots as they wish to apply and convenient for them.
For each lot application, the applicants should produce a separate technical proposal and financial budget. However, legal compliant documents and financial evidence documents can be one copy.

TENMET appeals for review, amendment of laws to help girls re-entry to school

By Getrude Mbagi

THE Tanzania Education Network (TENMET) is calling on the government to review and amend the National Education Act of 1978 so as to support re-entry to school of girls who dropped out of school due to various reasons.

The network is also calling for the government to come up with a clear policy guideline that will support the move.

Speaking during stakeholders meeting in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to discuss on the re-entry policy and laws, TENMET national coordinator Ochola Wayoga said the government should be serious on this to support development of this neglected group.

"If we want our young girls to fulfil their educational dreams, then we should conduct major reforms in laws, policies and curriculums so as to ensure that every child has access to quality education as well as chance to re-entry to formal education system by girls who dropped out of school," he said.

He said TENMET conducted a study on school dropouts last year and found that there are still many girls failing to fulfil their educational dreams due to several reasons.

Wayoga said that the network has found that majority of girls who drop out of school do not prefer to go back to formal system but opt to go for alternative education.

"Not all pregnant school girls agree to return after giving birth, a problem which makes the county lose many talents required for the development of the country. Statistics show that some students who become pregnant while studying are afraid to return due to stigma in society and even in schools," he noted.

Wayoga said with this, the government in collaboration with

stakeholders need to invest heavily in constructing enough alternative education centres both in urban and rural areas so as to support the group," he said.

He further said that there should be a national strategy on early identification of girls who have dropped out of school, identification of alternative education programmes (AEPs); Provision of financial and material support necessary for them to continue with their education; providing tailor-made programmes so as to enable them to develop functional skills necessary for earning a living and support their families.

"We are here and will continue working closely with the government stakeholders to ensure that young girls who dropped out of school resume their studies and thus become self-reliant economically," he said.

He also advised that the out of school girls should be given psychosocial services including guidance and counselling, childcare services and reproductive health education.



We are here and will continue working closely with the government stakeholders to ensure that young girls who dropped out of school resume their studies and thus become self-reliant economically



Deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism who is also Special Seats MP Mary Masanja (with mask) hands over gas cookers to CCM women wing Nyamagana district chairperson Witness Makale to support the women activities. The event took place yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Shayo

Ubungo residents complaining of foul smell coming from river Gide

By Amos Alipio, TUDARCO

RESIDENTS near River Gide at Ubungo, Dar es Salaam Region have complained of the unpleasant odour oozing from the long accumulated pile of garbage at the river saying it makes living in the area very uncomfortable.

A resident of that neighbourhood Steven Mwansumbule grumbled that the foul smell produced by the

rubbish at the river when inhaled affects the health of the citizens in the area.

"We have no peace, the river cause foul smells and sometimes we get flu because of terrible smells," he protested.

Janeth Ulasa who is a mother of two and also a resident near the river expressed high concern about kids of that neighbourhood who usually play around the heap of

garbage disposed and abandoned in the river.

"My biggest fear is our kids who sometimes unknowingly play near the waste, endangering their health," she stated cautioning that the waste be removed.

Reached for comments, the health representative of Ubungo ward Ester Ngonyani unveiled that the waste materials are brought by drug addicts during

night time who are sent by few residents who neglect to pay the waste fees to public sanitation authorities.

"We have agreed that whomever will be caught disposing trash near Gide river will have to pay a fine of 50,000/-, I believe by so doing we will be able to eradicate the problem of waste accumulation near the river," she intoned.

Tanzanians told to participate in community dev undertakings

By Erica Kyomo, TUDARCO

TANZANIANS have been urged to recognise the importance of contributing to development activities which will greatly help to stimulate community development.

Project monitoring and management officer from the Community Development Institute Suleiman Mpendo made the call over the week during an interview with "The Guardian".

"We have noticed the presence of low awareness of citizens to contribute to development activities with the idea that development is brought about by the government and their development partners," he pointed out, lamenting that they are not responsible.

Mpendo cautioned the community to realise that they are part of the development in their respective areas, while stressing that they have a responsibility to contribute to development activities.

He stated for instance that if a construction project is being implemented, citizens should at least participate to transport construction materials and by so doing they will be contributing to the manpower but it is rather surprising that you will find citizens leaving various stakeholders to implement projects they themselves are initiating. He revealed that after a research conducted by the institution; they have discovered the need for citizens to contribute to developmental activities.

"We have found that there are some development stakeholders who are implementing projects in our community that do not involve the people and thus raise complaints here and there," he mentioned. He also called on development partners to involve the people from the initial stages of the implementation as it will help the people to see the project as theirs, and as a result protect and take care of it as part of their decisions.

He therefore encouraged stakeholders to do in-depth research in order to understand challenges facing certain communities before going to invest while insisting for them to consider opinions of the residents of those areas which might help them to overcome some of the problems they might face in the cause of implementation.



Hanang' district commissioner in Manyara region Janeth Mayanja (L) and Hanang' legislator Eng Samwel Hayuma inspect the consignment of water pipes being unloaded for distribution in Katesh township on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Drier, warmer season likely to continue across Eastern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

A drier than usual season is forecasted from October to December across Eastern Africa's Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea countries.

A press statement by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) said 2021 is being, and expected to continue to be, a drier than usual year for the majority of the region.

Observations of rainfall over the past months reveal that the region has been facing rainfall deficits in many parts of central and southern East Africa and this is forecasted to continue until December 2021.

Past observed deficits, coupled with our forecast indicate moderate to severe drought conditions in the region, in particular over Uganda, south-western Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, southern Somalia, and Tanzania.

The upcoming rainfall season, October to December, is an important season for Uganda, Kenya, northern Tanzania, southern Kenya, northern Somalia, southern Ethiopia and South Sudan, Rwanda, and Burundi.

According to the statement, in some of the countries, it is the main farming season and it represents up to 70 percent of the total annual rainfall.

However, the season is expected to be delayed by up to 2 weeks, especially over eastern Kenya and southern Somalia.

The forecast indicates that South Sudan, north-western Uganda, and south-western Ethiopia could receive over 200 and 300 mm during the entire season.

There is a lower than usual chance of exceeding 200 and 300 mm over most other regions, in particular

over eastern Kenya and southern Tanzania.

The food security and nutrition situation is likely to worsen especially in the arid and semi-arid regions, requiring the need for expanding humanitarian assistance and interventions across the region.

Generally, poor rains, late-onset, coupled with other non-climatic drivers like COVID-19, economic shocks, and conflict present poor prospects for farming across the region.

More than 30 million people in the region will likely be highly food insecure and in need of urgent assistance through 2021.

Considering the ongoing simultaneous humanitarian emergencies impacting the region, including the COVID-19 pandemic, regional and national authorities are encouraged to use this seasonal forecast to develop contingency plans and update them with weekly and monthly forecasts provided by ICPAC and national meteorological services.

The 59th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF59) was convened online on August 26th by ICPAC (IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre) in collaboration with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the region and other partners to issue the October - December 2021 seasonal forecast.

The virtual forum brought together climate services providers and users from key socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, decision-makers, climate scientists, and civil society stakeholders, among others, to discuss impacts and mitigation measures for the upcoming season.

EAC, IOM in joint efforts to combat infectious diseases

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is implementing a project on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to strengthen the capacity of partner states to prevent and address infectious diseases at hot spot areas.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Christophe Bazivamo said: "We have secured EUR 1.5 million from the German government for the project. The project aims at increasing awareness and enhancing health and hygiene protective behaviours and practices to prevent and respond to the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19."

IOM Regional Director for East and Horn of Africa Mohammed Abdiker said: "The collaboration with EAC is placed within a memorandum of understanding between IOM and EAC and aims at improve migration management in the region."

The project targets high-risk groups and areas in the six EAC partner states, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda that include cross border communities, communities along transport and water ways corridors, urban fragile communities, truck drivers, boda-boda, taxi drivers and migrants. It also includes community leaders and local authorities such as border officials dealing with customs, immigration and port health. The project is expected to reach more than 1 million people with health and hygiene promotion initiatives and install around 19 fixed hand washing facilities at selected areas in the respective countries.

The project, which will be undertaken in close cooperation with Partner States, will contribute

to the implementation of the EAC COVID-19 Response Plan (2020), the IOM COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Plan launched in April 2021 and health relevant regional plans. It will also contribute to the achievement of the WHO WASH Strategy and the regional IOM migration strategy for the East and Horn of Africa addressing the health component.

Preparations started in June 2021 in close collaboration between EAC and IOM at regional and country level and in July the team started collecting baseline data from households, points of entry and health facilities along selected borders and communities to guide field operation.

The construction of the handwashing facilities and the health and hygiene awareness campaign will start in late August 2021. The project runs until December 2021 and the final completion report will be ready by January 2022.

Funds for the programme have been provided by the German government through the Support to Pandemic Preparedness (PanPrep) project, which is implemented through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

The EAC region has experienced communicable, and water borne diseases outbreaks in the past and is still at risk of future ones.

In addition to the COVID 19 global pandemic, the EAC has experienced other preventable outbreaks including Cholera, Measles, Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Yellow Fever, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and E. Coli infections over the past five years alone.

Due to the high human mobility in the region, the communities at the borders and along the transport corridors are continuously exposed to communicable diseases.



Nachingwea district commissioner Hashim Komba Liwale (L) receives the Uhuru Touch from Liwale district commissioner Judith Nguli at Lionja village in Lindi Region on Wednesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Morogoro authorities to provide petty traders with business stalls

THE government in Morogoro Region has pledged to provide all the petty traders with business stalls to ensure they conduct their businesses at safer and clean environment.

To start with, the regional administration will distribute 500 stalls located at the main market Chief Kingalu. Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando made the remarks on Thursday during his meeting with traders whereas they discussed ways on how to improve business environment as well as a better methodology of distributing the new stalls which are constructed by Equity bank.

"We are creating an environment that will allow you to conduct

business comfortably; we want you to run the business professionally so that you qualify for loans from banks and financial institutions," said the DC noting the district in collaboration with Equity bank is constructing the 500 business stalls within the municipal.

Msando said that so far a total of 117 stalls have been constructed and that in the first phase implementation of the project, a total of 222 stalls will be constructed. He said once the stalls are ready, no trader would be allowed to conduct business along roads within the city.

"The Chief Kingalu market area can accommodate 1,000 traders, we do not expect to see traders moving on the streets with their goods or placing them along the roads. We aim at making our municipal operate in a more modern way," he added.

Equity bank manager in Morogoro Region, Christine Mkenda said apart from partnering with district authority in constructing the stalls, the bank is also providing financial education and business skills training to the traders.

According to her, more than 600

traders have benefited with the trainings. She said the bank aims at assisting the traders to achieve their targeted economic goals by assisting them to access business loans.

"We want them to grow their businesses and become big players in the business sector," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the traders, Said Yusufu insisted on the need for traders to unite and speak in one voice to ensure their concerns are heard and worked on accordingly. He said it is better for leaders to ensure equal distribution of the stalls.



Construction of Mabibo road in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam progressing well as captured by our photographer yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THRDC launches Zanzibar branch

A constitutional review of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) Zanzibar branch is now effective in the Island. This was revealed during a one-day annual zonal meeting for Unguja and Pemba zones making way for a well-established route map the branch is set to operate on.

In his opening remarks, the Registrar of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Ahmed Abdulla noted the need for these non-profit organizations to be empowered in various areas including the field of writing proposals to catch potential

partners and fulfill their responsibilities.

He also commended THRDC for the process of establishing a Zanzibar branch as it is one of the law enforcement agencies while urging that the process should be fast so that the registrar's office can register the branch.

"We are ready to develop a good working relationship with you, we also wish that the process will not take long so that the registrar's office can register the branch and develop teamwork in nation building," he intoned.

THRDC's National Coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa reminded participants of the main purpose of the coalition which he said is to ensure that human rights defenders are recognised by the community, as well as the authorities in both mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar Island.

"The government is a major stakeholder in human rights, which is why this session has involved the registrar," he explained, hoping that the Zanzibar secretariat will grow hand in hand with the authorities.

He highlighted that the branch will perform tasks similar to those of the coalition, the only difference being in the implementation area.

"This will also enable THRDC's activities to be practiced on a daily basis, and not just on special events as it is done now," he elaborated, ensuring members of the branch that their views are very important as far as the branch is concerned.

Olungurumwa stated that the work that will be done is the same as building the capacity of their members and the human rights defenders.

Kenya to receive 4.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines by September

NAIROBI

KENYA'S Ministry of Health has reported that it is set to receive 4.5 million doses of various COVID-19 vaccines by mid-September to boost an on-going vaccination exercise.

Speaking during a virtual meeting with journalists, Vaccine Deployment Taskforce Chairperson Willis Akhwale said 1.7 million doses of Pfizer and 2 million of Sinopharm will arrive in September while 393,600 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine will arrive by the end of August. He said an additional consignment of 500,000 will be received in weeks ahead.

Akhwale however cautioned that Sinopharm is not yet approved for those over 60 years old.

"When it comes to prevention of severe disease, these vaccines are almost the same. There is no vaccine that is superior to the other. What you see in terms of comparison, is prevention of mild to moderate disease in different set ups. There has never been a study that compared the efficacy of these vaccines one to one," said Akhwale. He called on Kenyans to take advantage of the availability of the vaccines and get vaccinated saying that is the only way to attain herd immunity.

"There is a strong encouragement that people need to take these vaccines. There could different tactics to ensure that this encouragement goes through and it is not only in Kenya especially with other employers, you can see in other countries, people cannot go to work if they are not vaccinated. In scarcity if you choose, you may actually die," he said.

Currently, the ministry is administering AstraZeneca and Moderna, the only vaccine types that are available in the country.

Akhwale had earlier announced that Kenyans will be vaccinated with the vaccine that will be available at the vaccination center that they visit

with no option of choosing specific vaccine types.

"We are trying as much as we can to have one particular vaccine within a vaccination post and if you go there, you will be vaccinated with that vaccine. We may however have two different vaccines in the coming days when we receive Pfizer but they will be administered from different clinic areas and people will not be allowed to choose," he said on Monday when 880,460 doses of Moderna vaccines arrived from the US through the COVAX facility.

The Health Ministry said the Moderna vaccines are part of the 1.76 million doses donated by the US government through the COVAX facility.

The Moderna doses are set to boost the ongoing nationwide vaccination exercise, supporting the government's quest to get at least 10 million adult population vaccinated by December 25.

The vaccines were received by Health Principal Secretary Susan Mochache who announced the increase of vaccination centres from the current 800 to 3,000 to offer one specific type of vaccine.

"We plan to allocate one vaccine type to each vaccination post. We do not want to have a cross mix of vaccines within facilities so that those designated to offer Pfizer will offer Pfizer, those designated to offer Moderna or AstraZeneca will do so. This will enable people to choose which post to be vaccinated at," Mochache said.

She said the ministry targets to vaccinate at least 150,000 people a day after receiving freezers with a 3 million dose capacity.

By August 24, over 2.5 million people had been vaccinated among them 786,340 who had receive the two shots required to be considered fully vaccinated.

Statistics placed the number of COVID-19 incidences reported since March 2020 at 230,794 with 4,564 fatalities and 215,374 recoveries.

AU ought to expand actions in favour of gender equality

GENDER equality, also known as sexual equality or equality of the sexes, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making; and the state of valuing different behaviours, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.

Gender equality is the goal, while gender neutrality and gender equity are practices and ways of thinking that help in achieving the goal. Gender parity, which is used to measure gender balance in a given situation, can aid in achieving gender equality but is not the goal in and of itself. Gender equality is more than equal representation, it is strongly tied to women's rights, and often requires policy changes. As of 2017, the global movement for gender equality has not incorporated the proposition of genders besides women and men, or gender identities outside of the gender binary.

UNICEF says gender equality "means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike."

On a global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices against women and girls, including sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, gender wage gap, and other oppression tactics. UNFPA stated that, "despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. This partly stems from the archaic stereotypes of women being labelled as child-

bearers and home makers, rather than the bread winners of the family. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence."

As of 2017, gender equality is the fifth of seventeen sustainable development goals (SDG 5) of the United Nations. Gender inequality is measured annually by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Reports.

The proposed Kinshasa Declaration, launched in July, this year at the Generation Equality Forum has outlined concrete actions for African Union member countries to advance gender equality in Africa by 2030.

The proposed Kinshasa Declaration called for doubling the number of women's organisations that can access funds from national economic stimulus programs and external funding.

One of the key recommendations of the declaration is to campaign for a quota system of at least 40 per cent of women

Julienne Lusenge, member of the Panel of Experts in charge of accompanying the DRC during its chairmanship of the African Union for the year 2021/2022 said: "This proposed declaration makes a crucial contribution to the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment by proposing concrete actions and tools for measuring success towards gender equality in Africa by 2030."

According to her, the proposed declaration, calls for the development and strengthening of human rights and culture of peace curricula in at least 50 per cent of primary and secondary schools, including the integration of age-appropriate information on existing laws, conventions, and action plans with a focus on gender equality and positive masculinity by 2030."

Why modern agriculture is important

THERE is really little mystery about why agriculture is important. It is the physical foundation of human energy, health, and physical well being. All key components of every important human activity. To the degree these components are missing, the human existence is defined primarily by the effort necessary to provide them. Making them more widely available at lower costs increases the capacity of any population to invest in more productive work, education, economic development and cultural activities.

The basic facts are clear, more people the world over eat more and better because of modern agriculture. Increased production continues to enable steadily improving diets, reflecting increased availability of all foods, dietary diversity and access to high-protein food products; the additional food modern systems provide has enabled hundreds of millions of people to realize more of their potential and better lives—thus enhancing the achievements of all, from students to retirees.

It increases workforce productivity and generally supports human development and growth; the current hunger and malnutrition that extends to some one billion people reflects poor policies, low productivity and low incomes. Failure to continue to apply new technologies to advance productivity on the farm and across the food system simply worsens every aspect of these problems, especially those forced on individuals and families who live in poverty.

To a very large extent, current food insecurity problems reflect bad

policies, poor infrastructure and low economic productivity in the nations where these conditions occur, rather than a physical lack of food or food production capacity; the significant hunger and malnutrition that persist in many parts of the world would have been far worse had agricultural systems not grown and developed as they did; the physical pressures on the environment that have become increasingly prominent public concerns have been greatly ameliorated by modern agriculture, which has reduced, the need to expand land area, and thereby reduced pressure to cultivate fragile lands and forested areas.

