



National Pg 2

Mbeya procures CT-scan machine



National Pg 3

Cochlear implants in children



National Pg 4

Miners urged to abide by country laws



Terrorism fears hound East African countries

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

DESPITE the current state of calm and tranquility, latest security intelligence reports indicate that terror attacks are far from being over in the Eastern Africa Region.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro (pictured) made this assertion at the opening of executive committee sessions preceding the forthcoming 21st Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) General Meeting later this week.

"Terrorism is a global problem but there are countries in Africa that also became victim of the vice. These include Kenya, Nigeria, Algeria, Somalia and Mozambique," he said.

He said this requires the deployment of modern technology, enhancing formal cooperation to improve mutual legal assistance and information-sharing among countries, noting that these are some of the factors to be considered if the EAPCCO is to make significant progress on



EAPCCO marks its 21st anniversary this year in sync with the organisation's 21st Annual General Meeting tomorrow

that issue in future.

Those were among the observations made in Arusha during the preceding sessions, for tabling during the EAPCCO meeting here.

The regional police chiefs' organisation must be empowered if East African states are to improve their capability to fight increasingly sophisticated forms of transnational organised crime (TOC), human trafficking and cybercrime, the IGP noted.

EAPCCO marks its 21st anniversary this year in sync with the organization's 21st Annual General Meeting tomorrow.

The meeting takes place amid growing concerns about terrorism and transnational organised crime (TOC), crimes executed by using stealth technology, cross-border arms proliferation and cattle rustling.

Poised to be taking over the reins as new EAPCCO chairman, IGP Sirro

TURN TO PAGE 2

Dr Magufuli inaugurates factory, orders projects to use local pipes



WALKING THE INDUSTRIALISATION AGENDA TALK:

President John Magufuli is joined by Pipe Industry Company Ltd co-director Seif Ali Seif (R, with hand on the curtain) in unveiling a plaque during yesterday's inauguration in Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti suburb of the firm's pipe factory, which has been cited as the largest and among the most modern of its kind in East and Central Africa. The firm's other director is Nassor Seif. Right (foreground) is Industry and Trade minister Innocent Bashingwa. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

The factory's chief executive, Nassor Seif, said phase one of the factory, which was launched yesterday, cost about 120bn/-.

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday ordered the use of pipes made in Tanzania in all government fully funded projects in a move aimed at empowering local industries as well as saving foreign exchange spent on importation.

Dr Magufuli was speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he launched Pipe Industries Limited, manufacturers of high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and glass fiber reinforced plastic pipes (GRP), a factory owned by local investors.

He questioned why local pipes were not preferred by contractors despite the fact most projects currently being implemented by the government require pipes.

"Give priority to local pipes. If it is possible insert a provision in your tenders that it should be a must for pipes to be from local manufacturers and if someone doesn't agree on this it should be a reason for disqualification," he said.

The president said this was the only way local industries were to be protected to allow them to grow, pay tax and employ Tanzanians.

He stated that it will be lack of wisdom for the government to import pipes while there are thousands of pipes manufactured here, largely for the government as it implements various projects in sectors like agriculture, water and transportation.

President Magufuli urged local pipe producers to carry out an analysis on prices which he said



The President said it was the only way for the growth of local industries, pay taxes and employ Tanzanians

are high at times and this may lead to reluctance by consumers to purchase them.

Nassor Seif, the factory's CEO, said phase one of the industry which was launched yesterday cost about 120bn/-.

The factory will be the first of its kind in East and Central Africa, producing 25,000 tonnes of PVC pipes per year and 40,000 tonnes of HDPE pipes. The factory is also gearing to produce 5000 GRP pipes.

"The factory has so far provided 215 jobs and we expected at the finalization of the second phase we will employ more than 500 people, with the second phase requiring an additional investment of 150bn/-," he stated.

He said this investment was in line with government plans to have an industrialized and middle economy by 2025.

Earlier in the day, the president had declared that the country's airspace was now 100 percent secure after having acquired four radars that will increase safety and security of the country.

The country earlier had one radar with a surveillance capacity of 25 per cent, leaving 75 per cent of the country unsecured, he stated when launching a new radar system in Dar es Salaam for air traffic control.

The radar will enable the country to increase safety and security, enhance revenues collection and improve aviation services, he said, hailing

TURN TO PAGE 2

US permits hunter to ship dead lion from Tanzania

● Kenya impounds smuggled birds, butterfly trophies from Tanga

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

REMAINS of a large lion reportedly hunted in Tanzania three years ago will be shipped to the United States following Washington's recent decision to allow the Florida Tracker to ferry the trophy into the US.

On the other hand, customs officials on the Kenyan side of Lungu Lungu One-Stop Border Post (OSBP) have intercepted a shipment containing 201 pieces of dried butterflies and 20 pieces of guinea fowl feathers reported to have been smuggled from the port city of Tanga.



He was also in possession of a stamp with initials of the director of veterinary services, Dar es Salaam

The United States' Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a permit to Florida based hunter Carl Atkinson to import into the US the dead lion's skin, skull, claws and teeth, taken from the shot animal between July and August 2019 in a hunting spree.

This was the first such permit issued since lion species was granted protection under the US Endangered Species Act as a threatened species effective from January 2016.

A spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service said the permit authorization followed

TURN TO PAGE 2

Malinyi DC-DED quarrelling irks Majaliwa

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa (pictured) has been disturbed by a malignant quarrel between Malinyi District Commissioner Majura Kasika and District Executive Director Mussa Mnyeti aired during his current tour of Morogoro region.

The premier has directed the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Permanent Secretary (President's Office - Civil Service and Good Governance) to investigate the professionalism of the two officials in regard to executing their duties.

"It's shameful. The President Dr John Magufuli has appointed youths to be leaders, but today



even the ordinary wananchi know of the bad blood between the two. It is shameful for the DC and DED to engage in quarrels, sometimes fighting over projects, and have forgotten to carry out their duties," Majaliwa said.

The premier issued the directives yesterday when addressing a public meeting at Toboa grounds during the third day of his regional tour.

He said the government has appointed the two senior public servants to supervise wananchi's development and remits huge funds to enhance community development to improve social services such as health, education, water and infrastructure. Instead, they fight for other

TURN TO PAGE 2



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Dr Magufuli inaugurates factory, orders projects to use local pipes

FROM PAGE 1

Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) director general Hamza Johari for the performance he has shown.

"When he came into office he found them collecting 40bn/- revenues but this has since increased to 71 billion. With the new radar we envision it will increase to 82bn/-," he said.

The Julius Nyerere International Airport and Kilimanjaro International Airport radars were launched

simultaneously as they were 100 per cent completed.

In his remarks, Johari said the country purchased four radars that have been installed at JNIA, KIA, Mwanza and Songwe airports.

/ends/jz

He noted that the installation in Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro have been completed while the one in Mwanza is at 90 percent and Songwe now at 40 per cent.

Terrorism fears hound East African countries

FROM PAGE 1

described cooperation as 'one of the most significant tools available to the police in the fight against transnational organised crimes,' particularly in an age where cybercrime is becoming a threat to lawful businesses.

For various delegates, the EAPCCO cattle rustling protocol drawn up in 2008, is an important mechanism which should be ratified by all members as it has potential for real

impact. Ten years after its negotiation and adoption, only Uganda has ratified the protocol.

Joint security operations have been listed in previous meetings as being among achievements by the EAPCCO Secretariat, he stated.

They have proved how genuine formal cooperation can yield good results in disrupting planned terror attacks, dismantling criminal networks, seizing illicit goods and enhancing policing capability, the IGP added.

Burundi: UN warns of 'climate of fear' ahead of 2020 election

By Aaron Brooks

UNITED Nations investigators have warned of the danger that human rights atrocities could take place in Burundi ahead of presidential elections next year.

The East African nation descended into political crisis during the build-up to its previous election in 2015 and the human rights situation in the country has remained volatile every since.

Now, UN reporters say "a climate of fear" has been established in the country ahead of next year's poll,

warning fresh atrocities could be committed.

Earlier this year, the UN said Burundi was showing "promising signs" ahead of its next presidential election but warned that a repeat of 2015's election violence is still possible. While clashes on the streets have long ended, reports of intimidation and human rights violations continue to emerge.

In a new report, UN investigators conclude that "serious human rights violations have continued to be committed in Burundi since May 2018, in a general climate of impunity."



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa unveils a plaque to inaugurate a Malinyi District Council building during his ongoing tour of Morogoro Region yesterday. Photo: PMO

Malinyi DC-DED quarrelling irks Majaliwa

FROM PAGE 1

projects which they proceed to mismanage, he stated.

The premier said apart from the CAG and the Permanent Secretary, he has also directed the Tanzania Buildings Agency (TBA) to inspect various building projects being implemented in the district, including their quality and real costs.

After he receives the probe report, necessary steps will be taken, he told

the gathering.

Earlier MP Dr Haji Mponda (CCM) told the premier that in the district there is a problem of bad relation between the government and the council, a situation that hinders development activities.

The MP said the misunderstanding among top district officials - the DC and DED - has caused division among the councillors as well as ordinary people and thus appealed to the premier to assist in sorting out the situation.

In another development, the PM said the appearance of numerous placards at the rally shows that council officials do not visit the wananchi to listen to their problems.

He said the people wait until tours by top national leaders where they convey their feelings through placards. "You have now to prepare yourselves to answer the messages of the placards because not a single one of them was directed to me," he emphasized.

He said the fifth phase government

of President Magufuli has directed its efforts in serving the wananchi and to solve their problems, hence it will ensure every public servant is accountable.

At Malinyi, the PM laid a foundation stone for the construction of the Malinyi District Headquarters built by the National Housing Corporation (NHC) at a cost of 3.9bn/-. The construction that started late November 2017 is expected to be completed towards the end of this month.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (R) bids farewell to acting German Ambassador to Tanzania, Joerg Herrera, in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after talks with a visiting delegation of Friends of the Association of East African legislators from the German Parliament. Looking on is the association's vice chairman, Manfred Todtenhausen. Photo: National Assembly

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Southern highlands zone are expected to free themselves from transport woes as they travel to Dar es Salaam Ocean Road Hospital for cancer examination following the government decision to send cancer examination machine to the zonal referral hospital in Mbeya.

This was revealed by the Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila at different occasions when speaking to wananchi at public rallies in Forest and Maendeleo wards about the government resolve to improve health services in the region.

He said the government contributed more than 7b/- for the construction of 14 health centres including extensions

Mbeya hospital procures CT-scan machine, at last

to some existing ones in the region aimed at placing health services near to wananchi.

He said the government has set aside 1b/- for the extension to Mbeya Referral Hospital (Maternity wing -META) so as to reduce congestion of patients at the hospital that caters for seven regions of the southern highland zone.

Chalamila said at the referral hospital, the government has purchased modern

various equipment for CT-Scan as well as diagnostic equipment.

"We have also been promised next year to receive equipment for cancer examination so that patients stop travelling to Ocean Road Hospital in Dar es Salaam. The equipment will now be available at our hospital," he said.

He said due to these developments by the government, he once said those who cannot see them have to be

canned so that they see them.

He said there are some people who criticise the government in everything it does whilst the contribute nothing by themselves in the nation's development.

The RC who appeared irked by his critics said the Government will continue doing its work in disregard of these people, especially from opposition parties.

US permits hunter to ship dead lion from Tanzania

FROM PAGE 1

a decision by the agency to replace countrywide findings for a range of species across several countries with an evaluation of trophy imports on an application-by-application basis.

Justifying the issuance of the permit, the US Fish and Wildlife Service cited the current Tanzanian lion population as standing at approximately 17,000 animals, saying the data was reported by the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute in 2010, and indicates large enough number of wild cats in the country.

However Tanya Sanerib, senior attorney for the US Center for Biological Diversity, pointed out that given outdated population counts, there should be no permitted lion hunting at this time.

A few weeks ago the Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Business Services for the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Imani Nkuwi explained here that the United States had ceased the importation of wildlife related trophies from here. He said Washington was sceptical of how the country was handling the protection of wildlife, natural resources and preservation of the environment.

"But now it seems the United States has restored its trust on Tanzania, as far as protection of natural resources is concerned and is once more permitting trophies from here to be shipped to America," stated Nkuwi, noting that already one firm has started exporting such products to the US.

He said conservation efforts employed by the fifth phase government are being felt and acknowledged globally, that is why Tanzania has been taken out of the blacklist which included other Southern African countries like Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

In another development, at the Kenya-Tanzania border 201 pieces of dried butterflies and 20 pieces of guinea fowl feathers impounded from a bus passenger traveling from Tanga

to Mombasa has just been impounded as a restricted consignment.

A press release by the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) said the loot was seized from a passenger who was suspected to have been planning to ship the consignment to Hungary and the UK, respectively.

The suspect was intercepted while travelling by bus from Tanga to Mombasa. He had a temporary Tanzanian passport and did not have a required permit from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) or the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) as required by law.

The consignment was intercepted during a routine scanning exercise at the border post. The officials noticed the suspicious cargo prompting them to physically verify the contents of the shipment and later discovered the restricted items.

He was also found to be in possession of a stamp with initials of the Director of Veterinary Services, Dar es Salaam.

Documents in his possession indicate that the dried butterflies consigned was in Szombathely, Hungary while an invoice indicated that the consignor for the Vulture guinea fowl feathers was in Dar es Salaam. The suspect has been handed over to Kenya Wildlife Service for further interrogation and action.

Guinea fowl and butterfly trophies are restricted goods under the East African Community Customs Management Act (EACCMA), second schedule.

KRA is a custodian of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and related regional and international conventions. The Authority has frequently intercepted consignments of game trophies and other artifacts, the statement added.

"But now it seems the United States has restored its trust on Tanzania, as far as protection of natural resources is concerned and is once more permitting trophies from here to be shipped to America"



Selemani Jafo (C), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), inspects buildings under Mbulu District Council in Manyara Region yesterday. Left is Mbulu district commissioner Chelestino Mofuga. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadei

Hospital registers bigger success in cochlear implants targeting children

By Francis Kajubi

MUHIMBILI National Hospital (MNH) has managed to offer cochlear implant surgery by 90 per cent due to the existence of enough specialists and experts.

Since 2017 MNH has been offering the surgical service with the assistance of experts from Egypt but now the country have managed to train its local experts who have become more competent in the field.

Dr Suphiani Baruani, Director of Surgical Services at MNH told the press yesterday in Dar es Salaam that nine children aged between three and four alongside a 55 years old man went under surgery last month and were yesterday received eternal cochlear devices to support their hearing abilities.

"All these kids were completely deaf before the surgery. With these devices they will be able to hear a voice though can't figure out the specific words spoken by others. They can take up to one year to recover their hearing ability depending to the efforts employed by their parents in using the devices as we taught them," said Dr Baruani.

According to him, since the first cochlear implant surgery held at MNH in 2017, 30 patients have undergone the surgery of which 29 are children and one adult man. The implant surgery of 30 patients which was done in the past 26 months is equivalent to 60 per cent of the 50 patients whom were transferred abroad treatments during the past 13 year.

"As I speak the government had spent 1.1 billion/- to treat the 30 patients at the cost of 37 million/- per patient if went abroad for same treatment would have cost the government 3 billion/-, that means 100 million/- per patient. With this improvements the government had managed to save 1.89 billion/-," said Dr Baruani.

Dr Shaban Mawala, MNH Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) surgery specialist, said that the cochlear implant device

costs 31 million/- while treatment hit 6 million/-.

"I want to assure the public that no patient shall go untreated due to lack of costs as the government plays the part on their behalf. Majority of the children who are receiving the devices today come from the regions of Tanga, Kilimanjaro and Lindi. We all upon parents baring deaf kids especially in rural areas come for treatments at Muhimbili," said Mawala.

Tanzania becomes the second country in the East African region to offer cochlear implant surgeries after Kenya. On the other hand Muhimbili becomes the first public hospital in the region to offer such surgeries.

Waisai Wambura (55), Dar es Salaam resident who received the device yesterday said that he suddenly became deaf after using some medications that were meant to treat Tuberculosis.

"I am now hearing voices but can understand what is been spoken. It's like am beginning to hear sounds. The drugs I took for Tuberculosis are said to have attributed this problem. After four months of recovery from the disease I started losing my hearing ability slowly. A month later I was completely deaf," explained Wambura from the written questions on the paper given to him.

Saum Mbwambo, a Dar es Salaam resident and a mother of a four year girl, said her daughter started showing deaf signs when she was nine months old.

"We started attend her to a clinic immediately after realizing the problem. Thanks God after a long time of suffering, my daughter is today receiving a device that will help her gain hearing ability slowly. Hope in one year time she will be completely fine," said Mbwambo.

The World Health Organization statistics show that out of 1000 new born babies two or three of them are born with inability to good hearing. Muhimbili details on the other hand show that approximately 200 children in Tanzania need to undergo cochlear implant surgeries every year.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

Global Fund to declare nation free from HIV/Aids by 2030, says Amref

INTERNATIONAL health organisations are upbeat that HIV/Aids will be history in a decade to come, if Tanzanians know their status and use antiretroviral once found living with the virus.

The world is grappling with an ambitious treatment target to end the epidemic which requires 90 per cent of all people living with HIV to know their status by 2020.

The treatment target dubbed 90-90-90 also requires 90 per cent of all people diagnosed with HIV infection to receive antiretroviral therapy for all of them to suppress the virus by next year.

The Amref health Tanzania, Perfect Health Project manager, Dr Edwin Kilimba, said in an interview here

over the weekend that the project was assisting the government in reaching the target.

He said the project funded by the US Centre for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) was currently being implemented in Zanzibar and Tanga Region to ensure people living with HIV timely get treatment to suppress the virus.

"The five-year project is supporting the government's efforts in ensuring Tanzanians are aware of their HIV status and apply antiretroviral, if found positive, in a bid to suppress viral load

and continue with their productive lives," Dr Kilimba explained.

Despite some achievements the project registered in one year of its life span, suppressing the viral load in the bodies of people living with the virus was a hard nut to crack, he admitted.

Dr Kilimba said the project had suppressed HIV viral load among 90 per cent of people living with the virus in the project area, down from the 95 per cent set target.

Dr Amos Nyirenda, the manager of Global Fund project also implemented by Amref Health Tanzania, said the

project was imparting entrepreneurial skills on girls to prevent them from engaging in behaviours that fuel HIV spread.

"We also target girls caught up in drug addiction and sex work," he said, adding that the project was also fighting against tuberculosis, malaria and assisting people living with HIV in applying antiretroviral in time.

Dr Nyirenda said the project was further providing girls with sanitation pads to ensure they did not miss class for failure of meeting the cost of buying them.

Tanzania benefiting from Spanish third Africa plan, says Prof Kabudi

By Aisia Rweyemamu

TANZANIA is one of ten African countries which are to benefit from the Spanish third Africa plan, which is aimed at establishing technological, economic and financial cooperation between African countries and the European nation.

Director General for Africa Foreign Affairs, European Union in cooperation with Kingdom of Spain Raimundo Rubio revealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking shortly after his meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi.

"We have chosen Tanzania to be among the 10 countries because we are looking forward to strengthen the bilateral relations", Rubio said, outlining priority areas as water, health and industrial sectors.

Other African countries to benefit from the plan include South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Senegal, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya.

Rubio explained that during their meeting with Prof. Kabudi they have also discussed how to move forward in their bilateral

relations saying that it is an opportunity to collaborate with the country with stable institution with strong economic growth like Tanzania.

He stated that the programme will focus on the opportunities that Africa posse because Africa is the continent of opportunities.

The director added: "We also discussed on institutional framework and the agreement that the country have and then we can create stronger framework that will attract more Spain investment in Tanzania and also Tanzania in Spain".

He explained that the plan has no time limit but it will be reviewed after three years, adding that the Spanish government is devoted to pump in 44 billion Euros (\$50 billion) for Africa's development.

For his part, Prof. Kabudi said the third Africa plan for Tanzania will put priority in water, health and industrial sectors. Thorough the plan, Spain will build a number of health sectors and hospital as well as the installation of water in some villages in Iringa.

Prof Kabudi added that the government had asked them to invest more in pharmaceutical industry and also boost the tourism industry in the country.



Fatuma Shaweni (L), a nurse with Zanzibar's Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, checks Kijini villager Haji Faki Haji's blood pressure at a health screening camp coordinated by Zanzibar Outreach and Best of Zanzibar programmes yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Tacri allocates new areas to coffee growers

THE Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (Tacri) has allocated new areas for cultivating coffee.

The areas include Tanganyika District in Katavi Region and Uluguru Highland areas in Morogoro Region, following research that showed they are best suited for the crop.

Tacri Director Dr Deusedit Kilambo said this recently when speaking to this paper, during which he said the Uluguru Highlands areas used to cultivate coffee in the past but the farmers abandoned the activity due to lack of reliable markets, but after Tacri mobilized the farmers

and ensured them of ready market, they have now agreed to continue cultivation.

Kilambo said Tanganyika District is a totally new area and that after research on its climate conditions it has been found to be best suited for coffee farming and that already farmers have started growing quality seedlings that were researched on by Tacri.

He said currently they have 23 new breeds of coffee that will be cultivated in the new areas as well as in the old ones even though he warned it all depends on farmers adhering to farming instructions.

"We conducted countrywide research and found other new areas to be completely virgin land. Regions that grow coffee are Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Ruvuma and Kagera," he said.

He said there are challenges on two traditional groups of coffee - Arabica and Robusta but Arabica is an old breed that is prone to attacks by diseases.

He said the diseases contribute to loss of crops by up to 90 percent but after research they have come up with new seeds for the Arabica that is more diseases resistant.

He said in regard to Robusta, research was also conducted and found to be resistant to diseases hence it has proved to produce high yields and has called upon growers to adopt the researched seeds.

The chairman of one coffee growers association of Mgeta Ward in Uluguru highlands, Mvomero district, Stephen Msimbe said they have started coffee farming again.

He said coffee growing in his Mgeta ward was famous in the 70s but died in the 2000s after many farmers resorted

to tomato growing which brings quick monetary returns.

Msimbe said the decision to revert to coffee farming in the ward came after research conducted by Tacri in conjunction with Community Development Trust Fund (CDTF) who provided the new seeds including farm implements for the preparation of seed beds.

He said after they received the seeds and implements from the two institutions, they have already prepared 60,000 beds for seedlings.

Notice of Closure/Strike off

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT at the Extra Ordinary General meeting of SHODEN DATA SYSTEMS (TANZANIA) LIMITED held on the 1st day of February 2019, a special resolution was unanimously passed by the Members to close the company as it could not continue to carry out its business.

If anyone has any claim or interest against the company, they are advised to contact the company at the below address within 7 days of this notice.

Karimjee Attorneys
P.O. Box 76421
Dar es Salaam



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), was established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act No. 14 of 2017 with mandate on shipping agencies, maritime administration and regulator of ports, shipping services, maritime environment, safety, security and related matters. The Corporation is charged, among others, with the function of registering, issuing licenses and renewal of licenses to regulated service providers in the maritime transport in accordance with section 12 of the Act No. 14 of 2017.

The Corporation is seeking to execute the function of registering, licensing and renewing licenses to regulated service providers in the sector in accordance with pertinent Regulations as follows:

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR-

1. LICENCE AND LICENCE RENEWAL OF -
 - i) SHIPPING AGENTS;
 - ii) MISCELLANEOUS PORT SERVICE PROVIDERS; AND
 - iii) CARGO CONSOLIDATORS & DECONSOLIDATORS; AND -
2. REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF-
 - i) CLEARING AND FORWARDING AGENTS; AND
 - ii) GROSS MASS VERIFIERS.

Applications for the above mentioned licences/registration or renewals are invited in accordance respective Shipping Agents Regulations (GN. No.: 339), Miscellaneous Port Services Regulations (GN. No.: 343), Cargo Consolidators and De-Consolidators Regulations (GN. No.: 337), Clearing and Forwarding Agents Regulations (GN. No. 340) all of 2018 and the Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo Regulations - GN No.: 197 of 2016.

The applications in reference will be accepted by the Corporation as from 18th September to 31st October, 2019 for licences which validity ought to commence on 1st January, 2020.

