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Mwinyi to unveil new cabinet today



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MPs receive basic lessons in diplomacy



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Statistics: Borrow a leaf from Tanzania



National Pg 6
Airlink launches Jo'burg-Dar route



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a first-hand account at the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project site in Coast Region yesterday as he witnesses the diversion of the Rufiji River waters to a tunnel, the plan being to pave the way for the construction of the main hydropower dam. Photo: PMO

SGR first part reaches 90 pc

● Dar-Moro train trips to start April

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday said that express trains will start plying the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro route in April next year.

He said this is thanks to the fact that implementation of the work at the section has reached 90 per cent and is on course for completion within the agreed time limits.

The PM made these remarks yesterday when touring the construction site of the SGR (standard gauge railway) station at Kihonda in Morogoro municipality, noting that President John Magufuli's dreams of seeing the SGR and Julius Nyerere Hydropower projects completed are about to come true.

"Those who were skeptical are now abandoning that position, I have also visited the Dar es Salaam Tanzania Railway Station where passengers will mount to an upper storey to board the train, Soga railway workshop and boarded the train from Soga to Pugu,"

he explained.

"As for now only about 50 to 60 kilometres remain for people to travel via SGR from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro," he said.

What now remains for the Morogoro SGR station is the installation of electricity transmission lines for the rail service to start next April, he stated.

The work involves haulage of massive equipment and other materials from foreign countries, with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting the pace of importation. The pandemic similarly slowed travel arrangements for consultants in the work, but the work maintained an even pace all the same, the premier underlined.

SGR's first phase, the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro section when completed opens up economic opportunities as it halves the traveling time from three hours to one and a half hours, he said.

The modern Morogoro SGR station shall handle 800 passengers a day, parking more than 150 cars and

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PROJECT

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New regulations to rein in rampant use of antibiotics

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has drawn up new regulations to curb the rampant use of antibiotics without prescription, a practice blamed for a rise in drug resistance in the body.

The Chief Medical Officer, Prof Abel Makubi, made remarks to this effect in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week.

He said antimicrobial or drug resistance has continued to grow in Tanzania and is becoming a major threat to healthcare systems, with informal antibiotics use among the public a major factor behind the problem.

"We have developed new regulations to fight the challenge. We hope that the problem will diminish once implementation (of these regulations) begins," he said, elaborating that

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Operation across 5 years arrests 33,386 poachers, 2,500 firearms

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

OVER 30,000 poachers, some heavily armed with military weapons, were arrested in the past five years and the weapons confiscated.

Dr Allan Kijazi, the conservation commissioner at the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) and Natural Resources and Tourism ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary, said here yesterday that about 33,386 poachers

and 2,501 weapons including military-issue firearms were seized.

He was speaking here yesterday when opening a training session for ministerial officials organized by the ministry in collaboration with PAMS Foundation, a solutions provider and forest monitoring NGO.

Various anti-poaching initiatives mounted during the period saw poaching activities

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WOMEN

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EDUCATION

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Dr Jerry Sabi (2nd-L), Director of Banking with the Bank of Tanzania, displays cash just withdrawn from NMB Bank Plc's newly installed FX ATM in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The first such machine in Tanzania, it enables the exchanging of foreign currencies - a service soon to be made available at all major airports in the country. Looking on are NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R), enterprise architecture senior specialist Gilbert Runonona (R) and head of Treasury sales Jeremiah Lyimo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Deploy currency converting ATMs'

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCIAL institutions in the country and especially commercial banks have been challenged to deploy currency converting automated teller machines, already started by NMB Bank plc, in order to spare consumers the burden of

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Don't miss
The role of traditional medicine in the health sector
Every Monday
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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi addresses entrepreneurs in Mjini Magharibi Region yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

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motorcycles, while offering auxiliary services and thus business opportunities to scores of service providers, he remarked.

He told staff of the Yepi Merkezi contracting firm to professionally take up skills and directives for each construction stage so that they can handle repair and maintenance work afterwards when needed, instead of keeping foreign experts in place.

The premier instructed the Prisons Department and Morogoro Municipal Council to submit to his office documents and exhibits relating to ownership of the area near the Morogoro SGR Station by November 28th, and during this period no individual or institution may erect any structure in the area.

"I'm told there is a conflict pitting the Prisons Department and the municipal authorities, but whoever believes he is the true owner of the area should bring documents to my office in Dodoma by November 28," he directed.

Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) Director General Masanja Kadogosa, said the completion of the SGR station will enable over 800 people to be serviced at one time, entering and exiting the complex.

SGR first part reaches 90 pc

"We are in the last stages, but overall, up to end of October about 90 per cent of construction work had been completed. What now remains is the installation of power poles and laying railway sleepers, that are 100 ready.

"Other works remaining include various earth works to level the line, as since the train will run at a speed of 160 kms per hour, it is essential to have a level running stretch," he elaborated.

The SGR power infrastructures was now 74 per cent complete, with the construction of bridges including the longest one in Dar es Salaam stretching over 3 kms attaining 91.75 per cent completion, he said.

Installation of 445 culverts is 100 per cent complete while fibre installation was 84 per cent complete and just minor works remain, he said, highlighting on another major undertaking still outstanding as the construction of a fence around the railway line. That work is planned to take three to four months, he said.

He also inaugurated the diversion of water into a 700 metre underground tunnel branching off the Rufiji River at the

hydropower station construction site in Rufiji District, Coast Region, where he described the hydropower plant as the largest in East Africa, set to produce 215MW of electricity and create thousands of jobs—directly and indirectly.

The project is meant to ensure access to affordable electricity to catalyze the government's industrialization program and scaling up investments, Majaliwa remarked.

With reliable power, Tanzania can be assured of increased productivity not only for large companies but also for SMEs.

The Tanzania Electric Supply Co. (Tanesco) will also obtain more revenues from a larger number of clients from large factories and small users, he premier said.

With the increase in electricity production, the government will be able to achieve one of its major goals, to supply electricity to urban and rural areas, he said, urging local and foreign investors to invest in a wide range of economic sectors.

Billed at US\$3.6 billion (6.5tr/-) the hydropower project is undertaken by two Egyptian companies—Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric.

Operation across 5 years arrests 33,386 poachers, 2,500 firearms

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drop by 70 per cent, he said.

The drop in poaching, which was notorious in the 2007-2015 period, followed intense operations conducted in conservation areas, by anti-poaching units in collaboration with other stakeholders.

He however warned unfaithful officials who engage in poaching, saying stern measures would be taken if proved to be involved in poaching.

The government is well mobilized in its preparations and implementing a national strategic plan for the control of poaching, and setting up a wildlife and forest protection unit.

Last week, the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam said in a statement that the country was a stakeholder in a five-year anti-poaching drive that significantly

reduced poaching.

The project employed strategies such as involvement of the legislature, the judiciary, the private sector and the media, supporting various targeted initiatives such as interregional exchange programmes and training to fight poaching.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program of Promoting Tanzania's Environment, Conservation, and Tourism (PROTECT) was an initiative implemented at a cost of \$19.1 million (over 40bn/-).

"As a result, Tanzania was better prepared to fight wildlife crime on all levels through stronger wildlife crime policies, a better understanding of how to identify wildlife trafficking and try wildlife crimes," the statement added.

New regulations to rein in rampant use of antibiotics

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the operation would start soon as the regulations have been already drawn up and approved.

The regulations are meant to restrain pharmacies and suppliers from selling specified drugs to consumers without prescription.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses or parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals or antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others, he explained.

A good number of antibiotics and other antimicrobials are failing to cure infectious diseases that were previously managed successfully due to the fact that the pathogens (microbes) have developed resistance to the antimicrobials, compelling patients and care givers to raise doses or opt for other medications.

Reports show that up to 700,000 people die each year worldwide from drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 deaths due to multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

"This calls for more determined efforts between health authorities and stakeholders to ensure that we all fight improper use of antibiotics, promote cleanliness of bodies and the community environment," he stated.

Prof Makubi warned that those who will be found selling antibiotics without doctor's instruction, shall have stern measures taken against them.

Rose Shija, the focal person for essential medicines at the national office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that drug resistance must be addressed urgently, through a one-health approach involving bold, long-term commitments from governments and other stakeholders.

She said antibiotics are in danger of losing their effectiveness due to over-prescribing and

dispensing by health care professionals, misuse by patients such as not following the advice of healthcare professionals, overuse in farming and animal husbandry, poor infection control, and a lack of new antibiotics.

Rose, who represented the WHO country representative, Dr Tigest Mengestu, said that a recent study shows that there is an emergence of resistance to artemisinin, an antimicrobial used to treating malaria.

"Globally, one in ten medicines is estimated to be substandard or falsified, and the African Region is affected more than other parts of the world. In markets and on street corners, people are buy antibiotics of unassured quality and without prescription," she explained.

Recent studies suggest that 72 per cent of hospitalized Covid-19 patients received antimicrobials, but only 8 per cent had infections that can be treated with the medicines, "so this shows how big the challenge is," she further noted. "Livestock keepers, farmers should make sure that they seek advice from experts before using drugs to treat animals or use them in farms," the WHO official emphasized.

The Chief Pharmacist, Daudi Msasi said the public must ensure that any medications they use are well prescribed by a doctor and that they complete the drug dose prescribed.

He urged health sector researchers to enhance innovation by coming up with new and quality drugs that effectively fight diseases, bacterial infections in particular.

Hezron Nonga, country delegate of an international organization for animal health (OIE), said that in support of behavior change, a wide range of awareness materials have been developed targeting animal health actors.

"Veterinary services of OIE member countries may use them to remind policy makers, veterinarians, the pharmaceutical industry, animal feed manufacturers, as well as wholesalers and retailers of their crucial role," he added.

'Deploy currency converting ATMs'

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looking for foreign currency shops.

The director of bank supervision at the Bank of Tanzania, Jerry Wambura made these remarks when inaugurating NMB's first currency converting ATM machines in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that such an investment is worthwhile as the world increases digital applications.

"I thank NMB's leadership for abiding by the central bank's directive and I urge other banks to follow suit," he said, highlighting that the ATM machines convert the US dollar, the euro and the pound sterling. The new installation was in response to market demand plus BoT directives, he stated.

In 2018 when the central bank closed scores of foreign currency trading shops due to widespread irregularities, banks were invited to invest in the areas to ease market needs as the closed bureaux de change shops left a vacuum.

"While congratulating NMB for this investment, let me advise them to continue this way of investing in innovative solutions to serve financial services consumers," he emphasised.

NMB's CEO Ruth Zaipuna said the new ATMs will be deployed at international airports in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar.

"Customers can from now exchange up to US\$2,000 at a time, which means that a customer can deposit US dollar, euro or UK pound at the ATM and receive Tanzanian shillings," she stated. Both NMB customers and non-customers can use the machines, she elaborated.

Currency exchange is now fast, easy and completely self-servicing with the currency exchange ATMs, the first in the local market. "We have started with the three major currencies, with more currencies in the pipe line."

To ensure availability of reliable and efficient foreign exchange services after the forex bureaux debacle last year, NMB quickly stepped in and offered the public access to foreign currency exchanging at its 225 branches countrywide.

"Further, we also have bureaux de change facilities operating at KIA, JNIA Terminal III, Clock Tower and AIM Mall in Arusha," she stated.

The central bank had done a great job in allowing banks to step in and improve foreign currency exchange services, she added.



Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella closes a Law Week anniversary event in Tanga city earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

UNICEF Tanzania names youth 'advocates' with confirmed passion for children's rights

By Special Correspondent

In the week leading up to this World Children's Day (tomorrow), a day of action for children and by children, UNICEF Tanzania has appointed three Youth Advocates.

These are young people standing as change-makers in their communities who have shown passion for the rights of children.

Usia Ledama, a communication specialist with UNICEF Tanzania, said in a press release issued yesterday that the youths "are people who want to make a difference in whatever small or big way they can"

One of the youths is Abigail Chamungwana alias Abby Chams,

who is a secondary school student, musician, song writer and social activist all rolled into one.

Abby has been working with several NGOs in Tanzania, chiefly to empower young girls to stand up for their rights and speak up.

The second is Emmanuel Cosmas Msoka, a secondary school student who is also an innovator and a champion for children's rights.

Emmanuel is Arusha Junior Council vice chairperson who, during Covid-19 school closure, spent some of his time assisting children at an orphanage in Arusha to proceed with learning while he also taught and guided them to take recommended health precautions against the pandemic.

The third is Raphael Denis, a university student and an advocate for safe and inclusive spaces for children and young people.

Raphael has seven years of leadership experience at the National Junior Council, where he has been at the forefront of advocacy work towards ending violence against children.

He aspires to grow in a humanitarian career and is also on UNICEF Tanzania's Digital story-telling programme through which he brings into spotlight young people's successful stories.

Ledama said the three youths will join a global team of UNICEF Youth Advocates, some of whom will take part in various events with high-profile supporters of UNICEF - including

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Millie Bobby Brown.

"All around the world, children and young people are coming up with creative solutions to today's problems, including climate change and remote learning during the pandemic. I'm excited to join other UNICEF Goodwill Ambassadors to use our voices to help lift up theirs," said Brown.

UNICEF Tanzania regularly and routinely engages with children and young people towards building the capacities of young people to act as champions and change-makers.

Last year, supported by UNICEF, young people and children of Tanzania developed their 'Children and Young People's Agenda', which was launched

at the 2019 World Children's Day celebrations and outlined priority issues identified by themselves.

The Youth Advocates have been identified after a careful selection process to identify promising talent that can inspire and motivate change in communities.

"Of the estimated 60 million people in Tanzania, more than 50 per cent are under 18 and over 70 per cent are under 30," said UNICEF Tanzania's Representative, Shalini Bahuguna.

On the occasion of this year's World Children's Day, UNICEF urges everyone to stand with children and young people as they work towards a better future for every child.

Youth Advocate Abby Chams has

meanwhile also composed a special song for World Children's Day.

The song will be officially launched tomorrow at a special event in Dodoma city attended by Members of Parliament, at which National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai will be chief guest.

At the event, selected young people will present key recommendations from the Children and Young People's Agenda launched last year as part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The idea is help newly elected Tanzanian MPs better understand and take action on the relevant issues going forward.



Water ministry permanent secretary Anthony Sanga (L) and UNIK Construction Company's country manager in Tanzania, He Yifeng, pictured yesterday signing a 70.5bn/- agreement under which water from Lake Victoria will be supplied to Mara Region's Musoma Rural and Butiama constituencies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Lake Rukwa sees the highest water level

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

LAKE Rukwa has registered water level in 20 years, thanks to recent sustained conservation efforts around it and its tributaries.

Speaking at a stakeholders meeting held here on Tuesday, hydrologist from Lake Rukwa Basin Water Board Nasra Nasoro said the levels have risen from 5.8 cubic metres last year to 7.5 cubic metres this year—the highest in 20 years.

"This increase is a feat we are very proud of. But we are not going to celebrate yet because we have to sustain conservation efforts that led to this remarkable outcome," she said.

Nasoro said it is not normal to have such high water levels in November, adding that conservation initiatives within the lake's tributaries paid off.

The water expert said continuous

dwindling of the lake's water levels in recent years brought fears of possible drying up after some years but that concern is now history because of new recorded levels.

"I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate partners who joined hands with us in the conservation efforts that bore the fruit," she said.

Nasoro said the lake was threatened because of encroachment and destruction of its tributaries, leading to decline in water levels for years.

Once the encroachers were removed from the water towers, the impossible happened after 20 years something Nasoro said the board must now maintain by all means.

Speaking at the meeting, Chunya District environment officer Yohana Mguluka said unlike previous years, a number of tributaries rivers flowed into the lake throughout the year.

"Because rains are still in forecast, I

urge the board and other authorities to take precautionary measures to move out people living near the lake in case of flooding," he said.

Mguluka also appealed to the board to take advantage of the water to put up irrigation schemes for rice farming to boost the economy of the area.

Lake Rukwa is among many water bodies in the world whose water levels have been rapidly dwindling in recent years with some drying up completely.

Experts say the main cause for the drying up of the lakes is drought caused by climate change impacting the inflow to the lake - resulting in significant reduction in water levels.

Apart from encroachment of water sources, increased diversion for irrigated agriculture, the building of dams and reduced rainfall over the lakes' surface, are also named as contributing factors.

Z'bar President Dr Mwinyi to unveil his cabinet today

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi is today expected to announce the long-awaited new cabinet line-up.

According to a statement issued yesterday by Director of Communications in Zanzibar State House, Hassan Khatib Hasan, Dr Mwinyi is expected to announce the cabinet at around 10am and the event will be televised through mainstream and social media.

The announcement of the cabinet follows last month's General Election, where Dr Mwinyi emerged winner after garnering 76.27 per cent of total votes.

So far, Dr Mwinyi appointed Hemed Suleiman Abdalla as new Second Vice President. Abdalla served as Administrative Officer in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, then Ministry of Trade and Industries during President Amani Karume regime, before he was appointed District Commissioner (DC).

Prior to his new role, Hemed was the Regional Commissioner (RC) for South Pemba and he has been widely honoured for good performance in his region.

Hemed replaces ambassador Seif Ali Iddi, who had retired.

Dr Mwinyi also appointed Dr Mwinyi Talib Haji as Zanzibar Attorney

General (AG), and Nahaat Mohammed Mahfoudh as Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) director general.

He also appointed Suleiman Ahmed Saleh as his private secretary

The Isles State House statement of his appointment was read to the members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives by the

Speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid before adjourning the session.

Dr Mwinyi also appointed Dr Mwinyi Talib Haji as Zanzibar Attorney General (AG), and Nahaat Mohammed Mahfoudh as Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) director general



CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY

Closing Date: Friday 4th December 2020, 11:00am (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)

Pact Inc. is an international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Washington, DC. Pact serves communities challenged by poverty and marginalization because we envision a world where everyone owns their future. To do this, we build systemic solutions in partnership with local organizations, businesses, and government. Our goal is thriving, resilient communities where those we serve are heard, capable, and vibrant.

Pact Tanzania is looking for a firm to monitor provision of Education subsidies to DREAMS girls adolescent age 9-14 years in 11 targeted councils below.

Council	CSO	Target girls to receive an educational kit and sanitary kit per council	Number of expected schools where educational kits will be distributed per council
Shinyanga	TADEPA	6,386	128
Mbeya	IRDO	4,338	86
Mbeya	KIWWAUTA	800	16
Mbeya	CARITAS	7,826	156
Shinyanga	TADEPA	5,438	108
Iringa	AWG	500	10
Kagera	HUMULIZA	14,065	282
Mwanza	MOCSO	800	16
Shinyanga	TRCS	7,483	150
Shinyanga	TRCS	727	14
Shinyanga	TADEPA	484	10
Total		48,847	488

Period of this assignment: 2month

The consultant will work with Pact on the scope of work outlined below.

Scope of Work

Specific scope of work includes but should not be limited to the following:

1. Submit report detailing methodology for monitoring educational subsidies and sanitary kits, including workplan, for approval by Pact.
2. Meet with the respective CSOs and conduct a verification of the list of names for DREAMS Girls eligible to receive educational subsidies and sanitary kits by comparing to the list of eligible DREAMS girls provided by Pact M&E.
3. Conduct an inventory check at the CSO office together with the CSO DREAMS Coordinator and Pact Gender and Youth Coordinator to verify the educational subsidies and sanitary kits brought by the vendors prior to distributing the items to the girls in the schools.
4. Work side by side with the CSO staff and Pact Gender and Youth Coordinator to distribute these items to the DREAMS girls in the schools by ensuring the list used to receive the materials is Pact M&E approved list and only girls in the list receive the items.
5. Submit copies of Educational Subsidies and Sanitary Kits Receive forms for each girl aligned with Pact M&E approved list (ensure the names and IDs in these 2 lists match).
6. Submit final report of monitoring exercise to Pact Gender and Youth Integration Advisor at the end of the exercise.

Interested candidates should request for the full Terms of Reference through email to procurementZ@pactworld.org before **27th November 2020**.

Interested, eligible candidate should deliver their proposal to:

The Tender Committee
Pact Tanzania
74 Uporoto Street, Victoria
P. O. Box 6348, Dar es salaam, Tanzania
Or email procurementZ@pactworld.org

All proposals must be in Tanzanian Shillings and enclosed in a plain sealed envelope. The deadline is 11am EAT **Friday 4th December 2020**.

Please note:

1. Late or incomplete bids will not be accepted.
2. The quote that complies with all the specifications/requirements and offers the lowest price, as well as all other evaluation criteria indicated in the TOR, shall be selected.
3. Pact may cancel solicitation and not award.
4. Pact may reject any or all responses received.
5. Issuance of request for quotes does not constitute a contract commitment by Pact.
6. Pact reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on offeror failure to follow the solicitation instructions.
7. Pact reserves the right to waive minor proposal deficiencies that can be corrected prior to award determination to promote competition.
8. Pact will be contacting all offerors to confirm contact person, address and that the proposal was submitted for this solicitation.

Plan International Tanzania, Kigoma Region

Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Designing and Printing Adolescents and Parenting Manuals (4,000) Meant for Refugees' through Child Protection Program in the Camps under FFO Grant RFQ No. PIT/KIB/ER/081

1. Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan's mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu Districts). Plan International Tanzania directly sponsored 30,000 children and support directly more than 2.4 million people in the program areas. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide
2. Plan International Tanzania under FFO Grant has set aside funds for the program implementation and operations. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payment for Designing and Printing adolescents and parenting manuals (4,000) meant for refugees through Child protection program in the camps.
3. Plan International Tanzania now invites sealed quotation from eligible suppliers to Design and Print adolescents and parenting manuals (4,000) meant for refugees through Child protection program in the camps.
4. Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders.Kibondo@plan-international.org. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
5. Bidders must submit the Price Quotation in a sealed envelope by hand or post to: The Country Director, Plan International Tanzania, Plot no. 496 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area, P O Box 3517, Dar es Salaam OR Plan International Tanzania, Kibondo Offices, P.O Box 40 Kibondo, Kigoma. Deadline for submission is 11 AM Weds day 2nd December 2020, marked the respective RFQ number. Not to be opened before 11AM Weds day 2nd December 2020. Electronic and Late bids will be rejected/Not evaluated.

Country Director
Plan International Tanzania
Central Technologies House
Plot No. 96 Mikocheni Light Industrial Area
New Bagamoyo Road - Next to TBC1&NECTA

P O Box 3517
Tel: +255 22 2773258/64/72
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Dar es Salaam

US envoy avails 700m/- for community projects

By Guardian Reporter

US ambassador to Tanzania Donald Wright yesterday signed funding agreements worth 773.4mn/- for six self-help programme projects to support sustainable development.

A statement released by US embassy in Dar es Salaam said the envoy also inked approval of grants from the Africa Regional Democracy Fund, Julia Taft Fund and Fiscal Transparency Innovation Fund.

The ambassador's Special Self-Help fund has been helping Tanzanians to develop their communities since 1965, said the advisory, adding that small grants provided under the programme support community-led income generation and sustainable development projects in every region of Tanzania," reads the statement.

"I believe that real, lasting change comes when people join together at the grassroots level to make positive changes in their communities," said ambassador Wright at the ceremony to award the grants, held at his residence in Dar es Salaam.

In addition to the six Self-Help Fund grants that were awarded, the ambassador also awarded three additional grants for projects that will promote transparency, good governance and youth engagement in government oversight; provide support to and empower women and girls in refugee communities; and improve the capacity of lawyers who work for the public interest.

The beneficiaries include Dodoma-based Agricultural and Livestock Production Development Association (ALPDA) which received USD 8,794,94.

The grant will be used to improve the livelihood of women and youth-

particularly out of school girls and young women who are smallholder peanut farmers in Veyula, Miyuji and Makutupora villages in Dodoma by purchasing three peanut butter processing machines and training 40 women and girls from each village on the use of the machines.

Thubutu Africa Initiatives (TAI) which operates in Shinyanga Region received USD 7,395.13 to promote healthy habits and improve school attendance for girls by building eight additional latrines, including a disability friendly latrine and a hand washing station for both girls and boys.

Plantation, vendors and livestock group in Njombe received USD 9,864 for promotion of education, and combat illiteracy by building educational centre and conducting field work from village to village, motivating parents, youth, and elders to encourage education, and collecting data on individuals in need.



I believe that real, lasting change comes when people join together at the grassroots level to make positive changes in their communities



Total Tanzania director general Jean-Francois Schoepp, works on a vehicle during the launch of the firm's Customer Week commemoration held at Mbezi Beach in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

MPs get basic education on diplomacy and protocol issues

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have been given a lesson on diplomacy and protocol issues in order to effectively implement their House duties.

The lesson was provided to the 12th Parliament yesterday by the Brig. Gen.

Wilbert Ibuge, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation's Permanent Secretary.

Ibuge said it was very important for parliamentarians to know all issues about diplomacy and protocol including dressing and the flying of the flag.

"In regard to the protocol

concept, there were the protocol on national leaders, the protocol on communication of national leaders, official protocol on diplomatic communication and protocol on flying the national flag and its limits," he said.

He added that there were also protocol on dresses for national leaders

and other issues regarding protocol to Members of Parliament and other country's leaders.

He said the subject aims to provide Members of Parliament with a wide understanding of diplomacy and protocol matters as essential issues for them to know just as for other laws and procedures.



Dr Deborah Maufi (L) of Netherlands-based firm Babymoon Care briefs NasikiwaBerya (R), an assistant brand manager with NCBA Bank Tanzania, on how to keep a premature baby safe and healthy. It was during the commemoration of World Prematurity Day (November 17) at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla has instructed top officials of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) to submit to his office, within seven days, the names of hardcore debtors so that legal steps were to be taken against them.

Abdalla said there are traders and investors who harbour the habit of using high government officials in evading paying taxes according to the law, the practice that undermines government revenue collections.