Modern agriculture includes successful new technologies, including biotechnology to enable both higher yields and reduced environmental impacts. these reduce the land, fertilizer and pesticide use per unit of output; pressure on grassland, forestland and cropland thus increasing wildlife habitat as a result;

While the unintended negative environmental consequences of modern agriculture are frequently noted, little mention is ever made of the negative environmental impacts that frequently arise from smallholder farming, especially from slash and burn primitive systems in wide use in developing countries where vertical rows are often planted up steep hillsides, resulting in some of the world's heaviest soil erosion, badly polluted watercourses and many other problems of both efficiency and sustainability. The lack of sustainability of these practices can be seen in the fact that they typically lead to abandonment of successive plots year after year;

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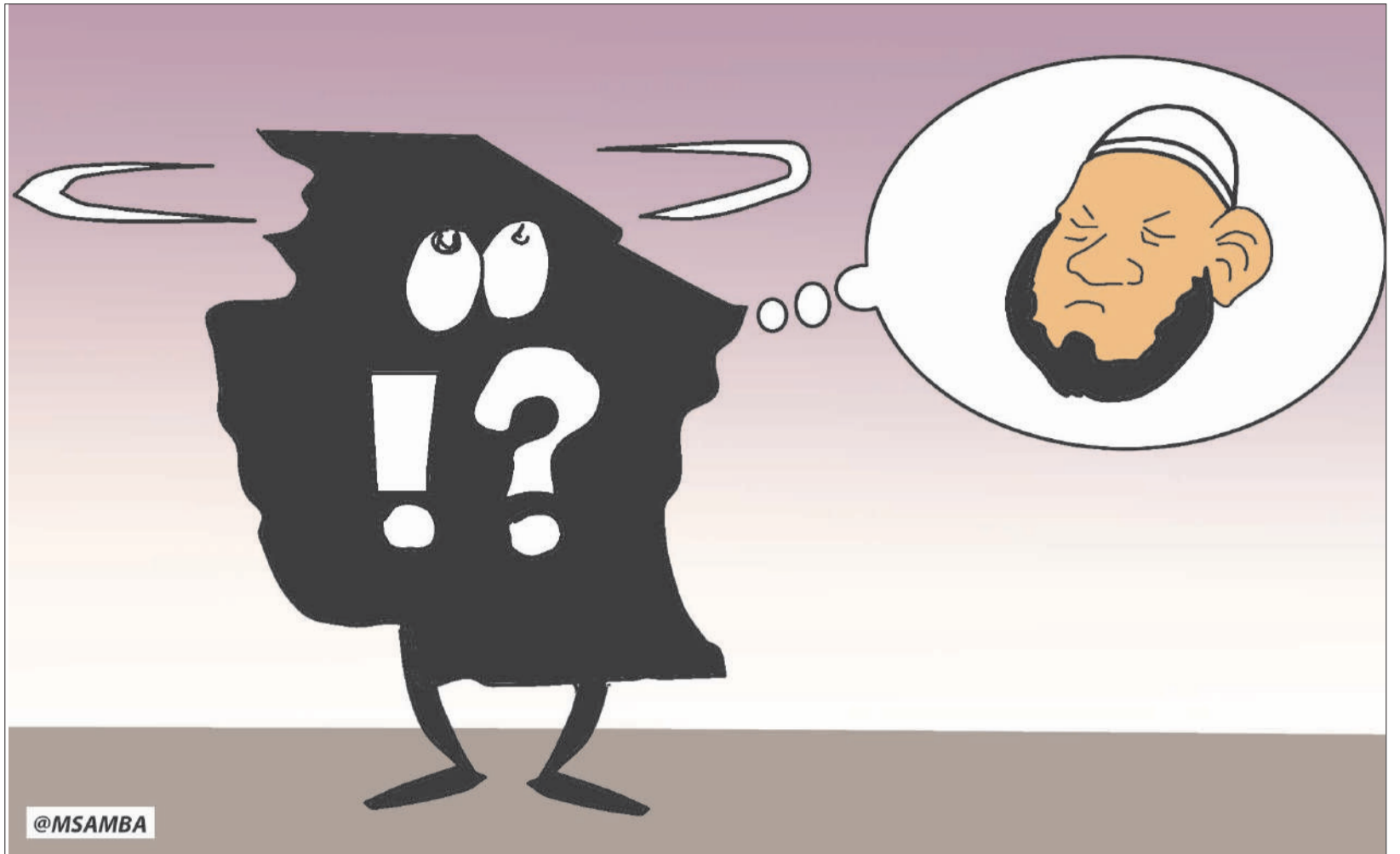
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By Ruben G. Echeverria

A population of more than 9 billion people, hotter temperatures, decaying ecosystems and increasingly severe natural disasters. That is what our world is facing by 2050 because of climate change.

Even before the addition of some two billion people, the world still struggles to ensure enough food for all, with around 700 million people going hungry worldwide today.

An ever-growing population demands an intensification of agriculture to provide greater amounts of food if we are to avoid the spectre of an even greater hunger crisis.

In low-income countries, where investment in intensification is most needed, less than five per cent of agricultural output is spent on innovation, accounting for \$50 to \$70 billion. Of this, only seven per cent of investment is dedicated specifically towards more sustainable forms of intensification.

Therein lies our problem. Without new ideas, methods, and innovation, intensification means expanding agriculture onto finite uncultivated lands, such as rainforests, and placing an even greater burden on essential resources like water.

This tension between sustainability and productivity is the dilemma at the heart of our twin hunger and climate challenges, both of which demand a solution.

By Cyril Ramaphosa

CALLED upon to be at the forefront in this defining moment in the life of our nation, our young citizens are meeting the vaccination challenge with enthusiasm and bravery.

Today, I want to speak to the young people of South Africa. Young people are turning out in impressive numbers to get the Covid-19 vaccine. This fills me with great pride. Over half a million South Africans enrolled on the day that registration for over-18s opened.

The young people of our country are giving us all hope that an end to this time of hardship is within our sights.

As I watched young people being interviewed while queuing at vaccination centres I was impressed by their enthusiasm and excitement. Most of all I was impressed by their knowledge about the vaccine, how it can protect, and why it is necessary.

I heard young men and women speaking of the need to protect those at risk in their communities. I read a post online by a young person urging those who follow her on social media to take heed of the early days of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, when young

How to feed the world without starving the planet is a \$15 billion question

but neither of which can be tackled alone. Solving this dilemma is the answer to a \$15 billion question.

A new study has revealed an annual investment gap of US\$15.3 billion to fund the research and technologies that can help farmers worldwide produce more food without eating up more natural resources.

By increasing our current levels of investment by at least 25 per cent, and channelling it into targeted areas for maximum impact, we can help alleviate global hunger and climate change at once.

But investing our time, energy, and money smartly and efficiently requires understanding which existing practices already work, where there are gaps in our knowledge, investment, and research, and how best we can fill them.

Crucially, the research also shed new light on the areas where investment can have the greatest impact on productivity while minimising the environmental footprint of food and agriculture.

For example, by investing in new technologies that allow farmers to use water more efficiently, it is possible to increase crop yields while bringing down agricultural water use by 10 per cent by 2030. These kinds of technologies can

help increase profits, reduce food prices and save farmers - and the planet - water.

The clear benefits of improving the efficiency of water use for agriculture warrant an additional investment of \$4.7 billion, which is all the more critical given that only seven per cent of existing investments target environmental outcomes.

Secondly, investing in better training and learning services for smallholders in developing countries, would provide more equitable access to the latest agricultural knowledge and support.

More knowledgeable and efficient farmers will then be empowered to produce more safe and nutritious food, potentially lifting as many as 140 million people out of poverty and hunger.

Currently, around half of the private sector's investments into developing countries focus on agricultural inputs such as seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers. Complementary public investments in technical assistance would equip farmers to deliver healthier and greener food for their communities.

Finally, investing in smallholder finance will meet the unmet demand among farmers in developing countries for more capital with which to acquire the

technologies and systems for a more efficient and sustainable agricultural intensification.

Investing into new and emerging financial mechanisms for agriculture offers the unique proposition of providing critical lines of credit and finance for farmers while also incentivising more sustainable practices, through green and blue bonds, or payments for ecosystem services. For example, an additional \$6.5 billion a year by 2030 would be enough to subsidise the uptake of innovations that would bring down greenhouse gas emissions to deliver a mitigation trajectory in line with the Paris Agreement.

There is no escaping from the problems posed by the future. As the population of the world grows, so too do the pressing challenges of climate change and hunger. But investors should not settle for solving one problem without addressing the other and should look to the agricultural innovations that make decisive action on both fronts possible.

With smarter investment in new agricultural technologies and policies we can feed the world without harming it, addressing our dual climate and hunger problems at once, and providing a healthier and greener world for future generations.

The way young South Africans are stepping up in the fight against COVID-19 fills me with hope and pride

people died unnecessarily because they believed false stories that were then circulating that antiretroviral medication was deadly, or because they disregarded advice to practise safe sex.

The maturity that young people have brought to the important task of vaccinating as many South Africans as possible calls to mind the words of Frantz Fanon, that it is up to each generation to discover its mission and fulfil it.

In 1994, millions of South Africans stood in queues to fulfil the mission of liberation. Many young people stood in those long queues to cast their vote for the first time.

Today it is the turn of the new generation of young people.

Today's young people are being called upon to step up and be at the forefront in this defining moment in the life of our nation.

Last week, we passed the milestone of 10 million vaccine doses administered. Nearly five million people are fully vaccinated, which means they have received one dose of the J&J vaccine or two

doses of the Pfizer vaccine. But we still have a long way to go.

This is where young people come in. We are calling on them to go out and get vaccinated so that we reach our goal.

I was not surprised to see young people taking to this task with such determination. Since the pandemic broke out 17 months ago, young South Africans have been an integral part of the national effort to battle the coronavirus.

We have seen the youth step up to keep themselves and others safe. We have seen youth formations and community organisations, young leaders, influencers and content creators using their platforms to share public health messages with their peers.

Young people have been brave and forthright when they have seen friends or popular personalities violating the regulations at parties, grooves and gatherings. They have called them out.

We have seen how young people have been helping with the national vaccination drive, even when they

were not yet eligible themselves.

We are proud of the young volunteers in our communities, like those from #GrandkidsforGogos who assisted the elderly with vaccination registration at social grant pay points. One young volunteer was asked what motivated her and she said: "I am where I am because of the elderly."

I hear such powerful words from young people often. Despite the hardship caused by the pandemic, they are still optimistic, and they still want to be of service to our country. By getting vaccinated they aren't just protecting themselves, but also those around them.

There is still a lot of shady content being circulated out there about the vaccine. These conspiracy theories are far-fetched, and I am calling on young people once again to not circulate them.

These messages are harmful, and are making people hesitant to get vaccinated. This is not only harmful to young people, but many others, including people at risk who really need the vaccine.

THE LAW & YOU

Right to life: Death penalty losing ground worldwide – part 2

By Telesphor Magobe

FOUR weeks ago I showed a momentous global downward trend of the death penalty and executions, according to Amnesty International Report 2020. I said since three thirds of world countries (about 67 per cent) had abolished the death penalty either in law or in practice, it is high time we rethought of its constitutionality and effectiveness and strike it off the statute book and commute it to life imprisonment.

In Tanzania, murder and treason (according to the Penal Code) and misconduct of commanders and servicepersons in the presence of the enemy (according to the National Defence Act) are the only offences punishable by death. However, Tanzania is an abolitionist of the death penalty in practice for no prisoner on death row has suffered death by hanging as provided for by law for more than 20 years.

In *Ally Rajabu and Others v United Republic of Tanzania* [2019], the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights declared that the mandatory death penalty was a violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights 1981 and ordered the government of Tanzania to take necessary measures in one year from the notification of the judgement to strike it off the statute book, but this hasn't been implemented.

One reader has reacted to the heading of my article and sent me an article he wrote in 2016. In his article, he decries the killing of albinos and the abolition of



the death penalty or its commutation to life imprisonment.

"Once a death sentence is passed it must be carried out with meaningful diligence to fulfil the constitutional right to justice owed to the one whose constitutional right to live was cut short...An indefinite stay of an execution of a death sentence with the intention of letting the convict live on until his natural death is a de facto abolition of death penalty. It is being dishonest to a constitution in which a de jure abolition is not prescribed," he says.

Obviously, the death penalty does not serve the ends of criminal justice (deterrence, prevention of crime, retribution and reformation of the offender). While it is too cruel to be practised in civilised nations, it also offends the fundamental right to life. In some jurisdictions, prisoners on death row have narrowly escaped executions after new compelling evidence exonerated

them. This casts doubt on its justification.

The allusion to a legal aphorism "better that 10 guilty persons escape, than that one innocent suffer" (attributed to English jurist William Blackstone) is Genesis 18:21-32. God's outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin is so grave that God says "I shall go down and see whether or not their actions are at all as the outcry reaching me would suggest. Then, I shall know."

Interceding for the innocent, Abraham asks God: "Will you really destroy the upright with the guilty? Suppose there are 50 upright people in the city. Will you really destroy it? Will you not spare the place for the sake of the 50 upright in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to put the upright to death with the guilty, so that upright and guilty fare alike! Is the judge of the whole world not to act justly?...I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be 10." "I shall not destroy it," God replied, "for the sake of the 10."

Commenting on Blackstone's 10:1 ratio, Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, said "it is better a hundred guilty persons to escape than one innocent person to suffer."

Where there is cooked evidence or where the prosecution relies on forced confessions obtained through torture to stick to the death penalty is to continually condemn the innocent and exonerate the guilty. Using torture to obtain information from suspected criminals implies that some people are convicted on the basis of false confessions. This cannot be in the interests of jus-

tice!

Ivan Šimonovič, then Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, in the book *Death Penalty and the Victims* published by the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (2016) says "punishment should be life-affirming and not life-ending."

Šimonovič believes "there is a strong correlation between states that execute and states that resort to excessive use of force, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment. But it is not only states: individuals who support the death penalty are much more likely to be more lenient towards excessive use of force, torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and some other human rights violations."

Judicial murder (state execution) or extrajudicial killing is depraved: none serves the ends of criminal justice, but each of them fosters vengeance. So, the death penalty neither deters would-be offenders nor does it decrease the incidence of crime.

As a prominent American lawyer, Mr Clarence Darrow, argues: "[t]he greater the sanctity that the state pays to life, the greater the feeling of sanctity the individual has to life." If we value human life and exercise good judgement, we must abolish the death penalty and commute it to life imprisonment as this corresponds better to being fair, doing justice and affirming the sanctity of life. It is also the measure of civility.

• The author is a lawyer. He can be reached at tmagobe@gmail.com

How central govt relocation to Dodoma affects the real estate business in Dar city

By Francis Kajubi

ONE can tell that it has been a long journey of sweat, pain and tears that real estate developers and managers went through since the past four years to date, as they strive to put the economic sector in shape again as it was before 2016.

Their tireless efforts in establishing the sector that contributed 3.1 percent of the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) with US\$1.5 billion in 2019 up from US\$1.2 billion in 2015, met its doldrums in late 2016. Developers and managers argue that the sector's contribution to GDP would have been even higher if business wouldn't be disturbed in Dar es Salaam. How?

The late President Dr John Magufuli had a mission of realizing the statesman's dream Mwl Julius Nyerere of relocating the central government's activities to the capital city Dodoma. Nyerere had a dream to relocate the central government's institutions from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma in 1975.

Following that dream, Dr Magufuli disbanded the then Capital Development Authority (CDA) on May 15, 2017 after long processes of abolishing the institution which was established in April 1978. CDA's properties, employees and operations were then moved to the Dodoma Municipal Council. That was the first step taken to realize the long lived dream.

Prior to CDA abolishment, Dr Magufuli had on July 23, 2016, directed all government ministries and institutions to immediately relocate to Dodoma.

Thereafter, Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa insisted on the directive by declaring February 2017 as the deadline for all ministers, their deputies, permanent secretaries and heads of departments to have their office relocated to Dodoma. With this directive, the doldrums started to appear within the real estate sector leading to a drastic shortage of property tenants and buyers in the central business district (CBD) of Dar es Salaam.

Though property managers have tried their best to bring down rental and purchasing prices, the business had no hope for investors during the past four years. In earlier 2016, rental prices ranged between US\$17 to US\$22 per square meter. Selling prices were even higher at between US\$180,000 and US\$380,000 under mortgage payment by commercial banks but a bit lower if one buys in cash.

Today, property rental prices in the city stand at an average of US\$14 per square meter while purchasing prices stand at an average of US\$280,000 though some property managers market their blocks even

at lower prices to this average.

A month-long survey by The Guardian has discovered that 70 percent of commercial skyscrapers in Dar es Salaam that were put on market between 2016 and 2017 are yet to be sold out or leased out. At least 23 commercial properties in the city center and another six in Masaki posh neighborhood whose names and managers are withheld for now, are 50 percent vacant regardless of being on the market for almost six years now.

One amongst victims of the central government's relocation is the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) which launched its One Stop Center tower earlier October 2016. TPA had struggled to find tenants to occupy the 40 flats skyscraper for almost 18 months up to May 2018 when it decided to hand it over to the UTT Amis for managing the commercial building by hunting tenants on its behalf.

UTT Amis Plc was tasked to lobby tenants at a rental price of US\$12 (27,827/-) per square meter and US\$2.92 (6,780/-) service charge per square meter. These rental prices have been maintained until today. One of the tallest standalone buildings in East Africa has a price tag of over 120bn/-.

Among other amenities, the building contains a 50 square meters rotating restaurant, 1,200 square meter conference room, parking lots that can accommodate 500 cars at a time, a viewing deck facing the Indian ocean and another 300 square meters normal restaurant.

Sebastian Ivambi, UTT Amis Plc Property Manager, told The Guardian in an interview that since the central government's offices relocated to Dodoma, the business became even harder because harassment to the private sector had already disturbed the business in mid-2016.

"The relocation to Dodoma kept us in a complete house of pain. We have been striving for tenants and buyers since then. Developers had invested heavily in the real estate sector especially in Dar es Salaam believing that it is the country's business hub. But all of the sudden things were turned upside down," said Ivambi.

According to him, 80 percent of commercial blocks in the city before the relocation had been occupied by government institutions. Public institutions used to lease or rent 500 square meters and above on five years contracts thus beneficial to developers. He said as for now he is striving to find tenants most of whom afford 40 to 50 square meters.

"In the real estate business the lowest letting or leasing period is five years, but unfortunately, we are now negotiating even with tenants who are ready to pay for a three



TPA's one stop center and PSPF twin-tower in Dar es Salaam's city centre.

year contract. The building is now occupied by 64 percent where 90 percent of the occupied space is under normal tenants;

There are very few corporate tenants. The only corporate tenants we have are CRDB, NMB and TCB. There are also public entities offices such as TBS, EWURA, and others just for easing the port's operations for the business community. But they lease small spaces as well" added Ivambi.

He asserted that before 2016 at least 10 new commercial blocks were annually entering the local market. He said that things have not changed yet but hopes for the bright future as the government has promised to revisit its business and investment policies.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Economic Status report for June 2021, states that in 2020, the National Housing Corporation (NHC) constructed 1,164 properties in various district councils of the country for both commercial and residential purposes compared to 7,331 properties built in 2019.

Of the 1,164, affordable residential properties were 468 and middle and high priced commercial properties were 696 houses.

On the other hand, Watumishi Housing Company (WHC) built 70 both residential and commercial properties in 2020 compared to 845 properties in 2019.

Maryjane Makawia, Public Relations and Sales

Officer, Watumishi Housing Company Company (WHC) shared the same woes to this paper.

"To be honest, the real estate business has been very tough in the past four years. The relocation to Dodoma has given us a hard life. On top of the relocation, Covid-19 eruption has further disturbed the business. Our shareholders lost hope of investing their money in the real estate business. Instead, they opted for industries which was also a challenge," said Makawia.

According to her, WHC shareholders are pension funds namely Public Service Pensions Fund (PSPF), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and National Housing Corporation (NHC).

"We hope for a bright future but only if policy makers will be willing to fix the mess," she added.

The PSPF Twin-tower which is under the management of Knight Frank Property Asset Management suffers the same fate too. It is a mixed use property type with available rental spaces of 600 to 900 square meters.

The Companies Property Manager Elisha Meja declined to comment on whether there have been changes in rental and purchasing prices during the period to attract customers. But Deus Majura, PSPF tower manager, had spoken to this paper in 2017 on the same thing. He said for one to let an office in the 35 flats building, they need to pay rent for between 3-6 months.

"Rental charge for an office at the ground floor is US\$25 per square meter with a service charge of US\$2.5 per sq meter and the tenant also gets one parking space which attracts US\$100 per month as rental fees plus water and electricity bills," said Majura.

Latiffa Kigoda, Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) Public Relation Officer, told this paper that the center has introduced incentives for investors in the real estate sector during the period under review. She said to date, TIC offers the import duty exemption on deemed goods up to 75 percent. The deemed capital goods include building materials and equipment.

A World Bank Cities report on real estate and economic development released May 2017 ranked Dar es Salaam ahead of Nairobi and Addis Ababa in economic value. The report states that the economic value of Dar es Salaam real estate is at US\$12 billion ahead of Nairobi's US\$9 billion while Addis came third at US\$6 billion.

The World Bank report, however, describes Dar, Addis and Nairobi as having low economic and replacement values compared to cities with similar income levels such as Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

China – US COVID-19 tensions: What are the realities on the ground?

By Prof Humphrey P.B. Moshi

THE outbreak of the Corona Virus (COVID-19), in the late 2019, precipitated another dimension of the China – US bipolar rivalry and tensions, to complement the already existing ones of trade, among others. Specifically, the COVID-19 related tensions witnessed the US pointing fingers, shaming and naming China as the source of the pandemic. Indeed, the then President Trump used phrases such as “Plaque from China”, among others, to show that the pandemic originated from China and that being the case, it would be confined to that country, and thus remain a domestic affair.

Conceptually, this was a very wrong perception, given the current level of globalization which has made the world borderless. It is very wrong perception which has resulted in poor management of the pandemic, on the US side, right from the beginning, coupled with subsequent failures and omissions.

Given this stance of mismanagement one would have expected self-correction; to the contrary self-destruction is observable, evidenced by laying blames on China on a number of fronts.