In view of the above, prospective applicants for licences/registration or renewals are guided to submit their applications by filing-in prescribed forms obtainable from TASAC Head Office and Regional Offices. Applicants should enclose certified copies of relevant documents as necessary as shown below:

1. Shipping Agency Licence

- i) A certificate of Incorporation (in case of new applicant);
- ii) Agency fees and commissions payable by principals to the applicant, which comply with the Shipping Agents Regulations, 2018;
- iii) Share Certificates of named shareholders to confirm ownership for new applicants and, for renewing agents, where there is change of shareholders;
- iv) Principal (Carrier) – Shipping Agent Agreement/Contract duly approved by the Corporation where the principal operates regular liner services;
- v) Commitment letter to furnish to the Corporation with copies of charter parties or agency terms for each vessel handled, where the applicant deals with a principals who operate tramp services;
- vi) Latest Bank Statement;
- vii) Birth Certificates/affidavit of shareholders and employees in case new applicants and, in case of renewing agents, where there is a new shareholder or employee;
- viii) Evidence of professional staff possessing appropriate qualifications in accordance with provisions the Shipping Agents Regulations, 2018;
- ix) Valid business licence;
- x) Tariff/ Charges to be applied for services to be rendered in 2020, which conform to approved tariff;
- xi) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate;
- xii) Latest Audited Accounts (in case of application for renewal);
- xiii) Annual Returns Showing Shareholders with percentage of ownership as well as the Directors (in case of application for renewal);
- xiv) Previous Shipping Agency licence (in case of application for renewal);
- xv) Memorandum and Articles of Association (in case of new applicants);
- xvi) Lease agreement or proof of occupancy of land of the office premises (in case of new applicants or where previous lease agreements are experiencing);
- xvii) Customer care handling procedures including customer inquiries and complaints system;
- xviii) Proof of information and communication technology applications relevant to shipping agency business (in case of new applicants); and
- xix) Evidence of payment of application fees;

NB: Please take note that no shipping agency licence shall be issued by the Corporation to a private shipping agent in contradiction with exclusive mandate of the Corporation.

2. Miscellaneous Port Services Provider

- i) Memorandum and Articles of Association (in case of new applicants);
- ii) Certificate of Incorporation/Compliance as the case may be;
- iii) Valid business licence;
- iv) Tax Clearance Certificate;
- v) Share certificates of a company's shareholders;
- vi) Proof of business premises;
- vii) List of available cargo working equipment, working gear and working tools;
- viii) Customer care handling procedures including customer inquiries and complaints system;
- ix) List of available safety gear for operational workers; and
- x) Evidence of payment of application fee.

3. Cargo Consolidators and De-consolidators

- i) A certificate of Incorporation (in case of new applicants);
- ii) A valid insurance cover for third party liability;
- iii) A valid fire safety certificate;
- iv) Proof of availability of business premises, including customs bonded area or warehouse;
- v) Valid Tax Clearance certificate;
- vi) Proposed rates and charges including transit rates which conform to approved tariff;
- vii) List of names and addresses of local and foreign counterparts;
- viii) List and proof of available cargo handling equipment owned or available on outsourcing arrangements;
- ix) List of owned information and communication technology facilities;
- x) Previous Cargo Consolidator/ De-Consolidator licence;
- xi) Proof of existence of cargo tracking system;
- xii) Latest Bank Statement;
- xiii) Proof of qualified staff in compliance with the Cargo Consolidators and De-consolidators Regulations, 2018;
- xiv) Customer care handling procedures including customer inquiries and complaints system; and
- xv) Evidence of payment of application fee.

4. Clearing and Forwarding Agents

- i) Certificate of incorporation or certificate of compliance, as the case may be;
- ii) Memorandum and articles of association (in case of new applicants);
- iii) Valid business licence;
- iv) Lease agreement or proof of ownership of the premises where the applicant's office for clearing and forwarding agency is located;
- v) Proof of ICT applications by the applicant for clearing and the forwarding agency;
- vi) Customer care handling procedures including customer inquiries and complaints system;
- vii) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate;
- viii) Evidence of payment of application fees set out in the Third Schedule to these Regulations;
- ix) Proof of qualifications of staff in compliance the Clearing and Forwarding Agents Regulations, 2018; and
- x) Evidence of payment of application fees.

5. Gross Mass Verifiers

- i) Valid Business licence;
- ii) Certificate of Incorporation (in case of new applicants);
- iii) Calibration Certificate of the weighing equipment issued by the Weight and Measures Agency;
- iv) Tariff rates/Charges to be applied; and
- v) Evidence of payment of application fees.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, 2017 and its Regulations are available on the TASAC website (www.tasac.go.tz). Applicants are advised to access the legislation for detailed guidance on requirements for licence application and conditions of licence in order to ensure full compliance.

The Corporation may publish lists of applicants for licence, registration or renewals to enable members of the Public to provide available evidence(s) to TASAC regarding a service-provider company which is a habitual violator of licence conditions or does not meet qualifications or requirements for licence or registration being applied for.

For any enquiry, please contact TASAC at the address indicated below -

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)
PPF Tower – 8th Floor, Plot No.:20/21
Ohio Street / Garden Avenue,
P.O. Box 989,
DAR ES SALAAM
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Fighting poverty: Regional and district councils advised to incorporate TASAF

By Getrude Mbagu

DEPUTY permanent secretary President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (Health) Dr Dorothy Gwajima has instructed regional and districts councils in the country to ensure that all their interventions incorporate TASAF projects so as to support the government's efforts to fight poverty.

Deputy PS made the call yesterday during her tour to visit various projects implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Kibaha, Coast region.

Dr Gwajima wants officials from different departments to work in team spirit and take TASAF as the priority agenda by ensuring that it is well implemented to get Tanzanians out of poverty. "We have to work in team spirit, go out and strengthen advocacy about TASAF interventions while equipping beneficiaries with required skills and knowledge to enable them embark on small scale income generating projects," she said.

She cited TASAF as among pioneer programme which if well implemented will improve millions of poor households thus breaking out the

poverty cycle.

She noted that, for instance, the programme had improved access to health care, school enrolment increased nutritional levels among beneficiary households, among other gains something which should be commended.

She wanted extension officers to penetrate to the rural areas to visit and educate TASAF beneficiaries on better agricultural practices, poultry and livestock keeping.

"Extension, nutritional, social welfare officers have to wake up, get out of their offices and go to villages to educate the poor households on different things which will enable them improve their lives and get out of poverty," she added.

For her part, Coast Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Theresia Mbandu underscored the need for the government to expand TASAF and reach more poor households in the region.

Presenting an implementation report, TASAF Coordinator for Coast region Asha Iteweles said that through the established Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) in Tasaf III, beneficiaries participate in public works such as putting up infrastructures in the

area of education, health and water to improve social services and earn extra-income through the salaries they receive after work.

Iteweles added that Tasaf do not only provide funds to the beneficiaries but also link s the beneficiaries to employment projects but also enable them establish community savings and investments groups where TASAF boost them with funds.

According to her, through the programme poor families have received support; students are able to attend school as well as obtain social services, including health care, while others have been able to establish small-scale projects, breaking the poverty cycle.

"The Tasaf programme has also brought indirect benefits whereby communities of different ideologies have kept aside their differences and work together with the aim of eradicating poverty within their areas," Iteweles added.

She further said the programme has also enabled the beneficiaries to acquire basic services such as food, shelter and health service for which they could not get before the programme was launched.



Kemileme Mutasa of the Vice President's Office (Environment) speaks at the launch of Kisiki Hai, an NGO, at Mpwapwa in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Bugando hospital embarks on research on non-communicable diseases in Lake Zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

IN implementing the directives of President John Magufuli given on July 15 this year, Bugando Referral Hospital, in partnership with the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences (CUHAS) Bugando has started conducting research on five non-communicable diseases including cancer, heart diseases, diabetes, kidney diseases and blood pressure.

President Magufuli's directives were issued when he was launching seven projects for the improvement of medical services at the hospital during which he called for the formation of a commission to research on the non-communicable diseases under the auspices of the Ministry of Health.

Speaking to reporters at the hospital yesterday, the Managing Director of Bugando Referral Hospital Prof Abel Makubi said the initial cost of the exercise will be about 60m/- which may go up when the process of blood analysis is complete.

The research, Prof Makubi said, will be conducted in six regions including Mwanza, Simiyu, Geita, Kagera, Mara and Shinyanga in 12 districts and will involve 7,000 people.

He said: "In order to satisfy ourselves

on the enormity of the problem and the initial symptoms of the diseases, the research that began on September 15 aims at lower levels of the households down to villages because only few people go to hospitals for treatment, will take 14 days, after which analysis thereof will take three months to complete. "The data that we have on the diseases is scanty and are insufficient because they are taken from the few patients who make to the hospitals. That is why the exercise aims at lower levels of the households, so that many wananchi will be able to get the basic understanding of the diseases, and those who will be found to suffer from them will be given treatment and medical advice."

Prof Makubi called on the people in the Lake Zone who will be reached by the research teams to give maximum cooperation including freely offering their blood for analysis.

However, he said in regard to blood pressure Bugando Hospital receives about five new patients per day, whilst 70 people with blood pressure, 50 with diabetes attend daily clinic each day.

He said in regard to cancer and kidney patients, the figures are 30-50 and 100 respectively.

On his part, the Senior Lecturer at

CUHAS and Research Coordinator, Dr Anthony Kapesa said the research has involved 12 medical experts, including two who will conduct diagnosis of heart patients, whereas 10 will conduct research and treatment and will work together with a team of 200 assistant researchers who have been given special training.

Dr Kapesa said they have picked up two districts from each of the six regions whereas for Mwanza region the districts selected are Sengerema and Misungwi, Mara (Bunda and Serengeti), Geita (Chato and Geita), Simiyu (Bariadi and Busega), Kagera (Muleba and Bukoba Rural) and Shinyanga (Kishapu and Shinyanga).

He added that since initially they were confronted with the scourge of communicable diseases, now another problem has come up - that of non-communicable diseases. Hence, he said, in the coming exercise they will offer referral education that will help sufferers what steps to take when they contract the diseases.

On his part, the Director of Research at CUHAS Prof Domenica Morona said when they heard the President's directives, they decided it was important to join forces at the Hospital to make the exercise a success.

Adhere to laws, deputy minister tells miners in forest reserves

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu, has called upon the wananchi with mining licences in forest reserves, game reserves and national parks to adhere to the country's laws before they embark on their mining activities.

He said despite having mining licences, they have to apply for permits from relevant authorities of natural conservation.

Kanyasu clarified that entering a forest reserve and start mining without such permits is an offence and if

arrested will be dealt accordingly.

He issued this warning yesterday in Geita region at a public meeting with Mgsu residents whose main economic preoccupation is gold mining.

He said those who already have mining licences already for mining within the forest reserve in Mgsu area should seek permits from Tanzania Forest Service (TFS) so that they continue with their activities without bother. He told the wananchi if there is an area that has minerals there are two types of licences required for one to have extraction rights - one in respect for the right above the ground, and

another for the right under the ground, before embarking in extracting the minerals. He said the licences for the rights above the ground are issued by TFS.

He said if TFS agrees to issue licences the miners will be issued with procedures including making some payment and told how to replace the trees cut down soon after mineral extraction is complete. "Whoever will be caught cutting down trees in the forest reserve for mining activities without licence, we will ensure he pays monetary compensation for all the trees cuts," he warned.

SGR must provide for loading and off-loading facilities for enhanced ferrying of livestock, urges Ulega

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries, deputy minister Abdallah Ulega has underlined the need for the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to be equipped with loading and unloading infrastructure to facilitate operation of the meat processing plant—Ruvu Integrated Industry in Coast Region.

The idea, Ulega said will facilitate movement of livestock from upcountry regions to the meat processing plant, which is under construction in Ruvu area.

Ulega made the call over the weekend when he visited SGR construction site at Kwala village in Kibaha district. Kwala is earmarked as an area that will be used to unload livestock from up-country regions and will also be used to load processed goods to the markets—Dar es Salaam and abroad.

"As ministry, we're very optimistic with the SGR project, which will transform the livestock sector in the country

as it will provide reliable transport for livestock and processed goods contrary to the current situation whereby the animals spend long time in lorries, the situation that makes them exhausted and sometimes die on the way," said Ulega, who is also an MP for Mkuranga.

He explained that SGR will reduce transport costs for livestock keepers, who are spending a lot when transporting animals to the markets.

For his part, Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Eng Atashasta Nditiye said putting special stations for loading and unloading goods is part of the ministry's priority in SGR project.

He asked the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to send a team of experts so that they meet with SGR construction experts on the best ways to put up loading and unloading livestock in the railway line.

The first phase operation of the 300km standard gauge railway (SGR) linking the business capital Dar es Sa-

laam and Morogoro to the East will commence on December 2019. Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Isack Kamwele once quoted as saying that the procurement of 1,430 cargo wagons, 20 locomotives, 60 passenger carriages and five sets of multiple trains has begun. The foundation stone for the construction of the first section of the SGR connecting Dar es Salaam to Morogoro was set on April 2017, and on May 2019, it was announced that the current phase of the project was 60% complete.

Partial funding for this section, amounting to USD 1.2 billion, was borrowed from the Export Credit Bank of Turkey and was contracted to a 50/50 consortium comprising Yapi Merkezi of Turkey and Mota-Engil of Portugal.

The overall SGR project will stretch for 1,219 kilometers, connecting Dar es Salaam to Mwanza on Lake Victoria for an overall budget of USD 7.5 billion, with a five-year completion timeline.



A trolley loaded with gas cylinders abandoned near a food vendor's roadside makeshift kitchen along Bandi Street in Dar es Salaam's densely populated Kisutu area where charcoal is used in cooking. Danger looms, what with the likelihood of the cylinders exploding. We captured this scene yesterday afternoon. Photo: John Badi

African countries advised to develop climate-resilient agricultural systems

By Guardian Reporter

FIFTY-five African countries recently signed a five-point declaration to increase the climate adaptation and resilience of the continent's food systems.

The declaration, signed by government representatives at the African Green Revolution Forum - 2019 in Accra, Ghana recently, recognises climate change as a challenge to Africa's food security.

Africa's population will increase to 2.4 billion by 2050, requiring the continent to scale up its food production while tackling the challenge of climate change.

The declaration lists five measures that should be taken by the signatory countries to increase food production amidst climate change to embed resilience and adaptation in national

agricultural and investment plans, develop a comprehensive risk management plan coupled with appropriate financial tools to manage risk, accelerate adoption of technologies and information platforms that have significant grass root impacts as well as engaging smallholder farmers to drive food security

They also agreed to encourage and support the private sector for generating evidence and knowledge needed in adaptation and resilience building in food systems.

The signatories also agreed to strengthen climate data analysis and reinforce Early Warning Early Action systems to protect livelihoods.

They agreed to invest in mapping the climate-risks to better prepare for emergencies and put measures in place to safeguard livelihoods

and recover from extreme weather events.

The declaration also called for increased funding by multilateral, bilateral and private partners to support adaptation and resilience building in Africa's food systems.

The meeting in Accra saw a number of stakeholders coming together to formulate the declaration including heads of state, ministers, representatives of farmer organisations, private agribusinesses, financial institutions, academics, development partners, and non-profits.

The declaration is expected to support agriculture's contribution to economic growth in line with Africa's 2060 vision and agenda, the 2014 Malabo Declaration and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

NAIROBI

Kenya, Tanzania colleges win China tech contracts

TANZANIA and Kenya raised the region's banner high at this year's Africa Tech Challenge held here, scooping manufacturing contracts and scholarships.

In the competition, technical and vocational education institutions from the two neighbours saw off contestants from Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Zambia to take home more than \$100,000 in contracts and several scholarships.

In the group award, Kenya, Tanzania and Gabon won the first three places.

Ghana team was named the most engaging team.

Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology in Tanzania and Meru Technical College from Kenya won \$50,000 contract each to produce and export "Made in Africa" parts to China. They will work with Chinese firm Avic International, who doubled as co-organisers of the competition in partnership with the

Ministry of Education.

Kenya's Industry Principal Secretary Betty Maina argued for skills that would enhance value addition and promote locally produced goods.

"It is crucial to forge partnerships with organisations such as AVIC to channel resources towards developing our human capital," she said.

VACANCY



People are the business... Our business is people!

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position:	Teacher.
Job Number:	GGM-2019-TR-06.
Number of Positions:	01.
Works For:	Head Teacher.
Qualifications:	Bachelor of Education Degree (3 year) and registration with the teaching Council in the Country of origin.
Experience:	Minimum of 3 years' experience in an English international school. Experience of teaching English to dual grade and multi grade classes. Experience of teaching the International Primary Curriculum will be an advantage.
Purpose of the Role:	To effectively deliver the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in English to learners in dual grade classes across the full spectrum of early years and primary ages (Age 5 to 12).

Main or Key Accountabilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching and Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure each child's learning by teaching the syllabus of all subject areas to the class in an appropriate manner. Differentiate class work as necessary to meet the differing ability needs of all children. Acknowledge that English is not necessarily the native language of all children in the class and adapt his/her vocabulary accordingly Ensure that all work is marked meaningfully, promptly and clearly and that corrections are undertaken where necessary. Ensure homework is given appropriately where and when necessary. Be prepared to be visited and observed by colleagues. Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare appropriately for the short, medium and long term. Collaborate with other teachers in the planning to ensure continuity and progression. Participate in the development and review of curriculum in collaboration with the line Manager. Participate in the development and review of school policies where necessary. Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally report on each child's progress at the end of each term. Continuously assess each student so as to be able to clearly justify and substantiate grades, levels or comments given in each report. Keep clear records of any levels, grades or marks attained by each child in classroom tests/assessments. Ensure that the homework diary is kept correctly and is up to date where appropriate. Be prepared to discuss report grades and each child's progress with parents both on Parents' Evenings and at other reasonable times throughout the year. Classroom Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the class atmosphere is conducive to learning. Provide an environment in which the children feel safe, confident and happy to learn. Have displays that stimulate learning. Ensure that children are not left unsupervised in classroom during lesson time or at break time. Ensure that children are sent promptly to specialist lessons. Insist on good levels of behavior, both in and out of the classroom. General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervise children in the play areas at break times according to the duty roster. Serve as role model to the children in terms of behaviour, dress, attitude and manners. Participate in the Extra Curricular Activities programme. Be available to attend and participate in extra-curricular events in the school calendar such as Parents' Evenings, Concerts, etc. Actively support the ethos of the school. Be familiar with the Handbook for Families, with Staff Supplement. Uphold the Values of AGA and GGIS.
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Additional Requirements:	Must be registered with the Council of Educators or Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.
Mode of Application:	Application cover letter (Subject should be: Teacher And/or quote the job number), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. You will be required to bring original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
Contact Address:	Human Resources Manager, Geita Gold Mining Ltd, P.O.Box 532, Geita. Email: jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com NB: Internal applicants may submit applications to departmental HR Officer. All internal applications must be endorsed by the applicant's head of department.
Application Deadline:	Application letters should reach the above on or before 30th September 2017. 17hr30. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com.

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Mwigulu Nchemba, legislator for Iramba West in Singida Region, addresses a meeting during an inspection tour of development activities in the constituency at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Innocent Ntali

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

Iringa

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein is expected to grace the official opening of the southern highlands travel expo, dubbed 'Karibu Kusini' which is aimed at broadening national tourism in the southern circuit.

The three-day event, which will kick off on Friday in Iringa Municipality is also geared at rolling out more attractions so that the country could get new varieties of leisure visitors as well as persuading those who had already visited Tanzania to come back for new ventures.

Dr Shein to grace the opening of this year's 'Karibu Kusini' tourism exhibition in Iringa

Iringa Regional Commissioner, Ally Hapi told reporters that the event which will bring on board hundreds of exhibitors and participants will be held at Kihesa-Kilolo grounds on the outskirts of Iringa Municipality.

RC Hapi called on residents and business community in the southern highlands regions to explore the opportunities, which are embedded in the important annual event.

According to RC Hapi, Natural Resources and Tourism minister, Dr Hamis Kigwangalla is expected

to wrap up the tourism expo on September 22, this year.

The anticipated 'Karibu Kusini' fair and related southern tourism promotion platforms come in just as the regions are in preparations for the second phase of the World Bank funded Resilient Natural Resources Management for Tourism and Growth Project (REGROW).

"The Karibu Kusini fair is part of the government efforts to broaden tourism in the country and create new opportunities," the RC said.

Karibu Kusini tourism expo borrows a leaf from the already successful Karibu Tourism Fair in Arusha, Kilimanjaro Travel Fair (KILFAIR) in Moshi and the Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) in Dar es Salaam to boost the southern circuit.

The initiatives to map the south into global tourism map is being undertaken by the regional administrative secretaries from the seven regions in the circuit, including Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Rukwa, Katavi, Songwe and the slightly central Morogoro.

British national who lost both legs in Afghanistan conquers Mt Kilimanjaro

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A 32-year-old British national James Rose who lost both legs above the knee when blown up by a bomb in Afghanistan accompanied by his other four colleagues has managed to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to the top for the cause.

Speaking with this paper upon his arrival from the Gilman's Point (5,685 metres above the Sea level) of the 'Roof of Africa' the army soldier said that he has battled depression and anxiety since November 2009 when he was blown up by a bomb in Afghanistan, but has refused to let his injuries beat him, and he is happy that he managed to fulfill his dream.

"I am happy that we all managed to make it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in our 7-Day charitable expedition through the Marangu route, and we have raised Euro 30,000 will be split equally between Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion," he explained.

James, who won silver and bronze medals at the Invictus Games last year in Sydney in volleyball and basketball further explained that, he could not manage to make it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro without great assistance from the mountain climbing professionals from ZARA Tanzania Adventures the organizers of the expedition.

"Some might see this as an impossible challenge but I made it to the top on prosthetic

legs under good assistance from mountain climbing professionals from ZARA Tours, much salutes to Mndeme Ramadhani who was our Chief Guide during all 7-days mount Kilimanjaro expedition," he said. Narrating his biography, James a Former Green Howard grew up in the North East and as a child supported his local football team Middleborough FC, a team he always dreamed of playing for. With his passion for football and fitness he knew his life could go one of two ways, football or the thrill of the military.

His life was pushed more toward the military way of life, but football and fitness were always in the back of his mind and because of this he became an avid Boro fan and season ticket holder until he joined the Army in January 2008

James thrived on the fitness of the military and enjoyed basic training, excelling in all areas before being posted to his first camp Weeton Barracks in September 2008

It was during his time at Weeton Barracks James found out that he would be detached to Afghanistan in 2009, this was

"We have raised Euro 30,000 to get James Rose an Afghan War Vet to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro; and as he made it to top, he is now the first unaided Military double amputee to complete this climb..."

one of the reasons James joined the military, to make a difference to the "War on Terrorism" and his first tour would put James in the thick of it. It was during this tour James found himself in a situation which would change his life.

"It was during the month of November 2009 that James was on patrol, an everyday occurrence whilst on detachment; all was going well until this moment James heard a pressure plate (IED) click and he knew in a split second his life was going to change." He explained.

He further explained that, the results were devastating, a broken pelvis and tail bone and worse of all the loss of both legs above the knee.

For his part, the Organizer of the charitable expedition from UK, Darreen Young from Royal Air Force explained said that, all donations from the expedition will be split equally between Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion.

"We have raised Euro 30,000 to get James Rose an Afghan War Vet to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro; and as he made it to top, he is now the first unaided Military double amputee to complete this climb..." he explained.

Other trekkers of the special expedition are Mark Burns from Royal Air Force in UK, Nel Young, a fitness Instructor, and Louis Baptiste, a Film Director from London, in UK.

Africa Oil & Power and partners condemn xenophobic attacks

CAPE TOWN

AFRICA Oil & Power (AOP) has expressed outrage at the violent attacks on foreign nationals living in South Africa and has called for violence to come to an end, amid reports of the government adopting measures to ensure safety for all.

As of yesterday, South African police had made 639 arrests related to the xenophobic attacks in South Africa, with South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa saying there was no justification for the attacks and calling on ministers and the police to find solutions to the violence.

The violent attacks have resulted in at least 12 deaths and businesses being looted. In addressing the issue with determination to eliminate it, the government has implemented safety and security action plans all over the country and says it is determined to put an end to the attacks.

AOP has declared that its business is rooted in the promotion of African cooperation and unity and that through its conferences all over the continent and beyond, "we have aimed to tell Africa's energy and investment story in a way that is beneficial to Africa's people first. However, a positive end goal can only be achieved if we embrace one another and work together".

"AOP stands firmly against the violence on foreign nationals that has erupted in South Africa in recent weeks. We are pleased that the government has taken affirmative action against the xenophobic attacks which has already shown positive results," said Africa Oil & Power CEO Guillaume Doane.

"This is a time for South Africa to look back at its democratic breakthrough in 1994 in which the support of other African countries was critical in it achieving its freedom. The country is where it is today in large part because of the generosity and kindness of its neighboring countries," he said.

Raising concern and denouncing the surge in violence, Centurion Law Group CEO and African Energy Chamber executive chairman NJ Ayuk said: "Most people, particularly most Africans, are familiar with this situation. The question is, then, what is to be done to end disproportionate violence and economic stagnation? Businesses are leaving and investors are not investing."

"The blame game is not going to work. We must own up to it, find solutions and fix it. This is not the Africa we are working for," he noted.

Cautioning on the vicious cycle that is bound to occur should the violence not be addressed with immediate action, Ayuk said:

"Many have given up on a solution and the hardliners on both sides are winning. This is going to underpin a vicious cycle, high rates of violent crimes, more poverty and killings. Words must become deeds that meet needs. We owe it to a lot of good people who are trapped."