He issued the instructions here early this week during his inspection visit at

Zanzibar Second VP out to have names of hardcore ZRB debtors

ZRB headquarters, saying ZRB was the main source of government's revenues in its drive for the Isles economic growth.

Abdalla warned that the government will not hesitate to withdraw permits from investors or traders who do not pay taxes in respect of their businesses they were conducting.

Asya Abdalalami, ZRB debts officer

said there were more than six hardcore debtors in respect of hotels and other business persons totaling more than 17bn/- that remained unpaid for long periods of time.

She said the debts also incorporate money of hotel owners through their workers ZSSF contributions as well as on business licences.

Joseph Abdalla Meza, ZRB

Commissioner said the board has been taking various steps to ensure the debts were recovered and when the debtor defaults withdrawal of business licences becomes necessary.

Meza said ZRB has also taken steps against business people by installing systems that identify investors and business people who erase their online information from their websites.

Z'bar rights activists condemn acts by men depriving women of right to elect leaders

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

CLERICS and human rights defenders in Zanzibar yesterday condemned men who deny women from electing leaders of their choice, saying the move is against the law.

They were speaking here at a meeting that involved religious leaders, representatives from civil society organisations (CSOs) and was organised by the Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa-Zanzibar).

Sheikh Khamis Abdilhamid said that issues related to elections started a long time ago so there is nothing new about it.

"Freedom to choose is everyone's right. It is everywhere in the world, even during Prophet Yunus era when he was voted and elected to be part of those who had to be dumped into the ocean, everyone respected the votes decision despite Yunus being a messenger of God. So you can see how freedom of voting was respected," he said.

He said some couples have gone so far by threatening to divorce their wives and there are others who have completely abandoned their wives due to political differences.

"It is not fair forcing wives to follow everything the husband wants, for example if a wife refuses her husband's instruction and decides to go for hijab, then the husband has no right to divorce her because what she has opted to do is respectable and religious passion and has blessings before God," he added.

Laila Khamis Jumbe from the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) also revealed that the same situation was encountered in the Unguja South Region as well as some areas of the Central District.

He said some husbands send their wives to the polling stations claiming that they want to help them as they are unable to vote by themselves which is not true.

Omar Ali Khamis from Unguja North B said that there are even some

marriages that have broken after a wife refused to obey her husband's order in the decision to elect the leaders.

Speaking on behalf of the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), the head of planning division, Lutfia Faida Haji also acknowledged that there is a serious gender gap problem in marriages and even in political parties' representation.

Haji cited the ethics committee of the commission, in which majority of their members are men and even in submitting a list of participants on the commission's meetings, the parties have been sending male names.

"This behavior should be addressed, we should all tighter promote gender equality and fight abuse against women," Haji added.

Haji said everyone should be free to choose whomever he/she wants without being pressured by anyone, urging men to stop treating women as persons who have no right to do anything on their decision but rather live with them well, supporting them to achieve the future they want.



It is not fair forcing wives to follow everything the husband wants, for example if a wife refuses her husband's instruction and decides to go for hijab, then the husband has no right to divorce her because what she has opted to do is respectable and religious passion and has blessings before God

Statistics: African countries ought to emulate Tanzania, says institute's VP

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AFRICAN countries should borrow a leaf from Tanzania as far as development of statistics is concerned, the Vice President, International Statistical Institute (ISI), Oliver Chinganya said yesterday.

In his statement on the African Statistics Day (ASD 2020), he said Tanzania has good statistical legislations and policies aimed at improving national statistics. His institution is working closely with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on how to improve performance.

He made the remarks while addressing the Tanzania Statistical Association (TASTA) annual general meeting held here yesterday. The ISI vice president who addressed the meeting virtually from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia reminded the association members to maintain professionalism in their duties.

Speaking on the ASD2020, he said the annual event serves as a reminder for countries to improve statistical activities. The African Statistics Day is celebrated on November 18 each year in order to "increase public awareness about the important role which statistics play in all aspects of social and economic life"

The theme for the ASD 2020 is "Modernising National Statistical Systems to Provide Data and Statistics to Support Sustainable Peace and Development In Africa"

"Tanzania has done a lot of improvement and other countries should take lessons from the country" said Chinganya.

He noted that modernisation of national statistic systems is vital for development and African countries should strive to adopt modern statistics standards.

He singled out a case of COVID -19 that has shown how weak statistical systems in African countries and the rest of the world are and how vulnerable world we live in.

"Institutional weaknesses, inadequate financing, low support are some of the challenges facing national statistics offices , a clear indication that African statistical system is not responsive and does not meet the demand of data economy," he added.

Speaking at the sidelines of the TASTA meeting, the chairperson, Titus Musomba said the aim of the annual meeting is to bring together members and discuss on how to process data for quality statistics.

He noted that statistics are important in development of any nation as it helps policy makers plan for development. The TASTA boss also called on statisticians in the country to use official statistics.

"Let all statisticians in the country use official statistics and follow procedures set by the government through NBS," he said.



Tanzania has done a lot of improvement and other countries should take lessons from the country



Assistant Superintendent of Police Christina Mkonongo of Mirerani Police Station in in Simanjiro District makes remarks yesterday at a meeting called to discuss ways to combat crime in the township. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

Women now benefit from conservation initiatives, researchers say in new study

A STUDY conducted by researchers from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) has found that gender equality is enhanced and observed in villages participating in participatory forest conservation projects through Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG).

Principal of SUA's College of Forestry wildlife and Tourism, Prof Suzana Augustino revealed this on Tuesday here when presenting the results of the study to forest stakeholders.

He said that great strides have been made by TFCG and the Tanzania Community Forest Network (MJUMITA) to ensure that the whole community is involved and benefits from the forestry resources.

"There are positive changes in the villages where TFCG and MJUMITA are implementing their projects especially sustainable charcoal compared to the

villages outside the project although men are leading in labor-intensive jobs," Prof Suzana said.

She said that in the sustainable charcoal project, women are in forefront and when it comes to business despite the fact that they spend money to pay people to do cut logs, and make charcoal as the jobs require more energy.

She said that some villages have low participation of women due to traditions and customs that forestry work is only done by men, though such attitudes have begun to disappear gradually after TFCG and MJUMITA's efforts to provide education.

"Most people know that gender equality at decision-making levels is to have the same number of women, men

and other groups, something which isn't the case as there are a number of issues that needs to be looked on," she said.

One of the researchers from SUA's College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof John Jeckoniah said despite the success of increasing gender balance in participatory forest management and the use of revenues generated from such resources, it was men who seemed to benefit the most.

He said through the survey conducted in 10 villages of Kilosa, Mvomero and Morogoro districts, men were found to be more vocal in decision-making and even in sharing forest resources in those areas.

"Some married women are the most vocal, but the unmarried or divorced

benefit as men and they are also vocal in decision-making and in sharing the revenue of forest resources," Prof Jackoniah said.

He said that women's participation in commercial forest resource activities has increased the burden on women as household chores also look after them as the distribution of household responsibilities has not remained the same.

TFCG assistant director Emmanuel Lyimo said gender issues have been developed with a specific strategy to ensure they are fully addressed, taking into account that they're cross-cutting issues.

He said the study was meant to see how gender issues are considered and find ways to improve.

'Access to finance, technology biggest priorities for agribusinesses in Africa'

By Guardian Reporter

THE COVID-19 pandemic has led to the collapse of global markets for some sectors and disrupted agricultural supply chains, yet agribusiness CEOs in Africa remain determined to steer their organizations forward.

According to the Africa Agribusiness Outlook, a new report launched by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) and KPMG East Africa, about 41% of CEOs interviewed for the survey indicated they would forge ahead with their pre-COVID-19 investment plans.

However, 43 percent of the companies reviewed, majority of them small and medium sized enterprises, would be scaling back their operations due to COVID-19.

For these businesses, revenues fell 50 - 80% as

soon as lockdown procedures were implemented and identified managing cash-flow as critical to surviving COVID-19.

The Agribusiness Report, released yesterday highlights the major challenges faced by CEOs during this period but more importantly, showcases the resilience of the agribusiness sector in Africa and identifies opportunities for businesses which governments and players in the agricultural ecosystem should pay heed to.

Completed by 182 executives across 16 African countries in Africa, the Report identified several priorities for urgent action:

Access to finance emerged as the greatest priority for businesses. It is important to note that this issue is not just about access to finance, it is about the cost of finance and availability of financial instruments that are adapted for the

agricultural sector.

Technology has been a great enabler. It has enabled companies to respond and adapt their operating models after lockdown measures were imposed across the continent. Going forward, technology will be the lever that will help Africa leapfrog into the future.

The future of African agribusiness must include the smallholder farmer. The report found that agribusinesses are incorporating more smallholder farmers into their business models. This is critical to sustainability.

"We believe that there are opportunities for African agribusinesses during this period, which is unprecedented for many businesses. The collapse of global markets has led to the rise of the 'buy local' movement. There is a chance to optimise local value chains, thus helping mitigate

the devastating effects of the pandemic on the economy," said Dr Agnes Kalibata, AGRA President.

"But for this to happen, we need innovative financing solutions to support the agribusiness sector. Financing, specific to the agricultural sector, will help build resilience and enable them to seize the moment," she added.

The inaugural Africa Agribusiness Outlook Report is a survey that was conducted on

CEOs in the agribusiness ecosystem early to mid-2020. Conducted by KPMG East Africa on behalf of AGRA, the survey sought to gain insights into their top priorities, understand how they are addressing challenges and what they see as opportunities in these COVID-19 times.

Anis Pringle, Partner at KPMG noted: "It is about making agriculture attractive, viable and profitable rather than being looked at as a risky endeavour."



A small trader negotiates the price of his home-made baskets with a prospective buyer at Dodoma's Sabasaba Bus stand yesterday. The going price was 3,000/- per basket on average. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

A LEADING GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY IN TANZANIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM QUALIFIED TANZANIAN CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF:

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Playing a pivotal role, the Group CEO is expected to define Company business strategy and direct business plan implementation by leading all function leaders in the company to ensure the achievement of company's objective and vision. The expected end result is achievement of company business objectives and vision.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The role entails managing the following key aspects within the company:

- Strategy & Governance
- Business Operations & Growth
- Key Stakeholder Relationship Management
- Team Leadership & Culture
- Compliance
- People Management

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATION: Degree in insurance or ACII/FCII certifications or equivalent

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Minimum 15 years of which at least 5years in a leadership position in the General and Medical Insurance Industry

EXPERTISE

- Strong competency in corporate management
- Good knowledge of General Investment and Financial Service Products
- Solid knowledge and strong competency of General Insurance business
- High energy professional with a strong business acumen and a strategic vision
- Strategic thinking, planning and execution skills
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Strong in catalysing high performance (change & team leadership) and people management capabilities

TO APPLY:

If you are confident that you match the above-mentioned criteria, please send your CV within 15 days to the following email address mentioning the position in the subject line to: jobsinsurancetz@gmail.com

Police: Missing 'soldier's' body has been found

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE body of Khalfan Junedi (25), a member of the Zanzibar Volunteer Squad (ZVS) alleged to have been killed in Pemba by people yet to be identified has been found.

The man went missing in mysterious circumstances while on patrol during election campaign period in Ngwachani area, Mkoani District in Pemba.

Junedi went missing while in possession of an AK47 rifle and 21 rounds of ammunition, which had also been recovered.

Speaking to reporters early this week, Ahmed Khamis Makarani, Pemba South Regional Police Commander said the body was found in Chonga village in Kisitu-mbwa valley.

He said on November 15 they recovered the body of the soldier after arresting one Ussi Foum Machano, a Ngwachani resident who later took them to the area where the body was buried.

"On November 12 we arrested Ussi in Chake Chake area and after interrogation he told us the place where the firearm was and later he took us to place where the body was," said RPC Makarani.

He said after an autopsy was conducted on the body, it was found out that the deceased, before he met his death was subjected to beatings, with some of his body parts cut off.

"After the autopsy, the body was transported to Unguja for burial," he added.

He said investigations on the matter were still ongoing and thereafter all suspects would be taken to court as the police were still hunting for more suspects.

He explained that on October 28

this year, Junedi and his companions were on routine patrol when he went missing at around 8.00pm while in possession of the AK 47.

"After he was reported missing, the police, in collaboration with other security organs and the people started looking for him, there were more questions than answers," he said.

He called on Ngwachani residents to return to their homes and continue with their activities, saying peace and tranquility had been restored.

Richard Tadei Mchomvu, Pemba South Regional CID Officer suspected residents who ran away from their homes did so in fear of arrest, and added that they should return to continue with their daily chores.

He also said in regard to those who have been mentioned as being accomplices, but know they were not in any way involved, should surrender themselves at the police station.



After he was reported missing, the police, in collaboration with other security organs and the people started looking for him, there were more questions than answers



Students of Shinyanga's St Francis de Sales vocational educational and training college undergo instruction under their president, Mwakata Denis Pharace, on how to fix switch sockets at the milling machine building. It was all part of a graduation ceremony held on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Shabani Njia

By Guardian Correspondent, Katavi

DR John Jingu, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, has denounced the practice of people impregnating girls and then marrying them.

He was speaking here early this week when opening a conference on gender, based violence (GBV).

He said the government has been taking various steps to ensure GBV acts are eradicated in the society.

He mentioned some of the steps taken by the government as including the establishment of the national programme for the eradication of GBV and child abuse, establishment of committees for the protection of women and children, establishment

PS denounces GBV, pleads for more education for community

of GBV desks at police stations and mobilizing the society by providing education on the eradication of GBV.

"It is our duty, as community to protect women, children and old people against all forms of violence they face," he said.

Abdallah Mohamed Malela, Katavi Regional Administrative Secretary assured Dr Jingu to continue with the anti-GBV campaign by educating the community on dangers of GBV.

"In this area parents are engaged in

money generating activities leaving children all on themselves, the situation that spur child abuse," he said.

In his brief statement on the GBV conference, Mboni Mgaza, the Health Ministry's acting director (Gender Department) said the aim of the conference was to bring together various stakeholders to discuss how best to tackle gender based violence.

"Through various groups we will take time to discuss in depth on the best ways to fight the menace from our

communities," he said.

Benjamin Kusaga, Katavi Regional Police Commander said GBV acts were widely committed in the communities, hence "we must incorporate family members to unearth the vile acts and their perpetrators."

Many conference participants said more efforts were needed to ensure education is provided to the communities to enable them understand the effects of GBV for the development of the community.



Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega, cuts a ribbon yesterday to launch a sponsorship programme under which 50 students from disadvantaged families have enrolled for studies at JR College in Arusha city. With him are Global Integrated Charitable Community Service board chairman Daniel Ole Njoolay (L), board member Eriki Rowberg (3rd-L) and programme coordinator Neema Nasare. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

By Special Correspondent

AIRLINK, the privately-owned and independent regional airline, has opened reservations for flights between Johannesburg and Dar es Salaam, which will commence on 1 December 2020.

Rodger Foster, Airlink CEO said: "Airlink is excited and looking forward to establishing direct services - and flying its brand new colours - on this new route for us between Johannesburg and Tanzania's capital. The two cities enjoy a special historical, significant political and economically vital commercial bonds as regional trading hubs for business and leisure travel and tourism."

Airlink launches new route connecting South Africa and Tanzania, says CEO

Airlink's services to Dar es Salaam will provide travelers with seamless connectivity onto Airlink's new direct flights linking Johannesburg with Cape Town and with Durban. Connections are also available from Airlink's other South African destinations, such as Port Elizabeth, East London, Bloemfontein and others. Airlink is rebuilding and expanding its network with the resumption and addition of services to destinations

throughout the SADC region, all reachable with Airlink connections via its hub at Johannesburg's O.R. Tambo International Airport.

Airlink's great value for money Economy Class fares include a 20kg free economy class checked in luggage allowance plus a 15kg sporting equipment allowance. Onboard, our customers are treated to a complimentary light meal, refreshments, generous leg room and

a choice of aisle or window seat (our flights do not have middle seats).

Airlink's intra-continental Business Class service is available on selected flights operated by our state-of-the-art Embraer E-jets, with wide seats arranged in a two plus one abreast configuration with plenty of legroom between each row. Our service on these flights includes complimentary meals and beverages, a 30kg check-in luggage allowance and priority boarding.

Read, understand new regulations, CSOs told

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A Dar es Salaam-based advocate Clarence Kipobota yesterday advised non-state actors to read and understand laws and regulations governing Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Act 2020 in order to run their activities smoothly.

Kipobota made the advice in Dar es Salaam when speaking on the sidelines of the Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF), annual general meeting.

Speaking about the current legal landscape governing NGOs and CSOs and its implications, advocate Kipobota said the current legal regime on CSOs generally keeps the non-state actors busy with a lot of compliances and requirements.

According to him, the trend could have an implication not only to their financial plans but also the implementation of their projects and programmes.

He said through tight control soon or later CSOs will run out of ideas, succumb to the pressure and ultimately fail to operate.

"This is a case because the current legal frameworks seems to expose them to vulnerability so it is better to carefully comply with the laws and rules as they are at the moment," he said.

NGOs should seek to establish new advocacy interventions under this current legal regime and also geopolitical environment, he suggested.

Advocate Kipobota recommended to NGOs and CSOs to continue pressurising for legal reforms and also get ready for possible amendments of Societies Act Cap 335.

"It is important for them to establish alternative means of survival so that they continue with their daily operations if anything happens."

He said NGOs and CSOs should do thorough analysis on how the sector can rejuvenate its vibrancy amid of tight control imposed by current legal regime.

"You need to learn from pioneers

like Dr. Hellen Bisimba, Judith Odunga, Thabita Siwale and others. Think how Bibi Titi Mohamed managed to create vibrancy amid of tight colonial regime," he said.

He said re-shaping of legal regime gradually advanced from mid-2010 while the state increasingly becoming alerted of new CSOs' developments, CSOs themselves did little.

"For instance, NGOs did not bother to engage through NACONGO as a statutory self-control organ and there was a gap in CSOs operations-TANGO and other networks remained to be 'sleeping giants'" he said.

Advocate Kipobota said the introduction of validity period of 10 years of the certificate of registration would reduce the level of NGO activism to pursue some changes.

He said it will also inflict fear to NGOs, not to operate as alternative voices on fear of being denied of renewal of registration or certificate.

He said it will also limit long term funding by development partners.



You need to learn from pioneers like Dr. Hellen Bisimba, Judith Odunga, Thabita Siwale and others. Think how Bibi Titi Mohamed managed to create vibrancy amid of tight colonial regime

Yolk looks to electrify nearly 100 Tanzanian households through its Solar Cow project

By Guardian Reporter

KOREA and US-based solar technology start-up YOLK has kick started a crowd funding campaign designed to help hundreds of children from low income families in Tanzania get access to clean energy and education.

The campaign, designed to fund a project called Solar Cow, is aimed at giving incentives to parents in remote villages in Tanzania to send their children to school by setting up dozens of solar charging stations at the schools.

Children could plug in their portable batteries, which are also distributed by YOLK, to the cow-shaped charging stations at their schools and attend classes while waiting for their batteries to be fully charged.

"Many kids in low-income families are often unable to attend school because they must work in order to contribute to their household income. It creates barriers to education, cause energy poverty and curtail economic opportunities," YOLK wrote in a statement.

"In response, YOLK began fitting Solar Cow charging systems in schools. These encourage parents to send their kids to class rather than work by enabling kids to deliver a valuable and clean energy source to the families," the start-up firm said.

The portable battery, which was called Solar Milk, is equipped with a flashlight and acts as a power bank to charge small appliances, such as radios and mobile phones. The battery could cater to the basic energy needs of low-income households living off-grid in rural areas.

"Many low-income families rely on kerosene lighting and relatively expensive charging stations to meet their energy needs. The green electricity provided by Solar Milk is therefore a tangible incentive for them to send their kids to school instead of work," YOLK said.

YOLK launched the first pilot

project for the Solar Cow program in 2018 in Kenya. The project received international acclaim, such as being named among Time magazine's top 100 inventions of 2019 and winning the 2019 Consumer Electronics Show Innovation prize.

According to data from YOLK, the program has managed to increase school attendance by around 8 percent at a rural elementary school in Monduli district, in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Solar Cow also helped raise new enrollment at the school by 10 percent from the previous year.

To further support the program, on Nov. 16 YOLK launched a crowdfunding campaign to fund the installation of Solar Cows in rural areas in Tanzania.

Under the campaign, customers could buy Solar Milk batteries while sending another to a child in Tanzania.

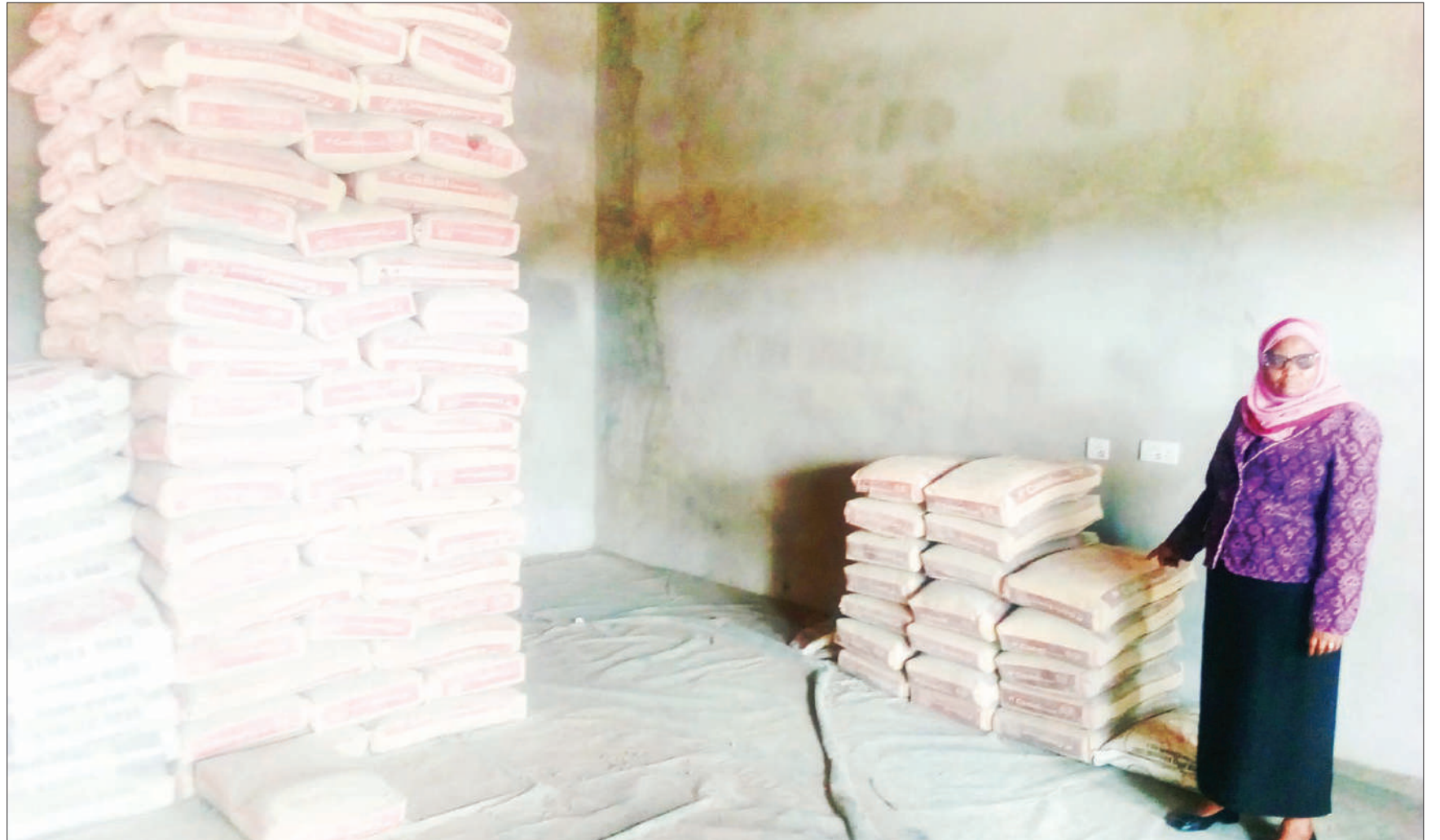
YOLK had created a unique code in each battery given to kids in Africa that records every time it is used. YOLK sends the data to customers who opt to receive the information via email.

YOLK CEO and the creator of Solar Cows, Sen Chang, said Solar Cows could help children in rural areas get access to education.

"There are many challenges to accessing education, especially for kids in rural areas of developing countries. Some 258 million children were out of school around the world in 2018, according to UNICEF. Solar Cows could tackle this problem," Chang said.



Many kids in low-income families are often unable to attend school because they must work in order to contribute to their household income



Shinyanga regional commissioner Zainab Telack pictured yesterday checking the price of cement as charged by agents and retailers, chiefly with a view to forestalling hiking. She directed that retailers sell the item at a maximum of 19,000/- per 50-kg bag. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Special Correspondent

Africans feel the heat in a warming world

CLIMATE scientists have long warned of projections that show the African continent warming faster than much of the world, and a new update from Greenpeace shows that the heat is having an outsized impact.

This month's "Weathering the Storm: Extreme Weather and Climate Change in Africa" report finds an increase in the overall number and frequency of heat wave days, with greater impacts felt in the north, south and eastern parts of the continent.

That's expected to continue, with much of Africa likely to exceed a 2°C rise and more likely to see a 3-6°C rise by 2100 if high emissions continue. That's two to four times beyond the rise limited by the 2015 Paris Agreement.

"Over the last 50 years, we have already experienced a warming of 1.5°C, well over the world average. In the Sahel, climate change destroyed

our crops, our homes and tore families apart through forced migration," says Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Director of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT).

The rising temperatures are likely to lead to deaths and displacement, with up to 2 billion people forced to migrate globally. That's especially true along the equator, which cuts across the continent from the West African rainforests of Gabon to Somalia in the Horn region, and it adds to the concern for some of the world's most impoverished people.