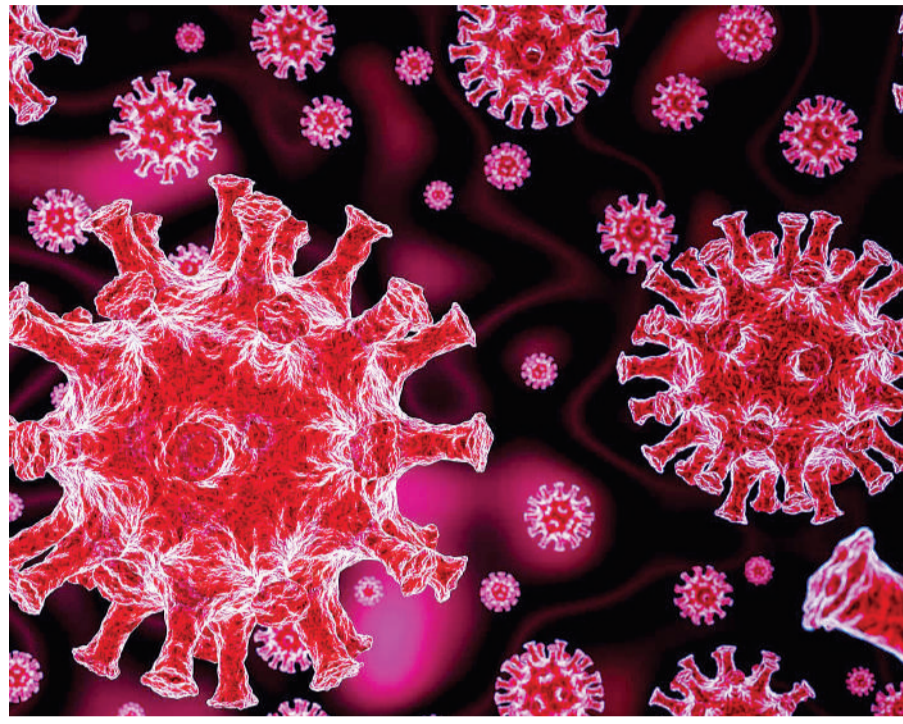
These blames, notwithstanding, US has eroded its credibility and trust, not only amongst its allies, but also across a wide spectrum of world’s population. Indeed, China on the one hand, has scaled – up its credibility and trust amongst its key stakeholders, and positioned itself as an evolving global leader and unwavering development partner, on the other hand.

In the ensuing sections we will attempt to provide evidence on the above claims by using two broad indicators.

One, China’s management cum governance system of the pandemic and the achieved results. Two, China’s global efforts, both regional and multilateral, in containing/fighting the pandemic.

Clearly, these two indicators will show that the blames levelled on China are ungrounded and therefore they should be ignored by any sound or objective thinking persons.

Evidence on the ground shows that, as early as January 2020, the Chinese government mandated a quarantine of Wuhan City, the epicentre of the outbreak. Likewise, control and preventive measures were insti-



tuted in other metropolitan areas such as Beijing and Shanghai.

The objective of these measures was to interrupt the transmission chain with the ultimate goal of reducing the infection and mortality rates among the population. Further, these measures were flanked with those of ensuring sustained supplies of daily necessities and medical personnel and materials were readily available whenever and wherever they were needed.

The success of these interventions were informed by the Chinese governance structure which adopted a whole-government approach, which displayed high levels of coordination efforts between the central and the local level administration. Whereby the central level set up a National Health Commission to activate all round emergence response at the local level. This did result in rapid

mobilization and provision of requisite human and other resources, both at the centre and local governments. In other words, we could claim with confidence that both the centre and the periphery sung the same chorus.

This type of governance is conspicuously missing in the US pandemic management system. Where you see a lot of mismatch between the statements from and actions of the centre differing significantly from those of the states; a sign of poor coordination and response, characterized by unnecessary delays and hesitations, which were underpinned by high levels of polemics.

It is no wonder therefore that infection and mortality rates have been quite high when compared to those in China.

In spite of the negative impact of the pandemic on the economy, especially on the service, manufacturing and trade

sectors, the recovery has been faster than expected.

Thanks to the effectiveness of the interventions adopted by the Chinese government to fight the virus, coupled with timely tapping of the unfolding new opportunities of other industries, such as electronic commerce and online gaming and entertainment.

The other piece of evidence is with regard to how China shouldered its international responsibilities and obligations in the wake of the pandemic. One may recall that there is a slogan which says “The world changed China and China changed the world”. In unison with this slogan, China continues to be a strong believer of globalization and has never changed that position, come sun come rain.

This being the case, during the pandemic period, the Chinese government extended a hand of assistance to a number of countries in terms of medical equipment and tools, as well as vaccines. For example, in the first half of 2021 China has exported more than 500 million doses of its vaccines (Sinovac and Sinopharm) to more than 112 countries and territories, accounting for one – sixth of global output of COVID-19 vaccines.

In the context of globalization China has continued to work closely with multilateral and regional institutions. Indeed, it is widely agreed that multilateralism is an indisputable pillar for the current international order.

In realization of this, the Chinese government strives to advocate for solidarity and cooperation, as the only effective vehicle for addressing global issues such as pandemics, climate change, poverty, conflicts and debt-crisis. In that regard, China appears to be on the front line by being an active participant and provider of leadership in these platforms.

To extent that its profile and image in the world of politics, economics and social affairs keep rising. While on the other side of the coin, US not only promotes unilateralism in the context of “America First Policy”, but also displays failure in providing leadership in these platforms.

One needs to remember that, in the past the US provided leadership in the establishment of multilateral organizations, such as the UN system and its agencies: Food World Programme (WFP); Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); World Health Organization (WHO); and other international organizations, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO); the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Surprisingly, and with big disappointment, this is no longer the case. Currently, the US is withdrawing support from some of these institutions, which are key pillars of international cooperation in this borderless world.

The above two pieces of evidence have shown the active role played by China in combating the pandemic. Likewise, the passive role played by the US was made also quite clear. Furthermore, in the context of global solidarity and cooperation, China seems to be a proactive promoter, while US appears to abdicate its expected leadership role. Given these realities on the ground, it is now up to the reader to assess the “two candidates” (US and China), in terms of the above narrated perform, and then make judgment by using the criterion of either “success” or “failure”.

Humphrey P.B. Moshi is a Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Chinese Studies University of Dar es Salaam



By Peter Fabricius

Tunisia’s Arab Spring remains in peril

THIS week, instead of providing Tunisians with greater clarity about where he is taking the country, President Kais Saïed indefinitely extended the 30-day emergency powers he seized on 25 July.

His actions a month ago were prompted by violent protests. In response, Saïed suspended parliament, revoked legislators’ immunity from prosecution, took control of the prosecutor’s office and fired Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi as well as the defence, justice and civil service ministers.

The president’s political opponents were already calling this a “constitutional coup”. His moves this week worsened the uncertainty and fears that Tunisia’s fragile 2011 Arab Spring is regressing, like all the others in the region, back to autocracy. Tunisia’s is the only transition still surviving.

The situation is certainly perilous. Yet there still seems to be hope, though it will require all Tunisians – with the international community’s support – to come together to rescue the country’s fledgling democracy.

Silvia Colombo, a North Africa and Middle East specialist at the Italian Institute of International Affairs, says Saïed’s actions have enjoyed quite wide support among Tunisians who feel they haven’t reaped the fruits of democracy.

The economy is in terrible shape, worsened by Covid-19. Unemployment is high and rising, and poverty and deprivation are growing. Tunisia relies heavily on tourism, which has been badly knocked by the pandemic. And many felt Mechichi’s government bungled the economy, especially on Covid-19 and the vaccine roll-out.

Many of those who backed the president’s strong measures were opponents, like he is, of Ennahda, a moderate Islamist party in the governing parliamentary coalition that still arouses ideological suspicion.

Colombo notes that Tunisia created a vibrant democracy where power is shared among the presidency, parliament and civil society. The price for this pluralism though is seemingly endless battles among political parties, the



Tunisian President Kais Saïed

speaker of parliament – Ennahda’s powerful leader Rached Ghannouchi – the prime minister and the president himself.

And so for Saïed there were just “too many voices, too much pluralism”. He enacted the emergency measures to assert his authority in an attempt to coordinate the disparate centres of political power.

Saïed wanted to shield Tunisia – a small country of just 11 million people – from what Colombo says was the growing “encroachment” of regional states. These intru-

sions, both ideological and material, meant that Tunisia was starting to be “used as a battlefield for their own struggles”. Indeed the country appears to have become a proxy battlefield of regional contests, especially between the conservative United Arab Emirates and the more radical Qatar.

Yet Colombo says that although many Tunisians agreed with Saïed’s motivations, the emergency measures he took on 25 July were counterproductive. She said they had set the country “on this sliding slope of gradually

but relentlessly abandoning the democratic course and putting Tunisia more and more into the hands of those same external pressures”. By extending those measures on 25 August without showing Tunisians where he is taking the country, Saïed had created “a very dangerous moment”.

The Arab Spring is not yet dead, she nevertheless feels. “Consolidating democracy takes much more time and is a much more painful journey... in which there are u-turns and moments in which the process seems in danger. So what’s going on now is part of this big process.”

Yet Colombo fears that if Saïed allows the uncertainty to drag on much longer, he could inspire another popular political uprising, which could be very damaging for the country’s young democracy. Tunisians are capable of handling the crisis, she says, and should mediate an inclusive national dialogue on the way forward. She adds that external players have been too quiet and should put pressure – through engagement, not sanctions – on Tunisians

to pursue dialogue.

What would Saïed’s roadmap to the future look like if he cared to share it? Would it show a path to autocracy? Matt Herbert, research manager at the North Africa and Sahel Observatory of the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crimes, thinks not. He says the 25 July measures were, as the president said, in article 80 of the constitution. Herbert acknowledges some ambiguities, suggesting that the suspension of parliament might have exceeded constitutional bounds.

He credits Saïed with taking action to address many of the problems Mechichi’s government was bungling. For example, Covid-19 cases have continued to fall substantially, and the number of people vaccinated has increased exponentially since 25 July, Herbert says. Lifting legislators’ immunity has been “tremendously popular” because it has allowed some to be prosecuted for corruption.

Like Colombo, Herbert notes that Saïed hasn’t embarked on a political crackdown with mass arrests of political opponents since 25 July,

as some feared. Tunisia is not a police state and the political debate – including about the new measures – remains vigorous.

Although Saïed has not signposted his future plans, Herbert doesn’t think he intends to go down the road of autocracy. He has faith that, as a constitutional law academic by profession, the president will remain on the constitutional path.

There is speculation, Herbert notes, that Saïed intends to try to amend the constitution to strengthen the presidency relative to parliament. He says this will not necessarily create a dichotomy of autocracy versus democracy, noting that the US has a very powerful presidency. “I think what we’re seeing now is stresses on Tunisian democracy... but at the same time there’s no reason to write the obituary of the Arab Spring.”

It’s a time both of substantial hope and substantial risk. Herbert seems to come down on the side of hope. He believes Tunisia has proven over the past decade that it is a consensual society that should find a collective way to navigate out of the current crisis.

DM

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME | TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME | THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME | FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME | SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME |
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| 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 UMJUAUYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) | 07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO) |

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Malaria trial shows 'striking' 70 percent reduction in severe illness in children

LONDON

A trial combining vaccinations and prevention drugs has substantially lowered the number of children dying of malaria in two African countries, according to researchers.

The results of the study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, have been hailed as "very striking", especially at a time when decades-long progress on combating malaria has stalled in some countries.

Led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the trial showed a 70 percent reduction in hospitalisation or death when young children were given both seasonal vaccinations and antimalarial drugs compared to using just one intervention.

Researchers believe the approach could prevent some of the 400,000 deaths from the mosquito-borne disease every year, most of them children. In 2019, more than 90 percent of the estimated 230m cases of malaria occurred in Africa.

Some countries, such as Eritrea, Sudan and Colombia, have seen a

significant resurgence of malaria in recent years.

The LSHTM research followed more than 6,000 children aged between five and 17 months over three years in Burkina Faso and Mali.

They were given the world's first malaria vaccine, RTS,S and four courses of antimalarial medications - sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine and amodiaquine, known as seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC), during the rainy season, a time of high transmission.

The vaccine is being implemented in a large-scale pilot programme in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi. The SMC is the current intervention used in Burkina Faso and Mali.

"The results of the trial were much more successful than we had anticipated," said the study's co-lead author Daniel Chandramohan from LSHTM. "Our work has shown a combination approach using a malaria vaccine seasonally - similar to how countries use influenza vaccine - has the potential to save millions of young lives in the African Sahel. Importantly, we didn't observe any new concerning pattern of side-effects."



The trial found that incidences of hospitalisation and death among those given a combination of the RTS,S vaccine and SMC reduced by 70.5 percent and 72.9 percent respectively, compared with when they were given SMC alone. A similar improvement was found when the combination approach was compared with using the vaccine alone.

The research was conducted with Burkina Faso's Institut de Recherche en Sciences de la Santé and the Malaria Research and Train-

ing Centre at Mali's University of Science, in Bamako.

Pedro Alonso, director of the World Health Organization malaria programme, has welcomed the "innovative use" of a malaria vaccine.

"RTS,S is the first malaria vaccine that has already reached more than 740,000 children through routine childhood vaccination in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in a landmark pilot implementation, through which more than

2.1m malaria vaccine doses have been delivered.

"The level of vaccine uptake by families over a relatively short period shows strong community demand for the vaccine and the capacity of childhood vaccination programmes to deliver it."

In July a separate study led by LSHTM found that more than 8 billion people could be at risk of malaria and dengue fever by 2080 if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise at current levels, as global temperatures would lengthen transmission seasons by more than a month for malaria and four months for dengue.

DUBAI

Gulf Maser settles in the African tech market

FOR many decades, Chinese electronics have dominated emerging African markets owing to the large manufacturing base and low export taxation in China. Not any more.

Not so for Maser - a consumer electronics brand trading out of Dubai has within a short period of time broken the mould to become a household name in East Africa.

The firm manufactures budget-friendly, high quality electronic gadgets and has enabled thousands of price-conscious customers to experience the joys of owning brand

new electronics.

In 2019 for example, Maser sold 200,000 units in Dubai - 70 percent of which got re-exported to impact the lives of African families through entertainment.

2020, brand reached to volume of more than 600,000 units which is more than double making Maser the 1st brand to sell highest number of units in Africa. "We've experienced a sturdy increase in our client base and in subsequent revenue streams. Maser is now looking to be the leading consumer electronics brand in Africa within five years. Our solid yearly plan is on track to guide us to meet this goal," the firm's founder and CEO, Prateek Suri says.

Breaking into the African electronics market that is currently rife with low priced electronics products is not an easy task. By focusing on top product quality at pocket friendly prices, the brand from the Gulf states has indeed quickly risen to become a consumer favorite that is attracting and retaining satisfied buyers. Upon setting

foot in Kenya and Tanzania, the brand has quickly expanded in those markets and is now eyeing new markets in South Africa, Nigeria and Rwanda within the next 12 months.

"Better quality, better customer service and ultimately, a more affordable price. That is Maser's secret recipe. We are aware of the competition, but we rely on modern research about the changing customer preferences in Africa and work through social media to creatively reach the maximum market share," the bullish entrepreneur says.

"We aim to make our products consistently better than those made by the Chinese at a similar price range," he adds. The fast rising entrepreneur was raised up watching his father's business in Delhi India. After trading electronics products for a while, Prateek soon launched Maser in 2014 after discerning a gap for high quality, affordable electronics in emerging markets. He attributes Maser's success to consumer-driven product development and the strategic

his company has set up with different stakeholders across the continent. "Each market is different, and we are therefore engaged in consistent market research

In order to cement our status as the leading consumer electronics brand in Africa," Prateek reveals. Acknowledging that entering new markets is never easy, Maser's CEO says that his firm is well prepared to tackle some of the barriers to entry that go with setting up shop in each African country where they want

to establish footprints. "Expanding is an exciting journey, but it needs to be done at the right time while putting the right strategies in place. Here again, we are working with different stakeholders to better understand the dynamics of each market so we can replicate the rapid gains noted in areas where Maser is already present," he notes.

Based on recent market trends, it is appropriate to say that consumers across the continent are now also sitting up and taking note of Maser - a brand that is satisfying their yearning for high quality, reasonably priced electronics.

Oil palm growing picks pace in Uganda

By Raziah Athman

EDWIN Kiseka first planted oil palm in 2013. Since the introduction of its cultivation in 2005, more farmers keep embracing the crop.

As they prepare to plant new trees in March next year, they are battling price changes, environmental impact and fertilizer shortage.

"I think the biggest challenge is the price fluctuation but I think farmers have now learned how to deal with that. The second challenge is about the fertilizer. We get the fertilizer expensively. It is something that government should look into. We need to have, say, an input shop where a farmer can just walk in and pay for their fertilizer but still at a fair price and not counterfeit fertilizers."

A kilogram of the edible vegetable oil costs 1 dollar, but this can be improved.

Uganda's palm oil exports totaled 45 million dollars in 2020, the government has partnered with private companies to strengthen

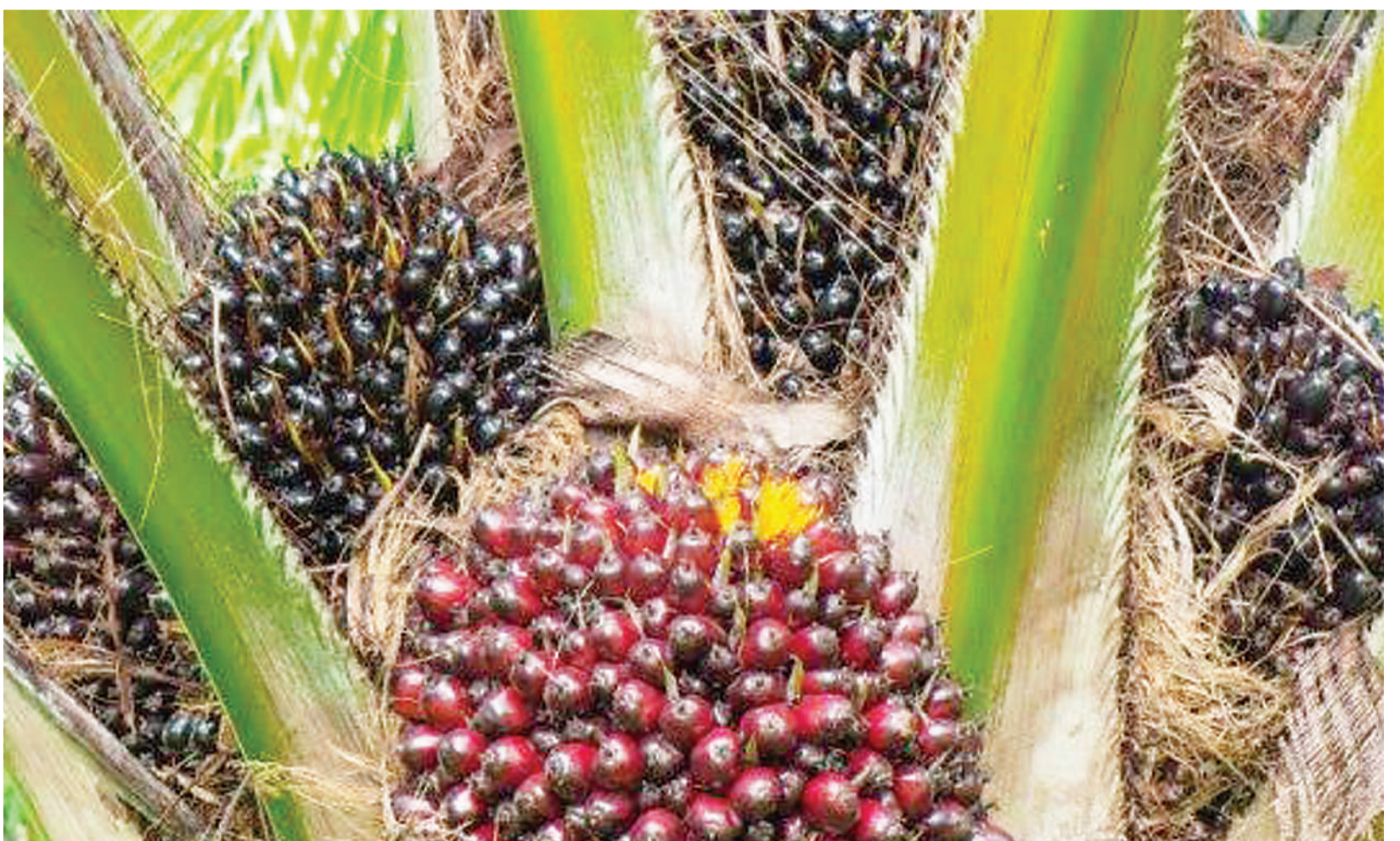
and broaden the market for a crop that is turning lives around in one of Uganda's poorest districts.

"There has been a problem of markets here. Going forward I think this is where the emphasis is going to be put, on how to industrialize the agriculture.

And NDP 3 is putting emphasis on this as well as the manifesto of the current government - they put emphasis on agro-industrialization. This is to create new markets internally," said Ramathan Ggoobi, the permanent secretary of the ministry of finance.

At least 280,000 dollars is generated from oil palm on Ssees islands alone every month. There are not less than one million trees grown.

Raziah Athman, Africanews Correspondent, says, "the farmers on these islands have been enjoying the monopoly of cultivating oil palm but now the project is being extended to other parts of the country. Those new to the crop are taking their chances in what accounts for 33% of global oils."