Last week Thursday, South African Police spokesperson Lungelo Dlamini said there had been a "dramatic decline in public violence and looting" in Gauteng - where the violent attacks initially began - after 289 people had been arrested.

Many South Africans and global leaders have called on the country to take immediate action in ending the violence. In response, President Ramaphosa, in an official statement endorsed on Twitter by Mineral Resources and Energy minister Gwede Mantashe said: "The people of our country want to live in harmony. Whatever concerns or grievances we may have, we need to handle them in a democratic way. There can be no justification for any South African to attack people from other countries."

"I condemn the violence that has been spreading around a number of our provinces in the strongest terms. I'm convening the ministers in the security cluster today to make sure that we keep a close eye on these acts of wanton violence and find ways of stopping them."

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) also pledged its support to the government and encouraged South Africans to look to the future and how these events will affect the country's advancement.

"We, as a chamber, condemn the violence. We want to caution against these attacks which are shortsighted and sure to destroy businesses," said SACCI president Mtho Xulu in a meeting of business representatives with the Police minister yesterday.

The South African Oil & Gas Alliance (SAOGA) also spoke out against the violence, reminding South Africans that it is in everyone's interest that South Africans live harmoniously with their neighbours.

"In many ways, South Africa is who most African nations look to for inspiration on how to drive social and economic change. It is disappointing that the violence should alter this perception in a critical time when Africa is emerging as a key player on the global stage," said Adrian Strydom, SAOGA Executive.

"I encourage all South Africans to speak up against this horrific situation, not only because the rest of the world is watching, but because it is wrong and goes against the country's ideals and the spirit of Ubuntu," he noted.



Expansion of Morogoro Road stretch from Wimara in Dar es Salaam to Kibaha in Coast Region into a six-lane dual carriageway well in progress, as found at Mbezi kwa Musuguri on the outskirts of the port city yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

Zanzibar begins to register traditional healers

ZANZIBAR'S traditional healers with their toolkits of herbs, holy scriptures and massages are being registered by authorities keen to regulate the practitioners who treat everything from depression to hernias.

About 340 healers have been registered since Zanzibar, a region of the east African country of Tanzania, passed the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act in 2009.

There are an estimated 2,000 more healers, or mgangas, hoping to register, said Hassan Combo, the government registrar at the council that records them.

Traditional healer, Mwanahija Mzee has already registered. She tends to patients at her busy clinic where women line up in the early morning sun cradling their sick children.

One family seeks relief for a child suffering from an umbilical hernia, scared that if they bring the child to hospital for surgery he will die. A pregnant woman who has repeatedly miscarried comes for reassurance, herbs and prayers that this baby will survive.

"People come here because I actually help them. I met many patients that went to hospital first and got no help or the medicine didn't work," said Mwanahija Mzee, 56. "This is my job six days a week for more than 20 years so I do better, know more than them. Patients that come to me don't die."

Mwanahija Mzee's parents were also traditional healers in Zanzibar, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean.

To be registered, mgangas must be aged at least 18, have at least three years of experience and have a recommendation letter from a trained mganga. A council of 11 members that can include birth attendants, respected healers, village elders and lawyers approve the applications each month.

While the government does not try to dictate healers' methods, it tries to work with them on quality control, government registrar Combo said, for example ensuring plants used in medicines are of the same standard.

A group facilitated by the registrars office links doctors with traditional healers to give

them some medical education on specific diseases like hypertension, diabetes and pregnancy. The mgangas share information with the doctors about patient statistics and needs, he said.

Some healers use herbs. Others use scriptures from the Muslim holy book, the Koran. Most use both. Belief in supernatural spirits like djinns features strongly.

Some healers, like Haji Mrisho, mainly give blessings to pregnant women to prevent their unborn babies being possessed by djinns. Others, like sheikhs at the Shifaa Herbal clinic, read the Koran to cast out the djinns blamed for many maladies.

Mwanahija Mzee uses a mix of massages, medicines from roots, herbs and leaves and Koranic verses, which may be written on a plate in red food coloring. The plate is then rinsed, and the water ingested as part of the medicinal regimen. Some patients like Fatma Hamad say they trust traditional healers over the overcrowded, underfunded public hospitals where many feel their ailments are

not treated properly.

Fatawi Haji Hafidh, manager at Makunduchi Hospital, the second-largest government-run hospital on Zanzibar's main island, says overstretched doctors and nurses may not have the time to see patients or the diagnostic equipment.

Patients may also be unable to afford the medicine prescribed, or they may stop taking it before the course is finished, leading them to relapse and adding to their suspicion of government-run facilities, he said. Many simply believe djinns are the problem.

Fatma Hamad took her 2-year-old daughter to hospital after one of the toddler's legs became paralyzed during a high fever. Unable to find the problem through X-rays, the hospital recommended she seek out a traditional healer.

Mwanahija Mzee massages the child and after a few appointments, her mobility is slowly improving. The mother has taken this as proof that the illness was caused by possession. "Must be a djinn, as Bi Mwanahija said," Hamad said.



AAR Insurance Tanzania brokers attend a wellness consultation event at a Dar es Salaam hotel at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Rwanda, Uganda commit to implementing August agreement on ending of hostilities

KIGALI

GOVERNMENT officials from Rwanda and Uganda said here on Monday they are committed to implementing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in August to cease hostilities between the two sides.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart, Paul Kagame, signed the MoU during a quadripartite summit which was also attended by the host, Angolan President Joao Lourenco, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) leader Felix Tshisekedi in Luanda.

"Rwanda is fully committed to the realization of the provisions of the MoU. We will not be found to be wanting," Rwandan Minister of State in Charge of East African Affairs Olivier Nduhungirehe told the opening ceremony of the first meeting of the ad hoc commission of the MoU.

The MoU is a major milestone toward resolving the issues affecting the two countries, he said, adding that the

two countries share strong historical friendly and brotherly ties as well as economic and social relations that are affected by the situation.

Uganda foreign minister Sam Kutesa, for his part, said Kampala "is committed to the implementation of the Luanda MoU and looks forward to working with Rwanda and the facilitators to resolve the outstanding issues as soon as possible."

"The historical ties between our two countries are interconnected," he said. "I'm sure this meeting will come up with a tangible solution to issues currently affecting our relationship with Rwanda."

DRC Deputy Prime Minister Gilbert Kankonde Malamba, who attended the meeting as a facilitator, said the DRC is advocating for a peaceful region and brotherly relationship among countries in the great lakes region, and support Rwanda and Uganda to find a lasting solution to "frosty" relations affecting them.

Malamba, who is also the country's

minister of interior, security and customary Affairs, said the DRC is committed to supporting Rwanda and Uganda in reconciliation for the benefit of regional stability.

Angolan foreign minister Manuel Domingos Augusto, another facilitator, said the meeting is a positive step toward the implementation of the agreement and is a sign of political will on both sides to put into action what was agreed in the MoU.

The implementation of the MoU will be key in ensuring peace and stability in the great lakes region, he said.

Rwandan officials attending the meeting also included Minister of Justice Johnston Busingye, Minister of Local Government Anastase Shyaka, senior intelligence officials and its high commissioner to Uganda.

Uganda's minister for internal affairs Jeje Odongo, Attorney General William Byaruhanga, its high commissioner to Rwanda and an official from the office of the president also attended the meeting.

New WWF report: Mara River at risk, urgent intervention needed to rescue it

By Guardian Reporter

THE new report by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has shown that the Mara River basin is at risk due to human activities and climate change-related factors in Tanzania and Kenya.

Launched on Mara Day 2019, the Importance of a Healthy, free-flowing Mara river to the society and economy of Kenya and Tanzania outlines how critical this famous river is to both countries.

According to the report, the Mara River Basin is home to one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world: the great wildebeest migration. The globally unique spectacle is completely and utterly reliant on a variable and naturally functioning Mara River Basin.

"Without the ebb and flow of the Mara River, the great wildebeest migration would cease to exist as we know it. This is just one single example of how the Mara River Basin is the blue heart of Kenya and Tanzania, supporting their economy and society," the report reads in part.

But the Mara River Basin has much broader importance to Kenya and Tanzania. Although home to only 1.4% of the Kenyan population and 0.7% of the Tanzanian population, "the basin supports some of the most profitable economic activities in Kenya and Tanzania, including tourism, agriculture and mining, which collectively contribute between 10-15% to both countries' GDP.

However, the delicate natural balance of the basin is at risk. Risks range from land-use change in the upper catchment, pollution in the river system and development of infrastructure such as dams, hydropower, irrigation or water supply that may undermine the natural variation in the river flows.

Other risks include extreme climate and variable hydrology in the Mara in the future, as a result of climate change is a major risk for the future of the ecosystems that support the economy and society of Tanzania and Kenya.

The average population

growth in the basin continues at approximately 3%, with associated demands on the natural resources in the basin. This has been accompanied by an increase in agricultural lands at the expense of the basin's forests and grasslands.

In addition to the associated effects of deforestation, water abstraction for livestock, agricultural irrigation and other industries are on the rise.

The Mara is not a large river, and ever-increasing abstractions will, eventually, severely degrade the riverine ecosystem and even impinge upon the most basic needs of people living along the river. The effects of such a dry down would be profound, both for people, livestock, wildlife and the basin's economy.

One way to ensure a healthy Mara is through ensuring environmental flows. However, environmental flows are already at risk in the Mara River Basin.

The underlying concept of the reserve flow is that providing minimum standards are met in each month any surplus water is potentially available for abstraction for other uses.

However the results of the study show that in drought years the reserve flows are not being met even in the upper and middle reaches of the river from which the study concludes this 'may be the first clear evidence of a trend towards unacceptable alterations of the Mara River's flow regime'.

Conservation of a healthy, free-flowing Mara River is important for every aspect of Kenya and Tanzania, whether economically, socially, culturally or environmentally.

Future development plans in the basin needs to be conscious that without the natural flow of the Mara River, the Blue Heart of the economy and society would cease to exist in Kenya and Tanzania.

By all working together, the future of the Mara may be able to balance all its competing needs. We all have a role to play. Each sector has a responsibility and a series of actions that may bring about sustainable development in the basin.

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Climate change: Gender aspect is relevant but not adequate

WITH climatic disturbances intensifying by the day, member of the National Assembly have been consulting on parliamentary initiatives in that regard, evidently on the basis of activism both among women MPs and interested stakeholders outside the House. The issue at midweek was how to take action to strengthen the enactment and implementation of gender responsible policies, plans and strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

An in-house activist organ, the Tanzanian Women Parliamentarians Group (TWPG), hosted the discussions where a number of MPs asserted that there is need for gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation. This affirmation was unquestionably accurate but before one discusses the gender aspect, there is need to get a picture of overall solutions. Are we up to the challenge?

Viewers of news programmes on television had an opportunity to get an unhappy illustration of climate change effects in the sweeping devastation of the Bahamas by Hurricane Dorian. These winds and tornadoes used to be sea storms known to sailors and soldiers whose warships regularly scale the seas in this or that mission, with the names being created during World War II by the US Navy in Asia to reflect the timing and direction of hurricanes. Not they ravage nearby coastal zones, and in East Africa, Hurricane Idai went far inland.

The parliamentary seminar was held in order to enhance public awareness and knowledge on the critical role of gender in implementing climate change actions, organizers said. Perhaps the issue that critically touches women is that sources of water are getting to be more isolated in village areas, in which case rural needs for water compare

with urban areas. Natural springs have dried up.

In that case, the Tanzania Gender and Climate Change Action Plan must first articulate the climate change action plan before its gender interface. It is not likely that the parliamentary activists had no ideas there, but the issue is cloudy, as the public is merely guessing. Who in the world is tackling the issue?

So far world attention is glued to the global plan favored by activists, aiming at reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 degrees Centigrade by 2030, despite that more countries are moving with gusto to industrialise. New technologies may cut down motor vehicle emissions, but emissions seem to be rising rather than diminishing. The question is to reduce levels of sea water by desalination and then piping the water across the deserts and throw seeds to germinate, creating vast new forests. The world just can't shout at Brazil to keep the 'lungs of the earth' in place after using up all their forests. We must wake up.

Tanzania is fortunately on a 'leeward' side in cyclonic movements in the Indian Ocean but a scare came up not so long ago when a cyclone bound for Mtwara and Lindi changed course and lost speed as it diverted to hapless Mozambique - from which we can learn lessons. Bahamas and other cases of devastation appear to suggest that one measure that could help is reserving coastal areas that are not built up intensely to mangrove forests. If dense vegetation exists it can help to trap incoming sea waves and cut their speed, as different from such storms moving from the sea to densely populated urban areas as we saw in the Bahamas. Perhaps if NGOs direct their energies to mangrove forests along the coast, and seek foreign assistance, they could make a genuine difference.

Building competitive edge and driving world-class service delivery is crucial

THE CIPS Procurement Excellence Programme is a globally recognised award for performance improvement, and more than 300 organisations worldwide including Africa have achieved an award through it. It is the only independent, comprehensive, procurement-specific assessment of its kind which measures the procurement function against world-class standards. It is a globally recognised award that demonstrates how well an organisation is performing whilst building a competitive edge and driving world-class service delivery.

The Procurement Excellence Programme works by reviewing organisation's procurement and supplier management procedures and highlighting where improvements and efficiencies can be made. There are various levels of award - the Standard programme is about 'what' you do and verifies that robust and effective governance is in place.

The Advanced programme is about 'how well' you do it, and there are three levels within that to demonstrate how well a procurement function is growing in influence, has the control to accelerate procurement performance and change, and deliver value - Silver signifies a proactive business supporter; Gold, a strategic value adder; Platinum, a strategic value creator. There are five 'dimensions' under assessment common to every business, regardless of sector or market: leadership and management, strategy and policy, people, processes and systems, and performance management.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has been recognised for procurement excellence by the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS), the world's largest professional body for procurement and supply management professionals, with offices all over the world including Africa.

The Bank was awarded a silver award at advanced standard level following the CIPS Procurement Excellence Programme, for having successfully developed its corporate procurement processes from an operational focus to managerial and strategic, building performance, capability and value.

The Bank is the first multilateral development bank in the world to receive this recognition.

Mateus Magala, Vice President for Corporate Services and Human Resources at the Bank commented: "Winning this globally-recognised award is welcome news and we are delighted to be commended for demonstrating advanced levels of corporate procurement capability."

The Bank ensures that special attention is paid to economy and efficiency in its procurement processes, both internally and externally across bank-funded projects. Transparency and open competitive procedures for procurement of goods, works and services are also essential.

The Bank has been proactive in enhancing its corporate procurement processes and pinpointing the procurement department's role as a fundamental activity in its strategic operations. "We have made significant progress in improving corporate procurement performance to catalyse the Bank's efforts in achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction on the continent," Magala added.

Alan Martin, Head of Procurement Excellence said, "Sincere congratulations for achieving the CIPS Procurement Excellence Award at advanced standard silver level. It's clear that the Bank has the right procurement governance mechanisms in place for effective supply assurance and compliance. We hope the Bank will continue to effect change while adding value from procurement processes."



Resolving the key challenges in the corporate banking space

By Joanna Agyapong-Agyare

GHANA is a developing economy and the private sector is key to achieving the set developmental goals. One main driver of the private sector and industrial growth is access to financing, and in Ghana, that role is played mainly by the banks and other players in the financial sector.

Without the support of banks, most businesses will still remain abstract concepts in business plans. Others will also have remained start-ups and even more, would have collapsed. This is a testimony to the role banks have played and continue to play in ensuring the sustainability of economic growth in Ghana. The following questions, however, remain: how efficient and effective has this role been?

Does the financing provided meet the needs of businesses in terms of volume, time, cost and tenor? What are the liquidity dynamics in the Ghanaian market that determine the banks' ability to meet the factors of volume, time, cost and tenor?

The effectiveness of any financing provided to a company is determined by the volume, timing, cost, and tenor. Growing companies, as well as start-ups, have high financing requirements to meet growth objectives. Such companies usually retain their earnings if they are profitable, but that does not change the fact that they require significant financing in addition.

The ability to secure the required financing volume is key in making sure that growth objectives are met. This has been a challenge for the banks due to balance sheet limitation, although there has been some significant growth within the last decade. The Central Bank in October 2007 caused banks to increase their minimum capital from GHS7 million to GHS60 million.

Again, in December 2013 the Bank of Ghana (Notice No. BG/GOV/SEC/2013/08) increased the minimum capital requirement to GHS120 million for new entrants and existing licensed Class 1 banks. The last in the series of minimum capital requirement increase was issued by the Regulator in September 2017 (BG/GOV/SEC/2017/19). This increased the minimum capital from GHS120 million to GHS400 million and this was to be met by 31 December 2018.

Consequently, banks currently operating in Ghana are relatively bigger with stronger balance sheets to provide the needed financing. Banks should also consider raising additional capital beyond the required regulatory minimum. This will improve



The world's economic system has been through a lot in recent years - from the challenge of the financial crisis to income inequality, the pressures of immigration, changing technologies and geographic shifts in production, to name a few

their capacity to meet the increasing financing needs of a growing economy.

Time is of the essence in finance. Financing is efficient when it is provided at the time it is needed. Unnecessary delay in providing financing has consequences for businesses which include loss of market share, schedule and budget overruns for projects, breach of contracts and can threaten a business or a project's continued survival.

It can also cause significant variations in cash flow which in turn can affect the performance of the facility. It is therefore important for banks to be able to give money to businesses when it is needed. The limitation in balance sheet size, the not too active syndication market, lack of understanding of the industry or the market in which a bank plays as well as lack of the required expertise is some of the causes of delay.

That is not to say that banks should not go through their due diligence and risk management processes to make sure risks are identified and mitigated. That is non-negotiable because it determines the quality of a bank's balance sheet and its' continued survival.

It is important for banks to develop the required expertise and capacity in the sectors they finance and also understand the markets in which they operate. This will not only ensure speed but it will also result in the creation of quality assets.

One issue that has generated a lot of discussion in recent times among industry associations, companies, banks, the Central Bank and the general public is the lending rate in Ghana. Ghana can be classified as a high-interest rate regime.

The country has witnessed periods where a lending rate of 40% and above for local currency loans has been recorded. In an economy where most industries are still in the budding stages and start-ups have minimal to no support from patient capital providers, bank financing is the most reliable

in Ghana source funding from the development finance institutions and their correspondent banks at quite high rates. The average lending rate for USD-denominated facility by banks in Ghana is about 10% p.a. However, businesses want to borrow at far lower rates.

They, therefore, tend to fall on the international banks who have access to cheap funds with its' attendant medium to long term effect of capital and profit repatriation and currency depreciation. In effect, some of the international banks are competing with the local banks in providing foreign currency facilities in the local market.

It has, therefore, become imperative for the banks to explore other sources of cheap foreign currency to be able to meet the increasing financing requirements by the international oil companies (IOCs), the multinationals and other companies whose operations require foreign currency financing.

Finally, the tenor of financing provided by banks in Ghana is another hurdle banks are struggling to jump. Set up costs of start-ups, capital expenditure of growth companies as well as infrastructure development require long term financing, sometimes tenors in excess of ten (10) years.

This sometimes calls for a blend of financing structures such as mezzanine financing (although it may be relatively expensive) or plain long-term debt to provide the much-needed flexibility to operate and to work out the cash flows in case of challenges.

However, most banks in Ghana lend short to medium term, and justifiably so. This is because the liquidity structure of their operations at best can support short term loans. A significant portion of deposits managed by banks are short term, up to twelve (12) months with a certain percentage of guaranteed rollover on maturity.

This is the basis for most banks' inability to lend long term and be flexible with debt structuring to support long term financing needs of businesses. The corporate bond market where banks and companies could raise funds to support long term lending is almost non-existent in Ghana.

It is important that the corporate bond market is developed because it will help the banks and the other players in the financial sector have access to the much-needed long term funds. This topic will be the subject of another discussion.

There are great opportunities in the economy for banks and the resolution of these challenges will improve their chances to better exploit them.

Ending violence in schools begins with banning canes in all classrooms

By Elin Martinez

IN 2016, in a classroom in the hilly city of Mwanza, in northwestern Tanzania, a group of about 20 girls took turns demonstrating to me how their teachers hit them using canes. The secondary school students recounted daily abuse, indicating which parts of their bodies their teachers struck for many reasons such as arriving a few minutes late, making noise or speaking to a classmate, or not answering a question correctly. Or simply for no apparent reason.

I noticed some girls had fresh bruises on their calves or other parts of their legs. One girl told me her teacher repeatedly hit her so hard in the buttocks that the cloth she was using to contain period blood fell to the floor. Her peers laughed at her. She felt vulnerable and humiliated.

In August, Tanzania's government banned teachers in the lower grades of primary school from entering classrooms with canes.

This is an important decision to change the government's mentality that children learn best when corporal punishment is permitted in classrooms. Regulations that permit the use of corporal punishment in schools reinforce the status quo, even though caning breaches Tanzania's international obligation to end all forms of corporal punishment against children.

But, given the widespread and entrenched violence against students in Tanzania's schools, the government's focus only on canes and on some primary school grades simply doesn't go far enough.

Children told us teachers also hit or punch them. Sometimes, teachers force them to get into the "frog pose" – that is, bending down, tucking their head, neck and arms down and then make them jump or hold that position for a long time. They also subject students to humiliating comments, most often in front of their classmates. In a few cases, girls reported that what first started as physical punishment in the first year of secondary school, turned into sexual abuse later.

The pattern of abuse we documented in secondary schools across the country was pervasive, degrading and humiliating.

The government should also turn

its attention to why teachers treat students this way when the teachers in fact have an ethical obligation to care for and protect their students.

In that same secondary school where girls told us about punishment by their teachers, a group of teachers admitted that it's a routine part of their days – they must do it, they said, because that's how they can keep their students in check. Most said they resorted to violence because it's the easiest way to deal with a very large number of children in the classrooms. A teacher with long tenure boldly said that he "inflicts pain" so that children comply with his directions in the classroom. It's what teachers have done for a long time.

Only one teacher from a group of eight or nine was against violence in his classroom. He was aware that resorting to violence only induces

anxiety and fear in his students, interrupting their learning. In his opinion, teachers should find positive ways to encourage children to enjoy learning, understanding why students sometimes don't comply with teacher's instructions.

Evidence from multiple countries confirms his views – corporal punishment and other forms of violence in the classroom stifles learning, and has a detrimental impact on brain development. There are simply no benefits to caning or hitting students.

Teachers talked about their frustration with the poor state of their schools, and with the lack of proper teaching resources, adequate spaces to teach, or support for teachers. They also felt they needed formal training on different ways to manage large classrooms, and alternatives to "discipline" to avoid using physical or psychological violence. Our research found this isn't part of teachers' formal training. The information they get in this subject remains piecemeal and dependent on funding from development partners.

Although these factors don't justify teachers' violent treatment of students, they highlight gaps in

policy and training requiring the government's urgent attention.

Tanzania should call a halt to corporal punishment in all of its schools. The government should adopt a total ban on corporal punishment and invest in quality teachers' training, adequate monitoring, and greater support and resources for teachers to ensure that they un-learn these damaging practices, and guarantee children's safety in their classrooms.

Violence is "the use of physical force so as to injure, abuse, damage, or destroy." Less conventional definitions are also used, such as the World Health Organization's definition of violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation."

Globally, violence resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1.28 million people in 2013 up from 1.13 million in 1990.[4] Of the deaths in 2013, roughly

842,000 were attributed to self-harm (suicide), 405,000 to interpersonal violence, and 31,000 to collective violence (war) and legal intervention.[4] In Africa, out of every 100,000 people, each year an estimated 60.9 die a violent death. For each single death due to violence, there are dozens of hospitalizations, hundreds of emergency department visits, and thousands of doctors' appointments. Furthermore, violence often has lifelong consequences for physical and mental health and social functioning and can slow economic and social development.

In 2013, assault by firearm was the leading cause of death due to interpersonal violence, with 180,000 such deaths estimated to have occurred. The same year, assault by sharp object resulted in roughly 114,000 deaths, with a remaining 110,000 deaths from personal violence being attributed to other causes.

Violence in many forms can be preventable. There is a strong relationship between levels of violence and modifiable factors in a country such as concentrated (regional) poverty, income and gender inequality, the harmful use of alcohol, and



Let's get climate action into traction with gender equality

By Ulrika Mod er and Anita Bhatia UNITED NATIONS

CLIMATE change is already altering the face of our planet. Research shows that we need to put all our efforts over the coming decade to limit warming to 1.5°C and mitigate the catastrophic risks posed by increased droughts, floods, and extreme weather events.

But our actions will not be effective if they do not include measures to ensure social justice, equality and a gender perspective. So, how do we integrate gender equality in climate change actions?

The impact of climate change affects women and girls disproportionately due to existing gender inequalities. It also threatens to undermine socio-economic gains made over previous decades.

With limited or no access to land and other resources including finance, technology and information, women and girls suffer more in the aftermath of natural disasters and bear increased burdens in domestic and care work.