The heat, along with related extreme weather patterns, is a threat to African cities of the future. Even under the optimistic but elusive global warming scenario of 1.5 °C, Nigeria's Lagos - now home to some 14 million people - experiences heat stress. So does Khartoum in Sudan. Angola's Luanda

isn't far behind when temperatures rise by 2.7 °C, and Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo would become heat stressed at 4°C.

But Lagos is expected to be one of the Top 10 megacities of the future too, according to United Nations data, and its population will double by 2050. Kinshasa will have 22 million people by 2030. In 2018, Cairo already had 20 million. In many cases, their residents are living in slums under conditions that will only grow worse with unrelenting heat, the related high-octane storms, and disrupted food access and water shortages.

"Currently, 43 percent of Africa's population (424,000,000 people) is urban," the report authors note. "By 2050 this figure is predicted to increase to almost 60 percent (1,258,000,000 people)."

With the growth of Africa's cities

come related issues, like the lack of trees common to urban environments, reduced access to air conditioning or problems with increased water runoff. And it's Africans who must lead the way in understanding both the challenges and solutions.

"There needs to be better incorporation of indigenous knowledge in scientific evidence on extreme weather events in Africa," said report co-author Ndoni Muncu, a doctoral student in South Africa and founder of Black Women in Science.

"African countries need to be more involved in leading the development of new databases and models rather than being dependent on countries outside Africa. This will ensure better communication, planning and future projects of events. Access to information needs to be provided at a community level."



Saumy Kibasa (L), one of Young Feminist Forum members serving as gender advocacy activists under the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, briefs people who visited her pavilion in Mbeya municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Special Correspondent

AU committed to providing education for youths - Prof

THE Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology at the African Union (AU), Prof Sarah Agbor, has said that the union will continue to facilitate education among the African youths.

Prof Agbor was speaking at the 72nd Foundation Day and Convocation ceremony of the University of Ibadan.

She said the youth that "constitute 70 per cent of the continent's

population" needed good education for development.

Agbor said AU would keep on pushing to realise the right goals and would get the right things done for Africa.

"Our youths are our demographics dividends, they constitute more than 70 per cent of our population."

"So, if we don't give competencies and skills for the future of work, who

else can do that and it is only through education that this can be done.

"We believe in education and the power of education to transform the world and leads us to sustainable development for the Africa we want by 2063 because tomorrow belongs to those who prepared for it today," she said.

Agbor noted that the union came

up with a continental strategy called the Continental Education Strategy for Africa embedded in the 50 years blueprint of Agenda 2063 divided into five phases of 10 years each.

"Each of this phase has continental strategy that we must put in place to improve early child education development, higher education, curriculum development.

"We need to change our curriculum to address the future of work so that we do not have graduates with certificates but they do not have jobs. They become job seekers rather than being jobs creators.

"Then, we have STEM -- Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics--these are very important to the future of work.

International team to assess climate risks facing African cultural heritage

By Special Correspondent

An analytical tool developed at James Cook University (JCU) will be used to assess the climate risks facing historic World Heritage sites in Africa - the ruins of two great 13th century ports and the remains of a palace and iron-making industry.

JCU's Dr Scott Heron and Jon Day developed the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI), filling a need for an assessment tool that can be applied to all types of World Heritage properties.

"The CVI is a rapid evaluation tool that was developed to analyse climate risk for World Heritage properties by considering historical and projected climate impacts on the World Heritage values," said Day.

"It not only assesses the vulnerability of heritage values but, unlike many other tools, also looks at the vulnerability of associated communities based on their economic, social and cultural relationships to those values and their capacity to adapt," said Dr Heron.

There are currently over 1100 World Heritage areas - natural, cultural and mixed - around the world.

The CVI was first applied to Shark Bay, Western Australia and has also been applied to properties in Scotland and northern Europe, with preparations underway in several other locations.

"Our analyses have identified that World Heritage values in many

locations are at high risk to climate impacts - many of these 'best-of-the-best' places are already being affected," said Dr Heron.

Now a global team, led by institutions in Africa and the United Kingdom, will apply the CVI to World Heritage properties in Africa for the first time (the CVI-Africa project).

Scientists will assess the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, two trading ports on two islands off the coast of Tanzania through which much of the Indian Ocean's trade passed between the 13th and 16th centuries, and the remains of a 16th century palace and flourishing iron industry in the valley below, at the Sukur Cultural Landscape in Nigeria.

"Despite the intensifying threat, there is a lack of attention to the cultural dimensions of climate change and this is especially true across the African continent. The CVI-Africa project will help fill this gap," said Dr Albino Jopela of the African World Heritage Fund.

Africa is projected to warm more rapidly than most other regions in the world, meaning this already vulnerable continent will be hard-hit by the impacts of climate change.

"These climate change impacts are already resulting in the loss and damage of cultural heritage sites across Africa," said Dr Will Megarry of Queen's University Belfast, the project's lead investigator.

"You speak of digitisation, science technology innovation their foundation must be on STEM.

"Then we have ICT, the transformation that we are talking about Virtual education and so on we put on ICT. "We also have higher education, lifelong learning and the culture of reading; Africans must learn how to read we hardly read.

"All our lives we like to watch videos on internet and so on we need to change that paradigm," she said.

The Guardian

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THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Beekeeping in Tanzania should to be more commercially viable

BEEKEEPING is a long established economic activity in Tanzania. It contributes to the national economy by generating some US\$ 19 million per annum and employing more than two million people. Beekeeping produces food and medicines, makes a significant contribution to bio-diversity, and encourages agricultural production through pollination.

Moreover, more than 50 per cent of Tanzania is covered by forests suitable for beekeeping. This potential is not fully exploited, and the sector is non-commercial. Honey is a sweet, viscous food substance made by honey bees and some related insects. Bees produce honey from the sugary secretions of plants (floral nectar) or from secretions of other insects (such as honeydew), by regurgitation, enzymatic activity, and water evaporation. Bees store honey in wax structures called honeycombs. Tanzania was set to woo more Chinese tourists into the country with the allure of unique natural forest products including beekeeping and honey harvesting during the inaugural China-Africa Trade and Economic Expo 2019.

The Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) in collaboration with various tourism stakeholders conducted road shows in four strategic cities of China from June 19 to 26 last year to promote key tourism hotspots in Tanzania.

The Tanzanian delegation conducted road shows in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Changsha.

Beekeeping and harvesting known as Apri-tourism has been selected as headline product after Tanzania's organic honey drew a lot of interest from Chinese tourists who visited the country last year and other forest products.

The Tanzanian delegation obtained a pavilion in Changsha for exhibiting Tanzanian tourism products including Apri-Tourism and forests products, new unique tourism products.

The purpose of exhibitions was to increase the number of tourist arrivals from China by promoting

potentials of Tanzanian tourism, promote investment opportunities and new routes that will be introduced by Air Tanzania so as to ease travel for potential visitors.

We want to tap the China tourism market as China is the largest market as the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) data shows that more than 130m Chinese tourists visit in different countries across the globe.

A head start was recently made with more than 300 tourists from China arriving in Tanzania in a May 12th to 16th tour last year, concentrated on the northern tourist circuit.

We are certain that we expect to get more tourists from China once Air Tanzania starts operating direct flights from major cities in China and Hong Kong to Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania obtained its first organised batch of tourists from China after TTB signed a memorandum of understanding with Touchroad International Holdings Group to promote Tanzania in Shanghai in November last year.

The Chinese travel and tour conglomerate had promised to bring 10,000 tourists before the end of 2019 through Ethiopian Airlines as currently there are no direct flights between Beijing and Dar es Salaam. How due to COVID-19 pandemic the mission was abortive.

Private companies participated in the roadshows were Serena Hotels, Zara Tours, Seamless Adventure, Excellent Guides Co., Masailand Safari Co., Mount Meru Hotel, Melia Hotels, Afriland Tours, Xperience Tours, Kili Promotion Co. and others.

During the weeklong visit, the Tanzanian delegation also featured Air Tanzania Co. Ltd top management to meet tour operators, business people and conducted Business to Business (B2B) meetings in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Changsha cities.

As a result TFS had a chance to market what Tanzania had to offer in the forest industry as well as market organic honey produced in the country.

Education for Africa's children more important now than ever

THE early years of a child's life are very important for later health and development. One of the main reasons is how fast the brain grows starting before birth and continuing into early childhood. Although the brain continues to develop and change into adulthood, the first 8 years can build a foundation for future learning, health and life success.

Children are born ready to learn, and have many skills to learn over many years. They depend on parents, family members, and other caregivers as their first teachers to develop the right skills to become independent and lead healthy and successful lives.

Literacy is popularly understood as an ability to read, write and use numeracy in at least one method of writing, an understanding reflected by mainstream dictionary and handbook definitions. Starting in the 1980s, however, literacy researchers have maintained that defining literacy as an ability apart from any actual event of reading and writing ignores the complex ways reading and writing always happen in a specific context and in tandem with the values associated with that context.

The view that literacy always involves social and cultural elements is reflected in UNESCO's stipulation that literacy is an 'ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts.' Modern attention to literacy as a 'context-dependent assemblage of social practices' reflects the understanding that individuals' reading and writing practices develop and change over the lifespan[14] as their cultural, political, and historical

contexts change.

For example, in Scotland, literacy has been defined as: "The ability to read, write and use numeracy, to handle information, to express ideas and opinions, to make decisions and solve problems, as family members, workers, citizens and lifelong learners." [17]

It is against this backdrop that a Dar es Salaam-based ICT firm, DataVision International has been recognised as one of the key players in the sector for transforming education through technology.

This follows its active participation in facilitating a study, which was designed to test whether self-directed learning using technology can enable children to learning reading, writing and match skills outside the traditional classroom.

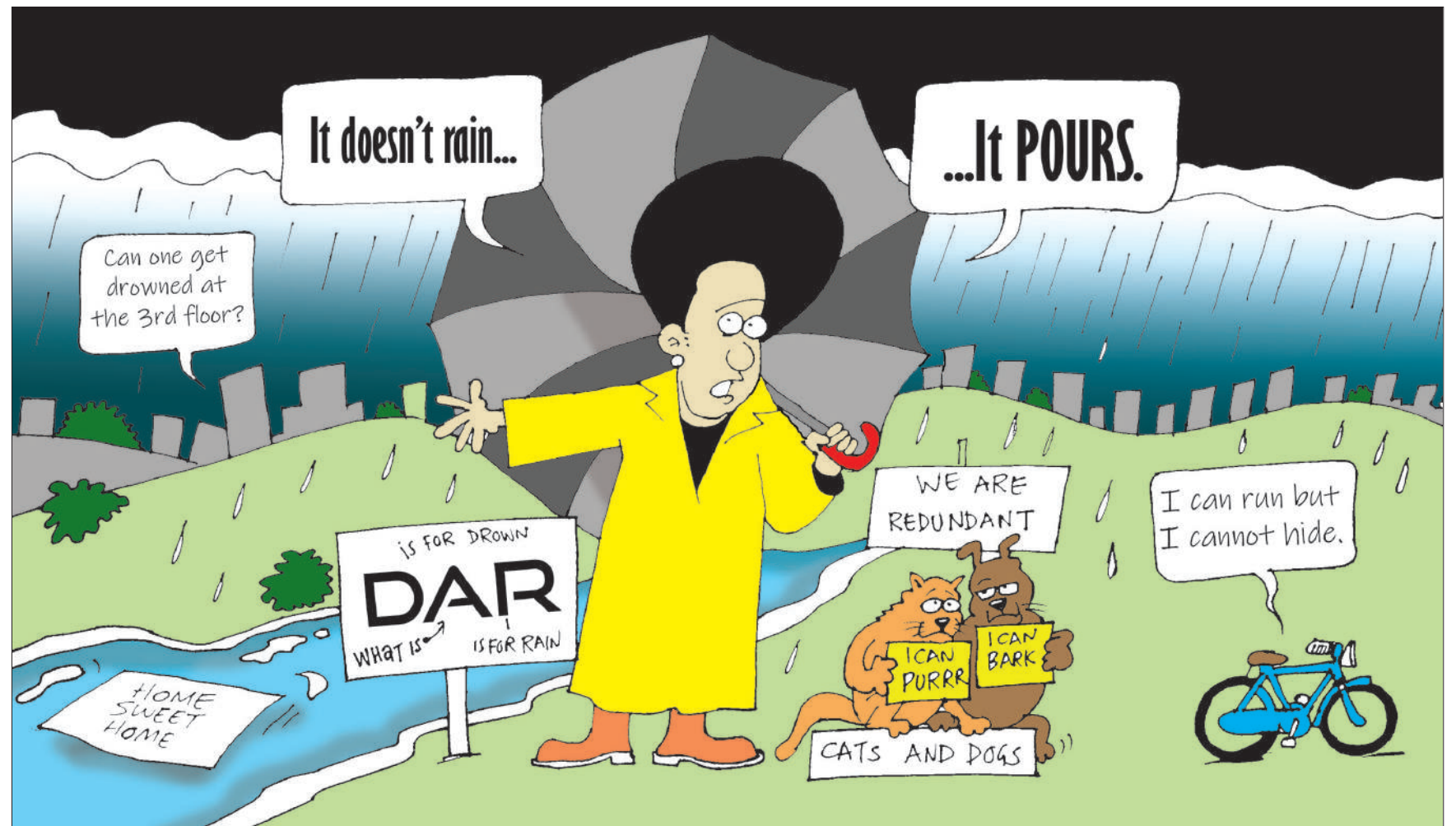
The study project involved 3,000 children aged between 7 and 10 from six districts in Tanga Region and in 2017, children were given tablets, which were installed with special software that assist children to learn without teachers' support. The result was that half of the students were able to read, write and count without teachers' support.

As a result, the ICT firm's representatives participated at the event organized to award winners of Global Learning X-Prize' Challenge held recently in Los Angeles, USA.

DataVision's business development executive, Bwigane Mulinda, described the project as key in scaling up country's education sector through ICT at the time when the country faces shortage of teachers.

She said being part of the study, the international community looks Tanzania as key player in technological transformation particularly in encouraging children to learn reading, writing and mathematics on tablets.

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By Russell Rensburg

FINANCE Minister Tito Mboweni's Midterm Budget Speech highlighted the grim truth that South Africa is facing its deepest recession in recent history. COVID-19 has amplified existing crises in health, economics, politics and the climate. The pandemic brutally exposed inequality fault lines, where access to life-saving equipment depended on whether a person had access to private medical aid or not.

An analysis of National Institute for Communicable Disease (NICD) hospital admission data as of 10 October 2020, for example, suggests that more than half of COVID-related admissions were made in the private sector. The data suggests higher COVID-related mortality when admitted to public sector facilities. In the public sector more cases (for example asymptomatic COVID positive cases) may have been deferred for home care whereas the private sector could admit to "observe". The extent to which this constrained the public sector response is an area that requires deeper analysis.

People with non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as uncontrolled type 2 diabetes, obesity and who are overweight, are at greater risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death. Over 60% of the COVID-19 patients in South African hospitals had hypertension and 52% had diabetes. The combined COVID-19 and NCD epidemics have significantly increased demands on the country's healthcare system. Despite the country's efforts, we have the dubious distinction of having the most confirmed cases and most reported COVID-19 deaths on the African continent. Even if this may

Botswana's border aggression is a regional security issue

By Special Correspondent

BOTSWANA'S extrajudicial execution of alleged trespassers from neighbouring countries will never stop until several multinational solutions are put in place.

Unless president Hage Geingob and the Namibian government come to terms with their limitations, expect the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) to continue killing and torturing Namibians they claim are poachers with the kind of impunity for which there are no loopholes in international law.

The BDF has had 'shoot-to-kill' and 'take-no-prisoners' practices for decades - perhaps predating Namibian independence.

The Namibian's investigations unit, in conjunction with INK, a counterpart in Botswana, reported in early 2016 that the BDF had killed more than 50 Namibian and Zimbabwean citizens in 20 years (<https://www.namibian.com.na/148318/archive-read/Deadly-borders-30-Namibians-killed-through>).

The BDF's continued arrogance in persisting with the policy and their

Finding the money: The case for raising the health promotion levy

in part be due to South Africa having better testing and notification systems, the numbers remain high.

Either way, failure to adequately address NCDs over the last two decades meant South Africa was at great risk when COVID-19 struck.

Dangers could have been avoided if the country's primary health care and health promotion programmes had been resourced as initially envisaged. According to estimates of diabetes prevalence, only one-third of people in SA are currently being treated.

According to a recent study, in 2018, it cost over R2.7 billion to diagnose, treat and manage 240 000 type 2 diabetes patients. It would cost an additional R19.1 billion to treat all in need, diagnosed and undiagnosed. This eight-fold increase in expenditure is about 12% of the national health budget.

By 2030, about 4.5 million people in South Africa's public sector are projected to have type 2 diabetes. This is likely to cost the public healthcare system R35.1 billion.

We cannot afford to go on like this. The Health Promotion Levy

Cost-effective policy mechanisms already exist to mitigate the impact of increased incidence of NCDs. One of these is the recently passed Health Promotion Levy (HPL) of 2018, which raised approximately R3.195-billion in its first year.

However, a mere R100-million has been directed towards health promotion activities, less than 5% of the total revenue raised. If all the revenue had been available for health promotion, South Africa's primary health care system could have benefited significantly, for example, by fully employing 54 000 adequately trained community health workers to deliver health promotion and linkage to care.

Currently the levy, for now only on carbonated sugar sweetened beverages, is set at 11%.

To be effective as a disincentive to purchasing sugar sweetened beverages, the World Health Organization suggests the most effective rate to reduce consumption is 20%. Evidence shows that a tax on sugary drinks that increases prices by 20% can lead to a reduction in consumption of around 20%, thus preventing obesity and diabetes.

Unfortunately, a NEDLAC study to assess the impact of sugary beverage taxes has still not been completed.

The levy is too narrow. The levy currently only covers carbonated sugar sweetened beverages. It excludes fruit juices, 'sanctifying' them as a 'healthy option'. However, the irony is that the sugar content of fruit juices is often as high as that in carbonated drinks.

Fresh fruit is a healthy part of our diet, but when converted to fruit juice, the amount of sugar is concentrated

because more fruit is needed for the volume of juice. This 'free sugar' is excessive, making these drinks no longer as healthy as eating whole fruits.

A cohort study from the United States found that with each additional 354ml serving of fruit juice per day, all-cause mortality risk over the course of 6 years on average, increased by 24%, compared to 11% for other sugary beverages. Fruit juice consumed by babies of a year old is associated with higher fruit juice and sugary beverage intake in early and mid-childhood, along with greater obesity. Just half a cup more of daily fruit juice is linked to a 15% higher risk of developing diabetes.

Time to update the HPL. The preamble of the South African Constitution recognises the injustices of the past and commits the country to a shared ideal of a better life for all. This includes taking progressive legislative and other measures to advance the right to health, as explicitly required in the Constitution.

Now is the time to increase the HPL to 20% and expand it to include fruit juices. Failure to do so would be a missed opportunity to both raise much-needed revenue and to contribute to preventing disease and reducing healthcare costs.

Now, more than ever, we need that better life.

'Russell Rensburg is Director of the Rural Health Advocacy Project, incubator of the Healthy Living Alliance.'

unilateral operations should worry southern African countries. Some day, it may trigger wars between the neighbouring countries.

The reported close-range shots to the heads of three brothers Tommy, Martin and Wamunyima Nchindo, and cousin Sinvula Munyeme, should not only evoke moral outrage. But it's a reminder to politicians that borders, as old and colonial as they are, will not change centuries-old livelihoods or cut family ties.

Botswana may have won the fight with Namibia for the ownership of the Kasikili-Sedudu islands, but that will never change the fact that indigenous groups of people continue to live their lives, transcending borders.

At home, Botswana has long been reported to have expelled and even killed nomadic San people to clear land for a mining and tourism economy.

It is that approach which Geingob and the Namibian government should keep in mind when calling for joint investigations into the extrajudicial killing of the four fishermen.

Namibian leaders say they have addressed similar incidents before. And

apparently to their surprise, nothing has changed.

Geingob said he'd spoken to former Botswana president Ian Khama to end the shoot-to-kill policy. Minister of international relations and cooperation Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah this week recalled that she agreed with Botswana's foreign minister on 4 May 2015 that the situation will not continue.

How naive can a leader be? Similarly naive is Geingob questioning why the executed men were fishing at night.

Mr President, it does not matter what time the BDF spotted the men, their shoot-to-kill policy would have been activated as happened all too often previously.

Both Namibia and Botswana need to show political will on an issue that regularly claims civilian lives. Even alleged poachers deserve justice.

However, we should not expect Botswana to budge until the Namibian authorities act decisively.

The president and his team must ensure that clear rules of engagement are put in place.

That's not difficult to accomplish. After all, five countries have

established the Kaza Transfrontier Conservation Area (<https://kavangozambezi.org/en/>).

Namibia should immediately initiate through the SADC organ on defence and security joint operations by Angola, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe in that Kaza area and further beyond.

Even more urgent and crucial is to stop the BDF acting with impunity.

The deaths of the three Nchindo brothers and their cousin should be the proverbial line in the sand to end BDF extrajudicial actions.

Nothing short of independent experts from multinational institutions like Interpol and United Nations bodies should be accepted to conduct an investigation into their deaths and allegations that BDF regularly crosses into Namibian territory to intimidate and shoot people.

There has to be consequences. And the results must be made public.

At the very least, a public inquiry aimed at finding solutions to the killing and disappearance of fellow Africans from several countries by the Botswana Defence Force should be set in motion urgently.

Industry in flux: Time to mourn what is lost in journalism, think of way forward

By Kyle Pope

WHEN the United States entered the Great Recession, newsroom employment started to plummet. During the first half of 2009, more than a hundred papers closed; ten thousand news workers lost their jobs.

In the years that followed, even after the economy picked up, media outlets continued shedding reporters as digital media cut into the print advertising business and social networks replaced news organisations as aggregators of information.

According to the Pew Research Centre, since the recession hit, American newspaper jobs have fallen by 51 per cent.

In 2016, US President Donald Trump offered an uneasy reprieve; the more the press obsessed over him, it seemed, the higher the number of viewers and subscribers got.

The “Trump bump” brought news, and how it’s made, to the centre of public interest. Some of the benefits – felt mainly by the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN, and MSNBC – trickled down to local (US) newsrooms, but not enough.

Through the Trump years, America’s newspapers have continued to suffer. For every happy quarterly earnings report at a cable network, a community lost a star reporter, or an entire newsroom.

It was against that backdrop, early this year, that the coronavirus erupted. The spread of the pandemic has since killed close to two hundred and forty thousand Americans and cost some thirty million their jobs, including at least thirty-six thousand people in the journalism industry.

Some editors took pay cuts, others were laid off, and a few outlets shuttered. Reporters were cast out by the dozen.

Now the winter is upon us, and the pandemic is worsening. The human costs will be severe, as will the stakes for news advertising revenue and subscriptions.

Many small newsrooms received federal bailout money, but the prospect of another tranche is grim. It’s also mired in the politics of Washington, where Republicans could hold control of the Senate and Joe Biden is set to replace Trump – now a resentful, misinformation-spewing lame duck.

Once January arrives and Trump leaves the White House, it’s likely that the subscription surges and record viewership enjoyed by the biggest newsrooms during his tenure will begin to recede.

“MSNBC and other outlets that thrived on resistance to Mr Trump may see their audiences fade,” Ken Lerer, a long-serving media investor and adviser, recently told Ben Smith, of the (NY) Times.

The audience for Smith’s paper will also “cool off”, Lerer predicted. Most news organisations have little budgetary slack, which means that this painful year may soon turn over into another.

All of that is, in a sense, the bad news.

But, of course, none of it is news at all. Across the US, journalism has been grappling with these challenges for years, even as many of us have been distracted by the chaos coming from the Oval Office.

We can now treat the situation as an opportunity. Our industry, one of critical public importance, needs to be rebuilt and reconceived. What do we want to keep, and what should we let go of? How should we think about storytelling and who gets to tell those stories? Where do we belong, and where should we go next?

This issue of CJR is a snapshot of an industry in flux, during a time in which we can mourn what’s lost and begin thinking of what we’re better off without. In columns, features, data and images, we examine the media in transition.

A few key ideas emerge. First, the rise of the individual and the decline of institutions. Many of us would love to work for a big, stable company with hefty benefits, but companies like that don’t exist much anymore in journalism.

Those that do are often beset by the troubles of any American institution – racism, sexism, inequity. Lately, more journalists are deciding to go independent. The result is a proliferation of emerging voices that sometimes earn paychecks that dwarf what they could have made in a newsroom.

But opportunity is never universal; the people succeeding on their own are largely those who already rose to prominence within existing systems. The same people tend to be the most comfortable working without a net.

“Writing is often considered an individualistic enterprise, but journalism is a collective endeavor,” Clio Chang reports in her profile of Substack, a popular newsletter.

Chang adds: “And that is the paradox of Substack: it’s a way out of a newsroom – and the racism or harassment or vulture-venture capitalism one encountered there – but it’s all the way out, on one’s own.”

Others have found a home on Twitter, as Leah Sottile describes in her piece on journalism’s “first responders”, and on YouTube, as Mary Retta writes: “Individuals with large followings and the time to devote to research are seizing the opportunity to challenge the dominance of mainstream outlets.”

Our reinvention starts as the most noisily anti-press government in American history begins to wind down.

We’re also seeing newsrooms re-centre themselves in their communities. As local newspapers have disappeared, media chains have consolidated coverage into regional hubs, which place reporters far away from the governments and institutions that demand their attention.

A movement is growing to re-establish the bond between news outlets and their readers – and to shed some of journalism’s oldest tenets in the process.

“We’ve got to serve our community’s information needs,” Tasneem Raja, editor of The Oaklandside, tells Jack Herrera, of her newsroom’s relationship to Oakland.

For three months, Raja embarked on



a series of listening sessions with artists, community organisers, healthcare practitioners and business owners, asking them what they need from local news sites. Then she designed coverage around their answers.