Growing relationships: Professors work to help African farmers

By Davis Cobb, Georgia

PROFESSORS of the University of Georgia's Tifton campus and their team have recently returned from their latest trip to Nigeria, the latest in their contribution to a nationwide project to help Nigerian farmers develop a joint agriculture-aquaculture farming plan that would diversify their output.

Supported by a \$100 million grant, UGA professors Dr. Gary Burtle, Department of Animal

and Dairy Science, and Dr. Esendugue Greg Fonash, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, have routinely made trips to Nigeria during the past two years.

They travel with a carefully picked team of fellow professors and graduate students to develop a system the Nigerian farmers can adapt and use.

The planned program will introduce raising fish to Nigerian rice farms, which will provide a variety of benefits in return, including diversification of indus-

tries, increase ease of access for fish, improve nutritional status and provide employment opportunities.

However, the professors said the project hinges on the farmers being able to adapt to the new system and profiting from it more than they would the old system.

Fonash's main mission is ensuring the latter is in favor of the new system.

"What we'll be looking at is profitability analysis, are they going to be able to make more money

with this technology than they used to, or not?" Fonsah said. "If the answer is yes, then we're in business, because we'll show them how to make it. It's better than what they were making before, and that will trigger a love for the new technology and will possibly trigger the acceptance and adoption of the technology."

Burtle is helping the catfish farmers find an alternative for their feed, as their only option at the moment is to import it, which is becoming too expensive. Finding a suitable alternative that's

local and easily accessible would take this obstacle off the board entirely.

The entire team is working to help train these farmers in the new farming style, with estimates listing that at least 200 farmers in the Nigerian states of Kebbi and Ebonyi will be trained in this process.

Now in its second year, the project is expected to wrap things up at the end of the third year; however, there are some plans to extend the project time further to reach more farmers in need



They travel with a carefully picked team of fellow professors and graduate students to develop a system the Nigerian farmers can adapt and use

Pacific community warns of threat to education retention in the wake of COVID-19

CANBERRA

BEFORE the pandemic, many Pacific Island countries grappled with low numbers of students completing secondary education. Now experts in the region are concerned that the closure of schools to contain the spread of COVID-19, and the economic downturn, will lead to even more students dropping out of education early.

It's an issue that has consequences for the region's future development, given its large youth population. The Pacific Islands is home to about 11.9 million people, more than half aged below 23 years. And 90 percent of Pacific Islanders reside in the southwest Melanesian countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea (PNG) and the Solomon Islands.

"Many factors affect education retention in the Pacific region, and COVID-19-related disruptions to education have added to the list. It is very possible that, in instances where families are responsible for some or all of the fees for secondary education, some students will not be able to continue their education for economic reasons," Michelle Belisle, Director of the Educational Quality and Assessment Program (EQAP) at the regional development organization, Pacific Community, in Fiji told IPS.

"The teenage years are an important time in a young person's life and, unfortunately, experience has shown that students who leave school before the end of secondary are not likely to return to education until later in their adult life, if at all," she continued.

Many families, now on lower incomes or affected by unemployment since the COVID-19 virus emerged in early 2020, are struggling to afford the costs of transport, fees, and educational materials for their children to attend schools where they are open.

In the Solomon Islands in the southwest Pacific, a nation of about 721,000 people scattered across more than 900 islands, less than half of all children finish primary school. Josephine Teakeni, President of Vois Blong Mere, a civil society organiza-

tion in the capital, Honiara, told IPS that: "Some families have had to delay their children's education while they find ways to get money to pay school fees...to send their children back to school in 2022. Some families have taken the risk of taking loans from formal and informal financial institutions to pay for school fees or support income-generating initiatives to pay school fees."

For years, many Pacific Island countries had strived and successfully boosted universal education. But, while net primary enrolment is high across the region, the numbers of students starting school have not been matched by those completing it. In the Cook Islands, 100 percent of youths aged 10-14 years are enrolled in education, but this declines to 57 percent of those aged 15-19 years. Similarly, 93 percent of people aged 10-14 years are in school in the Solomon Islands, in contrast to 68 percent of the older age group.

Now, the closure of schools, as part of national lockdown restrictions, is exacerbating the loss of learning. UNICEF, which is working with Pacific Island governments to retain students in education, advocates that "with the COVID-19 pandemic now well into its second year, safely reopening schools has become an urgent priority. School attendance is critical for children's education and lifetime prospects." It claims that extending school closures in the Asia Pacific region could result in losses of up to US\$1.25 trillion in future productivity and lifetime earnings for the current generation.

As of 12 August, a total of 93,346 cases of COVID-19 were recorded in the Pacific Islands. The majority were located in Fiji, where there were 38,812 cases and PNG with 17,806.

In both nations, education institutions have shut for periods since the beginning of last year. In PNG, primary and secondary schools closed their doors from March to May 2020, and then again in March 2021, as virus cases rapidly rose. Restrictions were lifted in May, but the Pacific Community reports that many schools have chosen not to reopen because of ongoing fears about in-



Many families in the Solomon Islands and across the Pacific Islands region struggle to keep their children in school due to COVID-19 related economic hardship.

fection. Meanwhile, the lockdown in Fiji, which began on 20 April, is into its fourth month, and students are being encouraged to turn to online learning.

However, while about 50 percent of Fiji's population has access to the internet, this drops to 11 percent in PNG. In the region's most populous nation of about 9 million people, one-third of women and one-quarter of men aged six years and over never at-

tended school prior to the pandemic. Many students, especially in rural areas, have faced significant barriers to participating in tuition being offered via radio, television, and the internet.

"There are lessons provided on TV and radio. Unfortunately, for most children, these lessons cannot be accessed due to radio stations in the provinces having poor signals and connections. Similarly, with TV. If electricity is not provided, lessons

on TV are useless," Dr Kilala Devette-Chee, Leader of the Universal Basic Education Research Program at PNG's National Research Institute, told IPS. She added that high rates of illiteracy in rural communities also reduced the ability of many parents to support their children with home-based learning. A rapid assessment by the PNG Government last year revealed that less than half of students in more

than 72 percent of schools across the country had electricity at home. Only 22 percent of schools reported that most of their students had radios.

"The lack of accessible alternate learning pathways for students outside of formal secondary education completion [across the region] leaves school leavers in many areas with no options for continuing and completing their education," Belisle said. The digital divide could increase inequality in education outcomes, with rural and remotely located students the most vulnerable.

As a development organization with the capacity to draw from expertise across the region, the Pacific Community plays a vital role during this crisis. It's providing governments and educational institutions with research, data, and insights into how the pandemic affects educational practices and outcomes, supporting informed decisions and response plans at the national level.

The organization's gathering and analysis of student learning data, literacy and numeracy assessments and the performance of students in relation to their curriculum "is a priority to understand how the COVID-19 disruption is impacting learners differently and to assess risk factors for different segments of the population," Belisle explained.

"In a post-COVID-19 environment, understanding the challenges of adapting teaching and support of students around disruptions to classroom-based learning, and how to support students learning at home for extended periods, will be critical to maintaining equitable access to quality education for all students."

The work of the Pacific Community's EQAP program, which receives major donor funding from Australia and New Zealand, also includes ensuring the quality and recognition of job-related skills training programs, which lead to micro qualifications, in fields ranging from business management to the sports professions. These initiatives aim to upskill Pacific Islanders to adapt to the changing landscape of work opportunities and build their resilience in times of economic setbacks.

IPS

Overlapping crises of Afghanistan pullout debacle, COVID-19 surge engulf White House

WASHINGTON

OVERLAPPING crises arising from a chaotic exit of U.S. troops from Afghanistan and an appalling surge in COVID-19 cases have engulfed the White House.

The United States hopes to complete its Afghan evacuation by the end of this month, President Joe Biden said during a Group of Seven (G7) virtual meeting on Tuesday, while he has asked for the creation of contingency plans to adjust the timeline if necessary.

The remarks came after Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns reportedly held a secret meeting with Taliban senior leader Abdul Ghani

Baradar on Monday in Kabul.

A Taliban spokesman has said the United States should pull out all troops and contractors from Afghanistan before the deadline. Biden is facing pressure to extend the evacuations beyond the deadline. U.S. House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff told reporters on Monday that "it's hard for me to imagine all of that can be accomplished between now and the end of the month."

In April, Biden ordered all U.S. troops to leave Afghanistan before Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that drew Washington into its longest war, before bringing forward the deadline in July to Aug. 31.

"The Biden administration

seems to feel it important for reasons of domestic politics or international credibility, or perhaps obligation to the Taliban...to keep to this artificial deadline," Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at U.S. think tank Brookings Institution. The United States has been scrambling to airlift Americans and its Afghan allies from the country since the Taliban entered the capital Kabul on Aug. 15. Around 21,600 individuals were evacuated during a 24-hour period ending early Tuesday morning, according to the White House. In total, approximately 58,700 people had left the country since Aug. 14.

As the Biden administration continues to be criticized over the Afghanistan fallout, it is

also struggling to deal with a surge in COVID-19 cases in the United States.

The current seven-day moving average of daily new cases in the United States stands at 133,056, an increase of 14 percent compared with the previous average, according to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) weekly report.

The combined proportion of cases attributed to Delta variant, which is coursing through regions of the United States where many residents refuse to be vaccinated or haven't received the vaccine shots, is estimated to have increased to 98.8 percent nationally, the report showed.

If the overwhelming majority of Americans get vaccinated, the United States could get the

pandemic under control by the spring of 2022, Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told CNN during an interview on Monday.

As of Tuesday, 51.6 percent of the total U.S. population were fully vaccinated, CDC data showed. With the Delta variant, plus the Afghanistan fiasco on his plate, Biden must tread carefully if he wishes to pass his agenda, according to experts.

"There clearly have been many problems in how things have gone, so Biden has to reassure Americans and the rest of the world that he can make adjustments, handle unexpected developments, and deal with the people who want to get out," said Darrell West, also a Brook-

ings Institution senior fellow. "If he can recoup lost ground and move things forward, his agenda should move forward," West argued.

"But it is important that he handles both Delta and Afghanistan in ways that are effective. He has a lot riding on the next few weeks."

Congressional Democrats are trying to advance Biden's economic package on Capitol Hill. Biden's overall job-approval rating has dipped below 50 percent among adults for the first time in his early presidency, according to a new NBC News poll released on Sunday. The polls showed 49 percent of adults approve of Biden's overall job performance, while 48 percent disapprove. The poll also found fewer

Americans support the Democrat's handling of COVID-19 than they did last spring, and just a quarter of respondents approve of his handling of Afghanistan.

It's all produced a "summer of discontent" for Biden, said Democratic pollster Jeff Horwitz of Hart Research Associates, who conducted the survey with Republican pollster Bill McInturff of Public Opinion Strategies. "The promise of April has led to the peril of August," Horwitz said, pointing out that the pandemic -- more than Afghanistan -- has dented Biden's numbers. "It is the domestic storm, COVID's delta wave, that is causing more difficulties at this stage here at home and for President Biden."

Xinhua

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One

DIETING

Why millets are magic bullets against lifestyle diseases

NAIROBI

FIFTY-YEAR-old Abigail is a crop farmer based in Homa Bay. For many years, she has relied on her agricultural produce to feed her family and get income for other basic needs.

Most of her land is dedicated to maize, which she considers as her main food and cash crop. "We all eat Ugali, here in my village as well as other parts of the country. So, this is why I focus more on the maize so I can sell to many people," she says.

Since she was diagnosed with high blood pressure three years ago, Abigail notes that her medical expenses have gone up, putting a strain on her limited financial resources. Yet, long dry spells and insufficient rainfall – exacerbated by climate change – have been affecting her crop productivity, leading to reduced maize harvests and income losses. Abigail is among the many farmers in Kenya's arid and semi-arid areas that have over the years given priority to maize planting at the expense of other food sources.

Nutritionists and food security experts are concerned that this shift, which was largely influenced by market dynamics, has relegated other food crops, which are significant contributors to the health and well-being of indi-

viduals, on the sidelines.

In addition, this overreliance on maize is considered a major contributor to the food insecurity challenges in Kenya, which predispose families to nutrition-related health complications and massive income losses whenever the crop fails.

The challenge is not unique to Kenya. A past report by the International Crop Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat) indicated that just four crops – maize, rice, wheat and soybean – provide two-thirds of the world's food supply. Their prominence is equivalent to the massive investments in their production, at the expense of other food crops for many decades.

To address this challenge, health experts are calling for increased awareness creation, investment and a renewed focus on 'forgotten crops' to help curb food insecurity and the growing burden of diseases that can be alleviated through the highly nutritious neglected food crops.

Key among them are millets and sorghum, which aside from being drought tolerant, are now considered as 'magic bullets' against non-communicable diseases like hypertension, heart problems and diabetes. These three complications are increasingly affecting many Kenyans and burdening the health sec-



Millet

tor. Yet, millets can help minimise this challenge.

A new study published in the *Frontiers in Nutrition Journal* indicates that the consumption of millets can reduce cholesterol levels as well as lipids or waxy fats quantities in the body. If left unchecked, high cholesterol and lipids levels increase people's risk of suffering from cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension, heart attacks and strokes. Based on the study, which was led by scientists from Icrisat, millets also enable people to have a good Body Mass Index (BMI), hence protecting them from obesity, which is not only linked

to cardiovascular ailments but also other diseases such as cancer.

"Obesity and being overweight are increasing globally in both wealthy and poorer countries, so the need for solutions based on healthier diets is critical. This new information on the health benefits of millets further supports the need to invest more in the grain, including in its whole value chain from better varieties for farmers through to agribusiness developments," said Dr Jacqueline Hughes, the director-general at Icrisat.

According to the researchers, the results of this new study

brings critically needed scientific backing to ongoing efforts aimed at popularising and returning millets to diets, especially as staples, to combat the growing prevalence of obesity and being overweight in children, adolescents and adults.

During the research, the scientists analysed the data of nearly 900 people from about 19 past studies that assessed the impact of millets on people's health status. The results of the research showed that consuming millets reduced diastolic blood pressure by five percent and total cholesterol levels by eight percent, lowering it from high to normal lev-

els in the people that were studied.

In addition, the findings also indicated that consuming millets reduced the BMI measurements by seven percent in people who were overweight and obese, increasing their possibility of returning to a normal BMI or weight. All the results were based on the consumption of 50 to 200 grammes of millets per day for between 21 days and four months.

"We were very surprised by the number of studies that had already been undertaken on the impact of millets on elements that impact cardiovascular diseases. This is the very first time anyone has collated all these studies and analysed their data to test the significance of the impact. We did that, and results came out very strongly to show a significant positive impact on risk factors for cardiovascular disease," stated Dr Seetha Anitha, the study's lead author and senior nutritionist at Icrisat.

"This latest review further emphasises the potential of millets as a staple crop that has many health benefits. It also strengthens the evidence that eating millet can contribute to better cardiovascular health by reducing unhealthy cholesterol levels and increasing the levels of whole grains and unsaturated fats in the diet," said Prof Ian Givens, a co-author of the study and Director at the University of Reading's Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health in the UK.

Joanna Kane-Potaka, a co-author of the study and executive director of the Smart Food initiative at Icrisat noted: "A key recommendation from the study is for government and industry to support efforts to diversify staples with millets, especially across Africa and Asia."

Another research paper, which the *Frontiers in Nutrition Journal* published recently, has shown that eating millets can reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Among those with the disease already, the results indicated that millets can help them to effectively manage their blood sugar levels.



Chanel Flap Bag.

POPULARITY

Pre-owned Chanel handbags are now extra valuable in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

THE resale market for luxury goods in South Africa is booming, particularly with brands that are hard to come by locally and almost impossible to buy abroad due to ongoing travel restrictions.

Luxury brands have bounced back from a dismal 2020, with LVMH – the holding company for Louis Vuitton, Christian Dior, Givenchy, Marc Jacobs, Kenzo, and others – reporting 56% growth during the first half of 2021. The net worth of Bernard Arnault, executive chairman of LVMH, has grown to \$190 billion (R2.8 trillion), making him one of the richest men in the world.

And while the luxury retail sector has shown a resilient rebound amid the global pandemic which has tightened most pockets, the pre-owned luxury market in South Africa has seen exceptional success, according to a report by the country's biggest reseller, Luxity.

Luxity recently opened two new stores – in Nelson Mandela Square

and Menlyn Maine – and recorded sales growth of 117% for the first half of 2021. Luxity's analysis of trends in the pre-owned luxury market shows a significant increase in returns for handbags, while shoes dropped in value compared to 2020.

The value of pre-owned handbags by Chanel, the French luxury fashion house founded in 1910, has grown by 7% over the past year, overtaking Louis Vuitton and Christian Louboutin. "This was influenced by a strong demand for the timeless brand as well as the fact that the company does not have a store in the country," Luxity noted in its market report.

"Therefore, with travel restricted, Chanel accessories could not be bought in any other way." This is especially true for the Chanel Medium Classic Flap. While its retail price increased by only 5.21%, its resale value grew by 17.25%. "This resulted in Chanel once again taking the top spot of investment return when compared to gold over the tracking period starting in 2008," explained

Luxity.

Unlike the luxury shoe category, which saw a drop compared to 2020 due to supply outweighing demand, Chanel handbags have become rarer due to pandemic-induced travel restrictions. "Generally, most clientele that can afford a new Chanel handbag are travelling on a regular basis and Chanel is well represented in most popular travel destinations globally, besides on the continent of Africa," Michael Zahariev, co-founder of Luxity, told Business Insider South Africa.

"There is no way to import directly from Chanel as they do not sell online or virtually. Due to this, the only way to obtain a Chanel handbag would be through a pre-owned reseller locally, like Luxity."

Therefore, with limited supply, Luxity only buys from locals, the price consumers were willing to pay for a pre-owned Chanel locally rose substantially as it is their only means of access... conversely now is a great to sell your unused Chanel handbags."

RELIEF

Study of 200,000 people shows Covid-19 vaccine 'zero threat' to fertility

LONDON

SCIENTISTS have debunked myths circulating on social media that claim vaccines against Covid-19 could cause infertility.

Incorrect claims that the Pfizer vaccine could cause a woman's body to attack the placenta, leading to infertility, were dismissed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the UK. College spokeswoman, Prof Lucy Chappell, an obstetrician at King's College London, said there was "no plausible biological mechanism" by which the vaccine could affect fertility.

"When you get the vaccine you develop an antibody to the spike protein, similar to if you had a Covid-19 infection," Prof Chappell said. "Those antibodies don't affect your fertility. There have been myths that the proteins are similar, but lots of proteins are similar. "It doesn't mean that the vaccine can impact your fertility."

Pfizer vaccinations have been made available for women in their 13th week of pregnan-



A worker packs flowers for export at a farm in Naivasha Kenya, in February this year.

cy in Dubai since June. The Dubai Health Authority recommends that expectant mothers consult their doctors before being inoculated.

Other similar vaccines, such as those used to fight flu or whooping cough, have for years been used safely by pregnant women or those trying to start a family. Such non-live vaccines are proven to be safe.

During clinical trials for Covid-19 vaccines, data showed that the percentage of women who had been vaccinated and then became pregnant was the same as those who received placebos. Researchers also monitored sperm counts for men who received the vaccines compared with those who did not.

Vaccines safe to take during pregnancy

Social media posts highlighted guidance issued by the UK government in the early stages of the vaccine campaign stating it was unknown if the Pfizer vaccine affected fertility. The scientific description of "no evidence" was a result of no long-term research to support the vaccine.

That has since been amended in UK government advice, and updated to state that animal studies do not indicate any harmful effects on the reproductive system. Anecdotal reports worldwide among women support medical statements that vaccines are safe during pregnancy, and for those trying for a baby.

A new £7.5 million (\$10.39m) UK government study, led by St George's, University of London, will investigate and monitor the immune response in pregnant women and their babies to vaccination at different dose intervals. Dr Pat O'Brien, vice president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, welcomed the trial, but emphasised that the current evidence shows women should not be concerned.

"We now have robust data of nearly 200,000 women from across the US and the UK, who have received the Covid-19 vaccine with no safety concerns," he said. "This tells us that both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are safe in pregnancy."

FEMINISM

'It's become like group therapy for women in jazz': On the legacy of all-women bands

CAPE TOWN

THE #MeToo movement of 2017 has been described as cathartic for some women and triggering for others. It was both for University of Cape Town (UCT) graduate and jazz diva Lana Crowster.

In 2018 Crowster started the all-women Lady Day Big Band, named to honour legendary but beleaguered jazz singer Billie Holiday. This band is a haven, a nursery, a safe space for women. Crowster, 33, started singing at two and first performed at six. At 15, that joy in song began to mature when she joined the Belhar Music Collective in a community where gangsterism and "really bad stuff" was rife. "It was when I realised, I had something here," she told UCT News during Women's Month.