Women and girls have also seen their water collection time increased and firewood and fodder collection efforts thwarted in the face of droughts, floods and deforestation, occupying a significant portion of their time that could have been used for their education or leisure.

This is not only theory. For example, women and children accounted for more than 96 per cent of those impacted by the flash floods in Solomon Islands in 2014 and in Myanmar, women accounted for 61 percent of fatalities caused by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Women and girls also remain marginalized in decision-making spheres – from the community level to parliaments to international climate negotiations. Global climate finance for miti-



gation and adaptation programmes remain out of reach for women and girls because of their lack of knowledge and capacity to tap into these resources.

Despite these challenges, women and girls play a critical role in key climate related sectors and have developed adaptation and resilience-building strategies and mitigation techniques, such as driving the demand for renewable energy at the household and community levels for lighting, cooking and productive use solutions that the international community must now support.

Women are holders of traditional farming methods, first responders in crises situations, founders of cooperatives, entrepreneurs of green energy, scientists and inventors, and decision-makers with respect to the use of natural resources.

Women comprise an average of 43 percent of the agricultural work force in developing countries and manage 90%

of all household water and fuel-wood needs in Africa. Some studies have shown that if women were afforded equal access to productive resources as men, their agricultural outputs would exceed men's by 7 to 23 percent. It is therefore imperative to embrace and scale-up the initiatives of the 51 per cent of the world's population.

In recent times, women and girls have used their knowledge and experience to lead in mitigation efforts. From developing apps to track and reduce the carbon emitted as a result of individual consumption, to reducing food by connecting neighbors, cafes, and local shops to share leftover and unsold food 2.

Young women scientists, like South-African teenager Kiara Nirghin, are making a difference in the fight against climate change. They are building on the legacies of women and girls such as Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, who empowered communities to manage their natural resources in a sustainable way.

At the same time, UNDP and UN Women have been collaborating to advance gender equality and women's leadership on climate change. For example, in Ecuador, the two UN agencies have teamed up with the government to support the inclusion of gender in the country's climate action plans.

UNDP and UN Women have also collaborated globally to ensure that gender remains a key factor when world leaders make critical decisions on climate change.

If policies and projects take into account women's particular roles,

needs and contributions to climate action and support women's empowerment, there will be a greater possibility to limit warming to 1.5°C in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We must continue to engage women and women's organizations, learning from their experiences on the ground to build the evidence for good practices and help replicate more inclusive climate actions.

The UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, 2019 is a unique opportunity to elevate at the highest level the need for substantive participation of women and girls in efforts against climate change.

At the Summit, there will be several initiatives put forth to address climate change, including one focusing on gender equality. The initiative recognizes the differential impact of climate change on women and girls, and seeks support for their leadership as a way to make climate actions more effective.

It calls for the rights, differentiated needs and contributions of women and girls to be integrated into all actions, including those related to climate finance, energy, industry and infrastructure. It promotes support for women and girls in developing innovative tools and participating in mitigation and adaptation efforts and calls for accountability by tracking and reporting progress towards achieving these goals.

For climate action to get more traction and be effective, we need a critical mass of Governments and other stakeholders to sign on to the Climate Action Summit's gender-specific initiative. The world cannot afford to keep limiting the potential of women and girls in shaping climate actions, as all evidence points towards the benefits of their involvement.

There is already interest by United Nations Member States, as shown in the increased integration of gender considerations in their national climate plans, but a broader movement is needed. We need multi-stakeholder partnerships and engage a critical mass of supporters – governments, UN entities, financial mechanisms, and civil society organizations to support the gender-specific initiative of the SG's Climate Action Summit.

The time for gender-responsive climate action is now.

Global warming is a long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system; an aspect of climate change shown by temperature measurements and by multiple effects of the warming.

Though earlier geological periods also experienced episodes of warming, the term commonly refers to the observed and continuing increase in average air and ocean temperatures since 1900 caused mainly by emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the modern industrial economy. In the modern context the terms global warming and climate change are commonly used interchangeably, but climate change includes both global warming and its effects, such as changes to precipitation and impacts that differ by region.

Many of the observed changes in climate since the 1950s are unprecedented in the instrumental temperature record, and in historical and paleoclimate proxy records of climate change over thousands to millions of years.

Enhancing youth political participation throughout electoral cycle

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has called for the youth in the country to build a culture of visiting its offices and website to access important information for them to participate fully in the local government elections and the General elections this year and next year respectively.

The call was made by the Acting Director, Department of Information and Voters' Education, Daniel Kasokola at the National Youth Election Dialogue Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam early this week saying working with the youth is important because they are key players in the exercise of updating the permanent national voters' register and for the elections.

He said the doors are open for the youth to get the right and correct information so that they can exercise their rights of voting and to be voted for. They need to make informed decision and play a big role of educating others, their parents, friends, relatives and guardians.

The involvement of the youth is also necessary for updating the permanent national voters' register saying some of the youth who were young in the past elections have now qualified to vote and to be voted for.

"The National Electoral Commission consider the youth as the main stakeholders in both two elections. That's why NEC has been engaging the youth and giving them special attention. We are also engaging the Youth led Civil Society Organizations in various issues such as providing them education before and during the elections," he said.

He said according to their position, the youth play a big role in the community. As such, they stand a good chance to be good ambassadors on various issues especially for the exercise of updating the permanent national voters' register. NEC has been using social media, meetings, workshops and symposium to reach and work with them across the country.

"As we are approaching the elections, I kindly request all the youth in this country to desist from involving themselves in chaos, instead, they should collaborate with NEC to ensure



Acting Director for the Department of Information and Voters' Education in the National Electoral Commission (NEC) Daniel Kasokola (seated in black suit) and (to his left) is Mulika Tanzania Executive Director Hussein Melele, pose for a group photo with youth representatives at the National Youth Election Dialogue Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam early this week. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

the elections are conducted successfully," he insisted.

According to Kasokola, since July 2019, NEC has provided voters education to several regions, and district councils such as Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara, Simiyu and Geita and this exercise is still going on in other regions as well.

Program Officer for Data Driven Advocacy (DDA) Lina Muro said that DDA has been providing technical and financial support to the youth led organization so that the youth can come up with their own agenda and manifesto that takes into account their needs and that represent the views of other youth in the country.

"We are expecting to see them coming up with their own agenda and manifesto on their partici-

pation on these elections especially to vote and to be voted for at all levels of leadership from the local government elections scheduled for this year and the general elections planned for next year," she said.

Youth Development Officer from Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioners' Office Masalida Njashi commended Civil Society Organizations for their contribution in organizing and providing education to the youth and other groups at the grassroots level on the importance of participating in the elections.

"As the government we think this is a very good support. So far, we have launched a big campaign. We are meeting different groups such as tricyclists (Bodaboda), people in the pubs and

other youth led institutions on the importance of the elections and how best they can participate in this national wide exercise," he said.

He called for the youth to be active in seeking right information regarding their rights and concerns saying the government will help to address their grievances instead of complaining. The youth can get the right information at all levels of the government from the lowest level of the local government offices to the central government.

"This fifth phase government has opened doors. It has opened leadership opportunities for the youth at all levels. We are saying that the youth should wake up and take part in elections. We are also calling for all talented youth to come forward so that the government can support

nurture them and put their ideas into use," he said.

One of the participants from Youth of the United Nations Associations, Jasmine Abdallah called for women to come forward to contest in different positions in the elections saying many have leadership skills just like men.

However, she called for the government to regulate special seats set aside for women parliamentarians saying when given the opportunity, some women tend to monopolize them instead of serving for only five year term and leave the chance for others to gain similar experience.

Executive Director for Mulika Tanzania Hussein Melele said his organization has been playing a big role in capacity building for the youth to effectively engage in the decision making process and champion development agenda in the country.

The experience during the previous elections in a country shows that few Youth CSOs and Youth-led CSOs engaged in the elections processes. Normally very few youth tend to participate, to vote and to be voted for. In the past elections foreexample, only few youth participated as voters, monitoring voter Registration, civic education, monitoring election process and as Poll observers.

Lack of coordination among youth organizations is another challenge which normally happens during the elections time. It is common practice for some organizations to work independently a situation that cause duplication of work on the same issues. Sometimes there are also no joint youth priorities to address and communicate their needs during the election.

"This one day youth dialogue aims at bringing together youths from social-political movements, business start-ups, social enterprises, civil society, international organizations, public institutions, academic institutions, and non-academic institutions to ensure optimum representation of youths including marginalized youth groups. More than 50 youth-led organizations from Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar have participated in this dialogue," he said.

The dialogue also gives room for the Youth groups to reflect on their participation during the previous elections and how best they can exercise their rights and responsibilities towards participating in the coming elections. The event further acts as a platform for the youth to discuss and interact, identify common youth agenda and priorities towards the coming elections.

"This dialogue is further expected to form a platform that will establish the National Youth Organizations Election Consortium (NYOEC), to have common youth agenda and priorities to be included in the youth manifesto during the election to be championed under the consortium.

Developing countries kick back against eco-colonialism

By Ivo Vegter

THE 16 nations of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have threatened to withdraw from the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), saying that it threatens national interests. Brazilians also resent foreign meddling with their conservation of the Amazon rainforest.

At the end of the 18th Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Tanzanian delegation took the floor to deliver an impassioned declaration on behalf of the 16 nations of the Southern African Development Community. The brief speech is worth quoting in full:

"This Declaration is made to express the grave concern that the SADC Parties mentioned here have with regards to the implementation of this Convention.

"As members of the global multilateral system and democratic, representative governments, we are obliged to ensure that we meet our commitments to all those international agreements and declarations to which we are signatories, as well as responsibilities to our citizens. "Recognising that CITES is one of the oldest wildlife and trade agreements, we are obliged to give it due consideration but within the context of subsequent and contemporary agreements and declarations to which it bears relevance and to which we are also signatories.

"CITES in its Preamble accepted the principle of: 'Recognising that peoples and States are and should be the best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora' and the Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 in Article 3 provides that: 'States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.'

"We contend that CITES, in form, substance and implementation, is not aligned with other international agreements of equal weight and arguably greater relevance to the challenges of today. These agreements emphasise the following principles: sovereignty over the use of national resources; inclusive, equitable development through the sustainable use of natural resources; recognising that rural communities living with wildlife have inalienable rights over the use of their resources; and recognising that in today's world of rapid changes in climate and land use and the accelerating pace of transformation of wildlife habitat, the survival of wildlife depends on the perceptions and development needs of people living with wildlife.

"The way CITES is currently operating is contrary to its founding principles. Today CITES discards proven, working



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

conservation models in favour of ideologically driven anti-use and anti-trade models. Such models are dictated by largely Western non-State actors who have no experience with, responsibility for, or ownership over wildlife resources. The result has been failure to adopt progressive, equitable, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies. We believe this failure has arisen from the domination of protectionist ideology over science decision-making within CITES.

"This anti-sustainable use and anti-trade ideology now dominates decisions made by many States who are party to CITES. States are increasingly influenced by the dominance both at meetings of the decision-making structures of CITES and in their run-up by protectionist NGOs

whose ideological position has no basis in science or experience and is not shared in any way by the Member States of SADC and their people.

"This conservation model is based on entrenched and emotive rhetoric and discourse, backed up by intense lobbying, as opposed to science. Foremost among these motifs now dominating CITES is the unfounded belief that all trade fuels illegal, unsustainable trade, ignoring clear evidence to the contrary.

"Examples of this are the attempts by others to impose new trade restrictions for species that are effectively conserved - and utilised - in our States, such as lions and giraffe, while the real threats in those States where such species are in decline due to habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict continue to

go unattended.

"The Southern African countries have observed, with great discomfort, the polarised discussions on African charismatic large mammals at this COP18. It is very disturbing to see the North/South divide across the African continent rearing its head again.

"We are further concerned that positions of some Parties appear to be based on national political considerations aimed at catering to the interests of national, intensively lobbied constituencies, as opposed to proven, science-based conservation strategies. This undermines the SADC States, on whom the responsibility to manage species falls, and our ability to do so effectively. As it is currently implemented, CITES undermines the rights of people living in rural

areas of SADC States to have access to and use in a sustainable manner the natural resources present in their communities that are required to enjoy adequate living conditions and the right to participate in the management of these resources. The consensus expressed through CITES by the majority of States undermines our region in our efforts to secure social and environment justice through the sustainable use of our natural resources. In doing so it is compromising our ability to meet obligations and responsibilities to other multilateral agreements and to our peoples.

"The populations of iconic African wildlife species in our region illustrate the effectiveness of our conservation models. Similar examples of successful conservation outcomes have not been forthcoming under ideologically driven approaches to conservation. Yet, at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, efforts made by us to advance and strengthen the same conservation strategies that have worked so well have been rejected.

"Those who bear no cost of protecting our wildlife, nor bear any consequence for decisions of CITES on our species, vote without any accountability against working conservation models in southern Africa. To this end, we have had to invoke measures such as announcing a dispute, the first time ever in CITES. As members of the global community, we fully appreciate the importance of multilateral negotiations, such as those that take place within CITES, in identifying and collectively working

towards solutions for the greater good of humanity.

"We have been committed Parties to CITES since its inception or our accession to it and would wish to remain so. But we can no longer ignore these glaring shortcomings and threats to our national interests and to our commitments to the broader multilateral context. Mr Chairman, the time has come to seriously reconsider whether there are any meaningful benefits from our membership to CITES. I thank you."

A threat to leave CITES - a move for which I have advocated in the past - is no small thing. It will have very significant consequences, such as the possibility that remaining member countries simply refuse to trade with non-members, especially in products derived from wildlife ranching and conservation.

But, heavily influenced by Western environmentalists and animal rights ideologues, the CITES countries have consistently interfered with the sovereign right of developing countries to manage the conservation of their wild ecosystems in such a way that their conservation or development also benefits their own people. Rich countries do so because it plays well with their political constituencies at home, and many poor countries vote alongside them because millions of dollars in conservation funding and other aid from large environmental groups are dependent upon meek compliance. This leaves the few countries that actually do have charismatic megafauna to protect without enough votes to protect their own national interests.

Street-side vendors of Zanzibar's textiles forced to close shop after 30 long years

By Amanda Lichtenstein

EVERY day in Zanzibar, women and men from all over the islands converge in Stone Town, the historic capital, to purchase kanga – colorful, patterned textiles sold in pairs that usually come with a Swahili message.

In August, kanga customers were shocked to discover that Stone Town authorities had cleared the outdoor kanga stalls in Darajani market. At least 25 active kanga dealers – some with stalls for nearly 30 years – were forced to leave, abruptly halting their street-side businesses.

Kanga are intricately woven into Swahili coastal culture – the dealers who sell kangas in the Darajani market are wordsmiths and philosophers as a job requirement.

Why? Kanga are exchanged between and among friends, family and lovers to communicate and express misemo or Swahili “sayings” that are sometimes difficult or taboo; kanga dealers are central to the experience of selecting just the right one to match the need or occasion. Most kanga dealers have memorized hundreds of Swahili messages by heart and can readily identify kanga by its pattern and message.

According to long-time kanga dealer Mohammed Abdallah Moody, kanga dealers with stalls along Chavda-Mkunazini Street, known as “the kanga market,” received a letter from the Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority (STCDA) on July 26, 2019, explaining that the kanga dealers had two days to pack up their stalls and leave.

Moody says some dealers have had no choice

but to go underground and sell their kanga from other storefronts while they sort out the details with authorities.

If caught selling kanga on the street, they could face fines up to 500,000 Tanzanian shillings (about \$250 United States dollars) or up to six months in jail.

The letter states that the kanga sellers are being asked to leave to due to their “unauthorized placement of informal businesses on the walls, gates, and inner councils of the [Stone Town] areas.”

It continues: “This has led to the destruction of walls [due to] nailing it to hang products, cluttering of the passageways, and impinging on the charm of Stone Town’s original doorways. Similarly, it reduces their original value.”

Moody explains that the kanga dealers pay the city 2,000 Tanzanian shillings (.90 USD) per day or approximately 60,000/- per month (\$29 USD) to run their outdoor kanga stalls.

He says they held licenses until STCDA discontinued licensure in 2015.

Said Juma Khamis, another kanga dealer, said that in 2016, their group of 30 kanga sellers established an official association called “The Kanga Sellers of Chavda” to advocate for their rights to sell their goods and strengthen their businesses as a collective.

He said: “We’ve lost a lot of customers since we were told to leave. More than a lot. Some have heard that we can’t sell our kangas anymore. Some still come here expecting us to have kanga to sell. It’s unsettling.”

In 2001, UNESCO designated the historic old



city of Stone Town a World Heritage site, elevating it to the same status as Egypt’s pyramids, or India’s Taj Mahal.

Amina Ahmada, with Zanzibar Stone Town Heritage Society, a nongovernmental organization, said the city has gone through a series of changes over the last few years in an island-wide effort to ramp up cultural heritage preservation – with a specific focus on Stone Town as a central tourist hub.

With a strong emphasis on restoration and preservation of historic architecture and sites, the city has taken measures to crack down on what it considers illegal businesses that impede visual access to the unique architectural charms and cultural heritage of the Old City.

In the 1830s, the kings of Oman shifted their seat of power from Muscat to Stone Town and ruled in the region until 1963, overseeing a lucrative clove trade largely fueled by slave labor.

According to UNESCO, Stone Town architecture – a fusion of Arab, Indian and African

structures that reflect thousands of years of Indian Ocean trade between the Gulf, India and the Swahili coast – is protected under the 1948 Ancient Monuments Act.

In 1985, The STCDA was created and later produced the 1994 Stone Town Conservation and Development Act, which led to the development of a master plan to “safeguard, conserve and develop the values” of Stone Town.

On Friday, August 23, authorities also issued a letter to ferry ticket agents in the Malindi neighborhood and told them that their shops were “illegal and ‘dirty.’”

By Monday, several businesses had been destroyed. Mwanjabu Mohamad, a ticket agent, said she was home when she got a call that her office had been affected, according to her testimony on KTV-TV.

Ahmada said Stone Town is filled with 18th and 19th-century buildings, some of which are inhabited and owned by privately, whose residents are unaware of their historic value. Buildings with “wakf” status, are, according

to Islamic law, spiritually designated charitable properties that can not be renovated or changed without strict adherence to laws administered by the Zanzibar Waqf and Trust Commission, along with the STCDA, including privately held family homes.

Moody, the kanga dealer, insists that none of the buildings in the kanga market hold Wakf status, as far as he knows, and the privately-owned buildings in front of which they’ve set up their streetside shops for nearly 30 years have their approval as well. Moody said:

“We’re hungry. We need to eat. We have families to feed. So, we’ve had to move back [to the market] little by little.”

He said the group wrote a letter to the STCDA asking for a meeting to discuss their situation so that the business of kanga culture continues to thrive.

The hope is that Stone Town authorities recognize kanga sellers as an essential aspect of Swahili heritage and culture and find a solution that benefits everyone.

Bank launches campaign on cash management solutions

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank Tanzania yesterday launched a corporate campaign in generating awareness of its Cash Management Solutions – a corporate service package that enables the bank’s clients to access to a slew of customized products.

The bank offers several value adding cash management solutions including – Cash-In-Transit service, Host to Host services,

Corporate Cheque Capture service and Cash Deposit Machines services.

Exim Bank’s, head of marketing and communications, Stanley Kafu said during the campaign launch held in Dar es Salaam early on Monday.

“With our Cash Management Solutions, our customers can now forget about branch queues or worrying about branch closing times. The comprehensive solutions are designed to make

commercial banking an exclusive and smooth banking experience for customers of different business sizes,” he said.

This comes part of Exim Bank’s overall strategy to reach beyond the limitations of its standard banking hours and geographical presence.

The cash-in-transit service offers secure transportation of cash and valuables from customers’ premises to the bank and vice versa using armored ve-

hicles with highly screened and trained personnel to transport and protect cash and valuables, according to Kafu.

And with our Host-to-Host service, which is among the bank’s Cash Management Solutions, the bank’s customers will use wider network of branches across the country to receive payments in cash, cheques or transfers from their customers and all their receivable/invoice reconciliation is automatically

done. “With this service, our customers may be able to reduce operating costs by reducing manual reconciliation inaccuracies and errors.

We know how tedious it can be to reconcile receivables from multiple sources, and with this service, a hassle-free experience is guaranteed,” said Kafu.

He further mentioned that with the corporate cheque capture service, the bank’s custom-

ers using the self-service can, anytime, deposit cheques from any bank into their selected Exim Bank account, generate reports, monitor reject cheques and check if the cheques are forged right at their business premises.

“Time is money and we help our customers manage them both, today for a better tomorrow. Worrying about banks closure times and the growing traffic jams is a thing of the past. Our Cash Deposit Machines service

is a smart self-service terminal at the customers’ premises that allows their cashiers or customers to deposit cash into their accounts at any time,” said Kafu.

“The moment you deposit you get an instant account credit and a notification plus a receipt. We are here to work in close collaboration with our customers to make sure our solutions add value in their business, reduce risks and minimize costs of managing cash,” he added.



Rice remains a staple, but tastes changing

By Chris Lyddon

RICE is a diet staple in the countries of South-east Asia, and they are large producers and traders in the crop, but diets are changing with taste, increased affluence and consumers’ desire for greater convenience. Even so, the cost of rice remains an important element in household budgets across the region, while rice also is widely used in animal feed.

According to the International Grains Council (IGC), Indonesian rice production will be 37.8 million tonnes in 2019-20, while the Philippines will produce 12.6 million tonnes, Thailand 21 million tonnes, Vietnam 29.3 million tonnes, and Myanmar 13.6 million. The IGC does not give a figure for Malaysia.

The IGC projected Myanmar’s rice exports at 2.4 million tonnes in 2020, the only country covered here to appear on the list. Malaysia will import 1 million tonnes in 2020, with Indonesia set to import 3.6 million and the Philippines 2.7 million, the IGC noted.

In Indonesia, according to an attaché report dated March 26, 50% to 55% of rice production is on Java, with 20% on Sumatera and 12% on Sulawesi.

“Around 85% of rice production comes from irrigated paddy fields,” the report said. “Typically, irrigated farms are planted to paddy during the first and second crop cycles (October-February and March-June), and followed by paddy or secondary crops such as corn, mung bean, soybean, peanut, or sweet potato during the third crop cycle (July-October).”

The report noted that rice consumption in 2019-20 is forecast to decline to 38 million tonnes as consumers continue to switch to wheat-flour based products. Per capita rice consumption is declining at about 0.62% per annum, the report said.

The attaché explained that “middle and upper-middle income consumers are diversifying their diets to include more western-style foods like bread and pasta and consuming more instant noodles in place of rice-based dishes. The affordability of noodles is another factor in their replacement of rice.”

The government maintains a purchasing price. The Indonesia Logistics Bureau (Badan Urusan Lo-

gistik/BULOG) buys from farmers when the market price is lower than or equal to the maintained price.

In the Philippines, according to an attaché report dated March 20, a move to turn quantitative import restrictions on rice into tariffs is likely to fuel an increase in consumption. Noting that rice remains the main staple in the country’s diet, the report said that “actual rice consumption is expected to increase modestly in two to three years as effects of the liberalization of rice imports (i.e. increased imports resulting in falling rice prices) become more apparent. Rice imports from Association of South-east Asian Nations member countries will increase as a result of rice tariffication, benefiting from geographic proximity and lower tariffs.”

Production has been encouraged by government investments to make the industry more competitive, with rice produced by an estimated 3 million farm families.

“Rice is the main staple of the Philippine population, currently estimated at 109 million people and growing roughly 1.7% annually,” the report said. “Rice provides an estimated 45% of the average Filipino’s calorie intake and its production is the main source of livelihood in rural areas.”

The average household spends 20% of its budget on rice. “This may go higher by as much as 30% for the bottom 30% of Filipino families, according to industry,” the report said. “High rice prices are a major contributor to inflation.”

In Thailand, according to an attaché report dated March 14, rice is the main staple food with consumption ranging from 80 kilograms for city households to around 155 kg for rural households.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives’ Department of Rice reported that rice per capita consumption varies by region,” the report said. “The highest per capita consumption is in the northeastern region with 142 kg, followed by 109 kg in the northern region, 83 kg in the southern region, and 46 kg in the central plains and Bangkok.”

The report cited a survey by Mae-jo University, which found that approximately half of the Thai population (51%) consumes the same amount of rice as in the past, 28% consume more rice and the rest (21%) consume less.

Cancer killing more people in E. Africa than TB, malaria and HIV/Aids combined, says researcher

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia

CANCER is killing more people in Eastern Africa than tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/Aids combined, said an Ethiopian-born Canadian physician and researcher on Monday.

Dr. Melaku Game, a hematologist, was speaking during an event organized by East Africa’s eight-nation trading and security bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The aim of the event was to mobilize resources for the planned

establishment of a regional center of excellence on cancer.