In a column based on his experience as a founder of City Bureau, a civic journalism nonprofit on Chicago’s South Side, Darryl Holliday describes the sense of mission he felt recently.

“As I witnessed the collective efforts taking shape around me this summer, I considered, not for the first time, the role that journalists occupy in a community – and our failure to address the fundamental human needs within it,” he writes, adding: “I wondered: What is the mutual aid equivalent for local news?”

Another recurring theme has been the strength of the organised and outspoken worker. Data from our colleagues at the Tow Centre for Digital Journalism and the International Centre for Journalists, who conducted an epic survey of news workers in the wake of the pandemic, show a picture of a press that is professionally weary, yet determined.

That spirit has carried into newsrooms – at the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post, the Philadelphia Inquirer, NPR, and elsewhere – as journalists have confronted their managers about the exclusion of Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other people of colour, in terms of bylines and for whom stories are written.

Many of those frustrations have existed for decades. What is different now, and is certain to carry into 2021, is the role of unions in codifying promises to “do better”.

As Maya Binyam writes: “In the wake of the killing of George Floyd, professionals spun calls for police abolition into stimuli for workplace redress.”

News workers aimed to seize the moment while “bosses, compelled to do moral good but calculating the economic losses of a global pandemic, were caught in a crisis of indecision”.

Unions, she continues, have made newsroom diversity a

central plank of their negotiations. In her reporting, Binyam finds that persuading managers to commit to equity is no easy task. We also need new ownership models. First came the news conglomerate, then the chain, then private equity and hedge funds. All are now struggling.

The coming years will bring experimentation and new overlords. Some of the emerging power brokers have made themselves known, as Savannah Jacobson outlines in a graphic.

“The media industry’s shift, from an advertising-based business to one reliant on subscribers and benefactors, has critical implications for the form and veracity of coverage,” Jacobson writes, adding: “In looking at who is investing in what, we can observe what seems most promising – and what risks sacrificing journalistic independence.”

Nonprofits will play an ever-increasing role, and the notion of public funding for journalism – enjoyed, in the United States, by PBS, NPR and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting – now looks increasingly appealing.

Abe Streep profiles John Rodriguez, a local publisher in Pueblo, Colorado, who made the case to his town’s leaders that if journalism is a public service, it ought to be publicly funded.

“This isn’t just about news. Local media also drives the local economy,” Rodriguez wrote them in an email.

We can expect worker-owned projects like Defector and Brick House to proliferate, though we’ll never entirely lose the hedge-funders, as Alex Norcia writes in his story about Project M, through which an ex-finance guy is investing in his own niche market: metalheads.

The Trump era has tested, and largely broken, the idea that any newsroom, and indeed any reporter, can remain removed from the news. That may well be for the good, a shift towards transparency that acknowledges people’s subjectivity.

At the same time, we’ve seen outlets publishing more commentary, as Adam Piore writes in his piece about the business of opinion journalism, led by the New York Times.

“News is commoditised; outlets are desperate to stand out; opinionated analysis has become a crucial value proposition,” Piore finds.

Sometimes, opinion writers establish deep connections with readers, enticing them to pay for news; other times, when the takes are incendiary, offensive or baseless, they have the opposite effect.

There’s much more, including the literal transition from newsroom life to remote work. As Ruth Margalit reports: “Just as newspapers once erred in thinking that online journalism meant simply transferring print articles to the Web, a report by the International News Media Association finds that mastheads are in danger of assuming that ‘remote news operations can thrive with a simple shift of where desks are located.’ We have a lot of adjusting to do.

Now is the time to move on from Trump and address journalism’s greatest challenges. And so, as the most noisily anti-press government in American history begins to wind down, our reinvention starts. The revitalisation of the press is sure to consume the nation – as it will be both covered and lived by the people who chronicle it. One wonders whether America has ever needed a media watchdog more than now?

Kyle Pope is the editor in chief and publisher of the Columbia Journalism Review.

Housing menace should end forthwith

By Special Correspondent

THE land grabbing, illegal allocations and sale of stands by land barons, corrupt councillors and officials aiding the land barons, or acting on their own behalf all end up in a house in the wrong place on land belonging to someone else, or zoned for something else.

So when we talk about unplanned settlements, illegal sales of land, corrupt disregard of town planning rules and the like, and the need to demolish, we have a human element. But, increasingly, calling the people who pay land barons “victims” is becoming more inaccurate.

To an ever-growing degree these home seekers are accomplices, even more aware of the risks they run and generally hopeful that either the land baron will “fix” the problem or the Government will step in to rescue them. National Housing and Social Amenities Minister Daniel Garwe outlined last week one major problem.

As the illegal and unplanned settlements started sprouting on public land without roads, sewers or water connections, largely

as a result of land barons taking over failed cooperatives or cooperative leaders deciding to enrich themselves, the Government was faced with two problems.

Yes, there was unacceptable development, but there was also people who had largely been acting in good faith when they started building, taking the word of the con artists who “sold” them the stand that “everything was fine”.

So the initial reaction was to see if it was possible to regularise the settlements with minimum demolitions.

Unfortunately, as the Minister noted, this was just a licence for land barons to tell those they were conning that they should not worry as the Government would fix everything later.

And it is at this point that those being conned also started being accomplices: they now knew that at the very least they should be suspicious and make some checks and that they were taking a serious risk in continuing to build.

The regularisation policy was not designed as a permanent policy. It was designed to start sorting out some of the mess the present administration inherited, largely as a result of the growing corruption and the

culture of corruption that had arisen.

In other words, the idea was to draw a line under what had happened, see what could be done, without any guarantees mind you, to minimise the damage and to stop the practice.

The law is very clear on urban settlement and development. All new settlements, suburbs and sections of suburbs must have an approved layout plan, and such a plan has to indicate not just where the stands go, but where the roads go and where the servitudes for the sewers, water pipes and electricity mains are.

In addition, land has to be set aside, and the percentages are fixed by law, for schools and recreation.

There are also environmental concerns concerning wetlands and the like, although even in the old days vleis were set aside since you could not build on them until they were drained or until the new technologies of the reinforced slab were developed.

But there is nothing wrong with developers assigning ecological sensitive areas as the recreation zones; this is why almost all golf courses have a stream or streams running through them and even why some school and sports club playing fields are on land un-

fit for cheap building.

Such layout plans are compulsory for both private and public developers. And where the development is large, then a new local area plan, that fits into the master plan, is also required.

Even when layouts are approved by town planning officials and councils, and so title deeds, those critical documents that give security, can be prepared, there are a new set of laws and regulations before you can build.

All building plans have to be approved by the local urban authority. If you use an architect or registered contractor this is almost automatic, as an expert is talking to an expert.

If you are building yourself it is still not very difficult, but you have to obey all the bits in the Model Building By-laws, most of which are common sense. In any case a modest new sector has arisen where draughts people who know the law sell quite cheaply previously approved plans that can just be submitted for a quick check and attached to a particular stand.

Anyone following these rules, however, they bought or were allocated a stand, will quickly find out that this stand neither physically exists in the records, or is on land that is

zoned for other purposes.

Of course there are councillors and municipal officials who are corrupt, but even in these cases insisting on the title deed, or if you are buying on terms seeing the title deed, seems a sensible precaution. Legally you cannot sell land you do not own. So many of those being conned are also aware that corners are being cut.

Urban councils are partially to blame. Council officials in the course of their normal duties do see these new settlements, and they should be checking, especially if there are no obvious services like the roads and the trenches for sewers and pipes. This can get the problem solved before it is a problem.

Where the Government can help those who have bought into dubious schemes is to accelerate the criminal investigations into corrupt behaviour and ensure that civil orders are made by courts for the land barons to pay damages to those they conned.

Class actions by those who have been conned is another direct route that can be explored, and some of those groups of human rights lawyers might care to think about get at least a suitable precedent established so that subsequent suits can be swift and cheap.

Those thinking about “buying into” dubious schemes not only have to think about the risks. They also need to seriously consider if they want to live in a new “Epworth”, an unplanned settlement that was allowed to continue and where regularisation is proving such a burden, even more than three decades after new settlement was stopped.

COVID-19 and the anniversary of UNSC resolution on women, peace and security

By Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe and Catherine Samba Panza

WOMEN'S meaningful participation in peace processes is a cornerstone of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of this landmark Resolution for WPS, we the Co-Chairs of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) want to take the opportunity to highlight the work of Africa's conflict prevention and mediation networks and their determination to ensure that the next twenty years for WPS will not be the same.

This 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 is not what we originally envisioned when we set out to plan the celebrations of such an occasion in 2019. This monumental anniversary takes place in a different emerging global context; a context disrupted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and one in which, unsurprisingly, women and girls have once again been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. But in this disruption, we have an opportunity to bring about much needed meaningful progress.

We can anticipate that COVID-19 will exacerbate conflicts, especially at the local level. Thus, conflict prevention and mediation networks is crucial if we hope to build back better - @SpeciosaW @sambapanza Tweet

We are well aware of the numerous ways women and children have had to bear the brunt of the disruptions we are witnessing: from increased burdens of care; increased economic vulnerability; and increased levels of domestic and gender-based violence.

What has also become evident over the past nine months is that conflicts are not nearing an end. Rather, the United Nations' Secretary General's call for an immediate ceasefire, that was also echoed by the African Union Chairperson, was not realized. In fact, we can anticipate that the conditions of COVID-19 will exacerbate conflicts, especially those at the local level. Thus more than ever, the presence of conflict prevention and mediation networks is crucial if we hope to build back better.

Globally, as many set out to commemorate this important anniversary, there are a plethora of activities taking place to take stock of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the WPS agenda. The outcomes of these reviews are a mixed bag.

The plethora of activities and the sheer amount of conversations that have happened since the beginning of this year, despite the global pandemic, shows just how far we have come to cement the women, peace and security agenda into our international, regional and national conversations and modus operandi. Moreover, since the Global Report on UNSCR 1325 in 2015, we have seen an increase in the number of National Action Plans signed and with Africa leading on its progress. When it comes to WPS policy commitments, we are not lacking.

With the onset of national and local tensions due to COVID-19, @FemWiseAfrica has galvanized the efforts of African women to participate and play a central role in resolving conflicts at local levels - @SpeciosaW @sambapanza Tweet

Yet, despite these significant strides towards meaningful change, we continue to see gaps where progress is still slow or non-existent. For example, we see gaps in policy implementation, gaps in the domestication of policy com-



mitments and gaps in realizing the ideal of having the participation and representation of women in peace processes. Although there has been significant progress in bringing attention to the WPS agenda and its concerns, we continue to see small numbers when it comes to women's participation and representation in peace processes as mediators and negotiators.

Therefore, we as the Co-Chairs of FemWise-Africa are pleased to share that we have taken this crisis and opportunity and started to build back better: by ensuring the members of the FemWise-Africa network have remained engaged in this period, assessing its strategic benefits, exploring opportunities - but most importantly living up to the mission of conflict prevention and mediation.

At the end of 2019, the network made the decision to decentralize and create national and regional chapters across the continent in order to create a more local-based approach

to peacebuilding and to galvanize the efforts of African women at the local level. Now, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can see quite clearly how crucial this move has been as the conflict context continues to shift more and more to the local level. It is the efforts and the capabilities of local mediators, especially women mediators, which will play a crucial role in determining whether we come out of this crisis more peaceful or not.

With COVID-19 we can see how crucial it is to build the capabilities of local mediators, especially women mediators, who will play a crucial role in determining whether we come out of this crisis more peaceful or not - @SpeciosaW @sambapanza Tweet

The next twenty years of UNSCR 1325 has to be different. Women in mediation cannot and should not be a dream or a vision anymore: it has to be realized. One such way we at Fem-

Wise-Africa are trying to achieve such a goal is through the FemWise-Africa Capacity Building Initiative.

With numerous virtual offerings of peacebuilding trainings, networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing discussions offered to the members of FemWise-Africa, the network is committed to having mediation skills across all tracks. With this initiative, we will no longer be able to say we do not have any qualified women to take part in these processes. Rather, FemWise-Africa and its members are willing and able to do the invaluable work.

Why 'majority' think/speak irrationally, produce plenty of children, and nation's developmental march is at snail's pace

By Samuel G. Dweh

BEING advertised: Billboard of Liberia's oldest, and historical, beverage: Club Beer. This Billboard was situated along Tubman Boulevard-Liberia's major road connecting Center of the Capital, Monrovia-when it was snapped on February 25, 2020 Another proof: liquor varieties & prices price list of another "drinking spot"

This article is built on the following "pillars"ends with recommendations-ways out of the "boozing culture"

The author's placement of the two "liquor-promotion photos" over the (prototype) Flag of Liberia is a symbolism of Liberians boozers' prioritization of liquor over Liberia-I mean putting the Country's development UNDER drunkenness (intoxication)

Disclaimer: This article isn't intended to "demonize" (blackmail) any of the "business institutions" featured through photo or written information. I strongly believe that (all) commercial ventures are contributing to the "development" of my country, Liberia, in one way or another.

Is Liberia competing with South Africa in record alcohol consumption? The alcoholic addiction of (majority) of South Africans entered global news few months.

NUMBER OF LIQUOR HOUSES RIVALING WITH NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES

Your answer for this question--"Why Liberia, Africa's oldest Republic, politically born on the 26th day of July, AD 1847, is the most under-developed Country in the Continent?"--can be answered by the information on the first or second building in the line of houses along every major road in the Nation's Capital (under a County--Montserrado) and about 95% of other Counties. (The 5% exception is of Counties with Muslims unwaveringly adhering to the rigid Sharia Law against alcoholic addiction)

In post-war time: A price publicity cloth banner on the wall of another Drinking Bar.

BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (1990-2003)... One alcohol-addiction-related comment that is common with many present-time Liberians who had often thronged to Beer-sale points in pre-war year Liberia is this: "We bathed in beer at the party" or "I washed my car with Beer."

During this time, Club Beer (being promoted in the photo above), a private bever-



age company, was the "king of liquors" in Liberia. The Company started operations in the Country in 1961.

A young man during those days, I saw, at different Drinking Bars, a "happy" person, holding a bottle of Club Beer with its head pointing downward and its yellowish content pouring down on the body of a car and the "boozers" (drunkard) hilariously screaming about his action, while fellow "intoxicated" colleagues "hailing" the action. The babbling-intoxication-induced talking--was too much here.

Many were alternating the liquor with "Bone" (stick-size wrapped grass) or "Pipe" (hallowed wood with tray for tobacco and smoking-sucking point)--stuck between their lips when the Beer was being wasted over the car (symbolizing "washing") The whirling smoke around the celebrants' heads sparked 'extra feeling' Most of these people had been alcoholics from the 1950s down to the advent of the Country's civil war. Many held the 'monetary power' rein created by lucrative Government's jobs or from ownership of houses (Real Estate)

Unemployed ladies--or professional prostitutes--often thronged to here to quench the liquor-sparked libido of the male boozers. This "quenching" was one of the major causes of hike in Liberia's population to which the Samuel Kanyon Doe's Government indirectly alluded to through the

Administration's Family Planning awareness in between 1997 and 1999. Two of the awareness jingle's stanzas said, "Population grow is everybody's problems" and "we must take time how we born our children"

Some were 'indoctrinating' young 'praise-singers' (at the Beer Club), who would continue their 'legacy' of alcoholism.

DURING THE CIVIL WAR... ..

While grenades were landing everywhere and stray bullets flying inches over persons' heads, addicted alcoholics were laughing-hysterically--around tables full with Beer and other kinds of liquors.

The advent of the war "promoted" excessive drinking, in the heat of the conflict, especially among armed persons--including many of the foreign "Peacekeepers" on mandate from the Headquarters of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) The "boozing" went along with "grassing" (smoking of marijuana) During this time, the peacekeepers served as the major common source of the liquor, now foreign brands, being hauled into Liberia through Ships brining in "supplies" for members of ECOMOG (ECOWAS Monitoring Group) This supply of liquor sparked a proliferation of smaller "Drinking Bars", being operated by Liberian girlfriends of the foreign soldiers or by fiancés of local armed men working "collaboratively" with ECO-

MOG on alcohol.

There was loquaciously chaotic scenes at each of the drinking spots.

AFTER THE WAR... ..

The first post-war national governmental campaign was characterized by excessive drinking by most of the campaigners--on the field and in Bars serving as the sole "mental relaxation point for campaigners"

The popular post-war alcohol addiction catch comment is: "I'm charged" (Most of the drunkards wrongly pronounce the 'charged'--enunciating the word as if it were spelled "char")

In post-war Liberia, one out of every five buildings along every major road is a Drinking Bar.

Unlike during pre-war time, teenagers are in the leadership role of excessive drinking, often bragging about being 'sober' after consuming fifteen or more bottles of Club Beer with liquid content 68% and alcohol content 16%. Many of these "young professional drinkers" are students in grade schools (Elementary-12th grades)

The major alcohol-induced feeling is sexual, said a young man in a friendship discussion on alcohol consumption.. "When you, a man, are drunk, the main feeling you experience is sexual desire--to be on top of a woman. This is the same with an intoxicated woman, according to most of my female colleagues I go out with to the Beer Bars regularly," the alcoholic confessed.

SOURCE OF THE "LIQUOR MONEY"

There are two major sources for "plenty liquor-drinking money" in Liberia.

Another proof: This notice was seen in front of a Bar near the Headquarters of the Liberia National Police (LNP) in Monrovia

The first channel is government officials--from their salaries or from "free money" through bribes. Sometimes the money is their "share" of "National Development Fund" sent by one of "Liberia's Development Partners"--America, China, European Union, etc.

The second source is "praise-singing" (sycophancy) or "verbal attack" in favor of wealthy people, especially the Nation's President or and members of the Legislature.

Jobless young men (and sometime women) lead in either of the two categories. Their main channel is "political program" on Radio. They call to any "political program" to shower praises on their political

benefactor being hosted on the program, or to defend the person being criticized on the program. Some also do same to a popular political figure (in Studio) the "praise-singer" or "defender" plan to meet later for financial help.

Another defense point is the "Intellectual Center"--a public "talking point", where attendants deify or demonize popular public figures. This concept was created in post-war Liberia and has spread to all regions of the Country. Majority of working-age men in each community around the Country sit here--throughout day-light time (working period) "arguing" mostly on local politicians and European football matches or Leagues, or performances of players in European football Leagues.

This concept started in campuses of the University of Liberia--where post-civil war time students prioritize non-academic arguments (especially over politics or foreign football) at the University's Park over academically/intellectually rewarding brainstorming. This gives you a clue to why thuggery by students--hiding under students' advocacy groups--is common on each Campus of the University of Liberia--and gradually moving towards students of other universities (private)

DRINKING PLACES AS "DAILY BREAD SOURCES" OF JOBLESS LADIES & YOUNG MEN

As Liberia's population is becoming "bigger", the Country's employment community is becoming "smaller" by shutting down of many private business entities, mostly on owners' mismanagement or corruption by government officials. Majority of the unemployed working-age young people swarm at each of these Drinking Bars to beg for money from the "money wasters". Many of the young female "hustlers" here go beyond mere asking to being sexual thirst quenchers to some of the intoxicated rich male drinkers. The man's car, parked near the liquor sale point, sometime serves as the "motel" or "quick service center" when he doesn't want to spend extra money on a Hotel. Some of these cars are for the Government, brought here by persons they were assigned to. There has been public outcry on Government's officials "misuse of Government's vehicles" by taking them to "non-Government events" (drinking spots) and during "non-working hour". During the Presidency of Madam Ellen Johns Sirlleaf, the Director-General of the General Services Agency (GSA), Mary T. Broh, arrested Government's vehicles at Beer Bars. But her mission was short-lived on politics heated by top government officials who were addicted to taking Government's vehicles to private "Night time merrymaking" event.

THE ONLY ECONOMIC VENTURE LIBERIANS LEAD IN

On the Liberian business field (private sector), Liberians are in the leadership role of only one economic venture: Liquor sale. Foreigners lead in the other business ventures--including the "hot water business" (Tea) The Guineans and Malians are the "commanders-in-chief" in this other business. The "tea" has three kinds--Lipton (clear water), "milky" (mixture of Ovaltine and milk), and "hatali" (herbal tea)

Global, African organisations join in to fight antimicrobial drug resistance

By Guardian Reporter

WITH antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatening development and health in Africa, six international and continental organisations are launching the first partnership of its kind to combat this public health crisis on the continent.

The partners cemented their collaboration yesterday with a joint statement by eight senior representatives on the first day of the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) Campaign for Africa, noting the “silent public health threat that AMR poses in all countries in Africa” and expressed concern for the “uncontrolled antimicrobial use across the African continent.”

Antimicrobials include antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals and antiparasitics and are used to prevent and treat infections in humans, animals and plants. Antimicrobial agents have saved millions of lives, protected animal health and welfare as well as food security. But their rampant misuse in health settings and agriculture is killing 700 000 people annually around the world. In Africa, research findings estimate that 4.1 million people could die of failing drug treatments by 2050 unless urgent action is

taken.

While data on AMR are sorely lacking on the continent, there are signs that resistance to commonly prescribed antimicrobials is significant. Malaria, which kills 3000 children in Africa every day, is increasingly showing resistance to once-effective treatment options. Tuberculosis is becoming resistant to the drugs typically used to treat it. Current studies indicate that drug resistance to HIV is increasing and could cause 890 000 deaths by 2030 in sub-Saharan Africa.

AMR is exacerbated by the easy availability of medicines without a prescription. An estimated one in ten medicines globally is substandard or falsified, and the African region is one of the most affected in the world. In markets and on street corners, people are buying antimicrobials of unknown quality. Without proper medical supervision, people often stop their drug course too soon or they double-dose rather than keep to a prescribed strict time interval for appropriate drug-taking. The same happens in treatment of animal diseases coupled with underdosing, disrespect to drug withdrawal periods, and use of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

The improper use of antimicrobial medicines enables bacteria, viruses, fungi and microscopic parasites to mutate into superbugs that are resistant to the drugs designed to kill them. These superbugs can travel across countries, resulting in thousands, or potentially millions, of deaths.

Their treatment is resulting in prolonged hospital stays and the need for more expensive medicines, leading to huge additional costs in health expenditure by governments and individuals. The World Bank projects that the additional health care cost by 2050 could be between US\$ 0.33 trillion and US\$ 1.2 trillion.

AMR in agriculture reduces productivity, hinders the provision of safe food and has a direct impact on food security and sustainability of livelihoods for farming communities. Improper disposal of pharmaceutical, hospital, abattoir, human and animal waste contaminates the environment with antimicrobials and antimicrobial-resistant organisms.

AMR is not only a health issue but a complex problem that requires a united multisectoral approach. The six partners making this joint statement represent the public health, agriculture animal health and environmental sectors.

The organizations jointly committed to 10 points of actions, including fostering a One Health approach and leveraging each organization’s core competencies. The other areas of collaboration include strengthening advocacy “for the more prudent use of antimicrobials” by increasing general public and medical practitioner awareness, understanding and behavior change; “supporting the integration of AMR action in routine infection prevention and control (IPC) measures as well as vaccination, farm biosecurity and good hygiene practices”; and “supporting compliance with international standards for the management of human, animal and industrial waste”.

Quotes from the eight senior representatives of the six partners: “Antimicrobial resistance threatens the health, safety, and prosperity of Africa. We need immediate and sustained action from governments and all partners across the human, animal, and environmental sectors. Together, we can prevent infections, ensure antimicrobials are used appropriately, and limit the transmission of drug-resistant infections,” said Dr Nkengasong John, Director Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Antimicrobial resistance is

a matter of concern for Africa because of the public health threat on African citizens and the negative socio-economic impact on wellbeing and livelihoods. AUIBAR Considers animal health as a critical aspect of AU’s continental development goal of ensuring public health and enhancing the competitiveness of its animal commodities for accelerated economic growth. As a continental leader in animal resources development, AUIBAR is working with other AU institutions and partners to advocate for greater political commitment, policies, laws, good governance, and capacity building to enable long-term control of AMR,” said Prof Ahmed El-Sawalhy, Director African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources.

“We are at a critical time to change the way we use antimicrobials for humans, animals and plants and reduce the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance. If AMR is left unchecked, the next pandemic we face could be antimicrobial-resistant, and much deadlier if the drugs needed to treat it do not work,” Abebe Haile-Gabriel, FAO Regional Representative for Africa.

“Access to and appropriate use of antimicrobials is vital for the production of safe and nutritious

foods, for animal health and human welfare. Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to lives and livelihoods worldwide. If we think about the estimated amount of 700,000 humans dying from the consequences of antimicrobial resistance each year, we have to look into the practices of animal husbandry and food production of animal origin,” said Serge Nakouzi, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa.

“Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most pressing health challenges Africa faces. If we don’t act now, we could see the continent roll back the gains in health we have made through immense effort and sacrifice. We must stop endangering our future and think before we pop a pill in our mouth,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

“Antimicrobial resistance is the most complex threat to human and animal health jeopardizing the global community’s progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Countries and nations must work collaboratively to curb the emergence and spread of AMR by adopting a one Health approach, enhancing human and animal health systems, promoting integrated surveillance, strengthen-

ing infection prevention and control in healthcare and farms. Let us all unite to preserve antimicrobials to ensure Health for All by All,” said Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

“We all have an important role to protect the efficiency of antimicrobials to ensure animal, human and environmental health. Each country needs to make the commitment towards ensuring antimicrobials are used prudently and responsibly; by applying international standards, guidelines in national legislation for the global harmonisation, surveillance and to control unregulated production, distribution and use of antimicrobials,” Dr Karim Toukara, OIE Regional Representative for Africa said.

“Healthy environment provides us with efficient mechanisms to prevent and control diseases which lead to less use of antimicrobials; as human beings, animals and crops are less exposed to microbes. Restoring biodiversity and ecosystems as well as protecting wildlife habitat are fundamental to reduce the prevalence of antimicrobial resistance in Africa,” said Dr Juliette Biao Koudoukoupo, Regional Director for Africa, UNEP.