"And sometimes, especially as women, we tend not to realise how powerful we are, with talent and skills, until somebody recognises that in us. And that is 100% what happened for me." Besides, music is in her blood. "My mom and dad were quintessential shower sing-

ers," she said. "They love a good karaoke, you know. The radio was always on; there was always music playing."

Community soul

But in Belhar she also learnt how much soul there was among the community, grist to any jazz singer. "When you don't have anything else and you're trying to make the best of your situation; there's courage there and these innovations that come with that and creativity."

Crowster was one of the fortunate, she said; one of those who got a chance to make something of her creativity. "And I absolutely want to pay that forward." She owes much to her parents, who perhaps sensed the jazz in their daughter at an early age. Come matric, Crowster said she had two options: music or engineering. "I would have been a very unhappy engineer," she said. But it wasn't an immediate decision.

"I had to do a PowerPoint presentation to my folks to persuade them to let me take a gap year



Lana Crowster founded a safe space to nurture young women in music.

because they were like, 'What are you gonna do now?' A gap year is not a thing their generation grew up with. Come September [the next year], I was like, okay, I want to study now. And I want to do music."

At UCT she went through the jazz programme and developed a "huge, huge love" for jazz. For those who've heard her sing swing, it's palpable. "But the portion of it that connected with me most was the big band era. You know, you've got this machine of a live band full of instrumentalists behind you; you've got this vocalist that has this big voice - it's the charisma, it's the show.

And it spoke to the performer in me because before I'm a singer, I'm a performer. It's a Crowster thing. We've all got it."

Crowster sang with the UCT Big Band, with the Alumni Big Band and Professor Mike Campbell's Big

Band. "It had always been a goal to have a big band of my own. I always knew it was gonna happen, I just didn't know how."

Big band era

All-women big bands grew from the World War II era when women stepped into the breach left by men enlisting for the war effort. First came the International Sweethearts of Rhythm, who broke race, class and gender boundaries ahead of their time. Other big bands followed: The Darlings of Rhythm, Ina Ray Hutton's Melodears and the Sharon Rogers All-Girls Band. They took their opportunities, and they built large followings.

The early all-women bands also offered sanctuary. Women came into their own, unhindered by gender-based stereotypes or power dynamics. By 2018 these feelings had coalesced for Crowster

and many other women in the music and arts industry, which unregulated, was notorious for sexual predation, she said.

"So, all of that together and my frustration with hearing heartbreaking tales of what my amazing, amazing musician colleagues had gone through... I was just like, you know what, this is the time to start a big band." Crowster spread the word. She was serious.

"It was really important for me to make sure that this was not seen as a gimmick. We're all learned musicians. We're all brilliant instrumentalists, we're just deciding to make music together with just women.

"I just wanted my colleagues to have a safe space to explore music, to explore themselves and to discuss these 'situations' in the music business ... So, it's become like group therapy for women in jazz."

Legacy project

Crowster is also mindful of the young girls out there, who, like her, need these nurturing spaces. "The Lady Day Big Band is essentially a legacy project," she said. "Another reason I started the band is because I wanted to create something that little girls who love playing music and are instrumentalists can look up to and aspire to be part of ... The idea is to have a revolving roster of musicians coming through, constantly evolving."

Many of the women who joined the band have since hived off to start their own projects where before, they haven't had the courage or felt safe to do so. Sustainability and empowerment are key, said Crowster.

"I just want to make sure I can be part of that and take people from grassroots level, from where they are, and help them to grow

and grow and grow. Because it's not cool to say, here, here's some money, go and get some lessons. There are all kinds of other things [needed], like mentorship."

The business of music

There's also the business side of the passion, which she discovered early. Crowster has made good on plans to develop sound business thinking among local musicians. Talent is one part, the tip of the iceberg; the other is about the hard graft of making it work and making a sustainable living.

"I just want to help these kids because I went through a lot of things growing up in terms of being a musician and being a woman musician. They were really unnecessary. I look back and I know if somebody had said that ... or warned me about that ... I wouldn't have gone that route."

A few years back Crowster started teaching 'the business of music' to the UCT South African College of Music's fourth-year students. She also conducted workshops for those planning to make careers in music, presenting at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance (AFDA) - a school that offers film, television, performance, business innovation and technology, radio and podcasting courses.

There's a hunger for information and professionalism. Too many young talents are being lost to bad business advice or practice, she said. It's another way she wants to pay it forward. But she needed a relevant qualification.

With an eye on the two top master's qualifications in music and business at Berkeley in Boston and New York University, Crowster was faced with a choice. The New York University master's was more in line with what she wanted to do.



Shaloom Mutabazi and her unique makeup samples.

UNIQUE

Meet Shaloom a special effects makeup artist

KIGALI

SHALOOM MUTABAZI had been doing beauty makeup for a long time. She however, switched gears to become a special effects makeup artist with the aim to help Rwanda's film industry thrive. She says that she has always been very enthusiastic and creative when it comes to make-up as a young lady, which inspired her to want to do more than simply beauty make-up.

"As a makeup artist, I get the opportunity to express myself and turn an actor into a character," said Mutabazi. Even though she is a freelance makeup artist, the 22-year-old also does makeup in her mother's hair salon. She says that the salon has served as a platform for her to train and gain experience.

Her style includes beauty makeup, which entails enhancing a person's appearance with various cosmetic products and special effects makeup, such as prosthetics, paints, moulding, and transformations. She has been doing this professionally since 2020. "Ever since I started, I have been learning and developing my skills in makeup, and I made different professional connections," she said.

She continued that since she started, she got opportunities to apply her skills in different places. "I worked with different movies in Rwanda where I did special effects makeup to actors, and the movies are yet to come out," said Mutabazi.

Mutabazi highlighted that special effects makeup is a growing industry and soon, it will be something big in the Rwandan community, especially in cinema. "This is something which should work out, it's starting out, but with more people developing these visual tricks, it'll grow big," said Mutabazi.

When asked about her ambitions, she said that she wants to see the Rwandan film industry reach a high level where Rwandan films would be seen on a variety of platforms thanks to enhanced visual gimmicks and special effects makeup. She stated that additional effort is needed to attain that level.

"As makeup artists, we need to document ourselves more, practice harder, and expand our skill sets," she said. Mutabazi addressed the challenges she faces in her profession. She claims that acquiring materials is difficult and expensive since they must order from abroad, and shipping costs are high.

SOUVENIR

Katy Perry unveils shoe range inspired by trip to Egypt

CAIRO

THE American singer, 36, has included odes to the country's ancient kingdom in the latest releases for her eponymous footwear range, Katy Perry Collections.

The Dark Horse singer offered a glimpse at two new designs, stocked on Amazon and the Katy Perry Collections website, on her social media pages on Wednesday. "Sometimes my real life experiences inspire," Perry captioned the post, which showcases two sandals artfully displayed on a bed of sand.

A golden-hued rubber sandal is emblazoned with an emblem of a pyramid, while a black version is completed with an ank. The symbol is an ancient Egyptian hieroglyph commonly used to represent the word for "life."

Perry also included a glimpse of her

travels to Egypt in the post, adding a photograph of herself visiting the Pyramids of Giza in Cairo. The singer, who welcomed daughter Daisy with fiancé Orlando Bloom last year, can be seen sitting atop a camel in front of the illuminated pyramids. Perry and Bloom visited the North African country in 2019 to mark the singer's birthday.

"Ancient Egyptians believed that when you pass on, your heart had to be weighed. It had to be lighter than a feather to be qualified for the trip to the afterlife," Perry said at the time. "My mother has called me 'feather' since I was a little girl and I hope after all is said and done my heart is as light as one. This is 35."

The star's visit also inspired another design, released last month, from her eponymous shoe line. The black strap sandal is adorned with an Eye of

Horus, another symbol dating back to ancient Egypt, in diamante.

"Legend says the Eye of Horus represents well-being, healing and protection. Who couldn't use some protection from head to toe?" Perry captioned the shot. Perry first unveiled her namesake shoe line in 2017. The range was criticised in 2019 for introducing slip-on loafer mules.



Ancient Egyptians believed that when you pass on, your heart had to be weighed. It had to be lighter than a feather to be qualified for the trip to the afterlife



Katy Perry Egyptian sandals.

ENTERPRISING

Decommissioned buses turned into public toilets for India's female commuters

NEW DELHI

EVEN though she has a comfortable job, Dighe used to be filled with consternation at the thought of having to use the store's toilet. It is a unisex space shared by customers and staff, and is "constantly dirty" owing to overuse, being cleaned only once every day or two. "It smells and I don't like to enter it," she says.

A year ago, Dighe discovered a "Ti bus" ("ti" translating as "her" from Marathi) - a restroom inside a decommissioned bus, parked about five minutes away from her workplace. Since then, she's used it regularly. Cleaned after every use, the toilets within the bus "feel nice and fresh." Dighe says she can also wash and freshen up there, since running water and a mirror are always available, unlike the bathroom at her workplace.

Dighe is not alone. Her peers, women working elsewhere in the market in shops and small offices, as well as female sweepers, vada pav and chai hawkers, security guards and police officers who do not have access to clean toilets in their vicinity, are also regulars, says Manisha Adhav, the attendant who works at the Aundh Ti bus.

Currently, 12 decommissioned city buses in Pune have been converted and refurbished into restrooms by SaraPlast, a private sanitation company. Located near public parks, bus stops and tourist centres, the buses-turned-bathrooms fulfil a deficit for women not only in Pune, but also in Hyderabad, Andaman and Nicobar's touristy Neil Island and, as of next month, in Noida and Gandhinagar.

It is common for women in India to scramble to find a clean toilet during their daily commute to work, school or while running errands. Bus stops, crowded markets and even tourist spots either lack hygienic restrooms or don't have one at all, leading women to avoid drinking water for hours.

The True Cost of Poor Sanitation, the most recent report on the subject conducted by Lixil, WaterAid Japan and Oxford Economics, in 2016, stated that a lack of access to sanitation cost India 5.2 per cent of its GDP in 2015. The situation has not improved much since then. Every person, whether rich or poor, should have access to a good, clean toilet.

Pune has only 1,240 toilets for a population of 6.8 million, according to the Pune Municipal Corporation. Some of these are non-functional, and many others are used as dumping grounds for tobacco and cigarette butts. Most Indian cities also suffer from a lack of constant flowing water in public toilets.

It's why the team at SaraPlast, which is in the business of building portable toilets for construction sites, decided to build these lavatories for women and children. Each solar-powered bus toilet comes with a full-time female attendant and can be accessed either free of charge or for a fee of 5 rupees (25 fils), affordable even for low-income women.



A sustainable business model, the buses include a kiosk selling snacks and masks, plus they sell space for banner ads.

Prior to the pandemic, the average footfall for restrooms was 150 to 200 per day, says Ulka Sadalkar, SaraPlast's director. Each bus has Indian and western-style WCs, which are cleaned after every use. Photo: SaraPlast Private Limited

A study published in the Indian Journal of Gender Studies in 2019, found that women were unable to use public toilets owing to a lack of water, adequate light, accessibility and visibility from main roads, sanitary towel disposal bins and absence of female attendants.

SaraPlast's toilets check all these boxes. Showers, Indian and western latrines, breastfeeding and baby-changing stations, sanitary towels and drinking water are all included in the buses to meet the needs of every woman.

Vaishnavi Rajput, a business development professional in Pune, has become particularly picky about public toilets since the pandemic started. "I choose the Ti bus over a lot of cafe toilets," she says. Sadalkar says: "Every person, whether rich or poor, should have access to a good, clean

toilet."

But to run a sustainable business, the space includes either a kiosk selling masks and juices or an affordable health diagnostic centre, set up on one side of the bus. Banner ads also bring in revenue, which goes towards water supply, electricity, repairs and the salary of the attendant who cleans and maintains the restroom from 8am to 8pm. In India, a public bus goes out of commission after 15 years. Pune's transport department recently auctioned 400 buses for scrapping and has 150 more in its

stores.

Recycling the body of the buses and building toilets within them prolongs their life by up to two decades, aside from the social service it offers. Buses are placed where brick and mortar toilets cannot be built owing to a lack of space and infrastructure.

"I don't have to buy land or get permissions, so it is faster than constructing a concrete toilet," Sadalkar says. "A bus toilet can also be placed on a heritage site without damaging anything, which is a big advantage."

While the running costs are borne by SaraPlast, the funding for construction comes from the CSR departments of corporates, while the local municipality office appoints a location, and sorts out connections to existing drainage, water and electricity lines.

Other cities are following in Pune's footsteps, too. Last year, Bengaluru commissioned SaraPlast to convert a scrapped bus into a toilet and installed it at a bus stop in the city. The concept was so well received that NK Basavaraju, chief mechanical engineer - production at Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation, says: "Now, the city's transport department is emulating the design to create many more bus toilets."

INFLUENCER

'Ici C'est Paris': why is it so hard to find Lionel Messi's T-shirt?

PARIS

FOOTBALL fans in Paris were more than delighted to see Lionel Messi show up in the capital city as he made his way towards joining his new club Paris Saint-Germain after leaving FC Barcelona.

The Argentine superstar, 34, waved to fans as he was greeted by thousands of supporters at Paris-Le Bourget Airport on Tuesday. For the PSG faithful, the moment was made all the sweeter by the fact Messi was donning a T-shirt emblazoned with the club's famed slogan Ici C'est Paris (This is Paris).

Often chanted during home games by fans, the slogan has been popular with the club since the 1990s. It's also the same motto that can be seen on PSG's official merchandise, however, the specific shirt worn by Messi does not seem to be available. A look through the team's website shows other similar tops with the same phrase available for purchase.

Sportswear brand Nike is the kit provider for the French club, meaning it also stocks PSG clothing, but it does not appear to have the same shirt at the moment either. However, since Messi was spotted wearing the apparel, a number of websites, such as TeeChip and RedBubble, have recreated the shirt for purchase, but it should be noted that they are not officially affiliated with the club.

But it isn't only Messi's T-shirt that has sparked fan interest. After announcing he'll be wearing No 30 while playing (a departure from the No 10 he wore while with Barcelona), his jersey reportedly sold out in a mere 30 minutes.

This shouldn't be too surprising, as he has always been a top draw for football fans. According to Soccer.com, Messi had the top-selling football jersey in the US in 2020, above fellow stars Cristiano Ronaldo and Kylian Mbappe.

Messi made headlines around the world after he confirmed this week that he would be leaving Barcelona, a club he's been with for 21 years. He was officially introduced as the newest player for PSG on Wednesday. During a press conference, he opened up about how difficult it was for him to leave his former club, but that he was looking forward to beginning a new chapter in his career.

"You know my exit from Barcelona was a hard moment after so many years it was a difficult change after so much time," he said. "But the moment I arrived here I feel very happy and I want to begin training and I wanted it to be a quick signing."

"I'm enjoying my time in Paris since the first minute my family and I arrived. My only will now is to begin training and I want to work with the staff and teammates and begin this new moment of my life."

"I'm so happy to be here. I have a will to play and I still want to play and win as much as I wanted to at the first moment of my career. This club is ready to fight for all the trophies, this is my goal: to keep growing, keep winning titles and that's why I've come here to this club. I hope we can make it happen."



Lionel Messi in Paris

MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

| ITV PGM SCHEDULE | 21:00 | 19:00 | SUNDAY 28 August | 20:00 |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| MONDAY 23 Aug | Kipindi Maalum: TAMWA | Usafiri wako | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | Series: Beats of Love |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | Chetu ni chetu | Soap: Uzalo | 6:00 HABARI | Telenovela: Lover her to death |
| 6:00 HABARI | Makala Maalum | Habari | 6:40 KumeKucha | Capital Prime News |
| 6:40 KumeKucha | Habari | 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja | 7:00 Habari | Capchat rpt |
| 7:30 HABARI | 23:30 The Base | 23:30 The Base | 8:00 Al Jazeera | 22:00 Al Jazeera |
| 8:00 KumeKucha Michozo | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 00:30 Al Jazeera | 09:00 Watoto Wetu | |
| 8:55 Habari za saa | 02:00 DWTV | 02:00 DWTV | 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt | Frid 27 Aug |
| 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo | WEDNESDAY 25 Aug | FRIDAY 27 Aug | 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt: Biri Yangu | 06:00 Al Jazeera |
| 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo | 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) |
| 9:55 Habari za saa | 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | 15:30 Mwangaza | 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) |
| 10:00 Watoto wetu | 6:40 KumeKucha | 6:40 KumeKucha | 16:30 ITV Top 10 | 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt |
| 10:55 Habari za saa | 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | 17:20 Kipindi cha kikiroto | 12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt |
| 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt | 8:00 KumeKucha Michozo | 8:00 KumeKucha Michozo | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death |
| 11:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | 18:15 Mapishi | 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) |
| 12:00 Al Jazeera | 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo | 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo | 18:30 Mabatizo ya wakii | 16:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love |
| 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu | 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 19:00 Igzoo: Rebecca | 17:30 17:30 Meza huru |
| 12:55 Habari za saa | 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt | 10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt | 20:00 Habari | 19:00 Rev |
| 13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi | 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt | 10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt | 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko | 19:30 Eco@Africa |
| 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 10:55 Habari za saa | 10:55 Usafiri wako rpt | 21:10 Mizungwe | 20:00 Abuu Yako |
| 13:55 Habari za saa | 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 Habari za saa | 21:30 Mjuzi Zaidi | 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition |
| 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt | 11:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 The Base rpt | 22:15 Bongo Movie: Chungu cha Tatu | 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death |
| 14:15 Makala Maalum | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | 00:05 Al Jazeera | 21:30 Capital Prime News |
| 14:55 Habari za saa | 12:30 Jarda la wanawake rpt | 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco | | 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt |
| 15:00 Meza Huru | 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | | 00:00 Al Jazeera |
| 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt | 13:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA rpt | | Sat 28 Aug |
| 17:00 The Base | 13:45 Habari za saa | 13:30 Igzoo: Rebecca rpt | | 08:00 Al Jazeera |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 14:00 Jagna rpt | 13:55 Habari za saa | | 09:00 Rev rpt |
| 18:10 Abu yako rpt | 14:15 Makala Maalum | 14:00 Igzoo: Rebecca rpt | | 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt |
| 18:15 Mapishi | 14:55 Habari za saa | 14:15 Makala Maalum | | 10:00 Culinary delight rpt |
| 18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo | 15:00 Meza Huru | 14:55 Habari za saa | | 10:30 Innovation rpt |
| 19:00 Aya ya Jamii | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | 15:00 Meza Huru | | 11:00 Cut n About rpt |
| 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 17:00 The Base | 15:00 Meza Huru | | 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt |
| 20:00 Habari | 18:00 Jiji Letu | 16:30 Watoto Wetu | | 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt |
| 21:05 Dakika 45 | 18:15 Mapishi | 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) | | 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt |
| 22:00 Makala Maalum | 18:30 Jiji Letu | 17:30 Kisiam | | 13:00B Unness edition rpt |
| 23:00 Habari | 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA | 18:00 Jiji Letu | | 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the Sea |
| 23:30 The Base | 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | 18:15 Chetu ni Chetu rpt | | 14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death |
| 00:30 Al Jazeera | 20:00 Habari | 19:00 Shamba lulu | | 17:45 Bundlesiga kick off |
| 02:00 DWTV | 21:00 Habari | 20:00 Soap: Uzalo | | 18:15 Capchat rpt |
| | 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco | 21:00 Habari | | 19:15 Mizungwe |
| | Ripoti Maalum | 21:30 The Base | | 19:30 The Decor |
| | DWTV: Kesho Leo | 23:30 The Base | | 20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea |
| | Habari | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | 21:00 Out n About |
| | 23:30 The Base | 02:00 DWTV | | 21:30 Movie: Street Kings (tape no.0000) |
| | 00:30 Al Jazeera | | | 23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love |
| | 02:00 DWTV | | | 01:00 Al Jazeera |
| | TUESDAY 24 Aug | | | Sun 29 Aug |
| 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi | | | 08:00 Al Jazeera |
| 6:00 HABARI | 6:00 HABARI | | | 09:00 In good shape |
| 6:40 KumeKucha | 6:40 KumeKucha | | | 10:00 Capchat rpt |
| 7:30 HABARI | 7:30 HABARI | | | 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt |
| 8:00 KumeKucha Michozo | 8:00 KumeKucha Michozo | | | 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the Sea |
| 8:55 Habari za saa | 8:55 Habari za saa | | | 12:00 Jagna rpt |
| 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo | 9:00 KumeKucha Kishindo | | | 12:30 Bundlesiga Kick Off rpt |
| 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | 9:30 Soap: Uzalo | | | 13:00 In good shape rpt |
| 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt | 10:00 Watoto | | | 13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love |
| 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt | 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt | | | 15:15 Abuu yako |
| 10:55 Habari za saa | 10:55 Habari za saa | | | 15:30 Dakika 45 rpt |
| 11:00 The Base rpt | 11:00 The Base rpt | | | 16:45 Mizungwe rpt |
| 11:55 Habari za saa | 11:55 Habari za saa | | | 17:00 The Decor rpt |
| 12:00 Al Jazeera | 12:00 Al Jazeera | | | 17:30 Meza huru |
| 12:30 Habari za saa | 12:30 Jue sheria rpt | | | 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt |
| 12:55 Habari za saa | 12:55 Habari za saa | | | 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights |
| 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt | 13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt | | | 20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea |
| 13:40 Shika Bamba rpt | 13:55 Habari za saa | | | 21:00 Dwe News Africa |
| 14:00 Shika Bamba rpt | 14:00 Makala Maalum | | | 21:30 Capchat live |
| 14:15 Makala Maalum | 14:55 Habari za saa | | | 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death |
| 14:55 Habari za saa | 15:00 Meza huru | | | 00:00 Al Jazeera |
| 15:00 Watoto wetu | 15:30 The Base | | | |
| 16:30 The Base | 16:00 Watoto Wetu | | | |
| 17:00 The Base | 17:00 The Base | | | |
| 18:00 Jiji Letu | 18:00 Jiji Letu | | | |
| 18:10 Yu wapi | 18:15 Mapishi rpt | | | |
| 18:15 Igzoo: Mizungwe rpt | 18:30 Jagna | | | |
| 18:30 Uchumi na biashara | | | | |
| 19:00 Jarda la wanawake | | | | |
| 19:30 Soap: Uzalo | | | | |
| 20:00 Habari | | | | |

WORLD

Washington blamed as COVID-19 exporter as deportations stepped up

WASHINGTON

THE United States is exporting the coronavirus as it steps up deportations of undocumented migrants, experts say in highlighting how the country is hampering global efforts against the pandemic. Critics also take aim at the lax exit control measures for US citizens traveling abroad during the outbreak.