“Cancer is killing too many people to be ignored,” Game, who was involved in the inception of the project told a gathering of scientists, pertinent officials and donors in Addis Ababa.

A decade ago, IGAD had decided to establish a center of excellence for cancer, a project that has not yet taken off due to resource constraints, even though the government has allocated a plot of land for the construction of the center.

“We have faced financial, mate-

rial and manpower center and we have been soliciting these resources,” Mahboub Maalim, IGAD’s executive secretary, told Anadolu Agency. The resource mobilization conference that will conclude on Tuesday, he said, would kick start the process of establishing the center.

Speaking at the event, Ethiopian Minister of Health Amir Aman said cancer was becoming a major killer in the region where there were only 200 oncologists.

According to him, the proportion of oncologists to population

is 1:1.5 million in East Africa, by far exceeding the global average of 1:28,000. According to a document circulated at the event, the proposed Regional Cancer Center of Excellence (RCCCE) would provide trainings in all aspects of oncology, hematology, Radiation oncology and allied health professionals related to the discipline.

The center would give diagnostic, treatment, care and support services in addition to serving a regional pathology review center, center for clinical trials and regional statistical center for Oncology.

Family says Grace Mugabe is not going into exile

LATE former President Robert Mugabe's widow Grace Mugabe is not entertaining any plans to abandon the country and seek asylum elsewhere, a family spokesperson has said.

Grace fell out with the now President Emmerson Mnangagwa in 2016 when she mounted a fierce campaign against a bid by the then State Vice President to position himself for takeover from her husband.

The controversial first lady went to the lengths of harassing Mnangagwa in front of Zanu PF crowds, often accusing him of a plot to overthrow her husband.

Her accusations placed Mnangagwa at a constant risk of being arrested for treason with dire consequences.

Things came to a head when Mnangagwa, with military assistance, muscled his way to the country's top job via a soft coup, causing panic and uncertainty within the former First Family.

Her G40 allies in former Ministers Jonathan Moyo, Saviour Kasukuwere, Patrick Zhuwao, among others, have since skipped the country amid claims Mnangagwa was out to revenge his harassment.

Circumstances, it would seem, could be changing in the absence of her once influential husband, seen as her shield from State harassment.

Asked if the Former First Lady was planning to go into exile, late former President's nephew and family spokesperson during the bereavement period, Leo Mugabe said Grace shall stay put.

"She will settle here. She is Zimbabwean, she has no reason to go anywhere. She will be at her house at Blue Roof," Mugabe told NewZimbabwe.com.

"I am sure she will start to do her normal work after the burial, that she has always been doing before at the farm and running the family business."

Mugabe's death has brought spotlight on Grace's future after speculation that the family and assets could be at risk.

President Mnangagwa told a local radio station in June this year that Grace owns 16 farms.

"I know of a certain lady called Stop It (Grace) who owns 16 farms," Mnangagwa said.

Earlier reports have linked the former First Family to the disposal of some assets at its dairy farm.

Grace has also been acquiring assets outside the country, fuelling speculation this could be linked to her plans to settle abroad.

Zimbabwe officially the Republic of Zimbabwe, is a landlocked country located in southern Africa, between the Zambezi and Limpopo Rivers, bordered by South Africa, Botswana, Zambia and Mozambique. The capital and largest city is Harare and the second largest being Bulawayo. A country of roughly 16 million people, Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most commonly used.

Since the 11th century, present-day Zimbabwe has been the site of several organised states and kingdoms as well as a major route for migration and trade. The British South Africa Company of Cecil Rhodes first demarcated the present territory during the 1890s; it became the self-governing British colony of Southern Rhodesia in 1923. In 1965, the conservative white minority government unilaterally declared independence as Rhodesia. The state endured international isolation and a 15-year guerrilla war with black nationalist forces; this culminated in a peace agreement that established universal enfranchisement and de jure sovereignty as Zimbabwe in April 1980. Zimbabwe then joined the Commonwealth of Nations, from which it was suspended in 2002 for breaches of international law by its then-government, and from which it withdrew in December 2003. The sovereign state is a member of the United Nations, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). It was once known as the "Jewel of Africa" for its prosperity.

Robert Mugabe became Prime Minister of Zimbabwe in 1980, when his ZANU-PF party won the elections following the end of white minority rule; he was the President of Zimbabwe from 1987 until his resignation in 2017.



First Lady Auxilia Mnangagwa and former First Lady Grace Mugabe during the funeral service for Robert Mugabe.

Under Mugabe's authoritarian regime, the state security apparatus dominated the country and was responsible for widespread human rights violations. Mugabe maintained the revolutionary socialist rhetoric of the Cold War era, blaming Zimbabwe's economic woes on conspiring Western capitalist countries. Contemporary African political leaders were reluctant to criticise Mugabe, who was burnished by his anti-imperialist credentials, though Archbishop Desmond Tutu called him "a cartoon figure of an archetypal African dictator". The country has been in economic decline since the 1990s, experiencing several crashes and hyperinflation along the way.

On 15 November 2017, in the wake of over a year of protests against his government as well as Zimbabwe's rapidly declining economy, Mugabe was placed under house arrest by the country's national army in a coup d'état. On 19 November 2017, ZANU-PF sacked Robert Mugabe as party leader and appointed former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa in his place. On 21 November 2017, Mugabe tendered his resignation prior to impeachment proceedings being completed. On 30 July 2018 Zimbabwe held its general elections, which was won by the ZANU-PF party led by Emmerson Mnangagwa. Nelson Chamisa who was leading the main opposition party MDC Alliance contested the election results and filed a petition to the Constitution Court of Zimbabwe.[26] The court confirmed Mnangagwa's victory, making him the newly elected president after Mugabe.

The name "Zimbabwe" stems from a Shona term for Great Zimbabwe, an ancient ruined city in the country's south-east whose remains are now a protected site. Two different theories address the origin of the word. Many sources hold that "Zimbabwe" derives from dzimba-dza-mabwe, translated from the Karanga dialect of Shona as "houses of stones" (dzimba = plural of imba, "house"; mabwe = plural of bwe, "stone"). The Karanga-speaking Shona people live around Great Zimbabwe in the modern-day province of Masvingo. Archaeologist Peter Garlake claims that "Zimbabwe" represents a contracted form of dzimba-hwe, which means "venerated houses" in the Zezuru dialect of Shona and usually references chiefs' houses or graves.

Zimbabwe was formerly known as Southern Rhodesia (1898), Rhodesia (1965), and Zimbabwe Rhodesia (1979). The first recorded use of "Zimbabwe" as a term of national reference dates from 1960 as a coinage by the black nationalist Michael Mawema, whose Zimbabwe National Party became the first to officially use the name in 1961. The term "Rhodesia"—derived from the

surname of Cecil Rhodes, the primary instigator of British colonisation of the territory during the late 19th century—was perceived by African nationalists as inappropriate because of its colonial origin and connotations.

According to Mawema, black nationalists held a meeting in 1960 to choose an alternative name for the country, proposing names such as "Matshobana" and "Monomotapa" before his suggestion, "Zimbabwe", prevailed. A further alternative, put forward by nationalists in Matabeleland, had been "Matopos", referring to the Matopos Hills to the south of Bulawayo.

It was initially unclear how the chosen term was to be used—a letter written by Mawema in 1961 refers to "Zimbabwe" — but "Zimbabwe" was sufficiently established by 1962 to become the generally preferred term of the black nationalist movement. In a 2001 interview, black nationalist Edson Zvobgo recalled that Mawema mentioned the name during a political rally, "and it caught hold, and that was that". The black nationalist factions subsequently used the name during the Second Chimurenga campaigns against the Rhodesian government during the Rhodesian Bush War of 1964-1979. Major factions in this camp included the Zimbabwe African National Union (led by Robert Mugabe from 1975), and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (led by Joshua Nkomo from its founding in the early 1960s).

Archaeological records date human settlement of present-day Zimbabwe to at least 100,000 years ago. The earliest known inhabitants were probably San people, who left behind arrowheads and cave paintings. The first Bantu-speaking farmers arrived during the Bantu expansion around 2000 years ago.

Societies speaking proto-Shona languages first emerged in the middle Limpopo valley in the 9th century before moving on to the Zimbabwean highlands. The Zimbabwean plateau eventually became the centre of subsequent Shona states, beginning around the 10th century. Around the early 10th century, trade developed with Arab merchants on the Indian Ocean coast, helping to develop the Kingdom of Mapungubwe in the 11th century. This was the precursor to the more impressive Shona civilisations that would dominate the region during the

13th to 15th centuries, evidenced by ruins at Great Zimbabwe, near Masvingo, and by other smaller sites. The main archaeological site uses a unique dry stone architecture.

The Kingdom of Mapungubwe was the first in a series of sophisticated trading states which had developed in Zimbabwe by the time the first European explorers arrived from Portugal. These states traded gold, ivory, and copper for cloth and glass.

From about 1300 until 1600 the Kingdom of Zimbabwe eclipsed Mapungubwe. This Shona state further refined and expanded upon Mapungubwe's stone architecture, which survives to this day at the ruins of the kingdom's capital of Great Zimbabwe. From c. 1450 to 1760 Zimbabwe gave way to the Kingdom of Mutapa. This Shona state ruled much of the area of present-day Zimbabwe, plus parts of central Mozambique. It is known by many names including the Mutapa Empire, also known as Mwene Mutapa or Monomotapa as well as "Munhumutapa", and was renowned for its strategic trade routes with the Arabs and Portugal. The Portuguese sought to monopolise this influence and began a series of wars which left the empire in near collapse in the early 17th century.

As a direct response to increased European presence in the interior a new Shona state emerged, known as the Rozwi Empire (1684-1834). Relying on centuries of military, political and religious development, the Rozwi (meaning "destroyers") expelled the Portuguese from the Zimbabwean plateau by force of arms. They continued the stone-building traditions of the Zimbabwe and Mapungubwe kingdoms while adding muskets to their arsenal and recruiting a professional army to defend recent conquests.

Around 1821 the Zulu general Mzilikazi of the Khumalo clan successfully rebelled against King Shaka and established his own clan, the Ndebele. The Ndebele fought their way northwards into the Transvaal, leaving a trail of destruction in their wake and beginning an era of widespread devastation known as the Mfecane. When Dutch trekboers converged on the Transvaal in 1836, they drove the tribe even further northward, with the assistance of Tswana Barolong warriors and Griqua commandos. By 1838 the Ndebele had conquered the Rozwi Empire, along

with the other smaller Shona states, and reduced them to vassaldom.

After losing their remaining South African lands in 1840, Mzilikazi and his tribe permanently settled in the southwest of present-day Zimbabwe in what became known as Matabeleland, establishing Bulawayo as their capital. Mzilikazi then organised his society into a military system with regimental kraals, similar to those of Shaka, which was stable enough to repel further Boer incursions. Mzilikazi died in 1868; following a violent power struggle, his son Lobengula succeeded him.

Colonial era and Rhodesia (1888-1964)

In the 1880s, European colonists arrived with Cecil Rhodes's British South Africa Company (BSAC). In 1888, Rhodes obtained a concession for mining rights from King Lobengula of the Ndebele peoples. He presented this concession to persuade the government of the United Kingdom to grant a royal charter to the company over Matabeleland, and its subject states such as Mashonaland as well.

Rhodes used this document in 1890 to justify sending the Pioneer Column, a group of Europeans protected by well-armed British South Africa Police (BSAP) through Matabeleland and into Shona territory to establish Fort Salisbury (now Harare), and thereby establish company rule over the area. In 1893 and 1894, with the help of their new Maxim guns, the BSAP would go on to defeat the Ndebele in the First Matabele War. Rhodes additionally sought permission to negotiate similar concessions covering all territory between the Limpopo River and Lake Tanganyika, then known as "Zambesia".

In accordance with the terms of aforementioned concessions and treaties,[41] mass settlement was encouraged, with the British maintaining control over labour as well as precious metals and other mineral resources.

In 1895, the BSAC adopted the name "Rhodesia" for the territory, in honour of Rhodes. In 1898 "Southern Rhodesia" became the official name for the region south of the Zambezi, which later became Zimbabwe. The region to the north was administered separately and later termed Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). Shortly after Rhodes' disastrous Jameson Raid on the South African Republic, the Ndebele rebelled against white rule, led by their charis-

matic religious leader, Mlimo. The Second Matabele War lasted in Matabeleland until 1896, when Mlimo was assassinated. Shona agitators staged unsuccessful revolts (known as Chimurenga) against company rule during 1896 and 1897.

Following these failed insurrections, the Ndebele and Shona groups were finally subdued by the Rhodes administration, which organised the land with a disproportionate bias favouring Europeans, thus displacing many indigenous peoples.

Southern Rhodesia was annexed by the United Kingdom on 12 September 1923. Shortly after annexation, on 1 October 1923, the first constitution for the new Colony of Southern Rhodesia came into force.

Under the new constitution, Southern Rhodesia became a self-governing British colony, subsequent to a 1922 referendum. Rhodesians of all races served on behalf of the United Kingdom during the two World Wars. Proportional to the white population, Southern Rhodesia contributed more per capita to both the First and Second World Wars than any other part of the Empire, including Britain itself.

In 1953, in the face of African opposition, Britain consolidated the two Rhodesias with Nyasaland (Malawi) in the ill-fated Central African Federation, which was essentially dominated by Southern Rhodesia. Growing African nationalism and general dissent, particularly in Nyasaland, persuaded Britain to dissolve the Union in 1963, forming three separate divisions. While multiracial democracy was finally introduced to Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, however, Southern Rhodesians of European ancestry continued to enjoy minority rule.

With Zambian independence, Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front (RF) dropped the designation "Southern" in 1964 and issued a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (commonly abbreviated to "UDI") from the United Kingdom on 11 November 1965, intent on effectively repudiating the recently adopted British policy of "no independence before majority rule". It was the first such course taken by a British colony since the American declaration of 1776, which Smith and others indeed claimed provided a suitable precedent to their own actions.



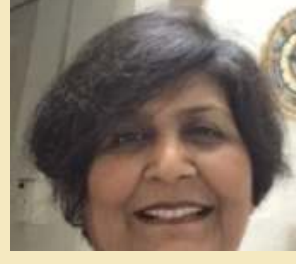
CURRENT NEWS
Small African fabric business designer who sells to tourists in local currency

Page 14



TOP VIEW
Over 344.5m/- allocated by Vodacom to prop up fintech start-ups' growth

Page 15



VIEW FROM THE TOP
Role of managers in suicide prevention

Page 15

Treasury permanent secretary wants unit trusts to boost rural investment

By Francis Kajubi

THE bulk of rural citizens have the financial capacity to invest in unit trusts but are denied the opportunity because managers of such investment vehicles don't mobilize them.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance and Planning, Doto James said in Dar es Salaam this week that UTT AMIS should extend its services to rural areas where the majority of the people reside but no nothing about the national investment vehicle.

"You need to embark on providing knowledge on the importance of investment schemes such as capital markets and securities so that the public can be confident in utilizing such opportunities," James said during a ceremony to launch UTT Asset Management and Investor Service bond fund.

He said with only about 100,000 investors currently taking part in UTT AMIS investment vehicles, it is clear that the bulk of 54 million especially those residing in rural areas. "Go to the rural areas and educate the public on benefits that they can get from investing in unit trust schemes," the Treasury chief ordered.

UTT AMIS Managing Director, Simon Mwangala said the fund is open to investors who are both residents and non-residents. "Since the objective of UTT Amis is to bridge and to widen the participation of all Tanzanians



Treasury Permanent Secretary Doto James (L) unveiling a new UTT AMIS Bond Fund in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of UTT.

in the capital markets, the initial investment into this bond fund is as low as 50,000/-," Mwangala said.

In order to cater for different demographics, the bond fund is offering three avenues: reinvestment plan, monthly income distribu-

tion plan and semi-annual income distribution plan, he explained while stressing that investors whose portfolios peak 10mn/- will be eligible to receive monthly income distribution but those with 5m/- will qualify to receive semi-annual income.

"Bond fund shall charge neither entry load nor exit load thus investors shall be allowed to purchase as well as redeem units at the prevailing applicable net asset value," the UTT AMIS chief executive added.

UTT AMIS board member chair, Casmir

Kyuki said the investment vehicle has established itself as the trendsetter and a leader in the field of collective investment schemes in the country. Kyuki said currently, UTT manages five investment vehicles, namely: Umoja Fund, WekezaMaisha, Watoto, Jikimu and Liquid Fund with over 300bn/- in asset under management.

"The financial performance of the schemes has been exceptionally sound and has provided very high returns to our 145,218 investors," the board chair added while noting that since inception the funds have grown tremendously with Umoja Fund at 13.42 percent, WekezaMaisha at 12.27 percent, Watoto Fund at 12.24 percent, Jikimu Fund at 8.96 percent and Liquid Fund at 12.81 percent.

Net asset value for all the schemes also increased significantly over the same period.

"With the bond fund, investors receiving capital appreciation or income distribution will enjoy income tax exemption. There will be no tax deduction during repurchase and we are working on listing the fund at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange.

Once listed, units of the fund will be traded in accordance with the rules of the exchange," Kyuki added. Bond Fund investors will be able to purchase and repurchase via UTT AMIS SIM Invest Application from their mobile devices.

Telkom queries size of Safaricom debt in Airtel merger tiff

NAIROBI

TELKOM Kenya has disputed a Sh906.6 million debt that Safaricom is demanding from the firm before its merger with Airtel in a twist that could delay the transaction between the two telecommunication companies seeking to fight Safaricom's dominance.

Telkom Kenya last week said that Safaricom had inflated the debt, arguing that its merger with Airtel will not affect its ability to clear the unpaid bill. Safaricom has asked the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) not to approve the merger before Telkom Kenya and Airtel clear the Sh906.6 million and Sh390.7 million that they owe respectively for interconnection, co-location

and fibre services.

"The amounts being reconciled by our teams are less than the figures quoted by Safaricom in the media; Safaricom figures are incorrect and we will be engaging with them," Telkom Kenya said in a statement to Business Daily. However, the firm did not disclose how much it owes Safaricom.

Delay approvals

The row over the size of the debt could delay approvals for the merger to create a stronger challenger to Safaricom, which controls 65 percent of the mobile telephony market share. "The intended transaction between Telkom and Airtel will not in any way affect or impact the

payment of Safaricom debt," said the Telkom Kenya statement.

Safaricom insists on receiving the Sh1.2 billion ahead of the merger prompted by a July 12 Kenya Gazette notice on Telkom Kenya position after the firm's union with Airtel. Safaricom declined to comment for this story, only saying it had communicated with the regulator.

The merger will see the transfer of Telkom Kenya's mobile, enterprise and carrier services businesses to Airtel in exchange for a stake in the firm to be known as Airtel-Telkom. "Telkom will continue operating in the ICT sector providing certain other services to select customers," said the Kenya Gazette notice.



Safaricom acting CEO Michael Joseph.

Smaller entity

This has led many creditors to believe that Telkom Kenya will be a much smaller entity incapable of settling its debts. "It means the companies to be left behind will

be shells of themselves well incapable of taking care of their expenditures because the core businesses taken away were their pillars," said former Airtel workers opposed to merger pending conclusion of a

suit where the workers are seeking Sh1 billion after their layoff.

The merger deal will not involve Telkom Kenya's extensive real estate holdings and some government contracts for unspecified services, Telkom said in February when announcing the deal. Telkom Kenya has since put on sale Sh3.87 billion properties spread across the country as it seeks to raise cash to contribute in the upcoming merger.

The firm has hired a property dealing firm, Axis Real Estate, to dispose of the prime assets sitting on about 17.8 acres of land. Safaricom wants the money it is claiming to be paid before the deal is sealed.

CA's intervention

"We request the Authority's intervention in ensuring that all the outstanding debts owed to us in relation to the said services are paid in full as a prerequisite for the approval of this transaction," Safaricom acting CEO Michael Joseph Safaricom told CA in a letter. Telkom Kenya reckons that Safaricom is seeking to use the debt to delay the merger.

Telkom accounted for 7.9 percent of Kenyan mobile telecom subscribers in March, behind second-placed Airtel, which had a 26.1 percent market share. "The intended transaction will enable the two players (Telkom and Airtel) through the combined entity, Airtel-Telkom, to have the scale necessary to take on the market and have a stab at having a competitive environment," Telkom said in its statement to Business Daily.



Dangote Farms' owner, Aliko Dangote.

Nigeria's biggest tomato facility idle again as farmers dump crop

LAGOS

NIGERIA'S biggest tomato plant is counting on the government's restriction of food imports to sustain operations after going idle again six months after it resumed operations from an almost three-year shut down.

When Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, decided to set up the plant, it was with the clear goal of supplanting imports of tomato paste mostly from China but that has suffered setbacks.

Currently, the 1 200-ton-a-day tomato-processing factory near the West African nation's northern city of Kano is closed, unable to get its required feed stock as farmers have switched to other crops at the beginning of the rainy season in May.

The plant was idle for more than two years until March this year over

a supply disruption partly caused by a price dispute with farmers. Even after the disagreement was resolved, the factory was unable to ramp up production beyond 20% of its capacity due to inadequate supply of tomatoes, as most of the farmers lacked the needed credit to expand production.

The company is losing at least 30 million naira every month with employees idle, according to the managing director of Dangote Farms, Abdulkareem Kaita.

Nigeria consumes an average of 2.3 million tons of tomatoes a year and produce just about the same amount, according to a 2017 report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Without adequate storage facilities and an efficient means of transporting them to the markets, about 45% of harvested tomatoes go to waste.

Africa's most populous country imports about 1.3 million tons of the red vegetable to fill the gap, mostly from China and other parts of Asia. Nigeria is the third largest importer of the commodity in Africa. "We knew tomato is a seasonal crop before we started as it's the case in China and Europe," Kaita said. "What we set out to do was reduce the post harvest loss yearly to feed the factory."

Unfazed by the problems, Dangote Farms is pushing ahead with its original objective of replacing tomato-paste imports.

With President Muhammadu Buhari making the reduction of food imports a key objective of his administration, the Nigerian central bank is implementing a new credit plan intended to help the farmers grow tomatoes all year round.

Dangote Farms has also acquired a 5 000-hectare farm to grow a high-yield variety of tomatoes to meet its factory's requirements, while introducing the same strain to other farms to increase their productivity. "With this, the output of the farmers would tremendously improve and the processing factory would record ample supply," Kaita said.

Kaita also wants the government to enforce its decision to curtail tomato-paste imports to reduce incidents of dumping of subsidised paste on the Nigerian market.

"The effective implementation of the government's policy in restricting tomato paste importation will guarantee more investment in the tomato value chain, which will eventually lead to self-sufficiency in few years to come," Kaita said.

Small African fabric business designer who sells to tourists in local currency

By Cynthia Stacey

TO most local small business owners who deal in traditional African fabric material targeting foreign tourist, the favourite pricing is in hard currency often, the US dollar.

But for African fabric designer, Rizwan Janmohammed who plies his trade at Stone Town in Zanzibar, his target clientele is obviously foreign tourists who are valued in foreign currency. Janmohammed said he's always priced his goods in Tanzanian shillings only, as opposed to some other tourist shops where prices are displayed and requested in dollars.

And since he last spoke to the Guardian on this issue over a decade ago, he still holds the same view, asking "Why sell locally produced goods in dollars...we're in Africa, and should use our own currency."

He's also against wastage, and for this reason, says his most satisfying products, are bed covers made from hundreds of scraps of left over fabric, which were often thrown away. Sewing these together, can be quite labour intensive, but means that each cover will be unique and different.

Janmohammed acknowledges that Kenyan and Indian handicrafts are often cheaper than those made locally, but says even so, if you're just starting up in the particular business, one has to accept lower profit margins for sometime before gaining a competitive foothold in the market.

Despite such competition, he managed a limited, but steady growth since he started, by regularly re-investing small profits into varied and better quality merchandise. Janmohammed reminds us that no-one succeeds immediately, noting, "Everyone was once a beginner, and most 'overnight' successes...actually took a long time."

Currently, he said, "Some shop keepers in Zanzibar are saying trading has been below normal. And despite the high number of visitors on the island, there's uncertainty in some areas of the souvenir sector.

Possibly because of many shops selling similar items, and all dependent on the same market, the tourist trade, competition is high hence businesses slowing down dragging sales and profits all along. As it is Janmohammed, except as a designer he's not just selling a fixed item, but needs to keep innovating all the time, which keeps his skills updated and utilized, and will hopefully result in some 'star products.' The Morogoro origin entrepreneur who calls Zanzibar his second home and was first interviewed by The Guardian in September 2014, admits to making the wrong choices when he started his business. The shop's name for example, indicated it primarily sold perfumes.

Though they still sell scented oils and soaps etc., it isn't the core merchandise, as visitors to the shop soon realise. But the name has now firmly established itself and given the business a special identity in keeping with its unique products.

...and now, as it was then, the shop is still a riot of colour and patterns, a fabric fantasy, which carries to new innovative levels the number of items that can be made out of the marvellous African textiles available here, and other parts of Africa, and of which the shop stocks many hundreds.