WiLDAF moving in to enhance women, youth rights at places of work

By Guardian Reporter

THE Women in Law and Development Africa (WiLDAF) in Tanzania is implementing a project dubbed: ‘Wanawake na Ajira’ aimed at improving the quality of life for women, youth and girls working in industries.

The project which is funded by the Legal Services Facility (LSF) will mitigate and reduce incidences of injustices and violence against women, girls and youth working in industries while taking into consideration the government’s vision to attaining a middle income status and industrialization as well as support the implementation of the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children–2017/18-2021/22 (NPA-VAWC).

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday while commenting on the progress of Wanawake na Ajira project, the Project Lead from WiLDAF, Rehema Maro said that there are significant gross violations of Labour rights in urban areas and mostly affecting women, youth and girls.

“Some of the violations of women’s labour rights in the world of work include sextortion, sexual harassment, law wages, unpaid parental and sick leave, working without contracts and below standards stipulated by the law”, said Maro.

She added that despite having laws and regulations that provide for the standards of employment, some provisions of the laws that prohibit violations of labour rights are yet to be properly implemented, theM thing that affects women, girls and youths working or employed in industries.

According to Maro, the facts were revealed during a special campaign to increase access to justice among women and girls working in industries which was coordinated by WiLDAF during the commemoration of 16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in the year 2018.

“The campaign field report revealed that 63.8 percent of all the cases reported were labour law related matters leveling out injustices facing women, girls and youths in industries and that is why we decided to embark on implementing the Wanawake na Ajira project”, she noted.

Maro said the main objectives of the Wanawake na Ajira



Rehema Maro, project director at the Tanzania Chapter of Women in Law and Development Africa (WiLDAF), Tanzanian Project Director speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the implementation of ‘Wanawake na Ajira’ (Women and Employment) project, which is meant to improve the quality of the lives of women, youths and girls working in the industrial sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

project are to increase enforcement of labor rights that impacts the quality of life of women, girls and youth working in industries in Ilala, Kinondoni, Temeke, Ubungo and Kigamboni by October 2021.

“We will strengthen collaboration between the consortium and stakeholders to ensure protection of labour rights of women, youth and girls working in the industries by October 2021”, she said.

Legal Services Facility Director for Communication and Business Development, Jane Matinde said they will support the project implementation in three key areas which are household economic strengthening in relation to the project goals.

Wanawake na Ajira will also see the implementation and enforcement of laws in relation to project objectives, as the project is going to ensure the legal system is responsive to

the needs of women, girls and youth working in the industries, said Matinde.

She said that lastly, the project will ensure safe environment at work places.

WiLDAF is a Pan African women’s rights network which is dedicated to promoting and strengthening strategies that link law and development to increase women’s participation and influence at the community, national, region and international levels, while LSF is

a non-governmental organization that provides legal services in the country, which promotes and protects human rights, especially for poor women and other vulnerable groups by providing financial support to institutions providing legal services in Tanzania and is being supported by DANIDA, DFID and European Union through a basket fund.

Coalition launched to ensure Africa has sustainable adequate supply of safe blood

By Special Correspondent

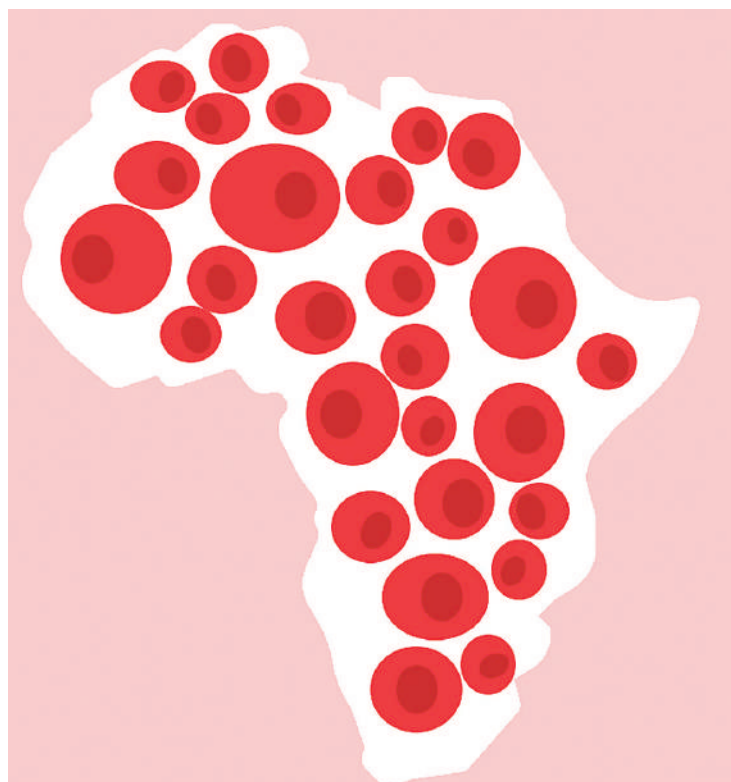
A COLLABORATION of stakeholders in the public and private sectors across sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has been launched the Coalition of Blood for Africa (CoBA) on a virtual platform.

This reflects a growing consensus that progress toward adequate, safe and sustainable blood in Africa requires multi-stakeholder, multi-pronged and innovative approaches to impact lives across the continent.

Blood is a vital healthcare resource. It is most often used in Africa to treat pregnancy-related complications and severe childhood anemia that is caused by a variety of contributors including malaria and sickle cell disease. Blood is increasingly important for patients with kidney failure who are on dialysis and to help cancer patients.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that the number of units of blood needed to sustain an adequate level of health equals 1% of a nation’s population - 10 units per 1000 people. Yet many African countries fall well short of the minimum goal. The lack of infrastructure and equipment for collection and processing of blood components is a key impediment to providing a sustainable blood supply. Though blood and safe transfusion services are essential parts of any strong health system, the safety, sustainability and adequacy of blood remains a major health challenge in many African countries.

“Today is about mobilizing action, as we convene the first ever Coalition of Blood in Africa,” said Antoinette Gawin, President and Chief Executive Officer,



Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies. “The coalition’s goal is to support the World Health Organization’s commitments and aligns with our global mission to serve more patients. Providing safe access to blood in Africa is one way to achieve this.”

The coalition is anchored on three pillars that include reflection- supporting informed decision making with research, policy analysis and data collection, dialogue - Creating awareness about the need for blood and blood safety and action-providing technical assistance to support initiatives, capacity-building programs and activities like blood collection drives; helping with technical inputs to strengthen blood-related legislation and policies, such as guidelines for the management of sickle cell disease

The coalition brings together

an unprecedented array of health experts, including public-sector research institutes, ministries of health, academia, not-for-profit research and development organizations, NGOs, international organizations and funders all committed to finding solutions to address the challenges facing access to safe, sustainable blood in Africa.

“The scale of the challenge is clearly beyond the scope of a single organization and I am confident that the Coalition will facilitate a coordinated approach to address the challenges facing blood in Africa and find sustainable solutions,” says Gavin Evans, Executive Director, Global Blood Fund.

The launch of CoBA was convened by Terumo Blood and Cell Technologies, a global leader in blood component, therapeutic apheresis and cell technology, in

collaboration with Global Blood Fund, Africa



Today is about mobilizing action, as we convene the first ever Coalition of Blood in Africa,” said Antoinette Gawin, President and Chief Executive Officer

How to avoid a financial crisis next year

By Uddin Ifeanyi

2020 bushwhacked just about everyone. And across the world, responses to the challenges presented by the year have been as uncommon as they have been unique. At the level of the domestic economy, though, one trend has remained constant.

Prices have risen every month in the last one year. At 13.71 per cent in September, headline inflation year-on-year currently poses serious implications for the health of the economy. At the most basic, the mix of components in the basket with which the National Bureau of Statistics measures domestic price changes reflects the all-in spend of the man on the street. In other words, what we see when the national bean counters indicate a rise in prices is how it hits the average Nigerian's wallet. This does not mean that for affluent sections of the population (an increasingly rare species) rising prices do not matter. The dynamics simply differ because consumption is not such a large share of the spend as one ascends the social pyramid. So, for this cohort, the movement in prices doesn't hurt as much.

Remarkable, then, that the monetary authority continues to ignore rising prices. Despite the fact that rising prices are cratering the pockets of the poorest and most vulnerable segments of a very indigent population, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) argues that the main cause of the one-year long rising price trend are legacy structural factors. Amongst which it recently listed the inadequate state of critical infrastructure and broad-based security challenges across the country; disruptions to supply chains following restriction to movements to curb the spread of the pandemic; adverse weather conditions; the inflation pass-through to domestic prices following the depreciation in the exchange rate; and recent increases in energy cost. By extension, the apex bank's argument is that when the effects of this price adjustments wear off (the so-called "base effect") we should see a moderation in inflation.

Two conceptual errors plague this logic, though. First is the assumption that the price rises from adjustment to the structure of the economy will necessarily be one-offs. There are still sectors of the economy where the light of the price mechanism still does not shine through, and if we are committed to an economy that is both efficient in the allocation of resources and transparent in how it does allocate, we will eventually have to open these sectors up. Further, as government comes up against both a revenue-raising and borrowing ceiling these reforms will be inevitable.

But beyond that we have seen from the pump-gate price of petrol, that the price rises from reforms are not necessarily a one-off. If input costs go up, prices rise; and vice versa. And with the economy only marginally reformed, the rudimentary levels of efficiency that it is currently capable



of can only occur on the back of rising costs. And as inflation rises, workers will demand that their pay be indexed to rising prices, putting pressure on their employers to increase the prices of the goods or services that they sell. These higher prices in turn drive new levels of price increases. In the more likely, instance that, unable to pass rising costs on to their markets and/or absorb it on their balance sheets, businesses go under, then the addition to the growing army of the unemployed - while throwing up different conceptual challenges from those thrown up by rising prices - may imperil the economy even more.

This cycle could be vicious, and so central banks tend to take the battle against inflation seriously. At the fringes of the resulting conversations, however, it is also recognised that rising domestic prices hurt the competitiveness of an economy. One way that an economy may adjust to rising prices is by allowing its currency reflect the toll on domestic activ-

ity of rising prices. Accordingly, such currencies depreciate. Depreciating currencies, on the other hand, feed through to rising prices.

There is thus a compelling need for the CBN to rein in rising prices before the negative feedback loop becomes harder to break, and the cost of rolling inflation back becomes exorbitant. To do this, the CBN must rethink its commitment to a low interest rate policy, not just because this fuels the federal government's bulimia for borrowing, but also because the tools by which it has driven down prices, including sequestering huge sums of bank liabilities as part of the cash reserve ratio balances with it, will cost the economy and arm and a leg to unwind.

Moreover, the current policy mix may be loading problems at the back end for the financial services industry. Low money market yields have already depressed their profits. Most have compensated for this by rapidly growing their loan books. However, it is counter-intuitive that the industry has found means to increase its lending in one of the most difficult years for business not just in the country, but in the world at large.

In this conversation we ought not to mistake the recent stellar performance of the stock market for evidence of the health of corporate Nigeria. Since the central bank pushed money market rates near the zero bound, liquidity has sloshed round the economy.

As deposits, the central bank continues to wield its mop to prevent this from putting pressure on prices including at the foreign exchange market. Still, some of this liquidity is driving the price performance on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The fundamentals of the businesses quoted on the exchange are a different kettle of fish altogether. But, they are arguably no better this year than they were this time last year. Instead, consensus is that one unintended consequence of the pandemic will be a softening of corporate balance sheets next year. At the very least, households will not spend enough to support businesses investing in larger capacities or newer more efficient ones.

At which point banks' profitability will come under pressure. I am not sure that we can afford to add a financial crisis (next year) to the chain of crises that we currently have.

Political Hotfire: Should the ECOWAS court's legal jurisprudence override Liberia's justice system?

By Special Correspondent

THE Economic Community of West African States was born in 1975 by 15 African countries, commonly referred to as ECOWAS. In 1975 an ECOWAS Treaty included a mandate for the establishment of a Community Court of Justice (CCJ) to adjudicate disputes related to the interpretation and operation of Human Rights violations. The CCJ was officially launched in 1991 and became operational in December 2000. The CCJ has seven judges, each serving a five-year term. No two judges can be nationals of the same state. The CCJ is located in Abuja, Nigeria.

West Africa has experienced a series of conflicts and judicial killings starting with Nigeria the headquarters of the CCJ where Boko Haram operates above the Justice system of CCJ. Most of the states like Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, etc. have seen civil wars as well as ethnic and religious clashes leading to the deaths of thousands and thousands of innocent citizens. What has the CCJ don't about that? Corruption and bad governance have ravaged ECOWAS countries, leading to the death of massive innocent people which is also part of CCJ's Human Rights issues, what has CCJ done about that?

Col. Muammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi was captured and killed by former President Obama's government and the European Union, October 20, 2011, which is also part of the

gross Human Rights abuses, what did the CCJ do about that? There are doubts over the CCJ's definition of Human Rights and its selective in ECOWAS. The Jen'nah case seems to be a special interest case that is unprecedented by any legal standards.

The basic lawful core of the duties and responsibilities of the CCJ is definitively to delve into human rights violations in ECOWAS countries. This dream is yet to be fulfilled. For example, Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist group operating under the nose of the CCJ has continued to massacre thousands and thousands of Nigerians and non-Nigerians what is the CCJ doing about such human rights' grave violation? The killing of over 150000-innocent Liberians in its then 16-years civil wars what did CCJ do about that and the Jen'nah LURD rebel movement contributed to these deaths, did the CCJ ask the former Associate Justice about that?

The killing of hundreds and hundreds of demonstrators in Guinea by the Guinean Government what did CCJ do about that? There is a growing judicial killing of innocent citizens in West Africa by West African leaders where is the CCJ on that? Nonetheless, the CCJ is deeply troubled over the impeachment of former Supreme Court Associate Justice Jan'neh's impeachment case.

What is ironic is the fact that the CCJ has had sleepless overnight duties looking into an impeached Associate Supreme Court Justice Jan'neh case who cried foul over his



impeachment and filed a lawsuit to the CCJ through his Counsel Femi Falana for miscarriage of justice in his impeachment trial in which he is claiming an amount not less than twenty-five million United States Dollars US\$25,000,000.00 (Twenty Five Million United States Dollars) as compensation and an Order directing the Republic of Liberia to restore Mr. Jan'neh's as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Li-

beria. CCJ should begin to operate within its legal confines rather than interferes in the internal affairs of the Liberian government. The impeachment of KabinehJan'neh, who was once a former spokesperson of a rebel movement, LURD was done under clear and transparent legal guidance. His impeachment was opened to the general public and all legal proceedings

were assured. The CCJ should learn how to respect lawful decisions made by a duly constituted government of Liberia.

The CCJ will need to revamp its human rights priorities and benchmark approaches. The CCJ should focus on the human aspects of human rights that deal exclusively with the killing of innocent citizens in the various member countries, rather than wasting its pressure

time and energies on the removal of a former rebel spoke person Jen'neh from the Supreme Court bench. The CCJ will need to confront Boko Haram, an Islamic terrorist group in Nigerians, and bring them to justice.

It is with grave disappointment, to witness the CCJ imposed a fine on the Guinean government for killing its citizens for demonstration. Why the CCJ should imposed

a monetary fine on a government for taking the lives of its innocent citizens when the government of Guinea should be taken to the Huge for persecution. The CCJ will need to understand the constitution of the Republic of Liberia and learn how its judicial system works before jumping to a conclusion regarding decisions reached by the government of Liberia.



Thursday 19 November 2020

Banker says women should take front seats as NMB inaugurates Jasiri Club

By The Banker Reporter

WOMEN should be allowed to take front seats in every aspect of life because their ability and intellect qualifies them to rival men.

NMB Bank Plc's Chief for Shared Services, Nyuata Mejooli said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week during the launch of 'Jasiri' Women's Club that products and services provided by NMB which include loans and entrepreneurship training, are vital for women to contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

"In recognizing the contribution of women in national building, NMB Bank is launching the 'Jasiri' Women's Club which comes with a package comprising of several banking products and services designed to empower women economically and show them the various opportunities offered by the bank," Mejooli said.

She named the products available in the 'Jasiri' package as including Fanikiwa Account whose popularity is based on affordability of its charges compared to other accounts as well as digital service NMB Mkononi backed by a credit facility for employed women and trades as SWL. Others components include NMB Bancassurance for insurance coverage with a low income bracket designed 'Dunduliza' health insurance cover offered jointly with National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).



Women entrepreneurs in jubilation after the launch of NMB's 'Jasiri' Club in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo courtesy of NMB.

"NMB Bank has launched this special club for women as part of its financial inclusion push as it seeks to boost numbers of women accessing formal banking services," she added while noting that studies show that despite women par-

ticipating in local economic activities by 54 per cent, most of them still have limited access to banking services.

The inauguration of NMB 'Jasiri' Women's Club, was graced by High Court Judge Joaquine De Mello who commended

the bank for the innovative decision. Judge de Mello said the bank's move is timely and an important aspect towards women economic emancipation and freedom.

She said NMB deserves a pat on the back for coming up with the 'Jasiri' Club for empowering women economically and training them on basic financial management including various banking products and services. "This programme will ensure more women have access to banking services such as borrowing," she noted.

According to NMB Bank officials, the 'Jasiri' Club and package have been specifically designed to equip women with money matters and offer them tips on various banking opportunities at their disposal from the country's largest bank.

"If fully exploited and utilized, the two 'Jasiri' opportunities will play a pivotal role in empowering women economically and enhancing their role in national building," the NMB Chief of Shared Services noted while stressing that the new product is a result of the bank's recognition and appreciation of the importance of women in national development.

World Bank vows to 'keep remittance lifeline flowing'

WASHINGTON

THE World Bank has warned that remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa are expected to decline by approximately 9% in 2020 to US\$44-billion due to COVID-19.

In its Migration and Development Brief 33, the Bank said all major remittance receiving countries in the region will experience a decline. It added that as COVID-19 affects both the destination and origin countries of Sub-Saharan migrants, the fall in remittances is expected to lead to an increase in food insecurity and poverty.

However, despite the projected decline, the importance of remittances as a source of external financing for Low and Medium Income Countries (LMICs) is expected to increase, according to the organisation. The World Bank said the gap between remittance flows and foreign direct investment (FDI) is expected to widen as FDI is projected to decline more sharply.

Mamta Murthi, vice president of Human Development and chair of the Migration Steering Group of the World Bank said, "The impact of COVID-19 is pervasive when viewed through a migration lens as it affects migrants and their families who rely on remittances. The World Bank will continue working with partners and countries to keep the remittance lifeline flowing, and to help sustain human capital development."

Lead author of the brief Dilip Ratha said: "Migrants are suffering greater health risks and unemployment during this crisis. The underlying fundamentals driving remittances are weak and this is not the time to take our eyes off the downside risks to the remittances lifeline."



Dilip Ratha Lead author of World Bank's Migration and Development Brief 33,

According to the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database, the global average cost of sending US\$200 was 6.8% in the third quarter of 2020, largely unchanged since the first quarter of 2019 and is more than double the

Sustainable Development Goal target of 3% by 2030. However, the Bank said the cost of sending the same amount was highest in Sub-Saharan Africa at 8.5% adding that the region is the most expensive to send remittances to.

Former Fed chair Janet Yellen under consideration for US Treasury chief

WASHINGTON

FORMER Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen is under consideration to be President-elect Joe Biden's Treasury secretary, according to people familiar with the matter, joining other possible contenders.

Ms Yellen has withdrawn from at least one upcoming speaking engagement because she is now in contention for Treasury secretary, one of the people familiar with the matter said. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel deliberations.

Mr Biden has promised to pick a diverse cabinet, which means he could choose the first Black or female Treasury secretary in history. His team is also eyeing Fed Governor Lael Brainard and former Fed Vice Chair Roger Ferguson for the job, Bloomberg News reported in September.

Mr Biden is launching his transition efforts to shape the new administration, but he is still weeks away from making cabinet nominations, his transition team said on Friday. He met earlier this week to discuss cabinet nominations with close advisers, according to transition official Jen Psaki.

A spokesman for the Biden transition team said it was not making any new personnel decisions yet. Since at least August, when Mr Biden accepted the Democratic nomination, Ms Yellen has been among a group of economists who have briefed Mr Biden on the state of the economy.

Ms Yellen, now a distinguished fellow in residence at the Brookings Institution, was appointed by President Barack Obama as the first woman to serve as Fed chair. She held the job for one term before President Donald Trump appointed Jerome Powell to lead the central bank.

A Brookings spokesperson didn't reply to a request for comment on Ms Yellen that was made after business hours. The progressive wing of the Democratic party is likely to welcome Ms Yellen as Mr Biden's Treasury secretary due in part to her strong comments on how economic policy makers can address climate change.

Since stepping down as Fed chair, she has joined investment banks including JPMorgan Chase & Co, Goldman Sachs Group, and oil companies Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips and Shell, in urging policy makers to consider a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

Japanese bank plans to sell customer information to third parties

TOKYO

MIZUHO Financial Group will start selling information on consumers' spending habits and other aggregated data in a bid to expand beyond the traditional lending business.

"We are going to offer a data service for corporate clients," Koji Fujiwara, chief executive of Mizuho's main banking unit, said. The move would be the first of its kind by a Japanese bank, he said.

"We have a vast amount of data, such as accounts, transactions and lending information," Mr Fujiwara said. He stressed that the data would be aggregated and anonymous, and no personal details would be shared.

Lenders worldwide from Bank of America to Lloyds Banking Group are finding ways to monetise their troves of customer information, much like tech giants Facebook and Google owner Alphabet. While the practice has them treading a fine line to protect privacy, Accenture has estimated



Koji Fujiwara, chief executive of Mizuho's main banking unit.

that banks could see revenue gains of at least 1 per cent to 2 per cent if they can harness the value in sharing such data.

In Japan, the new business is being made possible by deregulation aimed at shoring up the country's struggling banking industry. Once restricted to a narrow range of activities, banks are being given greater freedom as chronic low interest rates and weak demand erode their prospects from lending.

Data and digital technology are key areas for Mizuho and its Japanese rivals in their search for fresh growth drivers. Earlier this year, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group agreed to invest \$700 million in Singaporean ride-hailing giant Grab Holdings, while Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group bought a stake in a Japanese medical information app provider.

Mr Fujiwara didn't give any targets for income or fees to be generated from the service, but said Mizuho is aiming for more than 100 users in three years. For example, it may be useful for retailers

and restaurant operators to pick prime locations based on residents' income, spending and other lifestyle statistics, he said.

Banks have already begun sharing customer data with financial technology firms through the government's so-called open banking initiative. This is different from aggregation because it involves account information given with the customer's consent to enable them to more effectively manage their finances online, such as by running budgeting and accounting apps.

"As a core function of a bank, financial intermediation remains very important, but it's not enough," Mr Fujiwara said. "We need to go beyond that and offer new value by including non-financial services."

Japanese banks expect more business opportunities from digitalisation, thanks to Prime Minister's Yoshihide Suga's pledge to overhaul outdated paper-based processes. "This is a big trend," Mr Fujiwara said.

TFCG allocates 7 billion/- to Lindi, Morogoro regional communities



Charles Leonard (R), project manager at Sustainable Forest Based Enterprise Support in Tanzania makes a presentation at a past meeting.

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

COMMUNITIES in Lindi and Morogoro Regions will share 7bn/- to build their capacity in forest management and conservation within the next three years thanks to funding from Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam this week during a sensitization seminar on the project, Sustainable Forest Based Enterprise Support in Tanzania's Project Manager, Charles Leonard said the funding which has been made through Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, will support seven districts in the two regions.

Leonard said through Community Based Forest Management, TFCG's experts will help provide capacity building to the districts' forestry

staffs on how to implement Forest Based Enterprises (FBEs) within their respective areas with all operating costs taken care of.

"After the training, districts' forestry officials will be able to implement CBFM and FBEs more effectively, help communities reduce deforestation within their village land, help communities secure rights to manage and benefit from their forests resources," he said.

The Conserving Forests through Sustainable Forest Based Enterprises Support in Tanzania (CoForEST) Project Manager, further noted that under the project, communities are expected to establish a sustainable source of revenue to finance development projects and increase government

revenue.

"This is three-year project will be executed by TFCG in collaboration with Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) in Liwale, Ruangwa, Nachingwea, Kilolo, Kilosa, Mvomero and Morogoro Districts of Lindi and Morogoro Regions," he revealed.

"We have decided to embark on this program after discovering that approximately 17.6 million hectares or an equivalent of about 80 percent of forest cover found within the village land are not legally protected," Leonard added saying because of such a loophole, such forests are prone to being cleared for agricultural activities, charcoal making and firewood use," the CoForEST

Project Manager noted.

Annually, official government statistics show that more than 469,000 hectares of forest cover are cleared in the country with most them being in areas which have no legal protection. Such deforestation contributes over 44 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum hence causing global warming blamed for climate change.

Experts argue that CBFM is the best approach to incentivise communities manage their village land forests sustainably while also enhancing rural development. Such a move however is also short lived as currently most of CBFM financing comes from development partners hence not sustainable.

Africa free trade bloc seeks innovative ways to get started come January 2021



AFCFTA Secretary-General Wamkele Mene.

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to bring 1.3 billion people together in a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc.

A pan-African free trade zone will launch on January 1 as planned despite the coronavirus pandemic but some "innovative" arrangements will be required as not all customs infrastructure will be ready in time, its secretary-general said.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to bring 1.3 billion people together in a \$3.4 trillion economic bloc that

supporters say will boost living standards, encourage development and make Africa less dependent on trade with other regions. Its launch was already delayed from July 1 due to the pandemic.

The AfCFTA's Secretary-General Wamkele Mene said the bloc would now launch on schedule even if it meant implementing a system of crediting traders retroactively for lower customs duties they should begin receiving immediately.