The accusations follow the US Department of Homeland Security's resumption of fast-track deportation flights at the end of July for migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Officials have cited the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19 as a factor in their actions.

The US Customs and Border Protection agency detained more than 176,000 migrants between July 1 and 28, the highest number since US President Joe Biden took office in January, the CNN network reported, citing preliminary data it had obtained.

Wei Nanzhi, a research fellow at the Institute of American Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the "irresponsible" move could exacerbate the spread of COVID-19 in Latin America.

"It is more apparent than ever that the deportation is placing migrants and Latin America at risk," she said. "It's irre-

sponsible and places unnecessary risks on some of the most vulnerable. It is disrupting the global efforts in containing the pandemic."

The deportations are not a new phenomenon. At the beginning of the pandemic, the US beefed up the pace of expulsions of undocumented immigrants from Mexico and Central American countries. Officials claimed it was a must-do action to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the US.

However, before their repatriation, the asylum-seekers and other migrants were held in cramped border facilities where the virus spreads easily.

In late April, Guatemala said that nearly a fifth of the country's coronavirus infections were linked to deportees from the US. On one deportation flight, 71 of the 76 returned tested positive for the virus. Similar accounts have also come from other countries receiving the expelled migrants.

"That makes it all the more bitterly ironic that the US, with the largest number of coronavirus cases in the world, is now consciously spreading the pandemic beyond its borders by continuing to deport thousands of immigrants, many infected with the coronavirus, to poor countries ill equipped to cope with the disease," an opinion article in The New York Times said in June 2020.



In this July 5, 2021 file photo, people pull their suitcases to the border crossing into the US to begin the asylum process, in Tijuana, Mexico. AP

Earlier this month, a research report titled "America Ranked First?! The Truth about America's Fight against COVID-19", blamed the US for "exporting the virus" and intensifying a worsening in the COVID-19 situation in developing countries.

The report said the US has been the world's biggest pandemic spreader and had an "inescapable responsibility for the spread of the virus worldwide".

The US has adopted a hands-off attitude when it comes to its exit control measures.

According to data released by the National Travel and Tourism Office, 23.195 million US citizens had traveled abroad from April 2020 to March 2021.

When the US was facing its peak of the pandemic, the number of US citizens traveling abroad also peaked.

From November 2020 to January 2021, with the average daily number of confirmed cases exceeding 186,000, the corresponding figure for US citizens traveling abroad was 87,000, according to official figures.

Lax control policies

The result of the overlap of massive infections and laxity in internal and external control policies is the rapid spread-

ing of the coronavirus to other countries, said Li Wen, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

A study published in May 2020 by Tel Aviv University found that more than 70 percent of coronavirus patients in Israel were infected by a strain that originated in the US. New Zealand media reported that the US had been the second-largest source of its imported COVID-19 cases since the start of the outbreak last year to early January this year.

The US' failure to take effective exit control measures is giving the virus the freedom of movement, Wei said.

In addition, US military personnel who disobeyed strict anti-pandemic measures had also posed a threat to host communities.

Last July, dozens of COVID-19 cases were detected at US military bases in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture, with the military later confirming two cluster infections. In May, a large number of US military personnel on leave in South Korea gathered at Haeundae Beach in Busan without masks, sparking public anger.

Agencies

Xi-Putin call demonstrates shared will to strengthen ties, address global issues

MOSCOW

THE phone conversation between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on Wednesday has demonstrated the two countries' resolve to deepen partnership and address pressing issues facing the international community.

Analysts believe that China-Russia cooperation in various fields, including the development and production of COVID-19 vaccines, will continue to grow, benefiting both nations and helping with the global fight against the pandemic.

Besides, joint efforts by the two permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to help stabilize the situation in Afghanistan are expected to contribute to regional peace and security.

ROBUST GROWTH OF TIES

In Wednesday's conversation, Xi said that since the beginning of this year, China and Russia have taken the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation as a new starting point to promote strategic coordination and comprehensive practical cooperation between the two



countries.

The two countries should explore new ways of cooperation, expand cooperation areas and work to achieve more cooperation results, he told Putin.

In the latest development, track-laying work of a cross-river railway bridge linking Tongjiang City in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province with Nizhneleninskoye in Russia was completed last week.

This bridge is expected to become a new westward Eurasian passway linking China and Russia, as well as Europe, which will be of great significance to promoting high-quality development of economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Against the headwind of the pandemic, China-Russia trade in the first seven months hit 75.49 billion U.S. dollars, up 28 percent year on year, according to Chinese customs data.

"Russian-Chinese trade and economic relations are recovering amid the pandemic," said Vladimir Petrovsky, chief researcher of the Center for Russian-Chinese Relations Studies and Forecasting, the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, the Russian Academy of Sciences.

China is the only major economy to achieve sustainable growth in the current adverse conditions, and a lot depends on China and Russia when it comes to world affairs and the global economy, he said.

JOINT FIGHT AGAINST PANDEMIC

During the call, Xi said China is ready to work with Russia to deepen cooperation on vaccine development and production and ensure the safety and stability of the global supply chain for vaccines, so as to protect the lives and health of the two peoples and contribute to the building of a global community of health for all.

"Russia and China are two powerful global forces that have both contributed to the fight against the coronavirus," Petrovsky said, not-

ing that the two countries have supplied vaccines to developing countries.

Some developing countries are in dire need of vaccines, while developed countries have amassed a great amount but moved slowly to help, said Hanat Baisek, president of the Kazakhstan-China Trade Promotion Association. He hailed China and Russia as responsible countries, which have delivered numerous doses to others and boosted the recipient countries' confidence in defeating COVID-19.

On COVID-19 origins tracing, Petrovsky stressed that Russia supports China's position that it is absolutely unacceptable to politicize the issue.

"Politics should not interfere in this process," he said. "We see that the United States, to put it mildly, is not coping with the pandemic successfully, hence their desire to shift the blame."

Xinhua

WHO hopes for air bridge into northern Afghanistan in days

GENEVA

MEDICAL supplies will run out within days in Afghanistan where the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday it hoped to establish an air bridge into the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif with the help of Pakistani authorities within that timeframe.

Trauma kits and emergency supplies for hospitals, as

well as medicines for treating chronic malnutrition among children are among priority items, said Rick Brennan, WHO's regional emergency director, describing the needs as "enormous and growing".

At least one Islamic State suicide bomber killed 85 people, including 13 US soldiers, outside the gates of Kabul airport in twin blasts on Thursday evening.

"Right now because of security concerns and several other operational considerations, Kabul airport is not going to be an option for the next week at least," Brennan, speaking from Cairo, told a UN briefing in Geneva.

"One of the problems we have in Afghanistan right now is there is no civil aviation authority functioning but we are working with Pakistan particularly in the

context of Mazar-i-Sharif airport. Because they can work with contacts on the ground that all the necessary steps to land an aircraft, to land a cargo aircraft, can be put in place," he said.

Turkey has not made a final decision on a Taliban request for support to run the Kabul airport after foreign forces withdraw over security concerns and uncertainty in Afghanistan, President Tayyip

Erdogan said on Friday, adding talks were still underway.

Insurance rates for flying into Afghanistan have "skyrocketed at prices we have never seen before", Brennan said.

"So we are trying to jump through that hoop at the moment and once we have addressed that we will hopefully be airborne in the next 48 to 72 hours."

Agencies

Key document released on CPC's role in progress for humanity

By Cao Desheng

A senior official of the Communist Party of China on Thursday dismissed concerns that China is challenging the political system in the West, and said that the nation never seeks to export its ideology, values or development model.

Washington's defining of its relations with Beijing as a rivalry between two systems is "untenable, wrong and harmful" and will ultimately result in a division and even confrontation in the international community, said.

Liu made the remarks at a news conference organized by the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee on the release of a key publication entitled The CPC: Its Mission and Contributions.

The document stressed that the CPC is a political party that seeks happiness for the people and progress for humanity, and "achieving national rejuvenation is the historic mission of the CPC".

In response to a question about US claims that the CPC is the biggest threat to Western-style democracy, Liu said: "Does this mean that the US lacks confidence in its democracy?"

Or has it seen its flaws, and these flaws have also been witnessed by the whole world? What is there for the US to worry about if its democratic system is good and supported by the people?" He stressed that there should not be only one formula or model of democracy in the world. "A country's democratic system should be based on its reality, historical and cultural traditions as well as its people's will. It is against the principle of democracy that one country wants to impose its democratic model on others."

The CPC's leadership and the socialist system in China, including the country's democratic system, are historical choices made by the Chinese people, he added.

"The Chinese people work for, benefit from and safeguard socialism with Chinese characteristics. The people highly identify with and support our democracy, and have full confidence in our own system," Liu said.

Liu rejected the unfounded claim that China is playing a dominant role in the international community and international affairs, saying that the country gives due respect to people of other countries in pursuing development paths suited to their own national conditions based on their specific circumstances and sovereign rights.

China supports countries with different civilizations, systems and religions in carrying out exchanges and mutual learning based on equality and mutual respect, he said, adding that it is also willing to share its development experience and learn from other countries.

Liu also reiterated China's commitment to upholding true multilateralism for win-win cooperation and safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at the core and the international order underpinned by international law.

The so-called "rules-based international order", advocated by a small number of countries, is based on military alliances and is ideologically oriented, with these "rules" formulated by themselves, Liu said, adding that this "order" aims to enable the minority of countries to dominate the world while excluding developing countries from the international system and global governance.

Han Wenxiu, executive vice-minister of the Office of the Central Commission for Financial and Economic Affairs, allayed concerns about China's tightening of its policies toward private and foreign investment due to its recent anti-monopoly measures regulating the development of the internet-based platform economy, saying that the country remains committed to expanding high-level opening-up.

Xinhua

UAE royal visits Qatar for first time since boycott ended

By Bloomberg

A SENIOR United Arab Emirates royal visited Qatar to meet with its emir, the first high-level engagement between the ruling families since the end of a bitter three-year dispute that cut Doha off from many of its neighbors.

Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE national security adviser, led the delegation to Qatar that included talks with ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported on Thursday.

The surprise meeting follows years of hostility between the two Gulf states and came nearly a week after Sheikh Tahnoun visited Turkey, which has been on the opposite side to the UAE in recent regional conflicts.

The diplomacy has broad implications at a time of uncertainty in the region. States are assessing how to deal with Afghanistan, where the Taliban have returned to power, and regional heavyweight Iran is weighing how to proceed with talks to revive its nuclear deal with world powers.

"The meeting touched upon bilateral relations and ways to further develop cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic and trade fields," as well as achieving the common interests of the two countries, according to WAM.

Agencies

CHINA published a trial regulation on the management of vehicle data on August 21, aiming to standardize vehicle data processing in a bid to protect the lawful rights and interest of individuals and organizations, safeguard national security and public interest, and promote rational development and utilization of data collected from automobiles.

The trial regulation on vehicle data security, which is going to be put into force on October 1 this year, represents the country's efforts to address security concerns triggered by certain features of intelligent connected vehicles (ICVs) in recent years.

While ICVs have increasingly won favor with car users, some safety is-

China issues trial regulation to ensure data security for car users

suages related to such vehicles have attracted wide attention from their users and practitioners of the industry.

Some car owners are concerned that since they can open the door of their cars through facial recognition, their facial information collected by the camera might be abused, and some worry that when they talk about business plans over the phone in an ICV, information collected by the camera inside the vehicle will be leaked.

According to a report on China's Internet development released in July this year, sales volume of ICVs in China rose 107 percent year on year to over 3.03 million last year, when

the market penetration rate of such cars stood at around 15 percent.

In the first quarter of 2021, the market penetration rate of L2 semi-autonomous ICVs reached 17.8 percent, while that of L2 ICVs among new energy vehicles (NEVs) grew to 30.9 percent in the country, suggested the report.

Sales of L2 and L3 ICVs (with capabilities to achieve partial automatic driving operations in specific environment) are expected to make up about 50 percent of the total new car sales in China by 2025, according to the report. A survey revealed that an ICV collects at least 10TB of data a day, with the data not only includ-

ing information about the driver and passengers' facial expressions, movements, sight, and voices, but the vehicle's geographic position, interior and exterior environment, as well as its utilization of the Internet of Vehicles (IoV), said Huang Peng, vice chief engineer with China's national industry information security and development research center, at the Intelligent Connected Vehicle Industry Development and Safety Forum of 2021 China Auto Forum.

"At present, vehicle data handling capacity is becoming stronger, and the scale of vehicle data is huge. At the same time, security is-

suages and potential risks related to vehicle data seem more and more prominent," said an executive from the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC).

According to the official, relevant problems mainly include vehicle data processors' collection of more important data than is actually needed, illegal processing of personal information, especially sensitive personal information, without user's consent, and illegal export of important data without security assessment.

It's imperative to strengthen vehicle data security management so as to prevent and resolve these

security problems and potential risks, the executive said. China's newly issued trial regulation on vehicle data security has explicitly defined and determined the types of personal information, sensitive personal information, and important data.

Meanwhile, the document pointed out that vehicle data processors should give equal attention to data security and development, adhere to principles including "in-vehicle processing", "no collection by default", "proper precision" as well as "anonymization" in the processing of vehicle data, and reduce unordered collection, illegal use and abuse of vehicle data.

People's Daily

ROK's nuke envoy to visit Washington for talks on Korean Peninsula

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea's (ROK) nuclear envoy will visit Washington this weekend to discuss issues on the Korean Peninsula, the ROK's foreign ministry said yesterday.

Noh Kyu-duk (pictured), the ROK's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, will make a four-day trip to Washington between Sunday to Wednesday at the invitation of Sung Kim, US special representative for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

During the visit, Noh will meet the officials from the US Department of State and the White House to continue the close consultations, which the two sides had during the US nuclear envoy's trip to Seoul earlier this week.

During the meeting in Seoul, Noh and Kim discussed the possible humanitarian assistance to the DPRK, calling for Pyongyang to return to the dialogue table.

The ROK's foreign ministry said it anticipated that an in-depth discussion can be made between the ROK



and the United States during Noh's Washington trip for the early resumption of the Korean Peninsula peace process.

Denuclearization talks between the DPRK and the United States have been stalled since the second summit between top DPRK leader Kim Jong-un and former US president Donald Trump ended without agreement in February 2019 in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi.

Xinhua

Waterworlds seen as new tip in search for alien life

LONDON

SCIENTISTS have identified a new type of planet that could support life.

Astronomers from the University of Cambridge say in the latest edition of *The Astrophysical Journal*, a peer-reviewed scientific publication that specializes in astrophysics and astronomy, that Hycean waterworlds are an important subtype of planetary ice worlds that have life-supporting potential.

While at first glance, with temperatures reaching 200 C, they appear inhospitable, the scientists say Hycean waterworlds that orbit stars without rotating on their axes could sustain life on their dark side.

And they contend that, by focusing attention on this new class of planet, life beyond our world could be detected in two to three years.

"Hycean planets open a whole new avenue in our search for life elsewhere," *The Telegraph* newspaper quoted lead researcher Nikku Madhusudhan, from Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, as saying.

He and his team believe Hycean waterworlds, which are hot, ocean-covered planets with atmospheres that are rich in hydrogen, are far more likely to be home to alien life than those scientists are currently studying, which are in the so-called Goldilocks Zone around stars.

Those Goldilocks Zone planets - rocky Earthlike worlds that are neither too hot nor too cold to exclude liquid water are far less common than Hycean waterworlds.

The team from the University of Cambridge says Hycean waterworlds can potentially support aquatic microbial life at far hotter and far colder temperatures than planets in the Goldilocks Zone.

Agencies

Malaysia Prime Minister retains finance minister and senior figures in cabinet

KUALALUMPUR

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob unveiled his cabinet on Friday, re-appointing the finance minister along with several other figures from the previous administration, as he looks to restore stability after months of political turmoil.

Ismail Sabri was sworn in as prime minister last week, succeeding Muhyiddin Yassin who had resigned after failing to cling onto a razor-thin majority in parliament.

He takes charge as public anger grows over how the government has been unable to contain a surge in COVID-19 cases and support an economy battered by extended lockdowns, with the central bank slashing its 2021 growth forecast twice this year.

Ismail Sabri named as finance minister Tengku Zafrul Aziz, who also held the post in Muhyiddin's administration.

He also named four senior ministers to head the international trade, defence, works and education portfolios, all of whom had served in the previous government.

"The formulation of this cabinet is a

re-formulation based on the current situation, in order to maintain stability and prioritising the interests and safety of the Malaysian people above all," Ismail Sabri said in a televised address.

The Southeast Asian nation has the highest per capita COVID-19 infection rate in the region, with more than 16 million reported cases, including 15,211 deaths.

On Thursday, it reported a daily record of 24,599 new coronavirus cases and 393 fatalities.

Vaccination rates, however, have ramped up. Nearly half of Malaysia's 32 million population are fully vaccinated, including 60.2% of all adults.

Ismail Sabri's appointment saw the return of his party, the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), to the top office, after it was defeated in a 2018 election amid widespread corruption allegations.

He is Malaysia's third prime minister since the 2018 election, after UMNO pulled its backing for Muhyiddin last month, citing his failure to manage the pandemic.

Xinhua

COVID-19 origins tracing should be clear of 'political virus', says Nigerian expert

ABUJA

THE COVID-19 origins tracing should be led by scientific inquiry and clear of "the political virus", a Nigerian expert has said.

The tracing "should not be tainted with the political virus of big power rivalry and ideological hegemony," Charles Onunaiju, director of the Abuja-based Center for China Studies, said at a workshop on the fair distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, local daily *The Sun* reported on Wednesday.

Only when scientific inquiry leads the tracing, with countries collaborating and the World Health Organization (WHO) playing a vital and pivotal role, can the credibility of any outcome be guaranteed, he said, noting that the U.S. intelligence community's probe into the origins entrusted by the U.S. government is hardly free of the political virus.

"No one country, no matter how much it is endowed, can alone provide a credible investigation and result," Onunaiju said.

"The imperative for broad collaboration and scientific-led inquiry cannot be over-emphasised if the outcome of any origins investigation is to be credible," he added. China's initiative on COVID-19 vaccines cooperation in the Belt and Road partnership has strengthened multilateralism and international cooperation in building a great wall against the virus, Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim, a professor at the University of Abuja, said at the workshop, adding that more than 100 countries have accepted Chinese COVID-19 vaccines.

Xinhua

Remarks by Assistant Foreign Minister Deng Li at China-Africa internet development and cooperation forum

Your Excellencies Director Zhuang Rongwen and Deputy Director Zhao Zeliang,

Your Excellencies Ministers and Ambassadors, Friends,

IT gives me great pleasure to attend the opening ceremony of the China-Africa Internet Development and Cooperation Forum. On behalf of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, I wish to express warm congratulations on the opening of the Forum and sincere greetings to African government officials responsible for Internet development, representatives of Chinese and African Internet firms, and experts and scholars that are attending the event online.