Janmohammed said if you are serious about going into a new venture and leaping into the unknown, you might spend time, as he did, observing and learning about your chosen area. For him, it was the textile and arts sector, and though having no experience of it, never doubted that it was what he wanted to do and his interest has grown along with the business.

Despite the worries, he still thinks running a business can



Rizwan Janmohammed in his Stone Town shop, promoting local goods and enjoying his business adventure.

be fun, as it is a daily learning process and improving trading strategy in the process. And as ideas unfold and come up, he tries to implement them. "Many work, but others don't," he added.

Some ideas that become good sellers, are beautiful fabric and bead necklaces, African printed shorts and baseball caps, travel bags and handbags, wallets, purses and suitcases, all in a large range of designs and colourful prints, plus a very stylish collection of hats for the whole family, babies included!

The beautifully made guitar cases, though aimed at a specialised market, are of interest to everyone, but computer and iPad covers have a broader sales

reach, and the list of products is constantly changing and growing. A major success has been menu covers for hotels and restaurants, which are always in demand, and are easily customised to reflect the varying establishments.

In his early thirties, Janmohammed was born and educated in Morogoro, where his parents still live. And a factor of his success he said, was the caring support from family and friends that helped him go ahead with his business vision.

He thinks that when others show an interest in your 'passion', even if you have doubts about it yourself, it can keep you motivated and on track.

Nairobi accounts for 80pc of insurance premiums

NAIROBI

NAIROBI has cemented its status as the largest source of insurance premiums, pointing to the growing unexploited markets outside the capital city.

The county took up an estimated 80.67 percent of total premiums in 2018, up from 72.76 percent the previous year, despite contributing only 21.7 percent to national wealth. Latest data from Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) shows Nairobi handed insurers Sh173.2 billion premiums while the other 46 counties fetched them a combined Sh41.5 billion.

This means the 54 insurance firms were mainly chasing for the same clients in the capital city leaving the rest of the counties despite growing insurable risks. Mombasa, Kenya's second biggest city, only accounted for Sh10.6 billion or 4.83 percent of the total Sh214.66 billion premiums last year, followed by Kiambu with 2.25 percent or Sh4.82 billion.

Nakuru came fourth, earning insurers 1.69 percent of premiums followed by Kisumu city with 1.44 percent, Nyeri and Uasin Gishu with 1.24 percent and 1.23 percent respectively. The rest of the counties contributed premiums of below one percent.

Insurance penetration

The result is that insurance penetration in the country has dropped to 2.43 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the lowest in 15 years, made worse by poor marketing, price undercutting and fraud among other challenges.

Penetration has been dipping for five consecutive years, showing that the sector has not been successful in riding on the growing opportunities presented by the expanding economy across the counties.

Kenya Association of Insurers (AKI) chief executive Tom Gichuhi admits that the penetration level is not keeping pace with GDP growth. Data from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows that Nairobi County contributes 21.7 percent of Kenya's GDP, qualifying Mr Gichuhi's take that insurers are lagging behind in availing themselves of opportunities in the rest of the counties.

Latest Gross County Product (GCP), a measure of how much each county contributes to Kenya's GDP, shows that Nairobi has in fact been losing its share of contribution to GDP as the other counties develop.

Counties associated with thriving economic activities such as agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, financial, real estate and wholesale and retail trade, took lead in the ranking by GCP. While Nairobi takes the lead in GCP, it is followed by Nakuru (6.1 percent), Kiambu (5.5 percent) and Mombasa at 4.7 percent.

Growth potential

"Nonetheless, many of the counties with a small share to GDP are growing at a faster rate, signifying potential for catch-up but also due to the base effect," KNBS says in the GCP report for 2019.

It adds that counties with a lower base have a greater potential for faster growth relative to counties starting at a high base. This presents immense opportunities for insurers that will look beyond Nairobi in the coming years.

Further, counties that are largely dominated by urban centres, notably Nairobi City and Mombasa, have had their shares of GCP consistently decline over time. "On the other hand, counties with strong presence of agricultural activities, particularly horticulture, have consistently improved their share of GCP over the period," says KNBS.

Over the period 2014-2017, at least 17 counties recorded a faster growth in their real GCP relative to the average growth in all counties (5.6 percent). With the exception of Nairobi City and Mombasa counties, agriculture has been a key driver of growth in most devolved units.

Yet, insurers have not been keen to take up insurance opportunities in this sector that accounts for about a third of the country's GDP. Only 10 insurers - Amaco, APA, Heritage, Kenya Orient, Madison ICEA Lion, Jubilee, CIC, UAP and Takaful - offer the cover for crops and livestock in a country whose economic growth is heavily hinged on agriculture.

Last year, gross written premiums from agricultural insurance reduced to Sh716.2 million from Sh822.7 million in 2017, a decline of 12.95 percent. An AKI report shows part of the challenge has been high loss ratios, averaging 97 percent.



Kenya Association of Insurers' CEO Tom Gichuhi.

\$11bn green-energy initiative takes shape in South Africa

CAPETOWN

A PLAN to establish the world's largest green-energy financing initiative is being threshed out in South Africa, which needs to reduce its environmental footprint and find innovative ways to fund debt-stricken state power utility Eskom.

The plan being formulated by Meridian Economics, a Cape Town-based think tank, is under consideration by the government. It envisions the establishment of an \$11 billion facility backed by development finance institutions and private funders. The new entity would lend money to Eskom at slightly below commercial rates on condition it accelerates the closure of polluting coal plants to make way for renewable energy.

South Africa is the world's 14th-largest producer of greenhouse gases and the government is under pressure to deliver on a commitment it made in 2009 to reduce emissions by 42% by 2025. Under the new plan, the country would add an additional 10 gigawatts of renewable energy production capacity over a decade, thereby reducing its potential carbon dioxide emissions by 715 million metric tons by 2050.

"This would be the largest and most significant global climate finance transaction to date," Emily Tyler, a climate economist at Meridian, said in an interview. "It would propel South Africa to a cleaner and more resilient energy future."

Eskom supplies about 95% of South Africa's power and has turned to the government for aid to remain solvent after amassing R450 billion (\$31 billion) of debt. Under the plan, it would secure loans in tranches from the new facility over five years and have to repay them over 20 years.

The money would be used to wean Eskom off bailouts and cover its future financing needs, rather than fund new and already self-sustaining green energy projects.

Implementation of the plan would be contingent on the government following through on a commitment to break up Eskom into generation, transmission and distribution units under a state holding company and reorganising its debt to place it on a more sustainable footing.

Ghana power producers say plan to save costs carries hefty bill

ACCRA

PRIVATE operators will not accept Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta's proposal to renegotiate agreements and will demand the full payment of their contracts' termination clauses, Elikplim Kwabla Apetorgbor, chief executive officer of the Chamber of Independent Power Producers, said in an interview.

The group represents nine members which generate about 1 500 megawatts of the country's installed capacity of 4 889 megawatts. Peak demand is 2 525 megawatts.

In July, Ofori-Atta said Ghana is paying about 2.5 billion cedis (\$454 million) per year for power that it doesn't need through so-called take-or-pay contracts, which typically compel buyers to compensate service providers regardless of whether they consume a service or not. In addition, Ghana will pay as much as \$850 million from 2020 for excess gas, he said.

While the power deals were slated to be replaced from August by take-and-pay contracts, where a buyer is only responsible for what is consumed, Ofori-Atta later announced a three-month consultation period.

"What happens to the investor?" said Apetorgbor. "Who maintains that plant? You can-



not just get up and say you want to remove the take-or-pay?" Deputy Finance Minister Charles Adu Boahen declined to comment when contacted by text message.

Most of the deals were negotiated from 2013 to 2015 when Ghana experienced chronic power outages because the government didn't

have funds to pay for fuel while hydroplants were idled by insufficient rains. Lenders were hesitant to provide more finance for state-owned utilities, creating opportunities for private operators, of which some received government guarantees.

Private producers are already frustrated by late payments, trans-

mission losses and the government's indebtedness to power distribution utility, Electricity Co. of Ghana, exacerbating the risk of negotiating new terms, said Apetorgbor. "There are things to tackle," Apetorgbor said. "Then we can come to negotiate."

Over 344.5m/- allocated by Vodacom to prop-up fintech start-ups' growth

By Smart Money Reporter

NEWLY established start-up owners and managers are excited by the recent launching of a program, christened, 'Vodacom Digital Accelerator' which seeks to boost them become commercially viable.

"It's a good initiative that many early and growth stage start-ups badly need to survive this initial stage in their development," said Stella Elisha who is co-founder of Dar es Salaam based early stage start-up, e-Afya.

Elisha said start-ups like e-Afya are struggling to expand their market share because they face many challenges including visibility in the market, ability to hire competent personnel and access to credit. E-Afya provides various digital health products including insurance cover, medical emergency services accessible through smartphones.

"Financial institutions including commercial banks don't easily lend money to start-ups like ours because they don't have collateral but also have not yet built a strong revenue flow system," she noted saying hopefully Vodacom Digital Accelerator will address some of the challenges.

Vodacom which is partnering with Smart Lab said the accelerator program will go towards educating and empowering Tanzanian start-ups. During the program which also aims at leveraging corporate resources, networks, mentors and partners, the aspiring start-ups will present their progress to a panel of investors and associates at the end of a three month acceleration period from which winners will get further support from Vodacom Tanzania Plc, Smart Lab, and partners for an added period of six months.

The new program which will run yearly aims at identifying and supporting start-up entrepreneurs in mobile, telecom, fintech, media, health, education and e-commerce, will have three phases which include application, selection and acceleration.

Vodacom's Managing Director Hisham Hendi said during the program's launch in Dar es Salaam last week that the partnership between his company and Smart Lab is a crucial move towards providing opportunities to start-up businesses via technological paths which will



Vodacom Tanzania Plc's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi, speaks during the launch of 'Vodacom Digital Accelerator' program in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo courtesy of Vodacom.

result into workable business models to benefit communities particularly youths.

Hendi encouraged more youths to be innovative and take advantage of the opportunity as a path to economic empowerment through solving social developmental issues in their communities through technology.

"Vodacom always aims to create impactful sustainable change in the society where we operate in line with our strategic business focus and, the Vodacom Accelerator aims to do just that," the Vodacom chief noted.

He further elaborated that as a company which aims at taking Tanzania into the digital world, the leading mobile phone services company encourages technology driven ideas that bring sustainable change in the market.

"Digital technology is not only changing the way we do business in Africa but also revolutionizing the way we perceive and solve challenges of development. It is therefore with great honour that we will once again create an opportunity for such ideas to be recognized, supported and transformed to maximize social impact," Hendi added while noting that Vodacom has partnered with Smart Lab, a well-known innovation company that aims to bring tangible results that will disrupt the technology eco-system.

"So, this will be an opportunity for start-ups and innovators in the selected field to showcase

their products and also gain from the platform with exclusive partnership deals with Vodacom to get mentorship, technical assistance, marketing and exposure to a large network of partners and customers to test and experience their solutions," the Vodacom Managing Director stated.

Smart Lab CEO, Edwin Bruno shared his excitement for the new program saying that his company is happy to be part of the Vodacom Digital Accelerator program which targets to create a brand building platform for the tech savvy youths.

"This program is in line with our corporate strategy to drive messaging around youth support in the digital age and we are grateful to Vodacom Tanzania who saw the need to create the next round of success stories for African entrepreneurs building fast-growing technology companies coming from within the country," Bruno said.

"The innovation community has mushroomed in Tanzania from just a handful of hubs in 2011 to more than 45 in 2019 but there has been a slower involvement from the corporate side whereas Vodacom in this partnership with Smart Lab will lead in bridging that gap," he added saying that the latest initiative will lead to a tech-evolved-future for Tanzania that is full of disruptive solutions with positive impact for the coming generations.

Turkish Airlines starts direct flights to Vietnam's Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh cities

ISTANBUL

BOASTING the world's widest international flight network with 315 international destinations in 126 countries, Turkish Airlines started direct flights to Vietnam's Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities last week Wednesday.

The routes which were operated as connected flights until the direct flights started, the Istanbul based airline said in a statement. "Starting on September 11, the flights will be operated on Istanbul - Ho Chi Minh City-Istanbul and Istanbul - Hanoi - Istanbul routes,"

the airline said in its statement.

Deciding to operate direct flights with the expectations of the passengers travelling to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in mind, Turkish Airlines will have daily flights to Ho Chi Minh and the flag carrier will fly to Hanoi six days a week (except Sunday). The flights to capital Hanoi will increase to seven days a week in April 2020.

Surrounded by Saigon River, Ho Chi Minh City was added to the flag carrier's flight network back in December 2010. Located in the southern Vietnam, the city serves as the

financial capital of the country while boasting the biggest population and highest number of visitors. The city is a popular tourism center with its pristine skyscrapers, ornate temples and pagodas.

Turkish Airlines first started to fly to Hanoi, one of the oldest capitals of the world, in June 2016. The city offers an unparalleled travel experience with its historical architecture affected by various societies and rich culture. As the trade, cultural and education center of North Vietnam, Hanoi is also quite close by to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

AFDB: Africa's employment challenges require innovative approaches

ABIDJAN

INNOVATIVE thinking about Africa's conventional employment issues is a key issue in the recently released African Development Bank new policy research document "Creating Decent Jobs: Strategies, Policies, and Instruments."

The report elicited strong presentations and a lively debate during the event which took place in the Babacar N'Diaye Auditorium at the Bank's headquarters, attended by senior management, diplomats, staff, and media representatives.

The Bank's Senior Vice President Charles Boamah noted that the issue of employment as being "at the top of the agenda of every African leader," noting that the report was "the first of its kind in challenging and unveiling some of the misconceptions that many

experts have about the nature of under-employment and unemployment in Africa.

"The report signals the start of some fresh thinking about the nature of employment creation on the continent and clarifies which development strategies and policy interventions are needed for low-income countries in Africa," Boamah said.

He went on to predict that the report would "serve as a reference document on employment in Africa for some years to come." Celestin Monga, the Bank's Chief Economist, remarked that part of its appeal was in applying innovative thinking to conventional employment issues.

For example, one problem identified was that domestic economic progress was often assessed by the allocation of public funding to priority sectors or by analyzing the number of reforms carried

out to improve the business environment.

In this context, he observed that several of the world's top-performing countries had low rankings for the ease of doing business. Monga also remarked that the official unemployment figures of many African countries were so unrealistically low that policymakers found it difficult to explain how demand for labour in markets was so buoyant.

Africa was also the world region with the highest proportion of its workforce in vulnerable employment, which served to hide rather than clarify the essential issue of employment in Africa. A new model for measuring employment that related to actual conditions in Africa was needed, he said. The report, he said should also be seen as a manifesto for African jobs.

In the face of rapidly growing populations and heightened

risks of social unrest or discontent, jobless growth was the most serious concern for African policymakers, said Abebe Shimeles, the manager in the Chief Economist's complex, who spoke on the highlights of the report.

"One problem", he added, "was already well known - that employment and unemployment needed to be more closely defined in their relative context, a task that had already caused difficulties in other development finance institutions."

Traditional labour market economists were not capable of accurately defining the particular African employment phenomenon". In addition, he pointed out that the status of the ministries of work or labour in many African countries was often not important enough to be considered as a critical policy sector, reflecting the low priority given to making

a serious difference to the continental employment challenge facing all the African countries.

This session of reflections featured Ivorian minister of youth promotion and employment Mamadou Toure, in the government of Cote d'Ivoire, who drew attention to the interconnections that existed around the jobs issue. "This cannot be resolved on its own, and certainly not without considering carefully other related aspects, such as skills, education, training, enterprise and social services," he said.

Professor Tchetché N'Guessan, of the University of Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Cocody, Cote d'Ivoire; and Mr Freddy Tchala, CEO of MTN in Cote d'Ivoire. Also spoke, discussing different aspects of employment, education, training, skills and government measures for the promotion of youth entrepreneurs.

Role of managers in suicide prevention

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah,

THE World Suicide Prevention Day was observed on 10th September to raise awareness that suicides can be prevented.

Suicide touches everyone - but especially working age adults. Depression, one of the most significant risk factors for suicide, is a leading cause of workplace absence and low performance. However there is help and hope when individuals and workplaces join forces to prevent suicide.

Workplaces can play an active role in suicide prevention by creating an environment that fosters communication, a sense of belonging and respect. Feeling connected to a community promotes emotional well-being and decrease risk for suicide.

Stigma about mental illness can keep people from sharing their situation and seeking help, especially in their workplaces. Employees need to be reassured that mental health problems are real and treatable and can be discussed just like physical illnesses.

Managers are well positioned to notice if employees are struggling and to take the first steps in assisting them to get help. Managers have day-to-day contact with their teams and get to know them over time, can observe changes in their behavior, and may see them at critical points in their life.

Identify employees who may be at risk for suicide

You may notice problems that increase suicide risk such as:

- Prior suicide attempt(s)
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Mood and anxiety disorders such as depression, posttraumatic stress disorder
- Access to a means to kill oneself, i.e. lethal means

Suicide risk is usually greater among people with more than one risk factor. For individuals who are already at risk, a triggering event causing shame and despair may make them more likely to attempt suicide. These events may include relationship problems or breakups, problems at work, financial hardships, legal difficulties, and worsening health. Even though most people with risk factors will not attempt suicide, a professional should evaluate them.

There are some behaviors that may mean a person is at immediate risk for suicide. These three should prompt you to take action right away:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself
- Looking for a way to kill oneself
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.

Other behaviors may also indicate a serious risk, especially if the behavior is new, has increased, and/or seems related to a painful event, loss or change:

- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated,

- behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Displaying extreme mood swings

The following steps may be taken:

- Talk to your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) or HR department about your concerns;
- Reach out to the person:
 - o Ask how he or she is doing
 - o Listen without judging
 - o Mention changes you have noticed in the person's behavior and express that you are concerned about his / her emotional well-being
 - o Suggest that he / she talk with someone in EAP or HR or another mental health professional. Offer to help arrange an appointment and go with the person.
 - o Provide ongoing support to the person.

Be prepared to respond to a suicide death

The suicide death or attempt of an employee - even if does not occur on the job - can have a profound emotional effect on others in the workplace. Some people may struggle with guilt and unanswered questions about what they could have done to help, and some may experience depression or suicidal thoughts themselves.

As a manager, you can assure that employee get the help they need and assist the workplace in returning to a state of normalcy. Give employees time and space to deal with their feelings so that they can manage the trauma and transition back to work effectively. In addition, foster an environment that encourages employees to support each other in coping with a suicide in the workplace. People experiencing a suicide loss usually need the same things that people who experience loss from other causes of death need: support, time to grieve and space to share their stories of the person they love. Also be sure to seek support for yourself.

Key components of a workplace suicide prevention program include:

- Policies and procedures to help employees at risk and in crisis;
- A plan for responding to a suicide attempt or death in your workplace
- Mental health emergency contact information placed throughout the workplace
- Education and training on mental health, suicide prevention and stigma reduction for employees
- Established relationships with mental health professionals
- A work environment that values its employees and promotes respect, open communication, a sense of belonging, and emotional well-being and that encourages people to seek help when they need it and to support each other.

Reply back to bhakti@impactafya.com or call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

Bhakti Shah, MPH is the Founder and Managing Director of ImpactAfya Ltd, collaborating with Workplace Options and Mayo Clinic, USA to provide Corporate Wellness and EAP Solutions in East Africa. Bhakti is also the Advisor for the Africa Business Portal and the Past President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania.

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

WORLD

Trump rebuffs Kavanaugh impeachment calls after new sexual misconduct report

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump rejected Democrats' calls for impeaching Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh on Sunday after a new report involving sexual misconduct allegations, encouraging Kavanaugh to sue for libel and suggesting the Justice Department could "rescue" him.

Some Democratic presidential candidates called for Kavanaugh's impeachment, saying he lied under oath, after a New York Times report on Saturday disclosed new information about sexual misconduct allegations against him.

The Times essay, drawn from an upcoming book written by the newspaper's reporters, said it was able to corroborate an allegation by former classmate Deborah Ramirez that Kavanaugh exposed his penis to her during a drunken party at a Yale University when they were undergraduates.

"Brett Kavanaugh should start suing people for libel, or the Justice Department should come to his rescue," Trump wrote on Twitter.

It was unclear what action the Re-

publican president was advocating the Justice Department take.

The Times article said at least seven people, including Ramirez' mother, had heard about the incident long before Kavanaugh became a judge. Kavanaugh denied Ramirez' accusations during his acrimonious Senate confirmation hearing last fall.

The Times piece also disclosed a previously unreported account that echoes Ramirez' story. Former Yale classmate Max Stier describes Kavanaugh pushing his private parts into the hand of a female student at a party.

The report said the classmate notified U.S. senators and the FBI about the incident, but the FBI did not investigate. The FBI declined to comment on the report.

Kavanaugh did not comment to the Times on the allegations. The Supreme Court press officers did not immediately return a request for comment.

Kavanaugh, a conservative appointed by Trump, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in October after he denied accusations of sexual assault on three women. The Senate confirmed his ap-



Brett Kavanaugh

pointment to the high court by 50-48 vote, one of the tightest margins ever for a justice.

Some of the Democrats running to replace Trump in 2020 called for Kavanaugh's impeachment in Twitter posts on Sunday.

"The revelations today confirm what we already knew: During his hearing, Kavanaugh faced credible accusations and likely lied to Congress," U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders said.

"I sat through those hearings. Brett Kavanaugh lied to the U.S. Senate and most importantly to the American people," wrote Senator Kamala Harris, a Judiciary Committee member. "He must be impeached."

"Confirmation is not exoneration, and these newest revelations are disturbing. Like the man who appointed him, Kavanaugh should be impeached," Senator Elizabeth Warren said in an-

other Twitter post.

Former Congressman Beto O'Rourke joined the chorus on Sunday, as did former U.S. Housing Secretary Julian Castro, who launched the calls for Kavanaugh's impeachment on Saturday.

Senator Amy Klobuchar posted a picture of the woman who testified to the Senate about her allegations against Kavanaugh, Christine Blasey Ford, with the caption, "Let us never forget what courage looks like."

Trump did not mention the Times article but blamed "radical left Democrats" and the "LameStream Media" for going after Kavanaugh. In a series of Twitter posts, he accused Democrats of threatening impeachment to influence Kavanaugh's opinions on court cases.

"They want to scare him into turning Liberal!" he wrote.

Agencies

Restore normal life to Kashmir, India's top court tells government

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S top court said yesterday the federal government should restore normal life in Kashmir as soon as possible, as a partial shutdown of the disputed region entered its 42nd day.

India stripped its portion of Muslim-majority Kashmir of autonomy and statehood on Aug. 5, shutting off phone networks and imposing curfew-like restrictions in some areas to dampen discontent.

Some of those curbs have been relaxed, but mobile communications in the Kashmir valley are largely still blocked, and more than a thousand people are likely to still be detained, according to official data.

"We direct Jammu and Kashmir to make the very best endeavor to make sure normal life returns," India's Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said yesterday, after a panel of three judges heard several petitions relating to Kashmir, which is

also claimed by Pakistan.

The court had previously said authorities there needed more time to restore order in Kashmir.

One of the Supreme Court judges, Sharad Arvind Bobde, said the situation in Kashmir, where thousands have died since an armed rebellion against Indian rule began three decades ago, as "a terrible state of affairs".

A written submission by the government said restrictions were still required in order to maintain law

and order, and that they had prevented widespread casualties seen in previous periods of unrest.

"Not a single life has been lost since the abrogation of Article 370," said Tushar Mehta, India's Solicitor General appearing on behalf of the government, referring to the action of India's constitution granting autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir state.

Separately yesterday, local media reported Farooq Abdullah, a three-time former chief minister

of the state, was detained in state capital Srinagar under the Public Safety Act, a special law that allows for detention of up to two years without trial, and has been criticized by rights groups as draconian. A current member of India's parliament, 81-year-old Abdullah was previously under informal house arrest.

Abdullah and Indian police officials in Kashmir did not respond or were not reachable for comment.

Agencies

Biggest oil price surge since 1991 as 'locked and loaded' US points finger at Iran for attack

DUBAI

AN attack on Saudi Arabia that shut 5% of global crude output caused the biggest surge in oil prices since 1991, after U.S. officials blamed Iran and President Donald Trump said Washington was "locked and loaded" to retaliate.

The Iran-aligned Houthi movement that controls Yemen's capital claimed responsibility for the attack, which damaged the world's biggest crude oil processing plant. Iran denied blame and said it was ready for "full-fledged war".

Two sources briefed on the operations of state oil company Saudi Aramco told Reuters it may take months for Saudi oil production to return to normal. Earlier estimates had suggested it could take weeks.

Oil prices surged by as much as 19% before coming off peaks. The intraday jump was the biggest since the 1991 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that prompted the Gulf War.