"We have to find innovative ways that are legal but will also give meaningfulness to the start of trading," Mene told Reuters in an interview. This week, the first in-person negotiations since March resumed in Accra, with an option to attend virtually.

The final sticking points are around rules of origin and market access, but Mene said it was normal for negotiations to continue "until the last minute." Countries are also

working overtime, he said, to finalise customs infrastructure, adding that this was unlikely to happen everywhere by January 1.

The infrastructure covers everything from legal or regulatory changes to allow tariffs to drop in line with the deal to ensuring that customs agents have the correct tariff schedule at every border. "We have to be innovative because of Covid-19," he said. Thirty countries of the 54 who have signed the deal have ratified it and are full state parties to the agreement.

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, ratified the deal last week, but has not yet deposited the instruments of ratification, the final step required. Mene said once it does, AfCFTA could address any lingering issues. Nigeria's land borders have been closed to nearly all trade since last year in an effort to stop smuggling.



A signage shows agency banking and mobile money services at a Nyeri shop.

Value of agency banking up Sh900bn on demand

NAIROBI

THE value of agency banking transactions jumped by 18.75 percent to Sh5.7 trillion in the year ended June 2020, new Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows, adding pressure on brick-and-mortar branch jobs.

The data shows contracted banking agents handled 800 million transactions in the year to June, marking a Sh900 billion increase in the value of transactions compared to a similar period the previous year.

"The number of transactions via agents increased from 717.3 million in the year ended June 2019 to 815.3 million transactions in the year ended June 2020," CBK says in its annual report. Many customers eyeing convenience have lately taken to agency and digital banking, reducing branch traffic to comply with Covid-19 control measures such as social distancing to lower risk of contracting the virus.

For example, Equity bank last week disclosed that value of transactions on its digital platform in the nine months to September surpassed those conducted at the physical branches for the first time ever, driven by deepened customer shift to cashless transactions in the wake of Covid-19.

Data by the lender shows the value of transactions on its digital platforms such as Equitel and EazzyBiz grew 25 per cent or Sh396 billion to Sh1.988 trillion to dwarf in-branch dealings between March and September. The shift towards agency and digital banking has had an impact on teller jobs over the years, with many lenders laying off excess staff.

Only this month, several banks have announced job cuts affecting hundreds of staff including branch closures. NCBA was first to announce it will lay off hundreds of workers ahead of December following the end of one year freeze to sack staff after the merger of CBA and NIC Group.

The merged lenders had over 100 branches serving 40 million customers and Competition Authority of Kenya allowed them to close branches in locations where there were overlaps on the understanding that the merging parties had indicated that they intend to open new branches in other locations. NCBA said they closed 13 branches and relieved a bit of temporary workers and continued to evaluate the company workforce to increase efficiency.

Standard Chartered Bank Kenya announced it is laying off 200 employees or 14.3 per cent of its workforce as the Covid-19 pandemic continues to ravage bankers' profits. The bank says its digital transformation strategy that started in 2016 has necessitated a restructuring of its workforce, leading to elimination of some roles.

KCB Managing Director Joshua Oigara said they will not be cutting staff numbers this year but are continuously looking at their staffing structure to give employees new roles in line with the digital reality. "The first priority is to give staff an opportunity where there is new business so as we digitize our customers and invest in digital financial services that is where a lot of our activities will continue as we go into enhancing our agency network, that is where a lot of resources will go," he said.

Ultra-cheap loans should be at the core of stimulus, ECB member says

TALLINN

THE European Central Bank should put ultra-cheap loans at the core of its next stimulus package being prepared for December, Governing Council member Madis Muller said.

Speaking in an interview from Tallinn, the Estonian central bank chief emphasised the need for a renewed so-called TLTRO push rather than additional bond buying via the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program, saying the situation isn't like it was in March when the ECB was fighting market dislocation.

"Perhaps PEPP by itself is not the best tool to provide further support, and we should at least think about a combination of different measures," Mr Muller said. "It's best if we can find measures that more directly address the financing conditions for the private sector in particular. In that sense, speaking of TLTROs it would be a possible tool that should be on the table."

President Christine Lagarde said on Wednesday that the ECB will focus on both its €1.35 trillion (\$1.6tn) emergency bond purchases and TLTROs -- targeted longer-term loan operations -- for the next wave of stimulus to fight the coronavirus fallout. That was the strongest indication yet about the kind of tools her institution will adopt when it adjusts policy in December.

The ECB has eased the terms of its lending program since the crisis began. Banks can now obtain three-year loans for an interest rate as low as minus 1 per cent -- meaning the ECB pays them to borrow -- as long as they lend the cash onto companies and households.

Financial institutions took up €174.5 billion in loans in September, and a record €1.3tn in the previous round in June. Only two more operations are currently scheduled, in December and March.

Also emphasising the lending environment on Thursday was Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau, who told BFM Business TV that the ECB needs to keep financing conditions that are "very favourable and very predictable." Mr Muller declined to speculate about the potential size of the upcoming stimulus, saying it'll hinge on new economic projections, including the first forecast for 2023.

"It's too early to say how large the package should be," he said. "If there are no tensions in the financial markets there is less need for significant further easing of policy." The ECB has so far spent around half of the sum earmarked for the emergency bond-buying programme, which is currently set to run until the middle of next year.

The stimulus debate is intensifying after the euro area's economic outlook darkened considerably in recent weeks.

Beverage giant's 'Mchanga pekee' campaign cleans up eastern beaches

By The Banker Reporter

LIKE many other coastal beaches worldwide, Tanzania's over 1,000 kilometres Tanga to Mtwara Indian Ocean coastline is littered by plastic waste.

It is well documented that large percentages of marine waste come from onshore through rivers, waste water drainages and residue left behind by beach goers. It is estimated that each square kilometre of ocean contains 13,000 plastic pieces of waste material. A recent study conducted by International Council of Beverages Associations (ICBA) found out presence of 15 million pieces of plastics waste in the ocean currently.

Another important report from Ocean Conservancy's 2018 International Coastal Cleanup, established that during coastal clean-ups, cigarette butts are predominant with an average of 2.4 million pieces, followed by food wrappers with an average of 1.7 million pieces, then plastic bottles 1.6 million, plastic caps 1.1 million and plastic carrier bags 757,523 pieces forming five groups of much collected debris during coastal clean-ups conducted by more than 100 countries across the world.

As a coastal country, Tanzania has also a fair share of debris along the beaches in Coast, Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Tanga and Zanzibar which prompted Coca Cola

Kwanza Limited to start a campaign dubbed, 'Mchanga pekee' in 2019.

"If this situation is not addressed, it is estimated that by 2050 oceans and seas will have more plastic materials than fish," said Coca-Cola Kwanza Tanzania Director of Communications, Haji Ally Mzee when launching the campaign in Dar es Salaam earlier this year.

Mzee said the deteriorating situation long the country's coastline is threatening the environment and people health hence the beverages manufacturer decided to take action through the 12 months campaign.

He said the campaign which was designed, founded and organized by Coca-Cola Kwanza, a subsidiary of Coca Cola Beverages Africa, and started in February 2019, focused on educating, training, engaging and influencing the public responsible plastic waste disposal within communities.

"But we also engaged communities in coastal clean-up through plastic bottles collection, recycling and sensitization on proper plastic bottles disposal best practices in Tanzania," he added while pointing out that the clean-ups are done in partnership with respective communities.

The 'Mchanga pekee' campaign is divided into two main activities, both of which reflect on the common goal of sensitizing communi-



Haji Ali Mzee (R), Coca-Cola Kwanza Tanzania Limited's director of communications, speaks in Dar es Salaam during the recent launch of 'Mchanga pekee' campaign. Right is the campaign's ambassador, Mrisho Mpoto. Photo courtesy of Coca Cola Kwanza.

ties on the crisis and conservation of the environment.

The campaign is also focused on enabling, encouraging and monitoring coastal clean-ups across the country's eastern coastline. It is also a platform to increase mass awareness on the need for environmental conservation best practices particularly on plastic waste disposal.

"The campaign has managed to

recruit young, dynamic women in Coco Beach, tasked with cleanliness of the beach five times per week, eight hours per day from February 2019 to February 2020," the Coca Cola Kwanza Director of Communications added.

Under the deal, the women's group cleans Coco Beach on every Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. "Those women have been handled em-

ployment contracts, given necessary working tools and sensitized on environmental conservation by the company," he noted.

In addition, Coca Cola Kwanza has also financed the deployment of dustbins along the popular Coco Beach which hosts thousands of beach goers every week. The campaign's Ambassador, notable poet cum folk musician, Mrisho Mpoto said the dustbins

have reminded the public to properly dispose waste materials.

"On weekends, Coco Beach receives on average between 300 to 500 people at any given times, and whoever walks in, is certain to meet our cleaners at work. Along the way, visitors would face diverse calls and messages written on every single waste container reminding them to conserve environment," Mpoto said.

He said to date, it is estimated that over 5,000 people have read such eco-friendly messages which also encourage them to use dustbins to dispose their waste instead of throwing the same along the beach front.

"Through our coastal cleaning taskforce, an estimated 150 plastic bottles, over 250 plastic tops and large amount of marine debris which moved onshore by oceanic waves, have been collected weekly," Mpoto added.

In general, the campaign is estimated to have collected over 8,500 plastic bottle waste around Coco Beach plus hundreds of metric tons of solid waste washed ashore by waves. Coca-Cola Kwanza has also encourages the public to voluntarily collect plastic bottles disposed carelessly paying an incentive of 50/- each. So far, over 15,000 used plastic bottles have been collected per month from different places by volunteers.

What African central banks may do this month with interest rates

JOHANNESBURG

FOLLOWING aggressive interest rate cuts when coronavirus restrictions shut down output, African central bankers meeting for the final time this year may find that they've exhausted their monetary-policy options.

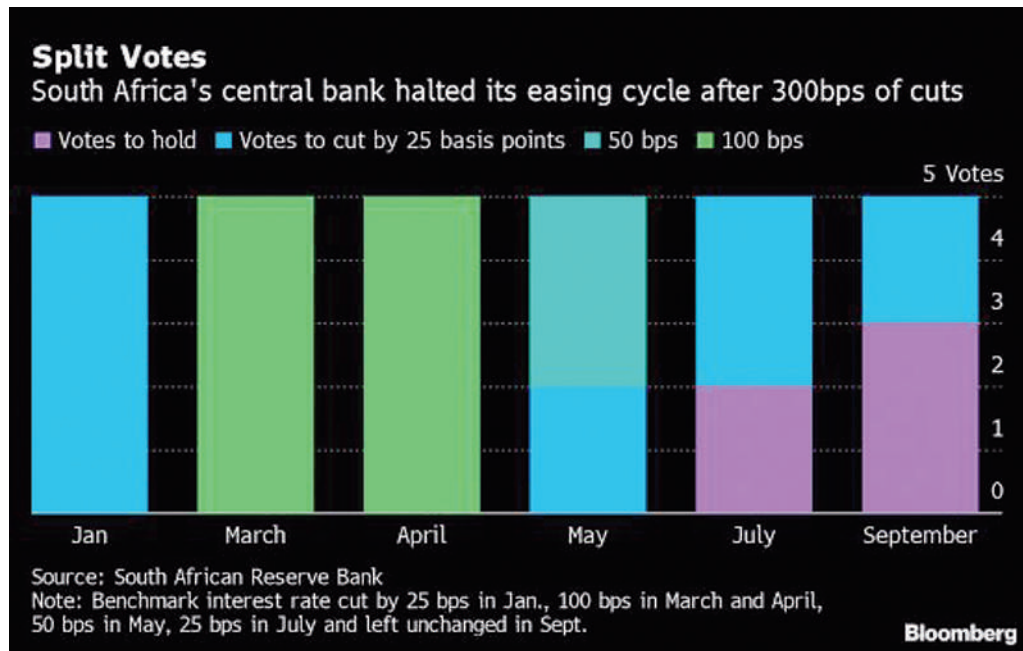
Activity has improved as economies reopen, yet balancing the threat of resurgent infections against inflation that's on the rise means most policy makers in the region will probably hold rates as they seek to support economic growth. That's as fiscal space remains limited and relatively depressed commodity prices continue to weigh on exporters.

"Although African central banks maintain that they still target inflation, it is clear that the focus this year has shifted firmly to growth," said Ayomide Mejabi, chief economist for sub-Saharan Africa at JPMorgan Chase Bank NA. "We expect that to continue well into next year, but the space for formal policy rate cuts is narrowing."

Here's what central bankers on the continent may do:

Zambia, November 18: Policy rate: 8%; Inflation rate: 16% (October):

Christopher Mvunga's first interest-rate decision as Bank of Zambia governor comes days after the nation became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign default. His MPC could face a decision between helping the government raise debt via the domestic market by raising the



SA central bank repo graph.

key rate or lowering it even further to boost output that has been hamstrung by the virus and limited stimulus measures, according to Trevor Hambayi, a Lusaka-based economist. The outcome will likely set the tone for the governor's tenure and "will be more than just a mere monetary rate policy announcement," he said.

South Africa, November 19: Repurchase rate: 3.5%; Inflation: 3% (September):

South Africa's MPC meets as key data suggest gross domestic product may have exceeded its forecast for an annualized 45.2% increase in the three months through September. Stricter

lockdowns in advanced economies that pose a threat to exports and output in the final quarter as well as the bank's decision to front-load aggressive cuts in the first half of the year could see it stand pat.

Twelve of 16 economists in a Bloomberg survey see the rate staying at 3.5%, with the other four predicting a 25 basis point cut. Forward-rate agreements, used to speculate on borrowing costs, predict a less than one-in-four chance of a quarter percentage point cut.

Split decisions at the last three meetings suggest a lack of consensus among the MPC and that its signals are "becoming far less clear,"

which supports the case for a pause, said Nicky Weimar, chief economist at Nedbank Ltd.

What Bloomberg's economist says...

"Africa's major central banks have limited policy space to maneuver. We expect them to hold rates in the coming weeks despite higher inflation as a balancing act to support the recovery amid a second viral outbreak in advanced economies. South Africa is the only exception, given its still benign inflation outlook. However, we expect the South African Reserve Bank to stay on hold as the risks are already accounted for in its aggressive front-loading of rates to date," Boingotlo Gasealawhe, Africa economist.

Ghana, November 23: Policy rate: 14.5%; Inflation: 10.1% (October):

Ghana's central bank meets a fortnight before President Nana Akufo-Addo's New Patriotic Party seeks re-election. His government has consistently taken credit for lowering the benchmark from 25.5% since it took office in January 2017.

After announcing that it could purchase as much as 10 billion cedis (\$1.71 billion) of bonds to help finance the nation's budget, the MPC is likely to leave the key rate on hold for a fourth straight meeting as the full impact of virus-stimulus measures have yet to filter through the economy, said Patrick Asuming, a senior lecturer at the University of Ghana Business School. Inflation is expected to return to within the bank's 6% to 10% target by the second quarter of 2021.

Nigeria, November 24: Policy rate: 11.5%; Inflation: 14.2% (October):

After a surprise 100 basis point interest-rate cut in September, Nigeria's central bank will probably leave its benchmark rate on hold as it tries to support growth in Africa's largest economy.

While the MPC is unlikely to change its short-term policy stance, naira depreciation and rising costs suggest upside risks to inflation forecasts, said Yvonne Mhango, a sub-Saharan Africa economist at Renaissance Capital. Foreign exchange restrictions have helped keep the currency under pressure,

BANKING & FINANCE

Bitcoin retraces 2017 record highs amid pandemic uncertainty

NEW YORK

THE controversial digital asset, which was originally promoted as an alternative to national currencies such as the dollar, surged as much as 2.6 per cent to \$18,092 on Wednesday.

It has more than doubled this year, spurring memories of the 1,375 per cent rally in 2017 that preceded a 70 per cent decline the following year. Even so, advocates and even sceptics are saying it may continue to push higher. "This Bitcoin thing is crazy," said Matt Maley, chief market strategist at Miller Tabak + Co. "This is the third parabolic move. God only knows where it's going to top out."

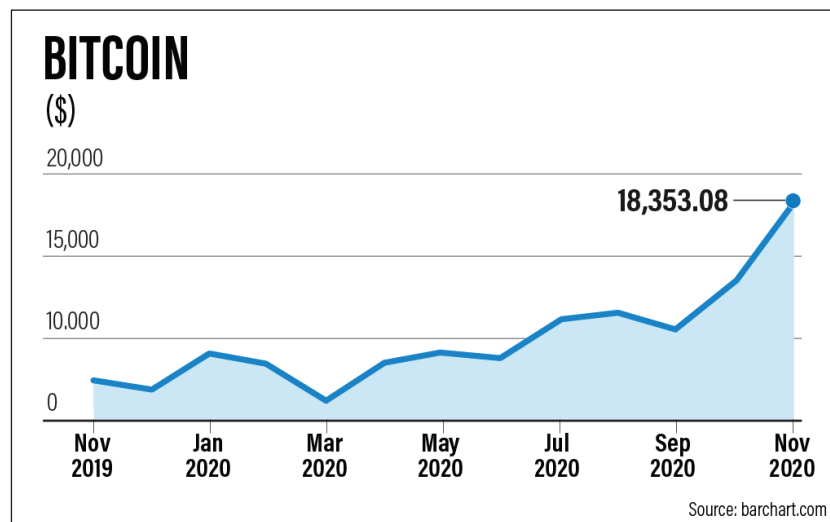
Its gains this year follow a wider embrace from Wall Street lynchpins, including Fidelity Investments, which launched a Bitcoin fund over the summer. Some prominent money managers also became crypto converts, with macro investor Paul Tudor Jones buying the coin as a hedge against potential inflation. And PayPal Holding said in October it would allow customers to access

cryptocurrencies, which spurred bets more people could start to use digital tokens.

Not all established investors are convinced. Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio said on Tuesday that he "might be missing" something. But crypto fans have been watching Bitcoin tick higher all year, with many setting their sights on December 2017's record of almost \$20,000, while others are targeting even higher levels.

"Bitcoin has consistently been one of the world's top-performing assets since its creation," said Mati Greenspan, founder of Quantum Economics. "This latest surge comes as larger players enter the market sapping up what little supply remains for sale."

While some die-hard crypto fans have stuck with it through its ups and downs, others have become newly enchanted by it amid the pandemic. Bitcoin this week got a star-power boost when Maisie Williams, the actress who portrayed Arya Stark in HBO's Game of Thrones, asked her 2.7



Bitcoin chart

million Twitter followers whether she should invest in the coin. The inquiry prompted answers from noted crypto investor Mike Novogratz as well as Tesla's Elon Musk.

Advocates argue the cryptocurrency can act as a safe haven during times

of turbulence and can be a hedge against rampant central-bank money printing. Still others have been lured by its spectacular advance this year - the digital coin is up close to 150 per cent in 2020 though it is still about 10 per cent off its all-time high.

But the institutional embrace has been slow to come about amid elevated crypto volatility and some high-profile instances of hacking and theft. The US Justice Department said this month it is suing for the forfeiture of more than \$1 billion in Bitcoins it says are linked to the criminal marketplace Silk Road it shut down seven years ago.

And earlier in the summer, the Twitter accounts of some of the most prominent US political and business leaders were hacked in an apparent effort to promote a Bitcoin scam. Bitcoin has seen an average daily move of 2.6 per cent this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That compares with swings of 0.9 per cent for the price of gold, which is sometimes contrasted with digital assets.

Hugo Rogers, chief investment officer at Deltac Bank & Trust, bought Bitcoin when it traded around \$9,300 in June and used any price weakness since then to add it to his portfolio. Bitcoin now makes up about 5 per cent of his Global Absolute Return Fund, which is big on high-growth tech and biotech companies. He's probably not going to stop at the 5 per cent threshold, he said.

"A small position in Bitcoin can go a long way," Mr Rogers said earlier this month. "There's a lack of an alternative in real assets that can show a comparable return. If you're going to diversify your portfolio anyway, this is a good place to go."

WORLD

Biden turns to coronavirus as Trump fights to overturn election

WILMINGTON, Del./WASHINGTON

US President-elect Joe Biden was expected to meet with healthcare workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus crisis in a virtual event yesterday, as outgoing President Donald Trump expands his campaign to overturn the election results.

Trump has refused to concede the Nov. 3 election, blocking the smooth transition to a new administration. Biden has pledged to make the pandemic, which has killed more than 247,000 people in the United States and cost millions their jobs, a top pri-

ority when he takes office on Jan. 20.

Biden and his senior advisers have said that Trump's defiance could jeopardize efforts to contain surging COVID-19 cases and inhibit vaccine distribution planning.

That sentiment was echoed by three leading U.S. healthcare organizations on Tuesday that addressed the president directly in an open letter, urging him to share critical COVID-19 data with the Biden team.

"As providers of care for all Americans, we see the suffering that is occurring in our communities due to COVID-19... It is from this front line human



US President-elect Joe Biden

perspective that we urge you to share critical data and information as soon as possible," said the letter, signed by the heads of the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association and the American Hospitals Association.

While Biden participates in the virtual roundtable from his home state of Delaware on Wednesday, Trump again has no public events scheduled.

Trump has claimed, without providing evidence, that he was cheated out of a victory by widespread fraud and he has fired off a flurry of lawsuits that judges have mostly rejected.

Biden won the national popular vote by more than 5.6 million votes, or 3.6 percentage points, with some ballots still being counted. In the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner, Biden captured 306 votes to the Republican Trump's 232.

LONG SHOT TO OVERTURN VOTE

To remain in office, Trump would need to overturn results in at least three of the most closely contested states in unprecedented fashion to reach the threshold of 270 electoral votes.

States face a Dec. 8 deadline to certify election results in time for the official Electoral College vote on Dec. 14.

Congress is scheduled to count the Electoral College votes on Jan. 6, which is normally a formality. But Trump supporters in the Senate and House of Representatives could object to the results in a final, long-shot attempt to deprive Biden of 270 electoral votes and turn the final decision over to House.

Trump on Tuesday fired the top U.S. cybersecurity official, who had irked Trump by refusing to support allegations of election fraud.

Chris Krebs was removed as head of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. His work in protecting the election from hackers and combating disinformation about the vote won praise from lawmakers of both parties, as well as election officials around the country.

A Biden spokesman praised Krebs, saying he "should be commended for his service in protecting our elections, not fired for telling the truth".

Taking their cue from the president, Republicans across the country have attempted to cast doubt over the results.

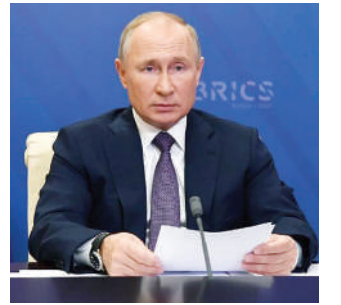
In Michigan, where Biden won by 145,000 votes, two Republicans on the Wayne County board of canvassers attempted to hold up Biden's victory in that state on Tuesday, only to relent hours later.

In a county that includes the majority-Black city of Detroit and that voted overwhelmingly in favor of Biden, the two board members initially voted to block certification of the results, citing slight inconsistencies in precinct totals.

Putin praises BRICS cooperation, calls for more efforts to fight COVID-19

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday praised the BRICS countries for their close coordination on international and regional issues, and called for more joint efforts to fight COVID-19.



Putin (pictured) made the remarks at the 12th BRICS summit hosted by Russia via video conference, which brought together the member countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, cooperation among the BRICS states has been "actively developing" in the political, economic and humanitarian spheres, the Russian leader said.

Increasing BRICS cooperation has been witnessed in science, technology and innovation, along with intensive contacts established in the academic and scientific fields, Putin said.

The BRICS countries are also strengthening cooperation to combat terrorism, illegal drugs and corruption, he added.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, and all BRICS countries unanimously condemned the role the Nazis played in the war, Putin said.

He said the BRICS countries consistently advocate the development of constructive relations with other states and organizations on the basis of respect for the United Nations Charter and norms of international law - sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Russian president also underlined the importance of joint anti-pandemic efforts among the BRICS countries and increased support of the BRICS Vaccine Research and Development Center, which was agreed upon two years ago at the Johannesburg summit.

"The task of developing collective BRICS steps to combat infections, increase interactions between anti-epidemic departments, and protect the life and health of our citizens came to the fore," Putin said.

Putin also attached significance to financial institutions in funding anti-virus efforts, praising the direct contribution of the BRICS countries toward a comprehensive package of G20 measures aimed at overcoming the negative consequences of the pandemic.

"The focus is on rebuilding global value chains and the openness of international trade," Putin said. **Xinhua**

First Bahrain delegation arrives in Israel on Gulf Air flight

JERUSALEM/DUBAI

BAHRAIN sent its first official government delegation to Israel yesterday as the two countries look to broaden cooperation and potential economic bonanza.



Bahrain's foreign minister, Abdullatif Al-Zayani, headed the delegation aboard Gulf Air flight GF972 - a reference to Israel's telephone country code - on the airline's first commercial flight to Tel Aviv.

Al-Zayani was due to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in Jerusalem.

"This visit will help launch many cooperation initiatives in various fields and is a starting point for future visits," Zayani said on landing in Israel, according to a statement from Bahrain's foreign ministry.

Israel's Foreign Ministry director-general Alon Ushpiz told Israeli Army Radio that the officials would continue work on memoranda of understanding signed in October in Manama covering air travel, visa accommodations and the opening of embassies.

Leading the US delegates, President Donald Trump's Middle East envoy, Avi Berkowitz, was also on the flight which flew over Saudi Arabia, an accommodation by the Gulf's powerhouse, which has so far resisted US appeals to normalize ties with Israel.

Since September, the Trump administration has brokered agreements with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Sudan toward normalizing their relations with Israel in a strategic realignment against Iran.

The shift has enraged the Palestinians who have demanded statehood before any such regional rapprochement.

Although White House officials have said more countries are considering normalizing ties with Israel, further developments appear unlikely before a new US administration takes over on January 20. **Agencies**

Trump fires US top cybersecurity official over election security statement

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump tweeted on Tuesday that Chris Krebs has been terminated as director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) over the official's recent statement on the security of the 2020 presidential election.