In our world today, the rapid advances of new-generation digital technologies have transformed the means of social production, created new possibilities in our life, and opened up new areas of state governance. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital economy has bucked the trend and provided an important driver for global recovery. When chairing the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 last year, President Xi Jinping stressed that China will explore broader cooperation with Africa in such new business forms as digital economy, smart city, and 5G. Beginning from last year, Africa's first 5G standalone commercial network, undertaken jointly by Chinese and South African companies, has completed construction, and Senegal's National Data Center, supported by Chinese funding and technologies, has been officially launched. The Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) has helped African products reach Chinese consumers. Huawei's "Seeds for the Future" program and Alibaba's "Africa's Business Heroes Competition" have also contributed to the training of young African professionals in the Internet industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

During his visit to Africa earlier this year, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi made the proposal for China and Africa to cooperate in building a Digital Africa. Just now, Director Zhuang Rongwen called for the building of a China-Africa community of shared future in cyberspace. China's initiatives are not empty visions that stay only on paper. Taking the opportunity of the Forum, I wish to



Assistant Foreign Minister Deng Li

announce that China is ready to work with Africa to formulate and implement a China-Africa Partnership Plan on Digital Innovation.

First, strengthening the digital infrastructure to unplug the information artery of economic and social development. China will share its digital technologies with Africa to promote digital infrastructure connectivity. Chinese enterprises will be encouraged to work with their African partners to participate in digital infrastructure projects including fiber optic backbone networks, cross-border connectivity and new-generation mobile communication networks. We will also help expand Internet access in Africa's remote areas to connect the last mile of the information network.

Second, growing the digital economy to promote integrated development of digital technologies and the real economy. China will support Africa in raising the level of digitization in the public and corporate sectors and promoting industrialization by applying new technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things and mobile payment. China will strengthen e-commerce cooperation with Africa to bring more quality African products into the Chinese market, and leverage cross-border e-commerce to speed up the integration of Africa's information and industrial chains.

Third, promoting digital education to overcome the "talent bottleneck" that constrains digital innovation. China will implement the "Talented Young Scientist Program", the "Cirrus Innovative Talent Exchange Program" and other initiatives to step up China-Africa cooperation on distance education and provide further support for Africa in training young talents in digital-related fields. We will also encourage Chinese enterprises to enhance exchanges and cooperation with Africa's digital innovation professionals.

Fourth, promoting digital inclusiveness to benefit the wider African public. China will support African countries in applying digital technologies to transportation, medical care, finance and other livelihood areas, building "smart cities", and leveraging digital technologies to strengthen state governance and control the pandemic. Chinese enterprises will be encouraged to participate in the development of Africa's public service platforms such as e-government networks and e-payment and digital currency services.

Fifth, jointly upholding digital security and enhancing digital governance capacity. China welcomes African countries' participation in the Initiative on Jointly Building a Community With a Shared Future in Cyberspace and the Global Initiative on Data Security. We stand ready to work with the African side to strengthen dialogue and communication in such areas as cybersecurity emergency response and Internet-related legislation, shape an open, fair and non-discriminatory environment for digital development, and explore and formulate global rules on digital governance.

Sixth, building cooperation platforms to promote digital progress through exchanges. China stands ready to explore with Africa the establishment of a high-level dialogue platform on China-Africa digital cooperation, and strengthen communication and exchanges with African governments and organizations such as Smart Africa. China will continue to host activities such as the "China Innovation Tour for African Young Scientists" and support the building of the China-Africa Innovation Cooperation Center.

China will work with the African side to formulate and implement this partnership right away and strive for early harvests. With the support of the Chinese side, several fiber optic backbone network projects that the African side pays much attention to will soon be implemented. In early September, the Internet Society of China and Chinese e-commerce companies will jointly hold an "African Products Online Promoting Season". In the China-Africa BDS Cooperation Forum to be held later this year, the two sides will explore the use of satellites, remote sensing and other high-end information technologies to support Africa's efforts in environmental protection, agriculture and disaster surveillance. We will also work with Africa to make plans for the digital cooperation initiatives to be launched in the next three years, which will be included in the outcome document of the next FOCAC meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

Africa's digital economy promises bright prospects, and China-Africa digital cooperation has much to offer. China stands ready to work with Africa to build a Digital Africa, improve the well-being of the Chinese and African peoples, and open a new chapter in the building of a China-Africa community of shared future in cyberspace.

With that, I wish the China-Africa Internet Development and Cooperation Forum a full success.

Thank you.

China to quicken formulation and introduction of 2021 version of negative list for foreign investment - MOFCOM

CHINA will pick up pace in formulating and introducing the 2021 version of negative list for foreign investment and continuously expand its opening-up, in a bid to facilitate high-quality development through higher-level opening-up, said an official with the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM) at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office on August 23.

China has opened more fields up and further widened market access for foreign enterprises in recent years, said Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce in China.

The country has not only cut the items on its national negative list for foreign investment to 33 from 93 in the 2015 version of the national negative list, but raised foreign equity caps in industries including automobile, finance and securities, Wang noted.

China's efforts to open its market wider have paid off. Since 2012, the overall scale of the country's foreign investment inflow has maintained growth. For nearly four years, China has remained the world's second largest recipient of foreign investment.

Last year, foreign direct investment (FDI) into China rose 4.5 percent while the global FDI flows fell by 40 percent. Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, 56 percent of U.S. companies, 73 percent of European companies, and 89 percent of Japanese companies in China still made profits last year, according to reports released by



Workers at Siemens Electrical Apparatus Ltd., Suzhou, in east China's Jiangsu province, make products to be exported, June 22, 2021. File photo

foreign chambers of commerce in China.

Most foreign companies in China are also participants in the country's construction of "dual circulation" development pattern whereby domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, noted Wang.

Foreign-funded enterprises operate in China and benefit China, Wang said, explaining that on the one hand, with their production, sale and purchase activities all conducted in China, foreign enterprises have become deeply integrated into China's internal circulation; on the other hand, they have completed two fifths of China's imports and exports, thus facilitating the interaction between the country's domestic market and global markets.

The MOFCOM plans to roll out measures in four aspects to draw foreign investment, according to Wang.

For starters, the MOFCOM will continue shortening the country's negative list and widening market access for foreign investment, continuously easing restrictions and expanding opening-up. Meanwhile, the country will advance negotiations on free-trade agreements and actively participate in and promote WTO reform.

Second, the MOFCOM will further improve services for foreign companies. The ministry, together with 20 other government departments and major provinces in China, has established a task force for key foreign-invested projects, which has performed its function of solving problems for key

foreign-invested companies and projects and will provide even better services in the future.

Third, the MOFCOM will give full play to the role of complaint mechanism to safeguard the rights and interests of foreign-funded enterprises in accordance with the law. The Investment Promotion Agency of the MOFCOM has set up the National Center for Complaints of Foreign-invested Enterprises. Regional foreign company complaint handling organs can also be found on the website of the MOFCOM.

Fourth, China will push ahead with the implementation of the foreign investment law and its supporting rules and regulations to create a world-class business environment established on market principles and the rule of law.

Pilot free trade zones, as China's new platform of opening-up and test fields of the country's reform and opening-up, have launched 278 institutional innovations at the national level. The construction of the country's Hainan Free Trade Port is also progressing steadily.

China intends to follow international economic and trade rules of higher standards to expand opening-up, such as rules of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement, said Wang.

"We will also further shorten the negative lists for foreign investment in pilot free trade zones, for which we have always been working hard," Wang said.

People's Daily

SPORT



Simba SC players feature in training in Morocco early this week to prepare for the next season's Premier League and CAF Champions League. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBASFC

Local football players should not take any more blame

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DESPITE the blame probed by the decision by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to add the number of foreign players to the Mainland Premier League squads to challenge local players, do the outfits have quality coaches having what it takes to make the clubs successful?

Soccer followers in Tanzania have for years been blaming local players for being lazy, not knowing their value, not being excited about opportunities to go abroad.

The soccer supporters further blame the footballer, saying the players are not eager to learn anything from foreign footballers who come to play football in the country.

A midfielder like Said Ndema has been with Simba SC for some time now, witnessing foreign professionals join the squad and later leave it, whilst the player hardly shows interest in stepping up his performance to either turn into a key player at the outfit or attract interest from top outfits elsewhere.

Has Ndema not either learn something or are club officials not trusting him to the extent that he cannot regularly play for Simba?

A good number of local players have failed to make it to their respective clubs' first teams as their positions are taken by foreign professionals.

The foreign professionals are benefiting from newly introduced league regulation, which permits each of the squads to recruit 12 footballers from outside the country.

The TFF and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) had, before approving the new regulation, allowed the clubs to each sign 10 foreign footballers in one season.

We also have goalkeeper, Ramadhani Kabwili, who recently extended his contract with Yanga, restricted to the reserve goalkeeper role.

The youthful keeper has for more than three seasons, seen several foreign goalies join the squad, relegate the keeper to the bench, and thereafter head elsewhere.

Even a talented youngster of Kabwili's kind at Azam FC, Yahya Zayd, continues to taste the first-team action in few fixtures, the gifted midfielder is regularly benched.

Zayd had, in the 2019/20 season and the 2020/21 season, turned out for Egypt's Ismaili, he could not make his presence felt at the club.

All of this is enough to fill in the blanks with words to justify foreign players flocking Tanzanian clubs

It is easy for someone to say: "If he wants to, Ndema can hold a regular spot in Simba's first team, but he is not learning from the foreigners."

The remarks could equally be made against Kabwili, Zayd, and several other domestic footballers, who are turning out for prominent outfits, and thus have

no problem with the new rule which allows 12 foreign players to be roped in by the squads.

But no one questions: "Do we have domestic football coaches joining sides outside the country?" Tanzania's football coaches have a lot to learn from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) coach, Florent Ibenge.

Ibenge was, until recently a DRC senior national soccer team's head coach, the tactician currently coaches RS Berkane of Morocco.

The coach, who also has French nationality, started his coaching career in France where he coached ES Wasquehal in 2008 before moving to SC Douai where he worked between 2010 and 2011.

He later crossed the ocean and went to Asia, joining a famous Chinese Premier League club, Shanghai Shenhua, in 2012 but lasted for a month before being shown the exit door.

Ibenge thereafter joined DRC soccer giants, AS Vita Club, and was later promoted to the post of head coach of the DRC senior national team.

He coached the team, nicknamed 'Leopards', for five years until he failed to help the squad qualify for the last 16's stage during the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations held in Egypt.

One of Ibenge's achievements is the 2016 African Nations Championship (CHAN) showpiece's silverware, which was won by DRC national squad in Rwanda.

He is currently trusted by RS Berkane. And he has started by taking on such talented footballers he knows as Clatous Chama and Tuisila Kisinda, with his attempt to sign Mukoko Tonombe ending in vain.

Chama and Kisinda have enjoyed plenty of success in the Mainland Premier League with Simba and Yanga respectively and were roped in by the Moroccan outfit at the end of the 2020/21 season.

Soccer enthusiasts in Tanzania might wonder why Ibenge has set his sight on recruiting foreign professionals from Mainland Premier League?

One might say that the foreign footballers are being given a bigger role in Mainland Premier League and they fully exploit the platform.

Well-drilled coaches have the potential to make domestic players the best.

It is unfortunate that such countries like Rwanda and Burundi now have a good number of coaches working in Mainland Premier League outfits but we do not have Tanzanian tacticians who are in either Burundi or Rwanda.

Where is such a coach like Ibenge who will help to not only raise the standards of domestic players to compete with foreign professionals?

When will Tanzania have a successful coach who can join an outfit in one of the well-established football leagues outside the country and later recommend local footballers for his outfit?

If there is no coach like Ibenge in Mainland Premier League, I do not want to name South African, Pitsso Mosimane, or North African coaches in the likes of Nasreddine Nabi currently scattered all over Africa.

Youthful Tanzanian footballers should be coached by a domestic tactician who has what it takes to successfully nurture the players' talent see to it they are a complete package.

At least in the past, Tanzanian coaches, Sunday Kayuni, Mansour Magram, Charles Mkwasa, and Talib Hilal, dared to go abroad and were trusted by the outfits in countries they moved to.

Today local soccer supporters can hardly see an attempt by a domestic tactician to apply for a job at a club outside the country.

Our players are not of high quality and they abhor heading outside the country to ply their trade.

Domestic football coaches are astonishingly on the same track. This issue needs to be looked at more carefully.

SPORTS

Influencers' influence on teenagers and young adults' mental health

By Geoffrey John, TUDARCO

A person, who can assume a celebrity status, had, in the past, been expected to either be famous in the entertainment industry or he or she should be an exceptional individual in any other field.

The perception nowadays no longer applies because, as long as a person has a large following on social media, he or she is considered famous.

But if one thinks about it, more than 40 million people on Instagram have more than one million followers in there, so can we consider all 40 million people to be famous?

Are they all celebrities? We both know that is not how it works.

A social media influencer is a user who has established credibility in a specific industry, either he or she has access to a huge audience and can persuade others to act based on their recommendations.

An influencer has the tools and authenticity to attract many viewers consistently and can motivate others to expand their social reach.

Their job is to influence their followers' purchasing decisions based on their reputation.

They use their online presence, mostly on social media platforms and blogs, to partner with brands they use and create content that advertises either products or services of those companies.

Some of the influencers in Tanzania include Wema Sepetu, Shilole, Hamisa Mobetto, Elizabeth Michael, Jay Mondy, Dullvani, Idris Sultan, and more.

Social media influencers, namely beauty bloggers, video game vloggers, among others, are extremely popular among minors.

And since these days human beings spend an average of three hours of their day on social media just scrolling, liking, and posting, it is very easy for them to get influenced by influencers.

As much as being an influencer seems like a harmless form of entertainment and amusement for their audiences, but they may also show bad examples of smoking, drinking, or even criminal behaviour in their content.

In addition, influencers' content may



Famous Bongo Flava artist, Hamis Mwinjuma, alias 'Mwana FA', who is as well Muheza constituency legislator, is one of the prominent social media influencers in Tanzania.

also affect minors' psychological well-being, materialism, body satisfaction, and more.

It is very easy for these young adults to fall into a state of depression, anxiety, and even have suicidal thoughts because of fantasizing about the lavish unrealistic lives and standards that the influencers they look up to lead and commit to.

In America, the rate of suicide has increased astronomically among teenagers and young adults simply because of feeling pressured to look as good as the influencers do in their pictures.

Such an urge comes about even if it means getting plastic surgery at a young age and being pressured to have as many followers as the influencers they are looking up to do since that is considered the new fame.

Minors are nowadays constituting social media influencers. This is truly shocking, right? With major brands signing up for paid partnerships, a growing number of child and adolescent influencers (and their parents) are striving to make a profit, which leads to important legal, ethical, and philosophical questions.

Being an influencer comes with great power and responsibility and not all of them get that because most of the time either governments or NGO's turn to influencers to promote healthy, social, or environmentally friendly behaviour among minors.

I think just because a person has millions of followers on social media platforms, does not necessarily mean either he or she is the perfect candidate for celebrity status.

That however does not matter anymore as long as profit margins increases.

Gymkhana golfer wins Johnnie Walker August Monthly Mug tourney

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC) golfer, Shaizad Bhanji, beat over 60 golfers to win the Johnnie Walker August Monthly Mug golf tournament's top honour in the event, which took place at the club's course early this week.

Bhanji, who was playing off handicap 9, scored 72 net strokes to edge closest challengers, Akil Jaffer and David Jansen, in Division A event.

The score also earned him a Division A prize, beating Jaffer on countback after they were tied in scores.

Bhanji expressed his happiness after being declared the overall winner, saying he would put more effort to continue winning such events.

"It was a nice day for me, I could return a better score than that, but par-three hole me down," the golfer

disclosed.

"I played really good golf today and everything was just going right for me on the course," the elated Bhanji said.

The 18-hole stableford tournament saw Michael Misabo win the Division B title after returned 63 net strokes, followed closely by Dhaivat Joshi who managed 68 strokes.

"I'm very happy to win on this course, my game is growing steadily and I hope to perform even better in the forthcoming events," Doshi said shortly after winning the tournament.

The Division C title went to Vijay Kumar, who netted 65 strokes, while Gulam Dewji, who fired 69 strokes, was the division's runner-up.

The Ladies Division title went to Joyce Ndeytabura, who returned 70 net strokes, while Maryanne Mugo settled for second place with 74 strokes.

"The tournament was good, but the

going was tough, I thank my sponsors, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), via Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky brand, for their support," Joyce said a few minutes after she was declared the overall winner.

She disclosed: "Maryanne is a good golfer, he put me under pressure throughout the tournament. I hope next time it will be his time."

The men's guest winner title went to Nicholas Chitanda who returned 70 net.

The tournament which is sponsored by SBL through its flagship brand of Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky has turned out to be an exciting scene following month-to-month fierce opposition put to show by the golfers.

The golfers, who competed at the thrilling tournament, came from Lugalo Golf Club, Morogoro Gymkhana, and Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

Bongo Flava musician releases new single

By Geoffrey John, TUDARCO

IN celebration of life, Tanzanian artist, Raymond Shaban, alias 'Rayvanny', has released a new single titled Happy Birthday.

The single, produced by music producer, Trone, is now promoted by the artist on his Instagram account before the actual release.

The Instagram promotion video includes various artists and influencers, who lip-sync to the song, as it is introduced by such artists as Ambwene Yesaya 'AY', Juma Mussa 'Jux', Mbwana Yusuf 'Mboso', Gift Stanford 'Giggy Money', and more.

Rayvanny's girlfriend, Paula Kajala, is also one of the influencers, who participated in the promotion video, showing support to her boyfriend's newly released single.

Paula and Rayvanny started dating only



Rayvanny

recently but cannot keep their hands off each other ever since and are not afraid to show it on their Instagram accounts.

He also took it on his Instagram to thank his mother for the gift of life, saying: "Comment below if you love your

mother and believe that she is the pillar of your life on this world whether they're alive or have passed on. I love you, Mom."

He also dedicated the song to all of his fans who were born on the day of the single's release.

According to Rayvanny, the song will have three versions because, according to the crooner, it is a special song.

The music video for the song has already earned over 600,000 views and ranks number four on the trending videos on YouTube.

This is just one of several songs that he released after launching his record label, Next Level Music, in which he is the label's CEO.

Recently Rayvanny had also released another song with Nigerian singer, Ghuchi, titled 'Sweet', which was produced by Sound Boy and has over two million views on YouTube.

Liverpool face Chelsea in early title showdown, Arsenal aim to stop rot at Man City

LONDON

LIVERPOOL and Chelsea face off in the first heavyweight clash between title contenders of the Premier League season, while Arsenal aim to get off the mark when they visit Manchester City on Saturday.

Arsenal suffered at the hands of Chelsea last weekend as Romelu Lukaku scored on his second debut in a 2-0 win for the Blues.

The Belgian, who returned to Stamford Bridge this month for a club record £97 million (\$133 million), scored his 114th Premier League goal at the Emirates, but his first for Chelsea after failing to make an impression in his first spell at the club.

Now 28, Lukaku looks the complete package and the final piece needed to turn Thomas Tuchel's European champions into Premier League winners.

Chelsea and Liverpool are two of five teams to take maximum points from two games alongside West Ham, Tottenham and Brighton.

But of the pre-season title favourites, they have already opened up a two-point advantage over Manchester United and three-point lead over Manchester City.

Lukaku faces a much tougher test at a full Anfield with Liverpool rejuvenated by the return of fans and talismanic centre-back Virgil van Dijk from injury.

The Dutchman's presence has seen Jurgen Klopp's men keep two clean sheets in their opening games against Norwich and Burnley.

But goalkeeper Alisson Becker acknowledged that beating Chelsea would send a far stronger signal to their title rivals that Liverpool are back to their best.

"For what we believe and for what we want to achieve, it's a good sign because you are playing one of the favourite sides in the

title race and if you can beat one of these sides it's always good for you to give confidence," said the Brazilian.

"We won the Premier League before and we know that we need to think always about the next challenge that we have in front of us, so this game is important."

More misery for Mikel? Arsenal sit second bottom without a point or even a goal to show from their first two league games and face a daunting trip to the defending champions if they are to break that drought before a two-week international break.

The Gunners got a morale-boosting 6-0 win over a youthful West Brom side in the League Cup in midweek to ease the pressure on manager Mikel Arteta with captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scoring a hat-trick in his first start of the season after testing positive for coronavirus.

Arteta has reportedly been given until the October international break to turn things around, but Arsenal's recent record against City gives little cause for optimism come Saturday.

City have not lost to Arsenal in the league since 2015 and can ill-afford another slip up after losing to Tottenham on the first weekend of the season.

Homecoming for Kane City were forced to concede another defeat to Spurs chairman Daniel Levy this week after Harry Kane announced he will be remaining at Tottenham this season.