Prices eased after Trump announced that he would release U.S. emergency supplies, and producers around the globe said there were enough stocks stored up to make up for the shortfall.

"There is reason to believe that we know the culprit, are locked and loaded depending on verification, but are waiting to hear from the Kingdom as to who they believe was the cause of this attack, and under what terms we would proceed!" Trump said on Twitter on Sunday.

While Iran has denied blame for the attacks, its Yemeni allies have promised more strikes to come. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said the group carried out Saturday's pre-dawn attack with drones, including some powered by jet engines.

"We assure the Saudi regime that our long arm can reach any place we choose and at the time of our choosing," Sarea tweeted. "We warn companies and foreigners against being near the plants that we struck because they



are still in our sights and could be hit at any moment."

U.S. officials say they believe that the attacks came from the opposite direction, possibly from Iran itself rather than Yemen, and may have involved cruise missiles. Wherever the attacks were launched, however, they believe Iran is to blame.

"There's no doubt that Iran is responsible for this. No matter how you slice it, there's no escaping it. There's no other candidate," a U.S. official said on Sunday on condition of anonymity.

Saudi Arabia and Iran have been enemies for decades and are fighting a number of

proxy wars, including in Yemen where Saudi forces have been fighting against the Houthis for four years.

Overall tension in the oil-producing Gulf region has dramatically escalated this year after Trump imposed severe U.S. sanctions on Iran aimed at halting its oil exports altogether.

THREATS
For months Iranian officials have issued veiled threats, saying that if Iran is blocked from exporting oil, other countries will not be able to do so either. However, Tehran has denied any role in specific attacks, including bombings of tankers in the Gulf and previous strikes claimed by the Houthis.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi called the U.S. accusations of Iranian involvement in Saturday's attacks "unacceptable and entirely baseless".

Agencies

Foreign Ministry confirms Smolenkov worked at Russian embassy in US

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told the Telegram channel Rasstriga during an interview that the former employee of the Russian presidential staff, Oleg Smolenkov, whom the media has suspected of being a CIA agent, had worked for some time at the Russian embassy in Washington.

"He worked at our embassy in Washington for a certain period in his career. There is nothing for me to comment on. He was in charge of administrative matters," she said. Zakharova recalled that Russia had already made an official query through law enforcement agencies.

"I can also say that when CNN was working on this story (about Smolenkov), it did not contact us. This looks strange. Usually, they ask us for a comment when these matters are in the spotlight," Zakharova pointed out.

She described CNN's story about Smolenkov (pictured) as "an element of shaping the preferences of its own audience."

"Regrettably, the mass media in the United States has been split along domestic policy lines.

There've already been friend-or-foe roll-call depending on preferences," Zakharova explained. "Many internal political events in the United States have aroused a wave of questions addressed to the Russian side. I believe that the timing is not accidental.

The election campaign race has already begun. There are candidates who are being listed as promising or possible ones in the context of the forthcoming presidential election in the US in 2020."

Smolenkov affair

Last week, CNN claimed that US intelligence had evacuated a key agent from Russia in 2017, because there was a high risk that the individual in question could have been exposed.

CNN did not reveal the name of the agent, whom it described as a fairly senior official in the Russian administration.

According to The New York Times, the alleged agent held a senior post and had high-level access to the Kremlin. The CIA and the White House said CNN's information was inaccurate. Also, White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham said that CNN's reporting was "inaccurate" and had "the potential to put lives in danger," without elaborating, though.

Some media outlets eventually quoted anonymous sources as saying the man in focus was someone named Oleg Smolenkov.

Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed last week that Smolenkov had been an employee of the presidential staff but at a certain point was dismissed under an internal order.

Agencies

China's holistic reform creating new synergy for high-quality growth

BEIJING

CHINA has adopted a package of new reform measures for high-quality development as policy-makers set the tone for greater synergy of reform in different areas.

The 10th meeting of the central committee for deepening overall reform decided to enhance synergy, coordination and efficiency in advancing reform and to make institutions in all areas more mature and in better shape.

China's reform measures over the past several years highlight the country's holistic approach in addressing institutional obstacles and obstruction and promoting policy innovation. The meeting demanded efforts to promote the integration and co-existence of advanced manufacturing and modern service industries, two sectors seen as increasingly interwoven in recent years.

"Integration between the manufacturing and services sectors can help strengthen the international competitiveness of Chinese manufacturing amid rising industrial resource costs," said Deng Zhou, an industrial economist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Official data showed companies providing services for manufacturers, in particular, engineering design, quality inspection and intellectual property rights maintained robust revenue growth between 2016 and 2018.

The meeting underscored more initiatives to promote high-quality development of trade, with a focus on jointly building the Belt and Road and vigorously optimizing the trade structure.

In the first eight months of 2019, the total trade between China and the European Union reached 3.15 trillion yuan (about 444.65 billion U.S. dollars), up 9.7 percent year on year, while the total trade between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations amounted to 2.74 trillion yuan, up 11.7 percent year on year.

Xinhua

Election as sole democratic option to overcome crisis in Algeria - interim president

ALGIERS

ALGERIAN interim President Abdelkader Bensalah on Sunday announced that the country will hold a presidential election on Dec. 12 this year, saying election is "the sole democratic option" that would enable the North African nation to overcome the crisis.

Bensalah (pictured) addressed the Algerian people in a live speech broadcast on state-run television and radio channels, noting that he has signed a presidential decree to hold the election and called on the citizens to participate in the poll.

He said the presidential election is

the only democratic solution to the crisis the country has been facing, reiterating his commitment to "meeting all the conditions necessary for a free, fair and transparent presidential election."

The interim president recalled "the most important steps" that have been taken to pave the way for the election, including talks with several political parties, national personalities, as well as representatives of the civil society and the protest movement, which reached "consensual recommendations that would guarantee free and fair elections."

As a guarantee for the election, Bensalah said he has signed laws related



to independent election monitoring authority and electoral system.

He concluded by urging all the Algerian people to engage in the election process in a bid to "make the poll of Dec. 12 a success, and ultimately go through this crucial turning point in

the history of Algeria."

Earlier on Sunday, former Justice Minister Mohamed Chorfi was elected head of the Independent Election Monitoring Authority.

The state-run ENT channel noted that the election of Chorfi took place during a meeting between the coordinator of the Dialogue and Mediation Panel, Karim Younes, and the 50 members of the monitoring authority.

The authority is due to organize the entire process of the presidential poll "to eliminate any attempt for rigging the election." In fact it suggested holding the Presidential Elections before the end of the year.

Organizing presidential election as

soon as possible is the most secured option for maintaining security and resolving the political crisis hitting this North African nation since Feb. 22," said Army Chief of Staff Ahmed Gaid Salah.

He reiterated "a legitimately-elected president" would have enough popular support and endorsement to fulfill the people's aspirations.

Algeria has witnessed a wide scale protest movement since Feb. 22, forcing former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to resign on April 2.

The demonstrators have expressed their refusal to participate in any elections as long as symbols of the former government are still in place, in refer-

ence to interim President Bensalah and the cabinet led by Prime Minister Nouredine Bedoui.

For now, the Dialogue and Mediation Panel is trying to hold talks with different political actors and civil society activists to endorse the election process.

Some political parties expressed their will to participate in the election, while some others snubbed the call, as they insist on moving towards a transition era of at least six months led by a cabinet of technocrat ministers, within which a new constitution would be crafted and free and fair elections would be held.

Xinhua



Belt and Road: A gold mine for Hong Kong

THE annual Belt and Road Summit, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, kicked off on Wednesday.

The two-day summit has attracted about 5,000 senior government officials, business leaders and professionals from 60 countries and regions from Europe, Asia and Africa.

That the unabated violent protests failed to deter the overseas guests from coming to the city to participate in the event showed that the guests are confident that the city's law enforcement authorities are in full control of the situation and capable of keeping them safe during their stay.

The Belt and Road Initiative offers so many opportunities for multilateral cooperation and business that they simply could not afford to pass up the grand gathering, which provides a premier international platform for participants to tap into those opportunities.

Indeed, it is widely expected that the initiative, when in full swing, will bring about a sea change to the global economic landscape.

The world economy, after more than seven decades of development starting from the end of World War II, has reached a plateau characterized by stagnant growth in major developed economies, which once acted as the key engines of global economic growth but are now mature and stagnating.

To re-energise the global economy, more growth engines are needed besides China and India.

The BRI can go a long way in creating the new engines the world economy needs for powering its sustained growth by facilitating and accelerat-

ing development in less-developed regions in Asia, Europe and Africa through the promotion of investment in infrastructure as well as trade.

The process of economic and trade connection is expected to go on for decades and offer tremendous opportunities to the facilitators, including Hong Kong, which is in a position to play a significant role in the grand vision.

Based on the design of the BRI, championed by President Xi Jinping, Hong Kong is an important global financial center, cultural exchange center and professional services hub, Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor noted when speaking at the summit on Wednesday.

Financial institutions and professionals in the city who are well-versed in international practices and well-connected with other parts of the world will find their services in high demand.

The city's businessmen, known for their entrepreneurial spirit, can also find numerous untapped markets offering huge potential for business expansion as well as demand for their products.

At a time when Hong Kong's function as the intermediary between the Chinese mainland and the rest of the world is diminishing as the nation increasingly deepens its reform and opening-up, it is all the more imperative for the city to take full advantage of its designated role in the BRI as well as in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area project to sustain its economic development.

Arguably, how well Hong Kong performs in its role in both initiatives will have a profound implication for its economic future.

Agencies

S.Korean to do all it can for DPRK-US denuke talks: president

SEOUL

KOREAN President Moon Jae-in said Monday that his country will do all it can for the denuclearization talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States.

Moon made the remarks during a weekly meeting with his senior secretaries, saying the working-level talks between Pyongyang and Washington will resume soon.

Moon noted that his government will do whatever it can to open a future of co-prosperity with the peace settlement and the peace economy on the Korean Peninsula.

Moon's comment came after Choe Son Hui, the DPRK's first vice foreign minister, said last week that the DPRK was willing to sit with the United States at an agreed-upon time and place in late September to comprehensively discuss issues the two sides had taken up.

Stephen Biegun, U.S. special representative for DPRK affairs, said during his visit to Seoul last month that his country was ready to engage in working-level talks with the DPRK for the peninsula's denuclearization.

President Moon was scheduled to visit New York later this month to attend the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. On the sidelines of it, Moon planned to hold a summit meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Moon said peace on the peninsula will be solidified when the international community joins in it, vowing to make efforts to encourage the international society to join and cooperate in the peninsula peace process.

He added that he will actively support the DPRK-U.S. dialogue through his summit meeting with Trump.

Xinhua

SOUTHPORT

BREXIT campaigner Nigel Farage says he believes Britain's departure from the European Union will be delayed again because parliament will reject Prime Minister Boris Johnson's attempt to do a last-minute deal with Brussels.

Cast by his supporters as the godfather of Brexit, Farage said Britain's exit, due on Oct. 31, was now in doubt as what he called the political elite in London was plotting with the EU to betray the 2016 referendum, in which

Britain voted 52%-48% to leave.

Farage (pictured) said Britain was in the grip of its biggest row since the English Civil War in the 17th century and that Johnson risked destroying his Conservative Party as he was trying to rehear the failed exit deal of his predecessor Theresa May.

"At the Oct. 17-18 EU summit there will be some give from the European Union and Boris will bring it back to parliament before Oct. 31 and, I suspect, fail to

get it through," the Brexit Party leader told Reuters in an interview.

"So we won't leave on the 31st of October and then we are really into uncharted waters - whether parliament imposes a second referendum or we have a general election, I really don't know," Farage, 55, said.

A former commodities trader, Farage has transformed British politics over the past decade by poaching Conservative voters to



force a succession of prime ministers towards ever tougher positions on Europe.

The perceived electoral threat to the Conservatives from the

United Kingdom Independence Party which Farage formerly led was one of the main reasons then-prime minister David Cameron decided in 2013 to promise the Brexit referendum.

A member of the European parliament, Farage has stood for a seat in the British parliament seven times and lost each time.

But shunned by the British political establishment, Farage, backed by Eurosceptic financiers, helped sell Brexit to mil-

lions of voters in England and Wales who felt ignored by the mainstream Conservative and Labour parties.

The United Kingdom was due to leave on March 29 but it was delayed because May's deal was defeated three times by parliament.

SOME KIND OF PACT? With the United Kingdom split down the middle over Brexit, Farage has offered Johnson an electoral pact to ensure Brexi-

teers remain in power to deliver the divorce, but he has so far been rejected.

A Conservative source last week said Farage was not a fit and proper person to be allowed near power - a barb he dismissed as coming from a "pipsqueak" Conservative spokesman.

"I still don't rule out the possibility of some kind of pact, some kind of deal, but I am not banking on it," Farage said, adding if Brexit was not delivered on Oct. 31 then his Brexit Party would see its poll ratings surge beyond 20 percent. Agencies

Mugabe's body to be taken to rural home for more farewell proceedings

HARARE

THE body of former Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, who died in Singapore on Sept. 6, is expected to arrive at his rural home in Zimbabwe yesterday.

It had earlier been planned that the body would be taken to Zimbabwe on Sunday to allow the people there to bid him farewell.

Family spokesperson Leo Mugabe told media at Mugabe's rural home-stead that the program had changed and the body was now expected to leave Harare on Monday at 10 am.



"However, we were not informed of the reasons for the postponement. The body was supposed to be here today. As you can see, thousands of people have already gathered here to bid farewell to their own son.

"I am not sure what caused the postponement. I heard the former First Lady Grace Mugabe wanted to rest. Like any other human being she needs a rest," he said.

Mugabe said the body might go to Zimbabwe by road as requested by Norton residents and people from other surrounding areas.

"We will inform those leading the proceedings on the latest development. Our plan was to have his body come by road to enable people from Norton and other surrounding areas to pay last respects to their former President. Xinhua



Israeli Netanyahu vows to begin annexing 'all West Bank settlements' after elections

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he plans to annex "all" the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank if he wins today's elections.

"I intend to impose Israeli sovereignty on all blocs and settlements and sites of importance to the Jewish heritage," the prime minister told Army Radio.

He said that settlements, such as Kiryat Arba next to the Palestinian city of Hebron, "will be part of the state of Israel."

He added that he told U.S. President Donald Trump about his plan, adding that the White House will present its plan for peace between Israel and the Palestinians "shortly after the elections."

Netanyahu, who is on a re-election campaign, has intensified his right-wing rhetoric over the past days, addressing his right-wing electoral base.

Last week, he pledged to begin annexing the Jordan Valley and some of the Dead Sea, an area comprising some 22 percent of the West Bank, "right after the elections."

His remark sparked international condemnations, including the Palestinian Authority.

Before Israel's previous elections in April, Netanyahu also vowed to annex the Jordan Valley, but has taken no steps to do so.

Israel seized the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip, in the 1967 Middle East war and has kept its control over these lands ever since, despite international criticism. Agencies

Chinese premier visits Russia for stronger ties in new era

BEIJING

THREE months after China-Russia relations were elevated to a higher level, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang travels again to the neighboring country for an official visit, a key move for the two countries to further increase mutual trust and build up stronger partnerships on various fronts.

During his stay from yesterday to tomorrow in Russia, the Chinese premier will co-chair the 24th regular meeting between the two countries' heads of government with Dmitry Medvedev in St. Petersburg.

Li (pictured) will also meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. It is another important high-level interaction between China and Russia after Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit in June, in which he and Putin decided to upgrade the already close ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era.

At a time when globalization is facing hurdles and the world is seeing growing uncertainties, China and Russia, with Li's visit, are expected to show their firm commitments to multilateralism and a more equitable and stable world order.

TIES IN A NEW ERA

The visit comes as the two neighbors are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Seven decades on, ties between Beijing and Moscow have reached an unprecedentedly high level.

The two partners, sharing common ground on a wide range of issues, firmly support each other on issues of major concern and in defending their core interests. Thanks to the strategic guidance of Xi and Putin, China and Russia have set a good example for major-country relations that feature equality and mutual benefit rather than power politics.

In June, the two leaders jointly outlined a clearer direction for the future of China-Russia relations, giving new vitality not only to win-win cooperation but also to global development and stability.

A major goal of the Li-Medvedev meeting is to promote the implementation of major consensus reached by the two heads of state, deepen the integration of interests and consolidate the material basis of bilateral relations, Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng said ahead of the visit.

According to Xu Poling, director of the



Russian Economy Office of the Institute of Russia, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), both China and Russia have strong will to pursue development and need a stable external environment, and that lays a solid foundation for the two countries to expand ties.

In an interview with a Russian newspaper Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke highly of the two countries' ties, saying that "the fabric of bilateral interaction is so dense that no third force can drive a wedge in it."

COOPERATION GOES FURTHER

With concerted efforts from both governments and both peoples, China and Russia have seen fruitful results as all-level practical cooperation continuously strengthens and their interests are interconnected even closer.

In 2018, bilateral trade between China and Russia hit a record high of over 100 billion U.S. dollars. By the end of July, the two countries' trade volume reached 61.13 billion dollars, a 4.7-percent year-on-year increase.

To further enhance cooperation and regional connectivity, China and Russia are working to increase the two-way trade to 200 billion dollars by 2024, a target set by the two heads of state.

Meanwhile, the two nations are preparing for a two-year-long program designed to find more chances to boost cooperation in science and technology and innovation and enhance their national competitiveness.

Li and Medvedev, said Le, will hold in-depth talks focusing on how to expand

economic and trade cooperation and improve the quality of cooperation in technology and innovation.

Considering the great potential in bilateral cooperation, Xu believes the visit will offer new opportunities for the two sides to enrich their comprehensive collaboration in such areas as energy, trade, investment, agricultural industry as well as people-to-people exchanges.

Sun Zhuangzhi, head of the Institute of Russia, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies of CASS, said the two countries' cooperation keeps sound momentum in multiple dimensions and, with the implementation of a series of deals, will for sure unleash more potential.

STRONG VOICE FOR MULTILATERALISM

Beijing and Moscow have a shared vision for world order. Both are strong champions for a more democratic and multipolar international system, which means the world is based on equal interaction among several major centers instead of being dominated by one power.

Both are major countries in terms of size and global influence, Sun said, highlighting their cooperation on and contributions to global affairs within such multilateral frameworks as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

However, protectionism poses a big threat to the prospect of global growth. In late July, the International Monetary Fund further reduced its global growth outlook to 3.2 percent for this year, the weakest since the financial crisis 10 years ago.

To face the challenges, China, the second largest economy in the world, has undertaken a series of opening-up measures including expanding imports, creating a favorable environment for business and better protecting intellectual properties.

Under such circumstances, the world hopes China and Russia will reaffirm opposition to unilateral moves and trade protectionism during Li's visit and send a strong message that the two countries will stay committed to improving global governance and promoting free trade and open economy, Xu said.

As China and Russia are playing bigger roles on the world stage, their relations carry global significance, said Sun, stressing that it is necessary for the two countries to stand together and push for a more integrated and stable world.

Xinhua

South African president sends envoys to African countries over xenophobic attacks

CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa has dispatched three special envoys to seven African countries to deliver messages of pan-African unity and solidarity following xenophobic attacks in South Africa, the Presidency said on Sunday.

The special envoys will deliver a message from Ramaphosa regarding the incidents of violence that recently erupted in some parts of South Africa, which have manifested in attacks on foreign nationals and destruction of property, presidential spokesperson



Khusela Diko said.

The envoys will reassure fellow African countries that South Africa is

committed to the ideals of pan-African unity and solidarity, Diko said.

They will also reaffirm South Africa's commitment to the rule of law, said Diko.

The envoys will visit Nigeria, Niger, Ghana, Senegal, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia, according to Diko.

The envoys will brief governments in the identified African countries about the steps that the South African government is taking to bring a stop to the attacks and to hold the perpetrators to account, Diko said.

South Africa has been hit by a new spate of violence for the past few weeks. At least 12 people, including 10 South Africans and two foreigners, have been killed.

South Africa is host to some 274,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from African countries, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Xenophobia-related attacks are not unrare in South Africa where foreigners are blamed for taking up employment that should have been taken by locals. Xinhua

Farage says Brexit will be delayed again when Johnson's deal falls

Britain voted 52%-48% to leave.

Farage (pictured) said Britain was in the grip of its biggest row since the English Civil War in the 17th century and that Johnson risked destroying his Conservative Party as he was trying to rehear the failed exit deal of his predecessor Theresa May.

get it through," the Brexit Party leader told Reuters in an interview.

"So we won't leave on the 31st of October and then we are really into uncharted waters - whether parliament imposes a second referendum or we have a general election, I really don't know," Farage, 55, said.

A former commodities trader, Farage has transformed British politics over the past decade by poaching Conservative voters to

force a succession of prime ministers towards ever tougher positions on Europe.

The perceived electoral threat to the Conservatives from the



United Kingdom Independence Party which Farage formerly led was one of the main reasons then-prime minister David Cameron decided in 2013 to promise the Brexit referendum.

A member of the European parliament, Farage has stood for a seat in the British parliament seven times and lost each time.

But shunned by the British political establishment, Farage, backed by Eurosceptic financiers, helped sell Brexit to mil-

lions of voters in England and Wales who felt ignored by the mainstream Conservative and Labour parties.

The United Kingdom was due to leave on March 29 but it was delayed because May's deal was defeated three times by parliament.

SOME KIND OF PACT? With the United Kingdom split down the middle over Brexit, Farage has offered Johnson an electoral pact to ensure Brexi-

teers remain in power to deliver the divorce, but he has so far been rejected.

A Conservative source last week said Farage was not a fit and proper person to be allowed near power - a barb he dismissed as coming from a "pipsqueak" Conservative spokesman.

"I still don't rule out the possibility of some kind of pact, some kind of deal, but I am not banking on it," Farage said, adding if Brexit was not delivered on Oct. 31 then his Brexit Party would see its poll ratings surge beyond 20 percent. Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Members of Spain's team celebrate with the Naismith Trophy after they beat Argentina in their first-place match in the FIBA Basketball World Cup at the Cadillac Arena in Beijing, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019. (AP Photo)

Gasol completes historic double, Spain wins World Cup

BEIJING

MARC Gasol looked to the sky as confetti fell, some sticking to his massive shoulders, and then cradled and kissed the giant golden chalice that goes to the World Cup champions.

He's getting good at hoisting trophies.

Gasol got to bask in a championship celebration for the second time in three months – and this time, he did it for his country. Tournament MVP Ricky Rubio scored 20 points, Sergio Llull added 15 and Spain won the World Cup for the second time by topping Argentina 95-75 on Sunday.

"We weren't the most talented team," Rubio said. "We weren't the bigger team. Put anything you want, but we were the team with the biggest heart and we showed it tonight and we showed it during the whole tournament."

Gasol scored 14 for the winners, who never trailed and added this crown to the one it claimed in 2006. And for him, 2019 will go down as a year the likes of which few others have enjoyed.

The Toronto Raptors center becomes the second player to win an NBA title and a FIBA world gold medal in the same year, joining Lamar Odom – who did it for the Los Angeles Lakers and USA Basketball in 2010. Gasol also became the 19th to win either an NBA or WNBA crown along with a gold medal, either of the Olympic or World Cup variety, in the same year.

The first 18 all did it for the U.S.

This time, Vamos España!

"NBA champion and a World Cup champion as well," Gasol said. "What can I say? How does it sound to you? I feel very fortunate to be in this position and be able to play this game and help these guys be part of history of Spanish basketball."

Llull and Rudy Fernandez – the team captain, the one who initially got to accept the Naismith Trophy – went to cut down the nets shortly after the final buzzer. Gasol carried the game ball to the gold-medal ceremony, and Spanish fans wept in the stands during the national anthem.

Gabriel Deck scored 24 points for Argentina (8-1), which got off to a slow start and played uphill the rest of the way. Luis Scola was held to eight points, shooting 1 for 10 from the floor.

"We're sad right now. We're very sad," Scola said. "But I feel confident, in hours, we'll be able to look back and be very proud. They just played better than us. They were better. They deserved to win. They were the better team in the game and the tournament."

Federer to give Murray early workout at ATP Cup

MELBOURNE

ROGER Federer is set to give Andy Murray's hip an early season workout, with Switzerland drawn to face Great Britain in the group phase of the inaugural ATP Cup.

Former world number one Murray has played only a handful of singles matches since having a career-saving hip surgery earlier this year but qualified for the nation-based tournament with a protected ranking.

Murray said last week he still needed four to five months to get up to the speed of old rivals Federer and Rafa Nadal, and with the ATP Cup to kick off Jan. 3, he has work ahead of him.

Switzerland and Britain will also meet Belgium in Group C in Sydney, as revealed at the

tournament's draw ceremony in the same city on Monday.

The 24 national teams play in six groups of four for group stage, round-robin play, with the group winners and the two best second-placed finishers across the groups reaching the ATP Cup Finals in Sydney.

Eighteen teams have qualified for the tournament so far, with hosts Australia also receiving a berth.