"The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate ... Therefore, effective immediately, Chris Krebs (pictured) has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Se-

curity Agency," the president announced on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Trump claimed that "there were massive improprieties and fraud - including dead people voting."

"Poll Watchers not allowed into polling locations, 'glitches' in the voting machines which changed ... votes from Trump to Biden, late voting, and many more," Trump wrote.

Krebs, a Trump appointee, has served as CISA chief since its establishment at the Department of Homeland Security in 2018.

CISA issued a statement last



week that affirmed that the 2020 election was "the most secure in American history."

"When states have close elections, many will recount ballots.

All of the states with close results in the 2020 presidential race have paper records of each vote, allowing the ability to go back and count each ballot if necessary," the statement read.

"There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised," said the statement, which is based on an assessment joined by a coalition of election security groups, including the National Association of State Election Directors.

Joe Biden declared victory for the U.S. presidential election on

Nov. 7 after he was projected to have passed the required 270-electoral-vote threshold.

Trump has not conceded and is mounting challenges in court over allegations of voter fraud and counting misconduct.

A federal law sets the "Safe Harbor" deadline falling on Dec. 8 this year, the day by which states must submit the winner of the presidential election if they are to be insulated from legal disputes.

Electoral College representatives will meet six days later, on Dec. 14, to formally select the next U.S. president. **Xinhua**

UK diplomat who rescued drowning woman wins praise

By Tan Yingzi

STEPHEN Ellison, the newly appointed British consul general in Chongqing, made a public appearance in China after a video of him rescuing a drowning local woman on Saturday went viral on Chinese social media recently.

"Thank you, Mr Ellison. Kindness and bravery can go beyond borders," read one comment on Sina Weibo.

"You are a real gentleman, and I hope you have a great time in China," said another.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at the daily briefing on Tuesday that he had read a media report about the British diplomat.

"It is a good deed, and his bravery deserves praise," he said. "I will give him a big like."

Video footage shared by the consulate shows that a young woman had slipped while taking a photo on a rock beside the river in Zhongshan Old Town, a famous scenic spot in Chongqing. Witnesses told local media that several men immediately rushed to the bank and tried to pull

her out of the water, but the woman, apparently unable to swim, struggled in panic and was carried away under the foot bridge by the fast moving current. She soon emerged face down in the water.

Amid the screams of the crowd, a white-haired foreign man took his shoes off quickly and jumped into the water. With the help of the other people on the bank, he swam her to safety.

Britain's mission in Chongqing confirmed on Monday that the foreign man in the video was Ellison, a 61-year-old diplomat who arrived in the city in October. He just started his official term on Monday.

Having kept busy working for over a month during his transition period, he decided to visit the old town during the weekend of the incident. He was walking near the river on Saturday when he heard people screaming. He rushed to the scene and saw a young woman who appeared to be drowning.

"I just jumped in, I guess. I saw she was struggling, and she disappeared under the water. I guess she was drowning," Ellison said during a



A screenshot of a video clip shows Stephen Ellison, the United Kingdom's consul general in Chongqing, diving into a river to save a drowning Chinese woman. (PHOTO / SINA WEIBO)

media interview.

"So it is just instinct that you get in and help, hope you can do something."

Thanks to the timely rescue, the woman recovered her consciousness and started breathing again. She is now in good condition, according to the consulate.

"We are all people and we are all human. I feel a little bit lucky that I

was there able to help her," he said.

The woman thanked him in person that day and invited him to dinner with her family this week.

"I am looking forward to this dinner and seeing her again," he said.

After the accident, the local villagers brought the soaked foreigner home and offered him dry clothes and hot coffee.

They also sent him a 6-meter-long

painting of the ancient town as a gift.

Ellison has lived in China for a total of about nine years, which included a stint as minister counselor and director of the Department for International Trade at the British embassy in Beijing from 2014 to 2018.

He also competed in the Beijing International Triathlon last year and won the event in his age group.

Xinhua

China speeds up construction of space-ground integrated quantum network

ORIGIN Quantum Computing Technology Co., Ltd., one of the over 20 quantum-related companies densely distributed along the 2,000-meter-long "quantum avenue", or Yunfei Road, in the High-tech Industry Development Zone of Hefei, east China's Anhui province, has almost been overwhelmed by various capital that came to it in the recent month.

"More than 30 investment institutions came to us, and eventually we chose 11 of them," said Zhang Hui, vice president of the company. In the past, the man had to toss about the country for financing.

Government departments at different levels have also reached the company to offer help, according to Zhang.

"Many government departments visited our company for investigation and inspection, aiming to discuss and formulate industrial policies and help us solve practical difficulties," Zhang noted, who has been invigorated by such efforts.

On Oct. 16, the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee held the 24th group study session on the research and application of quantum science and technology.

The session has promoted strategic planning and forward-looking layout for the development of quantum science and technology in China, signaling an important period of development opportunities for the application of quantum science and technology, according to Zhang.

The applications of quantum science and technology specifically involve three fields: quantum communication, quantum computation and quantum precision measurement.

China is among the global leaders in the field of quantum communication.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), China has made a great number of major new and high-tech achievements during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020).

Experiments including the quantum science satellite Mozi and the quantum communication line between Beijing and Shanghai conducted by Chinese scientists have enabled the country to build the prototype of the first space-ground integrated quantum communication network, said Qin Yong, director-general of the Department of High and New Tech-

nology of the MOST at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office on Oct. 21.

Quantum computation is also an important field for applications of quantum science and technology.

On the whole, China is at the same level with developed countries in the field of quantum computation, according to Pan Jianwei, executive vice president of the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) and academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The research and development of quantum computers is

a hotspot of the current international competition in the area of science and technology.

At the end of 2019, Chinese scientists teamed up with their counterparts from Germany and the Netherlands and realized the Boson sampling quantum computation by feeding 20 photons into a 60x60 mode interferometer for the first time in the world, setting new world records in four key indicators.

There is still a gap between China and developed countries in the field of quantum precision measurement, but the country is seeing rapid development in the field, Pan said.

In October this year, the USTC announced that its research team, in cooperation with scientists from the U.S. and Germany, observed strength compression on single-photon source devices with high purity, high indistinguishability and high efficiency.

The discovery, while marking the first time that scientists directly observed strength compression in the system after 20 years of efforts, has laid a foundation for single-photon sources-based quantum precision measurement and represented an important progress in the field of quantum precision measurement. **People's Daily**

Enhancing BRICS cooperation in age of crisis

BEIJING

WITH the world caught between the COVID-19 pandemic and other momentous changes, BRICS leaders held the 12th annual summit via video link on Tuesday, showing their common willingness to jointly safeguard multilateralism, stem the coronavirus and revive the global economy.

The virtual meeting of the five major emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, came when the coronavirus pandemic, widely described as the most challenging global crisis since World War II, has so far infected more than 55 million people and killed 1.3 million, and the global caseload is still surging.

As a consequence, global trade and investment have been battered tremendously. According to a forecast by the International Monetary Fund, the world economy will shrink by 4.4 percent this year, and emerging markets and developing countries will register negative growth for the first time in 60 years.

Even worse, before the pandemic, protectionism and unilateralism have been rearing their heads while the deficits in governance, trust, development and peace have continuously widened.

At such a critical moment, Chinese President Xi Jinping in his speech called on BRICS countries to uphold

multilateralism and jointly overcome global challenges, and shared his proposals on how to achieve that goal.

For starters, facing the choice between multilateralism and unilateralism, and between justice and hegemony, Xi urged BRICS countries to hold high the banner of multilateralism and stand up for equity and justice in the world. Notably, they should join hands in safeguarding the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law.

Also, as a new wave of COVID-19 infections has ripped through many parts of the world, countries, as Xi has proposed, need to enhance solidarity and coordination to jointly address the COVID-19 challenge.

To this end, they must mobilize all resources to protect people's lives and defeat this virus within their borders, while stepping up international coordination and response, share information and epidemic control experience and support the World Health Organization's crucial leadership role in this endeavor.

Unfortunately, there are also attempts to exploit the pandemic to stigmatize and scapegoat others, which have disrupted the ongoing international anti-virus cooperation.

Thus, another task for countries is to overcome division with unity, replace bias with reason and stamp out



A staff member unloads Chinese medical supplies from an airplane at the Kotota International Airport in Accra, Ghana, April 6, 2020. (Xinhua/Xu Zheng)

all kinds of political viruses.

Meanwhile, to jumpstart global economic recovery, countries need to strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination, follow through on the initiative on facilitating cross-border flow of people and goods, and keep industrial and supply chains safe and open to better enable business resumption.

Amid the rising sentiments of "de-globalization" and clamor for so-called "economic decoupling," countries should give full-throated support for building an open world economy and the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organi-

zation at its core.

Hailing Xi's appeal for upholding multilateralism, Jim O'Neill, chairman of the London-based think tank Chatham House, said safeguarding multilateralism amid the coronavirus pandemic is "exceptionally important."

Countries should strengthen and coordinate their efforts to develop treatments and vaccines, said O'Neill, who in the early 2000s coined the acronym BRIC that represents Brazil, Russia, India and China, expressing the hope that all BRICS countries can return to stronger growth after the pandemic.

In these regards, China, as a respon-

sible major country, has along been serving its promises with actions as it has been striving to join the rest of the world in beating the coronavirus and stimulating common development.

In his speech, Xi compared countries to "passengers in the same boat," saying that "when the wind is strong and the tides are high, we must be even more focused on our direction." Indeed, in this changing and challenging time, only by sticking to multilateralism and uniting their strength can humanity ride out the storms and sail steadily to a brighter future.

Xinhua

China, Russia agree to enhance investment cooperation

BEIJING

CHINA and Russia on Tuesday reviewed their investment cooperation progress and agreed to make efforts to overcome the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate the resumption of work and production in bilateral investment cooperation to yield more practical achievements.

The agreement was made at the seventh meeting of the China-Russia Investment Cooperation Committee co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng and Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov.

Han, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, commended the sound momentum of investment cooperation between the two countries and said China stands ready to work with Russia to implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and push China-Russia investment cooperation to a higher level.

Han pointed out that the two sides should seize the new opportunities and encourage enterprises from the two countries to conduct cooperation in fields of digital economy and anti-pandemic fight.

Han called on the two countries to take the opportunity of the China-Russia Year of Scientific and Technological Innovation to strengthen investment cooperation in areas including high-tech, information and communication, and biosecurity.

The two countries should deepen cooperation at local levels and encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to enhance cooperation, Han said, adding both sides should encourage financial innovation and support the expansion of local currency payment and settlement, giving full play to the supporting role of financial services in investment cooperation.

Han also called for joint efforts to build a fair, just and stable business environment to boost investors' confidence.

Xinhua

By Bloomberg

UN recruits 40 airlines to deliver vaccine to poorest states

UNITED Nations humanitarian relief agency Unicef is looking to recruit some of the airline industry's biggest operators to help distribute a coronavirus vaccine to the world's poorest nations.

Unicef held a call with about 40 carriers to make

plans for the global airlift and to identify what commercial tasks each party can perform, according to Glyn Hughes, head of cargo at the International Air Transport Association, which helped arrange the meeting.

Unicef, already the No. 1

buyer of vaccines, is leading efforts to purchase and distribute COVID-19 shots to 92 states with funds from the GAVI immunization program, which brings together governments, the World Health Organization and World Bank. Another 80 higher-income coun-

tries have chosen it to procure inoculations they will buy, extending the plan to 70 percent of the population.

The summons to airlines was triggered by positive late-stage trial results reported by Pfizer Inc and Moderna Inc. on two sepa-

rate vaccines, Hughes said in an interview. Neither has yet been approved for use, but attention is turning toward how a successful shot can be distributed, especially to less well off countries without the resources for mass purchases.

About 30 of the largest

cargo airlines were invited to participate in Monday's call, Hughes said. They included express-delivery specialists such as FedEx Corp. and United Parcel Service Inc. and dedicated freighter operators like Cargolux Airlines International SA.

Airline groups with large

cargo divisions including Deutsche Lufthansa AG also took part, alongside passenger carriers with experience in moving specialist goods like Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd. Other participants were regional carriers from Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia, where work will largely focus.

Pfizer ends vaccine trial with 95% success rate, paving way for a shot this year

FINAL results from Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine trial showed its shot had a 95% success rate and two months of safety data, paving the way for the drugmaker to apply for an emergency U.S. authorization within days, it said yesterday.

The vaccine's efficacy rate, the highest of any candidate in late-stage clinical trials so far, was welcomed by experts who had already said that interim results showing Pfizer's shot was over 90% effective were very encouraging.

Pfizer said there were 170 cases of COVID-19 in its trial of more than 43,000 volunteers and only eight people with the disease had been given the shot rather than a placebo, meaning the vaccine had a 95% efficacy rate. Of the 10 people who developed severe COVID-19, one had received the vaccine.

"The data is very strong," said Ian Jones, a professor of virology at Britain's University of Reading. "It's looking like a real contender." Pfizer said it expected the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee to review and discuss the data in a public meeting that will likely be held in December.

"We continue to move at the speed of science, and we know that every day matters in our path to authorization," Pfizer Chief Executive Albert Bourla said.

The final analysis comes just a week after initial results from the trial showed the vaccine, de-



veloped with German partner BioNTech SE, was more than 90% effective. Moderna Inc on Monday released preliminary data for its vaccine, showing 94.5% effectiveness.

The better-than-expected results from the two vaccines, both developed with new messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, have raised hopes for an end to a pandemic that has killed more than 1.3 million people and wreaked havoc upon economies and daily life.

However, while some groups such as healthcare workers will be prioritized in the United States for vaccinations this year, it will be months before large-scale rollouts begin.

THE MOST VULNERABLE

Distribution of a Pfizer shot is complicated by the need to store it at ultra-cold temperatures of -70 degrees Celsius. It can, however, be kept in a normal fridge for up to five days, or up to 15 days in a thermal shipping box.

Pfizer said the efficacy of the vaccine was consistent across different age and ethnic groups, a sign that the immunization could be employed broadly around the world.

Efficacy in adults over 65 years, who are at particular risk from the virus, was over 94%.

"The 94% protection for older people is key. This is the evidence we needed to ensure that the most vulnerable people are protected," said Andrew Hill, senior visiting research fellow at the University of Liverpool's department of pharmacology.

Equity markets strengthened slightly on the Pfizer news. Europe's STOXX 600 and the U.S. S&P 500 futures both rose about 0.3% to hit highs for the day. The moves were small, however, compared with the jump when Pfizer first announced the vaccine was more than 90% effective on Nov. 9.

Pfizer shares rose 3% in premarket trade while BioNTech's U.S.-listed shares jumped 8%.

Pfizer said its two-dose vaccine, BNT162b2, was well-tolerated and that side effects were mostly mild to moderate, and cleared up quickly.

The only severe adverse event that affected more than 2% of those vaccinated was fatigue, which affected 3.7% of recipients after the second dose. Older adults tended to report fewer and milder adverse events.

Moderna named five categories of severe side effects experienced by at least 2% of those who received its vaccine. It listed fatigue at a frequency of 9.7%, muscle pain at 8.9%, joint pain at 5.2%, headache at 4.5%, pain at 4.1% and redness around the injection site at 2%.

Pfizer's final results come as the virus is running rampant around the world, placing an enormous strain on healthcare systems with record numbers of new cases and hospitalizations.

The approach of winter in the northern hemisphere in tandem with the holiday season is expected to worsen case numbers as people spend more time indoors and have family gatherings.

"With hundreds of thousands of people around the globe infected every day, we urgently need to get a safe and effective vaccine to the world," Pfizer's Bourla said.

Pfizer and BioNTech also said they plan to submit the data to other regulatory agencies around the world and submit data from the study to a peer-reviewed scientific journal. **Agencies**

French president plays host to US top diplomat

PARIS French President Emmanuel Macron held a closed-door, low-key meeting on Monday with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at a time when France is in lockdown to fight a second wave of the coronavirus.

No news conferences were held.

Unusually, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian met Pompeo at the Elysee Palace, rather than his own office.

Macron's office described Pompeo's stop as a "courtesy" visit.

The US State Department said Pompeo and Macron discussed "significant threats to global security, efforts to counter violent extremism".

Pompeo tweeted a photo of himself wearing a Stars and Stripes face mask in the meeting with "my good friend" Le Drian and said they had an "important discussion".

It wasn't clear why Pompeo came so far in the midst of the pandemic and for so long, on a three-day stop in Paris that is largely locked down because of a surge of coronavirus cases, for such a low-visibility outcome.

Officials in Pompeo's team said French authorities told them that no press access was possible due to concerns over the pandemic.

Pompeo appeared last week to cast doubt on US election results, speaking instead of "a smooth transition to a second



Trump administration," referring to US President Donald Trump. Macron last week spoke by phone with Trump's challenger Joe Biden to congratulate the Democrat for his victory in the US presidential race.

Before meeting Macron and Le Drian, Pompeo laid a bouquet of red, white and blue flowers at a memorial to victims of terrorism at a Paris landmark, the Hotel des Invalides. The ceremony lasted about a minute.

Scheduling issues

"The United States stands with France. We mourn the victims, pray for their families, and condemn in the strongest terms these senseless attacks

against innocent French citizens," Pompeo tweeted.

From Paris, Pompeo traveled to Turkey, where he was expected to meet religious leaders in Istanbul but not government officials.

Senior State Department officials said the lack of official meetings in Turkey was due to scheduling issues during the brief stop.

They said meetings had been sought but Turkish officials were unable to come to Istanbul from the capital Ankara during Pompeo's trip there. The officials noted that Pompeo and his Turkish counterpart planned to see each other in early December at a meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

Later stops on Pompeo's tour are scheduled to include visits to Georgia, Israel, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

S. African president calls for cooperation, caution amid COVID-19 resurgence

JOHANNESBURG

WITH the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the world and damaging economies, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has called for cooperation and caution to curb a resurgence of the virus and rebuild the economy.

"We are meeting at a time of global crisis, a time that calls for cooperation and dialogue between the nations of the world," Ramaphosa told the 12th BRICS summit, calling on BRICS members, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, and the international community to support a stimulus package for African countries to deal with the impact of the pandemic.

"This will enable African countries to contain the disease and rebuild our damaged economies," he said.

Noting that trade and investment ties between BRICS countries must be strengthened to improve economic recoveries, the president urged a review of the BRICS Strategy for Economic Partnership 2025.

"Since restoring our economies to good health is a goal common to us all, it is timely that we are undertaking a review of the BRICS Strategy for Economic Partnership 2025," he said.

On Nov. 11, Ramaphosa warned against complacency about the virus in a television address amid rising infections in some parts of South Africa.



"The first is the situation in the Eastern Cape, which is showing signs of a resurgence," he said, adding that with many people moving between the Eastern Cape and other provinces, particularly the Western Cape, it is a matter of time before this surge spreads to other parts of the country.

"In response to the rising infections, we are implementing the resurgence plan that has been developed together with the surge team deployed to South Africa by the World Health Organization," said the president.

He said that interventions include primary health care outreach teams to intensify contact tracing, daily community mobilization, ensuring the

readiness of health facilities, and being ready to respond to possible clusters outbreaks.

"We are therefore also closely monitoring developments in areas that are experiencing higher than average rates of new infections," he said.

Ramaphosa also urged citizens to be cautious about gatherings with the festive season coming up next month.

"These activities, if not undertaken responsibly, pose the greatest immediate threat to our management of the pandemic. But we can avoid a second wave if we each play our part, if we remember what we need to do to keep ourselves and others safe," he said.

As of Tuesday, the African continent

has recorded 1,986,864 coronavirus cases with 47,647 deaths, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Xinhua



The first is the situation in the Eastern Cape, which is showing signs of a resurgence," he said, adding that with many people moving between the Eastern Cape and other

SPORT



Ugandan super model, Zarina Hassan, famously known as 'Zari' (L), pictured with GSM Home's Marketing Officer, Smart Deus (C) and the company's Business Manager, Fahdy Mohammed, after Zari had completed her shopping at GSM stores at Mikocheni and Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Azam FC takes aim at KMC FC in VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) outfit, Azam FC, has continued preparing for the club's league match against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, which will be played at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on November 21.

Azam FC is currently leading the rest of the pack in this season's domestic top flight, having played 10 matches.

The side has already accumulated a total of 25 points, followed by Yanga in the second position with 24 points from 10 games while Simba SC occupies the third spot with 20 points from 10 matches.

Azam FC, under the tutelage of Aristica Cioaba, has managed to score a total of 18 goals, the club as well boasts of the VPL leading scorer, Prince Dube, he has scored six goals and executed four assists.

The Zimbabwean attacker has also continued to showcase his goal scoring

pro prowess in his country's national soccer team, netting one of two goals in the Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' duel against Algeria, which saw the squads locked to 2-2 draw.

Dube scored the equalizer for Zimbabwe on the 82nd minute of the match, held at the side's backyard early this week.

Algeria were the first to score on the 34th minute through Andy Delort and the side's second goal was scored by Riyad Mahrez on the 38th minute.

Zimbabwe's first goal was scored by Knowledge Musona on the 43rd minute and Dube thereafter levelled matters on the 82nd minute.

Dube's first touch of the ball sank into Algeria's net as he came on in place of Darikwa.

The resultshave put Zimbabwe second in Group H with five points whereas Algeria are leading the rest with 10 points.

Botswana and Zambia have been placed third and last respectively in Group H.

People magazine names Michael B. Jordan as Sexiest Man Alive

LOS ANGELES

ACTOR Michael B. Jordan has been crowned as 2020's Sexiest Man Alive by People magazine.

Jordan, known for his critically-acclaimed performances in "Fruitvale Station," "Creed" and "Black Panther," was revealed as this year's winner Tuesday night on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!"

The actor appeared on the late-night talk show dressed in a yellow biohazard suit. He revealed his identity after removing his helmet, which had a smiley face. He said he learned about the honor during a call from his publicist while driving with a friend.

Jordan tells the magazine in an issue out Friday that the honor is a "cool feeling."

"You know, everybody always made that joke, like, 'Mike, this is the one thing you're probably not going to get,'" he said. "But it's a good club to be a part of."

Other recent winners include John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Chris Hemsworth, Idris Elba, Adam Levine, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

The 33-year-old Jordan said the women in his family are "definitely proud of this one." He credits his entire family for supporting him throughout the years.

"When my grandmother was alive, it was something that she collected, and then my mom naturally reads it a lot and my aunts as well," Jordan said. "This is one that they're definitely going to have a special place for."

Jordan's steady rise has come through strong performances on television on series "The Wire" and "Friday Night Lights." He made his mark in film as police shooting victim Oscar Grant in "Fruitvale Station," boxer Adonis Creed in the "Rocky" sequels "Creed" and "Creed II" along with his stellar work as Erik Killmonger in the record-breaking "Black Panther."

Along with his acting endeavors, Jordan has championed change behind the scenes in Hollywood. He started his own

production company, Outlier Society Productions, which was among the first to embrace the inclusion rider, adopting the pledge to seek diverse casts and crews.

Jordan has been active in the Black Lives Matter movement and vocal about early voting registration for this year's election.

"I think there's a time and a place for everything," he told People. "I've been picking my moments to make the most impact. We can all take action - big or small - to help create the change we want to see."

In 10 years, Jordan hopes to direct and produce more than taking on acting roles.

"Just growing, whatever the next evolution of me is," said the actor, who will star as a former Navy SEAL-turned-CIA operative in Tom Clancy's "Without Remorse." "Hopefully a family by then, I'm going to throw that in the universe. I want to make an impact all over the world and not just through the roles that I play."

AP



SPORTS

Zulfa Macho in pursuit of success in professional boxing

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's up-and-coming female professional Super Flyweight boxer, Zulfa Macho, has stated that her victory in an international, non-title bout against Zambia's Alice Mbeve, held in Dar es Salaam last weekend, has boosted women's interest in boxing.

Zulfa overcame Alice won by unanimous decision, with the bout's three judges, John Chagu, Ibrahim Kamwe and Anthony Rutta, scoring 59-56, 58-56 and 59-55 respectively in favour of the Tanzanian boxer.

She showcased great potential in the bout, which was organized by Jackson Group Sport under Managing Director Kelvin Twissa.

A delighted Zulfa, speaking after the fight, stated she is planning to continue to perform well in the coming bouts.

She went on to note she is thankful that she was able to fulfill her dreams, despite participating in her first international fight.

She pointed out that her opponent, Alice, was very good due to the experience the Zambian boxer has in the sport.

Zulfa, born by former Simba SC, Yanga and senior national soccer team's midfielder Yusuph Macho, has joined the professional boxing this year.

The promising boxer, who is also an army officer, had been taking part in amateur boxing, featuring for Tanzania People's Defense Forces (TPDF) squad in various tournaments.

Alice, in an interview after the bout, disclosed she accepted the results and promised to seek for a re-match with Zulfa in the future.

The fight was one of the undercards for the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Super Welterweight and International Boxing Association (IBA) Super Welterweight titles' fight between Tanzania's Hassan Mwakinyo and Argentina's Jose Carlos Paz.

Mwakinyo, who was defending the WBF Super Welterweight belt, won by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the fourth round of the scheduled 12-round bout to defend his belt.

The boxer recently scaled to the top spot in the division's ranking in the country, as per recent statistics released by Boxrec, a network which keeps records for professional boxers



Tanzania's professional boxer, Zulfa Macho (R), connects a jab on Zambian Alice Mbeve when the boxers clashed in an international, non-title Super Flyweight fight, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. Zulfa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

from all over the world.

He is the top ranked boxer in the division at the local level, with the division consisting of 24 boxers.

The boxer had previously held the 86th spot in the list of 2012 professional boxers in the division at the international level.

Mwakinyo has featured in a total of 19 bouts, winning 17 and losing two.