The England captain had wanted to move to the Etihad with the aim of ending his wait to win a trophy, but City were unwilling to meet Levy's demands of a fee well in excess of the Premier League record £100 million they paid for Jack Grealish earlier this month.

Despite the speculation over his future, Kane was given a hero's welcome by the travelling Tottenham support away to Wolves last weekend.

Rooney questions Ronaldo over Man City move

LONDON

WAYNE Rooney has questioned whether Cristiano Ronaldo should complete a potential shock move to Manchester City this summer due to his Manchester United past.

Sources have told ESPN that Juventus forward Ronaldo is close to reaching an agreement with the Premier League champions before the transfer window closes.

The former United striker, who is now Derby County manager, was asked about the possibility of the transfer in his news conference and replied: "I don't know what to make of it, to be honest."

"If you're asking me if I think it's possible then I have major doubts that it is a possibility. Cristiano has got a great legacy at United. I don't think he's going to move somewhere for financial reasons."

"I'd be unsure if that's going to happen. I think there's more chance of it being Paris Saint-Germain if he is to leave Juventus."

"On the other hand, it's football, it can happen, it has happened before. Big players and legends from Manchester United in terms of Peter Schmeichel went to City, Andy Cole went to City, Mark Hughes managed City."

"It has happened before but I think someone of Cristiano's stature I can't see it happening." Rooney played alongside Ronaldo at Old Trafford for five years and both players helped the club win three Premier League titles and the Champions League.

Speaking in a separate interview with UK radio station TalkSPORT, Rooney added: "I think Cristiano has got a very good legacy at Manchester United and I know how proud he is as a player and a person. I can't see it, but it's football so you never know."

"I think you need to do what's right for you as a person, for your family. Everyone knows I could never play for Liverpool or Manchester City. That's obvious but everyone's different."

Meanwhile, Manchester City and Cristiano Ronaldo are close to reaching an agreement over

a sensational move to the Etihad Stadium, sources have told ESPN.

Sources told ESPN that City boss Pep Guardiola and Ronaldo spoke on the phone on Thursday morning ahead of his possible departure from Juventus.

Obstacles would still have to be overcome before the transfer is done – particularly Juventus' demand for a fee – but there is cautious optimism a deal can be reached, sources said.

Juventus would want around €28 million before allowing Ronaldo to leave but there is a keenness to get the 36-year-old off the wage bill.

Ronaldo and his team have communicated to Juve officials that he wants to leave the club now and won't be part of the squad for next Saturday's game against Empoli.

ESPN reported in June that Ronaldo's representatives were gauging interest from Europe's top clubs amid the possibility he could move this summer.

City initially were approached by Ronaldo's camp and while they were originally cool on the idea, their interest increased following confirmation on Wednesday that Harry Kane will stay at Tottenham Hotspur in this window.

Guardiola wants a striker to replace Sergio Aguero, and Kane was the club's top target before the England captain pledged his immediate future to Spurs.

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri is said to be "relaxed" about the possibility of losing Ronaldo, according to ESPN sources, but would want the club to sign another forward if he goes. The summer window is set to close on Aug. 31.

Sources have told ESPN that City and Juventus are yet to open talks about a deal and it is likely a compromise would have to be reached over the asking fee.

Ronaldo, who recently hit out on Instagram over "disrespectful" transfer talk, featured as a second-half substitute as Juventus began their season with a 2-2 draw with Udinese on Sunday. He withdrew from training on Wednesday with an apparent arm injury.

Premier League can't be allowed to undermine World Cup qualifiers -- and they probably won't

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

ON the surface, it's classic club vs. country fare. The Premier League voted unanimously on Tuesday not to release players for international duty if they are playing matches in what the United Kingdom considers "red list" countries during next month's break.

The "red list" comprises more than 50 countries that the United Kingdom considers to be at elevated risk of COVID-19 transmission. If you enter the UK and have traveled to one of those countries in the previous 10 days, you need to spend another 10 days isolated in a special quarantine hotel.

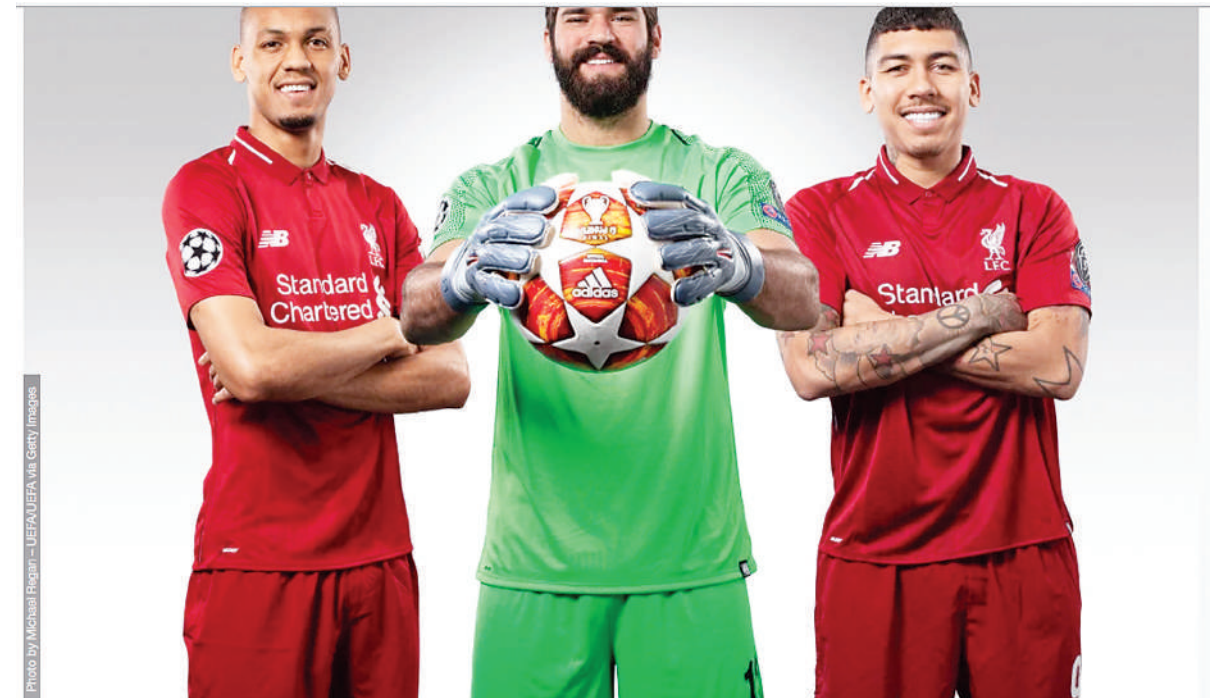
It means that roughly 60 players from 19 Premier League clubs are going to be affected: among them, big names like Man City's Gabriel Jesus and the Liverpool trio of Alisson, Fabinho and Roberto Firmino. The Premier League notes how the enforced 10-day quarantine would not only mean players would miss at least two league matches but, because they'll be stuck away in a hotel unable to train, it will also impact their fitness and mental health.

On the flip side, this wrecks havoc with World Cup qualifiers not just in South America, where virtually the whole continent is on the "red list," but in Asia and Africa as well, and this is where sport meets politics.

The release of international players is governed by an agreement struck between FIFA, national associations and clubs. Essentially, to avoid players being shuttled all around the globe at different times, all parties agreed to limit internationals to certain pre-agreed dates. In exchange, clubs agreed to release players during those periods for a set number of days.

The problem is that the 10-day quarantine requirement for "red list" countries isn't a football rule. It's set by the UK government on grounds of public health and so clubs who, as they often like to remind us, pay these players' salaries, say it's unfair that they should lose their players for, in practical terms, almost a month. Especially when there's another international break coming up in October and one more in November.

They have a point, but then so do the affected countries because World Cup qualification really matters, and understandably so. Last time around, Argentina squeaked into the World Cup by just two points (in an 18-game sched-



Fabinho - Alisson - Roberto Firmino

ule), Chile missed out by a point and Paraguay by two. There are nine points at stake in these three games.

Some will say it's all about clubs and money, and the big leagues in Europe, and the rest doesn't matter. Fine. Yet, for now at least, they're not in charge. For now at least, we're committed -- or we say we're committed -- to football being about more than inconveniencing a bunch of Premier League teams. Besides, there's an agreement in place to which the clubs and leagues have agreed. Sure, it made before the pandemic; fine. And they already got an exemption during the last international break, in March. They can't expect another one.

That ethical conundrum is pretty black and white: you either respect the rules you agreed to and show some solidarity with the rest of the world, or you say "we're paying the bills, these are exceptional circumstances, suck it up." And if it's the latter, it's safe to say the national associations who are affected will complain to FIFA, who will go over their own rules and, if they choose to apply them, will ban the players for a couple of club matches.

Maybe I'm naive, but I refuse to believe it will come to that. In fact, I'm pretty sure the parties involved will reach a deal and this whole thing is one big exercise in posturing.

First and foremost, let's not forget who is affected here: the players. They may be loyal to their clubs, but they also want to represent their nations. If they didn't, they'd simply turn down international call-ups. Brazil, for example, play Argentina on Sept. 5 -- you're not going to tell me that it doesn't matter to someone like Alisson?

Beyond that, there is a convenient "bad guy" in all this: the UK government. Not that it's bad to look out for public health, but public perception matters too. You don't look very clever if you put, say, Chile on the red list, when they have a higher vaccination rate than the UK and when the UK recorded more than 25 times as many cases (population-adjusted) yesterday: 30,838 versus 380.

In fact, you simply come across as mean and self-serving, especially when it was less than two months ago that the UK government was granting all sorts of quarantine and test exemptions to players and coaches at the European championships.

Mbappe's proposed Real Madrid move a financial 'win-win' for Spanish giants

MADRID

DESPITE the continuing devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Real Madrid have still been able to make a 160 million-euro (\$188m) bid for Paris Saint-Germain star Kylian Mbappe and are in a "win-win" position.

The offer was rejected with PSG's sporting director Leonardo saying on Wednesday it was "not enough" for the 22-year-old who arrived from Monaco four years ago in a 180 million-euro deal.

A dramatically increased proposal from the record 13-time European champions could possibly even see Mbappe replace Parisian team-mate Neymar, who moved to the French capital from Barcelona for 222 million euros in 2017, as the world's most expensive player.

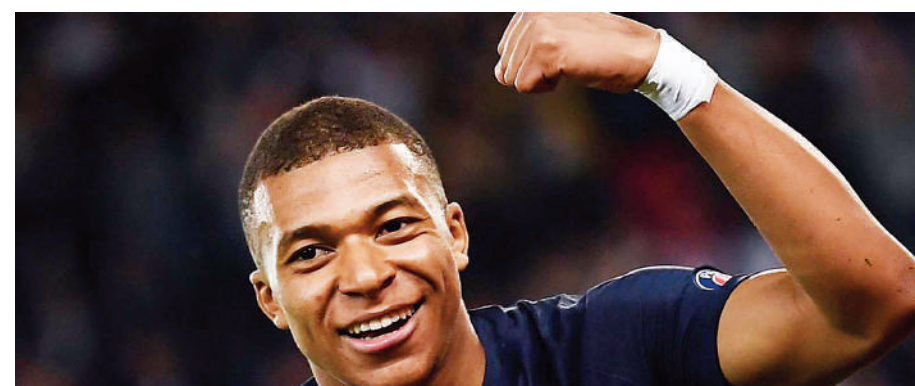
According to Real's latest accounts, published in July, they boast net assets of 534 million euros and had 122 million euros cash in the bank.

Their total wage bill for last season was 448 million euros, slightly below the limit of 473.3 million euros set by La Liga.

Since then they have got captain Sergio Ramos's enormous salary off the wage bill and sold Mbappe's international team-mate Raphael Varane, another high earner, to Manchester United for a reported 40 million euros.

They also raised a similar amount from the sale of Martin Odegaard to Arsenal.

In 2020, Morocco wing-back Achraf Hakimi, Spain defender Sergio Reguilon and midfielder Oscar Rodriguez departed the Santiago Bernabeu



for an accumulated 90 million euros.

- Deadline day looming - A leader in the field of football finances believes Los Blancos can afford Mbappe.

"Real Madrid have around 290 million euros for recruitment," Placido Rodriguez Guerrero, professor at Oviedo University and president of the Sports Economics Observatory in Spain, told AFP this week.

"Mbappe's annual salary at Real Madrid would be about 35 million euros a year net, (70 million euros gross).

"To cushion the investment, in my opinion,

Real will offer a contract of at least six seasons. With the transfer fee, we're looking at an investment of 620 million euros from Real," he added.

Mbappe has a year to run of his contract at the Parc de Princes, which the club are pushing him to renew, following in the footsteps of Neymar and securing an enticing attacking trio alongside new arrival Lionel Messi.

The France World Cup winner has never hidden his desire to try pastures new.

In May 2019 he opened the door to leaving PSG as he felt he needed "more responsibil-

ties."

Guerrero believes Real are keen for a move ahead of the end of the transfer window, on August 31.

"It would be a win-win deal," he said.

"PSG could gain around 225 million euros straight away, with the transfer fee and the player's salary."

"If the deal is pushed back to next summer then PSG would gain zero euros."

"Real Madrid are pushing to finishing the transfer now, because if it's next summer, when the player is a free agent, an English club, to take an example, could offer a salary of 50 million euros net, which Real couldn't fight against," he added.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Premier League can't be allowed to undermine World Cup qualifiers -- and they probably won't

Simba Queens confront PVP Buyenzi in CAF Women's Champions League qualifiers' opener

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA Women's Premier League champions, Simba Queens, are set to begin their quest for success in CECAFA Zonal Women's Champions League Qualifiers, which kick off in Kenya today.

Simba Queens is up against Burundi's PVP Buyenzi in the continental showpiece's match, which will be held at Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi.

According to the fixtures released by regional football governing body, CECAFA, Kenya's representatives in the eight-team tournament, Vihiga Queens, will open their campaign against the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) at the same venue tomorrow.

Simba Queens arrived in Nairobi on Wednesday, they have been training at Nairobi Gymkhana Club grounds in the city ahead of the zonal qualifiers.

The championship which will act as CAF Women's Champions League Zonal qualifiers was set to kick-off on July 17 in Nairobi, but it was postponed due to financial constraints the host country experienced.

The tournament will involve 10 countries after Rwandan side Scandinavia FC pulled out citing COVID-19 challenges.

The competition will run from August 29 to September 7, Kenya hosting the event as earlier planned.

Being the host nation, Kenya will be represented by Vihiga Queens, who earlier were pooled in Group C against Scandinavia FC (Rwanda), and FAD Club (Djibouti).

Group A comprises Lady Doves (Uganda), PVP Buyenzi (Burundi), and Simba Queens (Tanzania), while Group B has Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Yei Joint Stars (South Sudan), and New Generations FC (Zanzibar).

The winners for the CECAFA Zonal Women's Champions League Qualifiers will represent the East Africa region in the CAF Women's Champions League to be staged from November to December 2021 in Cairo, Egypt.



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa (R), speaks to journalists and national women's soccer team 'Twiga Stars' players when turned up at the team's training at JMK Youth Park in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The team is preparing for this season's COSAFA Women's Championship, which has been slated for September 15-26 in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

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EATV FRIDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

TONIGHT @ 9:00

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planei Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

TANZANIA CRICKET ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

27th August To 5th September, 2021
AT GYMKHANA GROUND

Scorecard Link: www.cricclubs.com/Tanzania @crickettanzania f Tanzania Cricket Association

Tembo Stars wallop Twiga Titans in 2021 APL opener

By Guardian Reporter

ANKIT Baghel showcased impressive bowling showing as Tembo Stars' cricketers started their quest for success in this season's Advanced Players League (APL) impressively, cruising to a four-wicket win over Twiga Titans in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

The in-form Baghel made his presence count, ending with a four-wicket haul which saw to it his side solidly mounted a chase and notch victory.

Twiga Titans, led by prolific cricketer Abhik Patwa, had the chance to bat first, posting 108 runs all out in 20 overs of the opener, held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval.

Skipper Patwa, fellow senior player, Gokul Das, and another skilful cricketer, Nassoro Zahoro, sought to prove their worth at the crease with solid showing but they were let down by fellow cricketers who could not live up to expectations.

Twiga Titans' quest for ending their innings with a better score endured a blow early on, given skilful, youthful cricketer Jumanne Mohamed had an early exit.

The performer, deployed as an opener with Patwa, could only post five runs in his brief spell as he was sent back by Tembo Stars' Harsheed Chohan.

The well-drilled was for that matter under pressure to showcase his batting virtuosity and he, to a great extent, gave a good account of himself with his 32 runs, which included a boundary and a six.

After an early exit of a promising cricketer, Ejaz Aziz, who got out for naught, Das stepped at the crease to attempt to steady the ship, nailing 30 runs, cracking a boundary.

Aziz, known for his aggressive approach at the crease, was caught by Tembo Stars' wicket-keeper, Mohamed Omary, from delivery by Chohan.

Except for low order batsman Zahoro that notched 17 runs, Twiga Titans' other members of the batting unit could withstand Tembo Stars' bowling unit's challenge.

The experienced Athumani Siwa, who was also placed as low order batsman, ended two runs short of a two-digit figure as his stint was brought to an end by Baghel's skilful delivery.

Baghel's four wickets in four overs were instrumental in his side's successful attempt to keep Twiga Titans' batting unit in check.

In his bowling exploits, took a hat-trick of wickets and posted a 6.25 economy rate.

The cricketer was ably assisted by the fellow bowler, Chohan, ending with two wickets in four overs and a 5.00 economy rate.

Tembo Stars' skipper Riziki Kisetu, zealously chased Twiga Titans' score, ultimately reaching the target whilst dropping six wickets in 19 overs.

Youthful cricketer, Omary, and the agile Kisetu should be credited for orchestrating the solid displays at the crease which eventually won the duel for them.

After a shaky start to the chase, which saw one of the key players, Nisar Ahmed, face an early exit, Omary and Kisetu held the innings, the duo, in the end, made certain of the chase.

Omary was eventually Tembo Stars' top run-getter in the match, notching 32 runs not out, Kisetu, slotted in as middle-order batsman, chipped in with 23 runs.

Kisetu blasted two boundaries in his stint, his efforts to flex his muscles were frustrated by Twiga Titans' Siwa.

Low order batsman, Prem Thakkar, scored seven runs not out, partnering with Omary to win the match for their outfit.

Twiga Titans' medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, and youthful cricketer, Issa Safari, sought to see to it their club successfully defend the score, registering two wickets apiece.

The duo's encouraging bowling showing could not bail their outfit out, what with a spirited batting showing by Tembo Stars.

Msuva, Samatta now bolster Taifa Stars' preparations ahead of DR Congo match



Senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' forward, Simon Msuva.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, has said that despite his team's failure to get an international friendly game, he still believes that the preparations made are enough to make the team do well in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Tanzania away is expected to play the World Cup qualifier against DR Congo at the TP Mazembe Stadium in Lubumbashi on September 2.

The outfit is set to, seven days later, host Madagascar in Group J of the qualifiers in Dar es Salaam.

The Danish tactician said that his team's condition is good but he needed to get a friendly game, efforts to have the tie has hit a snag.

Poulsen nevertheless insisted that they have the confidence to do well in the qualifiers.

The coach said players, Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, will enter Taifa Stars' camp this weekend.

The gaffer pointed out: "With just a few days left before we go to DR

Congo for the World Cup qualifiers match, two international players, Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, will join the squad this weekend."

"The condition of the squad is good and the players have continued with training, I wanted to have a friendly match this weekend before going to DR Congo but it has been difficult so we will continue to prepare at all times to ensure that we do well towards the game," Poulsen added.

Msuva was with Morocco football giants Wydad Casablanca Club finishing the pre-season in the Ahmed Antifit tournament against Raja, Wydad edged Raja 2-1.

Turkey-based Samatta was featuring for his club, Fenerbahçe, which has qualified for the Europa League group stage with a 5-2 aggregate win against HJK Helsinki on Thursday.

The Taifa Stars' captain did not get a chance to play in the fixture.

Poulsen has left out of Egypt-based midfielder, Himid Mao, from the 28-man Taifa Stars' squad ahead

of the September World Cup qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

The highly-rated midfielder is one of the long-serving players on Taifa Stars and joins Thomas Ulimwengu and Farid Musa among the experienced players out.

Poulsen has mentioned other experienced players like John Bocco, Erasto Nyoni, and Simon Msuva on the team that also includes several faces from the national U-23 football team, which clinched this season's CECAFA U-23 Challenge Cup.

"When you play a World Cup qualifier away, with opponents like DR Congo, a team with a lot of experienced players, you need to be very careful. That's why I included several experienced players too that can keep the fight on," Poulsen said.

Like Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi, Tanzania failed to qualify for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations after featuring at the showpiece's 2019 edition in Egypt.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