Another five teams will be announced after the second qualifying window shuts in November.

U.S. Open champion Nadal will kick his tournament off on the other side of the country to world number three Federer, with Spain drawn with Japan and Georgia in Group B in Perth. **REUTERS**

Vodacom Premier League observations from Match Day 2



Mtibwa Sugar forward, Riphath Khamis (R), contemplates his next move in front of Simba defender, Shomari Kapombe, during the Vodacom Premier League match, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Mainland Tanzania Premier League resumed last weekend after the international break with eight games being played. Here are the notable observations.

Kagera loving life away from home

While Kagera Sugar are yet to play at home, away from home they have been causing all sorts of 'trouble', following up a 2-0 win at Biashara United with Sunday's impressive performance that ensured a 2-1 win at Alliance.

Well, after struggling for most of last season and avoiding relegation through playoffs, a lot of changes in the playing unit were made. The changes are paying dividends as Kagera Sugar are unexpectedly winning games they had no business winning. After only two rounds,

they have already matched their last season best tally of two away wins.

Kagere show continues

Meddie Kagere continues where he left last season, he has repeated his last season's record of scoring in two opening games. A brace against JKT Tanzania in match day one has been followed up by a first half goal against Mtibwa Sugar.

His three goals puts him at the top of the scoring chart just like he started and ended last season. It is safe to say that his goal-scoring party does not look like it is going to end anytime soon. Can he become the first player to retain the golden boot award?

Newcomers Namungo FC are here to stay

It is a norm for newly promoted

teams to struggle in their first season in the topflight leagues, but, based on what we have seen from Namungo FC, they look like they might be an exception to the norm.

After collecting maximum points against Ndanda FC and Singida United, either a point or three in their next game against Mwadui FC will keep them in a very good position.

Lipuli FC enjoying life post-Matola Lipuli parted ways with their beloved coach, Selemani Matola, at the end of last season. With wholesale changes to the playing unit, management and with a new coach at the helm, led people to believe this season would be a tough one.

Well, fast forward two games into the season and they've started on a good note, scoring four goals and

conceding one. A 1-0 away over JKT Tanzania on the weekend leaves them with a 100% record, a record jointly-shared by only three other teams.

KMFC are No longer at ease

New season, new coach, new signings to inject fresh impetus but bad results. KMFC have started 2019/20 in bad fashion, suffering an opening match defeat to Azam FC which was followed by a 2-0 away defeat to Coastal Union, while also failing to find the back of the net in the process.

And that woe has been amplified all the more when you put results from other competitions under microscope, as the Kino Boys have won only one of their last seven competitive matches.

Smith, Cummins, Hazlewood ensure Australia keep the urn



Australia players celebrate with the Ashes trophy and urn after drawing the series to retain the Ashes against England at Kia Oval in London, Britain on Sunday. Reuters

LONDON

SUSTAINED excellence from Steve Smith, who scaled new heights with 774 runs, complemented by the searing pace and accuracy of Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood enabled Australia to cling on to the Ashes despite losing the final test against England on Sunday by 135 runs.

Smith, the former captain who returned to the national side for this year's World Cup and Ashes after he was suspended for his part in a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa, finally fell to earth when he was out for 23 in Australia's second innings on a glorious sun-drenched autumn afternoon at The Oval.

With his departure, greeted with generous applause from a capacity crowd aside from a few scattered boos, Australia's faint hopes of reaching a victory target of 399 also vanished despite a battling century from Matthew Wade.

However, victory in the fourth test at Old Trafford meant the Australians could not lose the series and the 2-2 scoreline meant they retained the urn.

It was the first drawn Ashes series since 1972 when Ian Chappell's Australians squared the series 2-2 at the same London venue. Smith, who missed the third test after he was concussed by a blow to the neck at Lord's, scored 144, 142, 92, 211, 82 and 80 before Sunday.

Each knock was the highest for his team and the first innings at the Oval was his 10th successive score exceeding 50 against an England test attack.

In the history of test cricket only his incomparable compatriot Don Bradman, who averaged 99.94 from 52 tests, stands ahead of Smith whose average has risen to fractionally below 65. "The series has ebbed and flowed, I've loved every minute and I'm proud to have been able to perform for Australia and bring the urn home," Smith said.

"You always want to get better as a player and I'll continue to work hard," he said.

Smith's prodigious scoring, with able assistance from Marnus Labuschagne who became test cricket's first

concession substitute when he replaced Smith at Lord's and then scored four half-centuries, helped paper over some woeful Australian upper-order batting.

David Warner, who also served a year-long suspension for the same offence as Smith, returned to the national side to score 647 runs at the World Cup where the defending champions were beaten by the home side in the semi-finals. England defeated New Zealand to win the trophy for the first time. However, in the Ashes series the pugnacious left-handed opener, who with Smith has been the bulwark of the Australian batting in recent years, had his technique picked apart by Stuart Broad, bowling around the wicket with the new ball.

Broad dismissed Warner seven times in 10 innings, in which his average was 9.5. The average opening partnership was also in single figures and the highest stand a dismal 18.

To compensate for their batsmen's failures, Cummins in five tests and Hazlewood in the final four took 49 wickets between them and all the England batsmen struggled against their speed and aggression.

But at the Oval even they were showing the effects of five tests in seven weeks, which was reflected in indifferent shots and uncharacteristic dropped catches, and the team will be delighted to return home for a break before the Australian season begins.

REUTERS

Guardiola 'congratulates' Liverpool on winning the Premier League

LONDON

PEP Guardiola has 'congratulated' rivals Liverpool on winning the Premier League after Manchester City's loss at Norwich.

The City boss joked that Jurgen Klopp's side have won the league after Norwich overcame Man City 3-2, with Liverpool defeating Newcastle 3-1 to go five points clear at the top.

Speaking to reporters after the shock defeat to the newly-promoted Canaries, Guardiola joked that the Reds have already clinched the league title.

"We're in September... we're going to do that? Okay: congratulations, Liverpool, you are the champions.

"We're in September! We'll recover, go to Ukraine, then we come back. Of course, we've dropped five points. Tottenham was a pity because we played very well.

"Against Norwich, it was in the important parts, in set pieces for example, that the players have to know exactly what to do."

Liverpool moved five points clear of City at the top of the table after securing their fifth victory in as many games, where they became the first team in top-flight history to win 14 consecutive matches while scoring

more than once each time.

The Citizens, meanwhile, sit second after suffering their first loss of the campaign, having also dropped points earlier in the season as they drew 2-2 with Spurs back in August.

Guardiola did, however, play down any concerns this early in the season, expressing his delight at working with the current group of players.

"It's a joy as a trainer to be with these guys," said the City manager. "I don't know what's going to happen this season until the last part of my period here.

"But not even one second am I going to doubt what the players have done for me, for the club, for everybody.

"I am a guy who says the truth all the time," he added.

"In the changing room, I speak with them and at the same time I know the commitment in every single training session and in all they do.

"We are going to keep going every time until the end."

City clinched the Premier League title last season as they edged out Klopp's side by a single point, while also defeating the Reds on penalties in this season's Community Shield.

(Agencies)

Xhaka lashes out at 'scared' Arsenal after draw

LONDON

ARSENAL skipper Granit Xhaka accused his teammates of being scared after the Gunners threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 at Watford in the Premier League on Sunday.

Victory would have put Arsenal in third place and they looked comfortable when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored twice in the first half at Vicarage Road.

But Arsenal lost control of the game in the second half as they gifted a goal to Tom Cleverley by trying to play out from the back before a rash challenge by Brazilian David Luiz allowed Roberto Pereyra to score from the spot.

Following the match, Switzerland international Xhaka did not hold back in his analysis.

"What went wrong? That's a good question," Xhaka said. "At half-time we went to the dressing room and everything was good. Everyone was happy but we came out and played such a bad second half. You have to say we are happy to take a point.

"We were scared in the second half. We knew they would come at us and push us hard but we have to show more character and not be scared. We have spoken about it. We cannot give a performance like this

in the second half.

"We knew they had nothing to lose and they would come for us but we didn't show our game, we were too scared, nobody wanted the ball. You have to stay calm, be mentally strong and we weren't today."

Watford might have won as they spurned two golden late chances to seal a remarkable comeback victory and Unai Emery admitted their opponent's physical play caused them problems.

"They are more stronger than us so we want to break the lines from the goal kick and connect to Mesut Ozil, like we did with the first goal," he said. "We have young players, we are working to improve and they will gain experience from matches like today. We can grow up and learn with these mistakes."

Arsenal have conceded nine goals in their last four Premier League games after opening the season with a 1-0 win at Newcastle United. They have also allowed 96 shots at their goal this season, more than any other team in Europe's top leagues.

Watford alone had 31 goal attempts, the most Arsenal have faced since Premier League stats partner Opta began collecting data in 2003-04.

(Agencies)

Ibrahimovic: I am the best ever to play in MLS

LOS ANGELES

ZLATAN Ibrahimovic has claimed he is the "best ever" player to feature in Major League Soccer after scoring a hat trick in LA Galaxy's 7-2 rout of Sporting Kansas City on Sunday.

The goals saw Ibrahimovic make history for Galaxy, breaking the franchise's single season scoring record having now scored 26 goals in 25 starts during the 2019 season. He takes the record from Carlos Ruiz, who netted 24 times in the 2002 season.

After breaking that record, Ibrahimovic said he is worthy of being labelled the best player in MLS history.

"I think I am the best ever to play in MLS. And that, without joking," Ibrahimovic said.

The former Barcelona, Paris Saint-Germain and Inter Milan striker, who joined Galaxy on a free transfer from Manchester United in 2018, has now scored 48 goals in 51 appearances in MLS.

"It's good. I said from the first day I came that I'm not here for vacation," Ibrahimovic added. "I'm here to perform and show everybody what the game is about. I think the two years I've had here, I've done good things. Amazing things. Perfect things.

"I just have to keep doing, keep being in shape and help my team

in the best way, and that is by scoring goals."

With four games to go in the regular season, the thrashing of Kansas City saw Galaxy climb into the playoff spots having fallen out of the top seven of the Western Conference after going four games without a win.

With the team back on track, coach Guillermo Barros Schelotto believes the performances of Ibrahimovic will be vital to the side in securing a spot in the post-season.

"I think it's not easy, because he's Zlatan. In big games, he appears," Schelotto said. "He appears every day, every game, every time, but especially in the moments that are very hard for his own team, and he is on the pitch. That is the reason he is Zlatan, obviously.

"I hope to keep going like today, and for sure we will win more points to get to playoffs. We need to go game by game. We can think about how many points we need to get to the playoffs. We need to rest tomorrow, practice during the week to win the next game with Montreal."

Ibrahimovic, too, said Galaxy are brimming with confidence heading into the final weeks of the regular season following the blowout victory.

(Agencies)

Klopp expects daunting ride as Liverpool eye Istanbul return

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp has warned Liverpool that retaining the Champions League will be even harder than their incredible march to victory in Madrid last season.

Klopp's side start their bid to win a seventh European Cup with a trip to Napoli for their Group E opener on Tuesday.

The Reds have reached the last two Champions League finals, beating Tottenham in the Spanish capital in June after losing to Real Madrid 12 months earlier.

But Klopp believes Liverpool face a daunting task to make it to the final in Istanbul's Ataturk Stadium -- a venue which carries extra resonance for the club after they won the 2005 Champions League with an astonishing comeback against AC Milan in the same stadium.

Before Liverpool can dream of emulating Steven Gerrard and company's triumph by the banks of the Bosphorus, Klopp knows they will have to run the gauntlet in what he expects to be a fiercely contested tournament.

Napoli are expected to pose the sternest test to Liverpool in a group which also includes unfancied Salzburg and Genk.

Carlo Ancelotti's team came within a whisker of ending Liverpool's European campaign in the group stage last season when Alisson Becker's superb late save denied Arkadiusz Milik to preserve a 1-0 win at Anfield that sent the Reds into the last 16 at the expense of Napoli.

Even if Liverpool should advance to the knockout rounds without so much drama this season, Klopp is wary of the restocked superpowers certain to be lying in wait in the latter stages.

"I will have no problem with it (reaching the final) if it happens again, but at this moment I am not too sure it will," he said when the draw was made in August.

"We have the same chance like everyone else, but that is all, and I don't see us, the English teams, dominating. I really think a lot of teams have a good chance.

"Look at the squad Borussia Dortmund has and tell me we are stronger than them. That is incredible. They can make five changes and you think: 'Really, they didn't play last week? Why?' There are a lot of quality teams.

"Juventus will be there, PSG will be there. Real Madrid? Do you think they gave up already? Bayern Munich now finally brought in Perisic and Coutinho which is a big boost."

- 'Like a rock' -

While Liverpool will always have a special relationship with the Champions League after the club's dominance of the competition in the 1970s and 1980s, it is not hard to believe that some die-hard Kopites would happily exchange their conti-



Liverpool are aiming to defend their Champions League crown (AFP Photo)

mental supremacy for a season of domestic bliss.

Having erased the pain of that 2018 final defeat against Real, Liverpool's main goal this term is to end the club's long wait to win the English title.

Pipped to the Premier League trophy by Manchester City on the final day of last season, Liverpool are desperate to win the title for the first time since 1990.

That desire has been clear to see in a blistering five-game winning streak which has already taken them to the top of the table this season.

Even an injury to Alisson has failed to interrupt their flow and the Brazilian keeper's replacement Adrian admits Liverpool's rock-solid defence -- marshalled by the imperious Virgil van Dijk -- has made his life much easier as the former West Ham player adapts to his new club.

"It's easy to play with them; you have some of the best players in the world, the best defenders, midfielders and attackers. From the back, I need to help on the occasions when I have to," Adrian said.

"I'm really proud to have won the last few games. We are in a good moment, we are like a rock - all together, the manager, the staff, players and fans. The club is living a great moment."

Meanwhile, it is a sign of the changed days at Stamford Bridge that Chelsea go into a Champions League clash with Valencia on Tuesday as the example of stability and long-term planning.

The Europa League winners return to

European football's top tier under new management in Frank Lampard and having ushered in a new era where youth will be given its chance to shine rather than depending on the deep pockets of Russian owner Roman Abramovich.

There have been a few early bumps in the road for Lampard, a returning hero for the fans after scoring a club record 211 goals and winning 13 trophies, including Chelsea's only Champions League crown, as a player.

A 4-0 opening day defeat to Manchester United and blowing a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 at home to newly-promoted Sheffield United exposed the frailties in relying on an inexperienced core of players.

But Lampard's faith in youth has largely been justified.

Led by a hat-trick from Tammy Abraham, Chelsea thrashed Wolves 5-2 on Saturday to move level with United, Tottenham, Arsenal and Leicester in the early race for Champions League football again next season.

Fikayo Tomori also struck his first goal for the club at Molineux, while Mason Mount continued the form that earned him an England call-up with his third goal in five games.

All 11 league goals scored by Chelsea so far this season have now come from that trio, all of whom have graduated through the club's academy but were shipped out on loan under previous managers.

"They should aspire and feel the op-

portunity is there if they deserve it, and they should see their team-mates doing really well and want to get in there," said Lampard.

"They are there because they deserve it. It's important we also respect the experienced players have played a huge part.

"If we are going to be successful this season we can't rely on the young boys, although at the minute they are doing a good job!"

In contrast to Chelsea's bright hope for the future, Valencia travel to England mired in an institutional and sporting crisis.

After guiding Los Che back to the Champions League in his two full seasons in charge and winning the club's first trophy for 11 years by beating Barcelona to lift the Copa del Rey in May, Marcelino Garcia Toral was sacked as coach last week by Valencia's Singaporean owner Peter Lim.

Players, fans and the media reacted with fury amid calls for Lim to sell the club.

"Whoever took this decision not only trampled over you (Marcelino), but over a whole squad and fanbase," said defender Ezequiel Garay.

Worse was to come when Albert Celades's first game in charge on Saturday ended in a 5-2 drubbing at the hands of Barca.

"We can't hide what has happened in the past few days and how traumatic it has been for some," admitted Celades.

That was the first time Valencia had conceded five goals or more since Gary Neville saw his side thrashed 7-0 at the Camp Nou in 2016.

Neville's ill-fated four months at the Mestalla was another controversial call by Lim that backfired.

Celades is now the seventh Valencia coach in the five years since Lim's takeover of the club.

Chelsea fans know how that revolving door of managers feels. Abramovich has been just as trigger happy with Lampard the 12th man to take charge under the Russian.

Time will tell if the former England midfielder's hero status at the club will ensure Abramovich is more patient with his project to build for the long-term.

But for now, Chelsea are just happy to not be the ones cast in the role of a club in crisis.

Alcacer in electric form ahead of clash with former club Barcelona

BERLIN

A FORMER bench-warmer at Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund sharpshooter Paco Alcacer is hoping to hurt his former club when the two teams meet in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Alcacer, 26, joined Dortmund in 2018 after struggling to hold down a place in the first team in two seasons at star-studded Barcelona.

He has flourished in the Bundesliga, bringing a killer instinct to Dortmund's young attack and regaining his place in the Spanish national team.

The striker now faces Barcelona in the middle of a purple patch for club and country, having scored 10 goals in his last eight matches.

His opener in a 4-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen last Saturday means he has scored in every game for Dortmund so far this term.

He also picked up three goals for Spain in Euro 2020 qualification wins over Romania and the Faroe Islands last week.

Alcacer's electric form is reminiscent of his explosive start to life at Dortmund as a loanee at the beginning of last season, when he fired in a record-breaking seven goals in his first four games.

That run prompted Dortmund to shell out 23 million euros to sign him on a permanent deal, and marked a turning point in Alcacer's career.

"It is a liberation to be playing, getting time on the pitch and enjoying my job," said the Spaniard at the time.

He had just arrived from two frustrating years at Barcelona, in which he was kept out of the team by an iconic attacking trio of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar.

After a move from boyhood club Valencia in 2016, he made just 23 starts for the Catalan giants, and played a full 90 minutes in just 10 matches.

- 'A special game' -

Yet as he prepares to meet his former team mates in Dortmund on Tuesday, Alcacer has insisted he has "no regrets" about his time in the Catalan capital.

"It will be a special game. It will be a joy to play against my former team, and it makes me want to play well," he told Barcelona newspaper Sport last week.

The 26-year-old said that despite his struggles, he learned a lot at the Camp Nou.

"When you play for Barca, you play high up the pitch and there is very little space. Before, I was quite slow in my decision-making, but now I can make quick decisions in tight spaces. I learned that at Barcelona."

That sharpness has certainly shown this season, as all five of Alcacer's Bundesliga goals so far have



Paco Alcacer

been first-time finishes.

While he insists there is no bad blood between him and Barcelona, the Spaniard has not ruled out celebrating if he scores against his former club on Tuesday.

"A lot of people treated me very well at Barcelona. I don't know what I will do (if I score). The joy will be huge," he told Sport.

If he does celebrate, it will be in trade-

mark fashion, with his eyes and index fingers raised to the heavens.

The celebration is a tribute to Alcacer's father, who died suddenly of a heart attack shortly after watching his son's professional debut for Valencia in 2011.

"I know it would have made him happy to continue to watch me play," Alcacer told Westfaelischer Anzeiger newspaper last year.

The striker is determined to keep his

career on an upward curve, and is eyeing silverware with Dortmund after narrowly missing out on the Bundesliga title last year.

"It is not enough to come second," he told Sky in August.

No doubt he intends to come out on top this Tuesday, and show Messi, Suarez and co. what they are missing.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Klopp expects daunting ride as Liverpool eye Istanbul return

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

Dar artist wins 2019 Oscar of Africa Creativity Award

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S visual artist Lutengano Mwakisopile has emerged as the winner at this year's Oscars of Africa Creativity contest which was held in Egypt early this month.

Mwakisopile competed in the painting category and ultimately beat the rest of the artists to the top honour.

In an interview, the Dar es Salaam-based artist said he is delighted to have emerged as the winner at the event which attracted more than 60 artists from 25 African countries.

"This was my first time to compete at such an international event, it is an honour for me and my country to emerge the overall winner in painting category," he disclosed.

"I'm very happy that I put my country on the world map...the win means that we have artists who are doing well in our country and their works are being recognized."

The artist who started painting in 1992, further said the award will motivate him to work hard in the profession.

"This award will motivate me to work harder, it is now time to show the world that I am one of the best artists," he said.

The event was held in Cairo from September 1-10 and was organized by the government of Egypt through its Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Lutengano Mwakisopile



Azam FC forward, Obrey Chirwa (R), dribbles past Triangle FC defender, Donald Dzvinayi, in the first leg of this season's CAF Confederation Cup first round, which was played in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Triangle FC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

Azam FC has chance to progress despite home defeat - Ndayiragije

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM Football Club head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has chosen to remain upbeat about the chances of the team when they go to Zimbabwe to face Triangle United FC in the second leg of their first round of the CAF Confederation Cup.

On Sunday, Azam put themselves in a difficult situation after succumbing to a shocking 1-0 loss to the Zimbabwe outfit at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

The results have left them with an uphill task of securing victory away from home comfort.

Azam dominated possession in both halves but failed to register a single shot on target.

Strikers Obrey Chirwa, Iddi Selemani 'Nado', and Richard Djodi were all guilty of profligacy with numerous wayward attempts that went off target.

Ndayiragije attributed the lack of breakthrough to losing focus as a result of playing under intense pressure.

"The boys were under pressure to get good results in order to repay the faith of fans who had turned out to support them. They forgot that it is the performance that influence results and not vice versa," he said.

"We panicked in that spell after we conceded against the run of play. We dominated possession but our build up play were rushed and that's why we ended shooting blanks."

"We passed instead of shooting and attempt shots where passing was required."

Ndayiragije, though, is still hopeful that his charges can get good result and progress to the playoffs stage in their quest for a first groups' stage appearance.

"We still have a big chance of progressing. I will go back and re-watch the match, iden-

tify weakness and areas of improvement and their game plan," he disclosed.

"The return leg will be played in a natural pitch which is wider, if they open up we will have chances."

A first half goal from Triangle United FC skipper, Ralph Kawondera, condemned Azam FC to their first home loss in the second-tier of continental club competitions.

Azam had, before to the loss, got the better of such clubs like Tunisia giants Esperance, South Africa's Bidvest Wits, and lately Fasil Kenema of Ethiopia, at the same venue. Azam will now have to win by at least a one goal margin in the second leg clash in Bulawayo to progress to the play offs.

Should Azam FC make it to the play offs, the squad will confront an outfit which has been knocked out of this season's CAF Champions League, to battle for qualification for the groups' phase.

Taifa Stars' squad for CHAN second round qualifiers unveiled

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team head coach Etienne Ndayiragije yesterday announced 25 players that will attend the team's camp to shape up for this weekend's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers' second round clash with Sudan.

Notable players missing in the team include keeper Aishi Manula, who was in the past dependable first choice goal keeper.

However, Manula's absence is not a surprise considering that the Simba SC first choice keeper has not enjoyed good form recently.

The poor performance by Manula can be attributed to injury which he suffered while playing for the side, nicknamed Taifa Stars, in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Egypt.

Since assuming the role of Taifa Stars' acting head coach, Ndayiragije has not used Manula since the coach began training the team.

The coach has instead been using KMC FC keeper, Juma Kaseja, who has proved to be the best as he helped Taifa Stars book a place in the second round of CHAN qualifiers.

Kaseja was as well Taifa Stars' hero in the team's clash with Burundi in preliminary round of Africa qualifiers for 2022 World Cup finals.

The experienced shot stopped parried away one penalty when Taifa Stars cruised to victory over Burundi in the penalty shootout of the second leg, which took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Stars victory over Burundi saw the Tanzania squad progress to the groups' phase of the World Cup qualifiers.

Keeper Said Kipao and center back, Bakari Nondo, are the latest inclusion in Taifa Stars' squad.

Kipao, the agile goaltender, put impressive displays for Singida United in the previous season of the Mainland Premier League.

Nondo has been impressive for Coastal Union in the top flight competition.

Information from Tanzania Football federation (TFF) disclosed players making the camp are Juma Kaseja, Metacha Mnata, Said Kipao, Haruna Shamte, Boniface Maganga, Gadiel Michael, Mohammed Hussein, Kelvin Yondani and Erasto Nyoni.

Others are Iddi Mubi, Bakari Nondo, Jonas Mkude, Baraka Majogoro, Mohammed Issa, Iddi Suleiman, Mudathir Yahya, Salum Abubakar, Frank Domayo, Mzamiru Yassin, Shaaban Idd, Ayoub Lyanga, Abdul Aziz Makame, Hassan Dilunga, Miraji Athuman and Feisal Salum.

The information from TFF did not indicate when the team will depart for Sudan for the encounter.

To reach this stage, Taifa Stars defeated Kenya 4-1 in post-match penalties. CHAN finals will be held in Cameroon.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @21:00

EATV **NIRVANA**

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kall Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 FUNGUEA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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