He has recorded 11 knockouts in the 17 wins and has had one knockout loss in two defeats.

The boxer had previously held the 86th spot in the Super Welterweight division rating in the world.

Mwakinyo has moreover entered the top 50 in the best pound for pound rating list for African boxers.

The rating has DR Congo boxer, Junior Makabu, and Ghana's Richard Commy, both fighting in the Cruiserweight division, placed first and second respectively.

South African Lightweight boxer Kevin Lerena concludes the top three in the rating.

Mwakinyo has risen to become the number one boxer in pound for pound rating in Tanzania while compatriot

Ibrahim Mgendersa 'Class', fighting in Super Featherweight division, has dropped to the second spot.

Tanzanian Super Middleweight boxer Abdallah Pazi wraps up the top three in the rating in the country.

Mexican Saul Alvarez, fighting in Middleweight division, is number one boxer in the best pound for pound rating in the world, British Heavyweight boxer, Tyson Fury, has been placed second.

American Welterweight boxer Errol Spence Jr wraps up the top three in the rating.

Other prominent professional boxers, Manny Pacquiao (eighth) and Anthony Joshua (seventh) have as well entered the top 10 list of the best pound for pound boxers in the world.

In the best pound for pound rating in Tanzania, Twaha Kassim 'Kiduku', Tony Rashid, Fadhil Majiha, Salim Mtango, Hamis Maya, Muhsin Kizota and Iddi Pialari have been placed in the rating's top 10 list.

Twaha praises Mwakinyo for excelling in WBF Super Welterweight title fight

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's professional Super Middleweight boxing sensation, Twaha Kassim, has expressed his appreciation for compatriot Hassan Mwakinyo's virtuosity in the sport, calling the latter one of best boxers in the country.

Mwakinyo defended his World Boxing Federation (WBF) Intercontinental Super Welterweight title after beating Argentina's Jose Carlos Paz by Technical Knockout (TKO) in a fight which took place at NextDoor Arena in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The Tanga-based boxer stopped Paz by the TKO in the fourth round of the scheduled 12-round fight.

Morogoro-based Kassim, nicknamed 'Kiduku', has though, warned Mwakinyo that he should not be carried away by the success he currently has.

He stated: "It was a fight that Mwakinyo fought very well, from the first to the fourth round when he won."

"I was in the hall and witnessed the fight, and I went to congratulate him on the way he fought."

"I wanted to give him this advice, but the environment was not friendly there, I just insisted that my younger brother and fellow boxer should continue to work hard and do better than he does now."

Kassim added: "I believe Mwakinyo has been putting much focus on training, I would like to tell him to keep pushing so he can do better and promote Tanzania's 'boxing' internationally."

"He should do it exactly in the manner that his predecessors and other boxers, who are still active, including me, are doing."



Tanzania's female boxing referee, Pendo Njau (R), declares the country's boxer, Twaha Kiduku, as a winner of an international, non-title Super Middleweight bout against Thailand's Sirimongkon lamthuan, which took place at PTA Hall in Dar es Salaam recently. The Morogoro-based Kassim won by Technical Knockout (TKO) in the seventh round of the scheduled 10-round bout. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Speaking on a plan to take on Mwakinyo in future, Kassim disclosed that the plan still exists and it is only being delayed by Mwakinyo.

"I wish he would agree to fight me, but I believe there is a day when it will just happen and a fight between me and him will take place," he insisted.

Mali and Tunisia qualify for Africa Cup of Nations

JOHANNESBURG

MALI and Tunisia qualified for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations finals on Tuesday to follow in the footsteps of title holders Algeria, Senegal and hosts Cameroon.

Another 19 places will be up for grabs during the final two match-days between March 22 and 30 with record seven-time champions Egypt among those close to securing places.

Sekou Koita and Moussa Doumbia scored in Mali's 2-1 win over Namibia in Windhoek, which clinched an eighth consecutive appearance at the African football showcase.

Tunisia will be going to the finals for a record-extending 15th consecutive time after drawing 1-1 with Tanzania in Dar es Salaam, where Saïfeddine Khaoui gave them an early lead.

Neither Group A frontrunners Mali nor Group J pacesetters Tunisia are assured of winning their four-nation groups, but both are certain of top-two finishes and qualification.

Senegal clinched a place Sunday, Algeria did likewise Monday and Cameroon fill the slot automatically reserved for the host nation.

Aston Villa forward Mahmoud Trezeguet scored the final goal as Egypt romped to a 3-0 Group G win over Togo in Lome, with Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy and Mohamed Sherif also on the scoresheet.

Chelsea's Hakim Ziyech scored the first goal and created the second as Group E leaders Morocco won 2-0 against the Central African Republic, who had to stage the match in Cameroon because of security concerns.

After the dramatic four-goal comeback by Sierra Leone to force a 4-4 Group L draw in Nigeria last week, the reverse fixture provided little drama and ended 0-0 in Free-

town.

- Surprise Sudan victory -

A stoppage-time goal from Mohamed Abdelrahman gave Sudan a surprise 1-0 victory over Group C leaders Ghana, who were captained for the first time by Jordan Ayew, the Crystal Palace forward.

Injuries ruled out midfielders Andre Ayew and Thomas Partey, the first and second-choice skippers, and the next in line, goalkeeper Richard Ofori, was suspended.

Madagascar and the Ivory Coast remain joint Group K leaders after drawing 1-1 in Toamasina with a brilliant goal from Ibrahima Amada cancelling out a Franck Kessie penalty.

Ethiopia are just one point behind thanks to a 3-0 hammering of Niger in Addis Ababa with Amanuel Gebremichael, Mesud Mohammed and Getaneh Kebede the scorers.

The Democratic Republic of Congo narrowed the gap behind Group D front-runners Gambia and Gabon to a single point by defeating Angola 1-0 in Luanda.

Neeskens Kabano netted midway through the second half for the Congolese, who were crowned African champions in 1968 and 1974, but have not finished higher than third since.

Rwanda drew 0-0 with Cape Verde in Kigali to hold the unwanted record of being the only one of the 48 nations involved in qualifying not to have scored after four matchdays.

But there was some satisfaction at collecting a second point in Group F as they had to play 61 minutes with 10 men after Ally Niyonzima was sent off.

Benin remained one point behind Nigeria, and on course for a second straight Cup of Nations appearance, by drawing 0-0 with Lesotho in Maseru.

AFP

Germany's 'dark, dark day' like Brazil at 2014 World Cup

BERLIN

GERMANY FA chief Oliver Bierhoff compared the way his country lost 6-0 to Spain in the Nations League on Tuesday to the 7-1 drubbing Die Mannschaft laid on Brazil at the 2014 World Cup.

Germany's only five-goal loss in a competitive game had been West Germany's 8-3 defeat to Hungary at the 1954 World Cup group stage. West Germany went on to beat Hungary in the final.

Despite Germany's worst-ever defeat in a competitive match and largest since a 6-0 loss to Austria in a friendly in 1931, Bierhoff backed under-fire manager Joachim Low.

"In 2014, Brazil fell apart on the pitch and it happened to us today. I hope it's a singular event," Bierhoff said. "[Low] still has our trust, and the game today changes nothing."

The general manager's backing will be much needed for Low, who queried in his post-match news conference: "Do I need to worry about my job? That's for others to answer."

Germany have been on a decline ever since winning the 2014 World Cup in Brazil where they inflicted a historic defeat on the hosts in the semifinals.

However, despite crashing out in the group stage at the 2018 World Cup and winning only three of their last eight internationals, they went into Tuesday's decisive game top of League A4 after beating Ukraine 3-1 and a knowing draw would have booked their place in the final four.

Three goals conceded in both halves by Germany papered over the fact that they could have suffered an even higher margin of defeat if Spain hadn't been wasteful in front of the goal with other clear-cut chances.

Speaking on ARD TV, a bewildered Low said that "nothing worked out." He explained the Germany team lacked "body language and body tension" and failed to gain control of the match or their opponents.

"We wanted to be courageous," he said. "But nothing worked out.



We threw away our concept after the 1-0. We stormed out of position, opened spaces. There was no organisation. There was no communication.

"Every aspect was bad today. There was nothing positive. It was a dark, dark day."

Germany were without injured Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich and RB Leipzig full-back Lukas Klostermann as well as Chelsea's Kai Havertz, who tested positive for the coronavirus. They, however, fielded plenty of their other star players.

Following the defeat voices in Germany demanding the return of Bayern stars Jerome Boateng and Thomas Muller plus Dortmund defender Mats Hummels will only grow louder. In March 2019, the trio was told by Low their time with the national team had ended.

And when confronted with the question of a possible comeback, Low wriggled for an answer and said the players he has selected deserved his trust.

The victory ended a three-match winless streak for Spain, which hasn't gone four games without a win since the late 1980s. Last year, Spain failed to advance to the Final Four after conceding late in a match against Croatia.

Midfielder Serge Gnabry, who struck the crossbar late on, said: "Nothing worked for us tonight. We couldn't control them, they deserved to beat us as they did."

"Spain did everything well and we did nothing right. We don't know what level we're at right now. It's not normal to lose a match by so many goals."

(Agencies)

Punishing English Premier League schedule creating injury issues that will get worse



Top clubs are struggling to manage an uptick in muscle injuries so far this season. (Agencies)

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THE 2020-21 Premier League season is just over two months old. For those players expecting to play for their countries at the delayed Euro 2020 or Copa America next summer, there are another eight months of football across multiple competitions to get through before "the end" in mid-July.

In June, ESPN spoke to sports scientist Dr. Tom Little about the challenges that faced the top players this season. He warned of an "incredibly difficult" year ahead, both mentally and physically, due to the increased workload caused by a fixture list truncated by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Dr. Little's forecast has proved worryingly correct, and he can only see more problems ahead.

"It's a difficult time, but what do you do?" said Dr. Little, who has worked with Manchester City and Burnley. "Do you not have the European Championship at the end of this season? Nobody wants that, so it is going to be the same all season long. And every player that goes into the Euros is going to have a pretty risky profile in terms of fitness and fatigue."

According to premierinjuries.com, there have been 103 muscle injuries in the Premier League this season -- a 16% jump after the same number of matchdays last season -- and the campaign has still to reach its traditional pinch-point of mid-winter, when games and injuries increase in tandem during December and January.

Liverpool have more injuries than any other top-flight team, with Jurgen Klopp's squad missing eight senior players after eight Premier League games; Leicester and Manchester United have seven apiece; Arsenal and Man City have five first-team players missing due to injury, although Chelsea (3) and Tottenham (4) have so far been relatively unscathed during a busy start to the season.

As a direct consequence of an English season curtailed by the pandemic, the workload has become incessant, with every weekend and midweek until mid-January taken up by fixtures. As a result, sports science and staff tasked with keeping players fit have become increasingly important. Little, now head of performance at EFL Championship side Preston North End, has told ESPN that this season, the role has become as challenging as it's ever been.

"It's hard," Little said. "Injuries are up 16% in the Premier League compared to this stage last season. It's not at the extent of injuries we saw in the NFL after their lockout season in 2011, when there was a significant spike in Achilles tendon injuries, but there is no doubt that 16% is significant, and it's why people are reacting and looking for solutions."

One measure that could have helped ease the injury and fatigue issues in the Premier League was the continuation of five substitutes being allowed per game. This was permitted during Project Restart, but when Premier League clubs voted on its implementation for this season, it was rejected, despite being sanctioned by UEFA's club competition and most major leagues in Europe, including the German Bundesliga, Italian Serie A and Spanish Primera Division.

The view within the English game was that allowing five subs would benefit the bigger clubs with stronger squads and leave the smaller teams at a disadvantage.

"The five substitutes is the big one," Little said. "I was beyond flabbergasted when clubs voted against that, but I was thinking from an entirely

selfish sports science perspective in that I want to protect players. But those who voted, the club's CEOs, have other considerations such as protecting their own teams and also, from a financial perspective, the more players involved on a match-day means more payments and bonuses to be paid, so it's not just about what is best for the players. But something will have to be done, because we are heading into an unprecedented number of games until mid-January."

More games means less time to train and build endurance, but a crucial factor, according to Little, is the extra demand placed on the body by playing in a competitive fixture as opposed to training.

"The main issue, without a doubt, is the congestion of fixtures," he said. "It's not just the physical load: if you play Saturday, Tuesday, Saturday, you are having slightly more load than you would in a normal training week."

"But it's not the amount of load, it is the type of load. It is intensity of speed and movement, and that more than doubles during a three-game week, in terms of sprint distance, high accelerations and decelerations -- high impact twisting and turning. They are the things that really go up in terms of loading when playing a game. These factors are having a big effect on the body in terms of games because there is no respite."

As an example, those teams involved in the Champions League and Europa League must play three European fixtures between Nov. 24 and Dec. 10. Arsenal, Man City, United and Tottenham also have to play in the Carabao Cup quarterfinals on Dec 22-23, with the FA Cup third round -- and a potential Carabao Cup semifinal -- to add into the mix in early January.

Between Nov. 21 and Jan. 16, Arsenal, City, United and Spurs will play at least 15 games, adding another if they reach the Carabao Cup semifinals. Sixteen games in 57 days works out at a game every 3.5 days -- a punishing schedule.

"Teams are playing two to three games a week now, right up until mid-January," Little said. "The top players have international duty on top of that

-- England, for instance, are now in the middle of their third three-game international break since September. So the top players have the high load of games, then the travelling and extra fatigue, lack of sleep that comes with it."

The first spare midweek in mid-January sees the 10 Premier League games split across two midweeks. However, the heavy load of games then resumes, with seven Premier League matchdays and two rounds of the FA Cup to be played in the month before the Champions League returns on Feb. 16; last season, there were four Premier League fixtures and only one FA Cup round. The two-week winter break that all clubs received in 2019-20 also had to be scrapped.

Man City and Man United also still have to fit in an extra game, playing Aston Villa and Burnley respectively. They were allowed to start the season a week late due to playing in the Champions League and Europa League in August, but that has purely kicked the can down the road. Both clubs will now have to play either in the blank January midweek or on one of the two spare dates during the UCL round of 16 in February and March.

While preseason preparations are regarded as generating a crucial bedrock of fitness for the season ahead, Little believes that even with a full preseason this year, the injury count would only be around 10% less because the fixture pile-up is the prime cause of the problem.

"In preseason, you're not just working for match fitness. You're also putting in the building blocks to make you more robust. You work on basic endurance and strength, but you are gradually progressing to try and be as match specific as possible. It takes time, but all everyone did this year was go straight into getting players as match-fit as possible because you were straight into games."

"Fitness is basically a product of how fit you are and how fatigued you are," he said. "So these guys are just steadily increasing their fatigue. Their performance levels are decreasing, as is their robustness, over time."

The good news, however slight, is that there are areas in which players can

boost their fitness levels and diminish the fatigue factor. Players are now allowed to receive massages from staff wearing PPE, but cryotherapy continues to be prohibited due to COVID-19 protocols.

For Little, the benefits of rest and nutrition cannot be overstated.

"The big things that can help mitigate fatigue are optimum nutrition and sleep," he said. "If those factors aren't right, all of the other potential percentage gains don't really come into play."

"In terms of sleep, it is very specific to each individual, but generally, you would be wanting players to get between seven and nine hours a night, and preferably the higher end of that. At the younger end, late-teens and early-20s, it can go up to 10 hours. But with away match travel, late-night games, things like that interfere, and it's not easy for players to get the full amount of rest that they need. To help with that, some clubs are starting training at different times, especially after night games."

It is at times like these when players simply have to tick every box in terms of rest and nutrition. If you do listen to the experts, rest up and eat well, they will give themselves the best chance of staying fit, healthy and available.

"With nutrition, it is the same basics: increase carbohydrates before the games and then carbs and proteins after the games," Little added. "One big thing we are concentrating on is foods that are anti-inflammatory in the diet -- whole foods that are rich in vegetables, fruits, salads, nuts and seeds, spices, green teas. We have pushed that a little bit more to help deal with the extra rigours the guys are going through."

"Supplements are important, too. Turmeric is getting a lot of traction right now because it helps with inflammation -- omega-3 fats are another good anti-inflammatory. Glucosamine can also help if your joints are falling apart."

Despite all the help and support provided by sports science, however, fixture congestion is the problem that won't go away this season, and any player involved in an international tournament next summer will arrive there after taking part in a football marathon.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

TO BE A WIFE MATERIAL
THEY SAID I SHOULD LEARN
HOW TO 'IRON'. SO I DID



ATTA GIRL!

SPORT

Punishing EPL schedule creating injury issues that will get worse

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Children with special needs take part in volleyball training at Msimbazi Center in Dar es Salaam recently.

People with intellectual disabilities ought to be involved in sports-call

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Special Olympics (SOT) Committee has said there is a need for people with intellectual disabilities to be given the opportunity to take part in sporting activities.

Charles Rays, SOT Executive Director, issued the comments at the closing of a two-day course for primary schools' teachers, educational officers for children with special needs and sports officers in Mwanza on Tuesday.

The two-day course was attended by 76 participants and was held at St. Nicholas Anglican Church's hall in Nyamagana District.

The course geared towards equipping the participants with knowledge on promotion of sports among children with intellectual disabilities ahead of the National Special Olympics Tournament which will be held in the region in June next year.

The championship is expected to be attended by more than 400 Special Olympics athletes and 70 coaches.

It will also be used to select athletes who will represent the country at the second Pan African Games slated for Rwanda in 2022.

The 2022 Pan African Games will be used as qualifiers for the 2023 World Summer Games, which will be hosted by Germany.

Rays stated the course is sponsored by Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) which is geared to see to it that all children with intellectual challenges are taking part in sports.

"We want to see children with intellectual problems take part in sporting activities as sports lead to a more welcoming and inclusive society," Rays noted.

"We thank Stavros Niarchos Foundation for supporting us, we are of the view that the seminar will help participants have more understanding of Special Olympics and sports."

"At the seminar we had 40 teachers and 26 special needs educational officers from Nyamagana, Ilemela, Misungwi, Sengerema districts and Mwanza Municipal," he said.

Rays said after the Mwanza seminar, with funding from SNF, the SOT plans to reach 85 schools in Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mtwara.

Participants described the seminar as an eye opener. Zacharia Leonard, who heads the special needs education desk at Semi Primary School, and Lilian John from Nyamalango Primary School, said they have learnt a lot at the two-day seminar.

Leonard stated: "Through this seminar, I have learnt how to handle and motivate children with intellectual challenges to enjoy sports."

Lilian noted: "I thank the organizers and sponsors as now I know how to combine normal children and children with intellectual disabilities in one sporting activity."

The SOT last hosted the National Special Olympics Championship in Zanzibar in December, 2017.

Hosts Zanzibar emerged as the champions and 15 athletes were selected to compete at last year's Summer World Games, which took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Tanzania has been doing well in Special Olympics Games. In this year's maiden Pan African Special Olympics Games played in Egypt, Tanzania collected 11 medals.

The 11 medals were won by Khalfan Jihad, who won two gold and one bronze, Hidayat Vuai won one gold, one silver and one bronze.

Neverson Minja and Elizabeth Kiska won one gold and one silver medal apiece, Salama Kheri won one gold medal.

The Egypt Games were attended by over 1000 athletes who competed in athletics, basketball, bocce and football.

Tanzania fielded five players in 200m, 400m races and 4x100m relay race and won six gold medals, three silver medals and two bronze medals.

Babar Azam, bowlers lead Karachi to maiden PSL title

KARACHI

IF Karachi Kings' owner Salman Iqbal were a scriptwriter, it's unlikely he'd have had the imagination to plot out a Karachi Kings triumph in quite as deliciously satisfying a manner as this. Not only did Karachi Kings romp to their first PSL title at the fifth time of asking, they did so at home, and against arch-rivals Lahore Qalandars.

What's more, it was a boy from Lahore in Babar Azam who proved central to their victory, his sixth consecutive half-century ensuring there would be no jitters on the way to a below-par target. The title was sealed with eight balls and five wickets to spare, with Azam finally ensuring he'd stick around until his captain Imad Wasim knocked off the winning runs.

Lahore Qalandars won the toss, and to the surprise of many, opted to bat first. It was the first time a side opted to do so in this year's playoffs, and, with three of the first four finals won by chasing sides, appeared to fly in the face of history. Moreover, this was a used pitch, and it was evident from the outset that the Qalandars were unsure how it might play. Fakhar Zaman and Tamim Iqbal struggled to keep the runs ticking over, with the dot balls racking up as the pressure mounted.

A 68-run opening partnership might appear ostensibly handy, but it isn't when it takes half the innings to bring it up. Wasim was excellent in the way he kept mixing up his bowlers, who backed him up with their discipline and intensity. As Iqbal and Zaman both holed out off Umaid Asif - brought in to replace Wayne Parnell, leaving Karachi with only three overseas players in their side - in a pivotal 11th over, Lahore began to panic, and subsequently disintegrated. Seven wickets fell for 50 runs as Lahore once more began to resemble the side that finished bottom of the table four years in a row, while Karachi applied the pressure.

To defend 135 - something they had never done before - Lahore needed the wicket of Azam, and the Pakistan skipper was in no mood to comply. Batting with the assuredness of someone who has almost forgotten what it's like not to score a half-century, he set the tone with a couple of boundaries off Shaheen Shah Afridi in the first over, and ticked the runs off efficiently thereafter. Lahore thought they were in the game when Alex Hales fell cheaply and Haris Rauf took two in two, but Azam ensured all that excitement would prove ephemeral.

Team effort with the ball

This was billed as a contest between Lahore's batsmen and Karachi's fast bowlers, and Lahore skipper Sohail Akhtar raised the stakes when he decided we'd get that duel to start off. When Zaman walloped Mohammad Amir for a couple of early boundaries, it appeared Lahore's batsmen were edging the contest, but a superbly disciplined bowling performance bogged Lahore down for the first half of the innings, before blowing them away in the second. Amir might have been expensive, but the lesser-fancied Waqas Maqsood, Arshad Iqbal and Umaid Asif more than made up for it, each chipping in with two wickets while conceding just 62 runs between them across 12 overs. None of Lahore's big hitters were allowed freebies, and under intense, relentless scrutiny from a trio that very much hunted as a pack, Lahore would find themselves ripped apart.

AGENCIES



Taifa Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije.

Taifa Stars' coach Ndayiragije bemoans lack of enough time for AFCON Qualifiers' preparations

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S senior national football team "Taifa Stars" head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, has said lack of enough time to prepare for the back-to-back games against Tunisia in Group J of the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Qualifiers has slimmed his team's chances of qualifying for the continental showpiece, which will take place in Cameroon in 2022.

Taifa Stars played a 1-1 draw against Tunisia in the return leg of the qualifiers which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

The results have slimmed Tanzania's chance of qualifying for AFCON finals twice in a row.

Taifa Stars suffered 1-0 loss to Tunisia in the first leg, which took place in Tunis on November 13.

Ndayiragije said his team did not have enough time to prepare for the back-to-back games against the North African giants.

In a monitored interview, the coach said Taifa Stars needed a win to keep alive their dreams of qualifying for the continental football fiesta to take place in Cameroon.

"We did not have enough time

to prepare for the two games, we trained here at home for a day and then in Turkey for three days," he disclosed.

"In all the training I did not have a full squad as some players were on assignments with their respective clubs," he noted.

Taifa Stars still have mathematical chances of making it to the 2022 Cameroon AFCON finals following Equatorial Guinea's back-to-back victories over Libya.

Tunisia top Group J with 10 points, followed by Equatorial Guinea with six points while Taifa Stars are placed third with four points, Libya anchor the group with three points.

Ndayiragije noted for the country to realize its dreams of qualifying for the 2022 Cameroon AFCON finals, Taifa Stars must win their remaining two games against Equatorial Guinea and Libya.

The Tanzania team will face Equatorial Guinea in Malabo in March next year and the former will later host Libya in Dar es Salaam.

Taifa Stars should as well pray that Equatorial Guinea lose to Tunisia in Tunis.

Ndayiragije said Taifa Stars still have chances of qualifying to the

2022 Cameroon AFCON finals, saying what is needed is to prepare well for the two games.

"If we prepare well, we can make it, we have two games, one at home and the other away, if we win them all we can qualify for the 2022 Cameroon AFCON finals," the coach disclosed.

The gaffer also defended the players he featured during the Tuesday game especially forward, Adam Adam, who was not at his best.

He said he handed Adam the chance so that he can gain experience of playing international games.

During the Tuesday game, the North African giants settled down quickly and controlled the affairs for the better part of the first 20 minutes.

It was no wonder they scored the opener on the 11 minute through Saif Eddine Khaoui who connected a pass from Youssef Msakni.

In the build up to Tunisia goal, Msakni, who was at his best during the game, hit the post early on and then carved Taifa Stars open with a fine pass to set up Khaoui to open the scoring.

By half time, Taifa Stars were down by 1-0 and Ndayiragije

made some changes in which he brought in midfielder Feisal Salum for Himid Mao.

The coming in of Salum injected fresh zeal into the game as 'Taifa Stars' attacking machinery and creativity on the midfield improved.

This paid off on the 47th minute of the game as Salum equalized from an assist by forward, John Bocco.

Winger Ditram Nchimbi picked Bocco with a cross, the forward chested the ball to Salum, who beat Tunisia's goalkeeper with a fierce shot.

Taifa Stars pressed for another goal and they went close on the 53rd minute of the game, as Nchimbi's header went wide.

Tunisia regained control of the game for the better part of the second half, with the team's key performers, Youssef Msakni, Wahbi Khazri and Ali Maaloul, making life difficult for Taifa Stars' keeper, Aishi Manula, and defenders, Erasto Nyoni, Bakari Mwamnyeto and Shomari Kapombe.

However, in the last minute of the game, Taifa Stars missed the scoring opportunity through Nchimbi's flicked header which came off Tunisia's post and went outside.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msozi Kilaani (r)
13:30 Kaji Za Wana
14:00 Ujuzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 S5LEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibishara Zaidi

DADAZ. A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrica RADIO

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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM