



National Pg 4 'Govt will ensure Z'bar elections peaceful, fair'



National Pg 6 Improving banana agronomy practices



National Pg 7 PAPU creates hundreds of jobs



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Tabora regional commissioner Aggrey Mwanri addresses small traders in Igalula ward, Uyui District, at the weekend on the importance of their having the special entrepreneurs' identity cards issued on President John Magufuli's instructions and meant to enable them to conduct their businesses legally and peacefully. Photo: Correspondent Tiganya Vincent

JPM: Discipline, selflessness are essential for all state appointees

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday warned his appointees with ambitions to vie for various posts in the coming General Election to remain in their positions and deliver as expected or risk losing both.

In remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the swearing-in of a number of officials he appointed at the weekend, the president discouraged government officials he has appointed to various positions from vying for other posts when still working for the public.

"You should learn to be satisfied with one position. Most youthful officials are not satisfied with their posts, forgetting that they still have a long way to go and possibly secure more leadership chances in the future," he stated, adding: "I trust everyone but I dislike the tendency by some people of always struggling to have it all."

The president cited the example of the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, who came fourth in the CCM primaries in 2015 but he was later chosen to be the party's flag bearer for the Songea Urban constituency Member of Parliament by-election.

"I will be surprised if the Inspector General

of Police (Simon Sirro) has the desire to vie for Bunda parliamentary constituency and expect me to appoint him as a minister," he told a visibly amused audience.

He said that continued misunderstandings between former Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo and district commissioner Gabriel Daqaaro were among reasons that led to their recent sacking.

The misunderstandings were adversely affecting the implementation of development projects in the city (Arusha), including the delayed construction of the main bus terminal, he pointed out.

He also faulted the former RC for giving too many promises to the public which he never fulfilled, thus fomenting dissatisfaction.

"I have warned them frequently, but they appeared reluctant to change. When appointed to work in the government you should work for the public and not otherwise. This was my last warning to them," the president stated.

On Saturday last week, the president sacked Gambo, Daqaaro and Arusha city director Maulid Madeni, appointing Idd Kimanta as the new Arusha RC.

He also named Kenan Kihongosi as the new Arusha district commissioner, as former Arusha

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'Politicising Covid-19 situation won't help'

DUBAI

WORLD leaders must not politicize the coronavirus pandemic but unite to fight it, the head of the World Health Organization warned yesterday, reminding all that the pandemic is still accelerating and producing record daily increases in infections.

The comments by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who has faced criticism from US President Donald Trump (pictured), comes as the number of reported infections soared in Brazil, Iraq, India as well as southern and western US states, straining local hospitals.

In New York City, once the epicenter of the US outbreak, Monday was a key day for lifting many coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

It took over three months for the world

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Yet more aspiring for Zanzibar's presidency

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE number of ruling CCM cadres aspiring for the Zanzibar presidential candidacy has reached 23, after seven more members yesterday landed at the party's Isles headquarters to collect nomination forms.

In different times, they were handed over the papers by the Isles CCM organization secretary, Galos Nyimbo.

Addressing journalists soon after picking the forms, former minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Rashid Ali Juma commended the party for maintaining

democracy in the process.

Juma arrived at the CCM head offices at around eight in the morning, and nearly an hour the Permanent Secretary for Finance and Planning, Khamis Mussa Omary arrived to pick the forms. He promised to bring development in Zanzibar if he passes the nomination and is elected.

Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri, the boss of the permanent secretary and current minister later arrived at the CMM head offices to pick the nomination forms.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Mjawiri

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NBS: Current inflation tracking tools outdated

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is working on measures to change the methodology of the national consumer price index (NCPI) to conform to global trends.

The NCPI measures the change over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania.

Opening a stakeholders meeting, NBS Director General Dr Albina Chuwa said currently a basket includes a list of 278 goods and services of which 97 are food and non-alcoholic beverages and 181 are non-food items being priced on a monthly basis.

NCPI weights are based on monetary expenditure relating to consumption for all households in 25 regions of the Mainland, she said.

The index weights are based on expenditure of urban and rural households derived from the 2011/12 Household Budget Survey while the price reference period is 2015, the director noted.

The new methodology will be adopted before the end of the year, where more items will be added to the basket, with the move being prompted by changing economic trends, she stated.

"It is time to consider new emerging issues in the consumer price index (CPI) as we still use the

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SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



0310464 03/16/2020

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough

- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19



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JPM: Discipline, selflessness are essential for all state appointees

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District council director Dr John Pima was appointed new Arusha city director.

In another appointment, Dr Magufuli appointed Jerry Mwaga as the new Kaliua District council director, Bakari Msulwa as Morogoro Urban district commissioner and Edward Balele as Monduli district commissioner.

The president revealed that the

Arusha Regional Police Commander and Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) regional chief narrowly survived the sack, instructing IGP Sirro and PCCB Director General John Mbungu to warn them.

"They were to be sacked. I have forgiven them, but not permanently. They will continue being monitored," he said, adding that they should only do what they have been assigned to do.

Government wants more business people to invest in the tourism industry

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

CHIEF Secretary Dr John Kijazi has directed regional commissioners from the Lake zone to launch tourism promotion campaigns calling on businesspersons and people from surrounding regions to invest in tourism so that the sector also grows in the area. "This is among the sectors that we believe will bring in more revenues," he said.

Dr Kijazi made the directive in Chato, Geita region during the launching of the Rubondo Island National Park ferry.

Kijazi said RCs, Members of Parliament and district commissioners from the zone should encourage business people to invest in the sector which will include construction of hotels.

The CS said the new ferry will reduce transport woes to the island saying it will also help in improving the country's economy.

He said the ferry which has been constructed by local experts under Songoro marine at a cost of 2.3bn/- has the capacity to carry six vehicles with 50 passengers.

Speaking on the new ferry the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Costantine Kanyasu said

the launching of the ferry will facilitate the growth of the tourism sector in the region as well as the nation as a whole.

The Regional Commissioner for Kagera Maj Gen (rt) Marco Gaguti hailed President John Magufuli for providing the ferry as well as establishing the national parks in Chato, saying the two parks ought to be protected at all costs.

For his part, the Regional Commissioner for Mwanza John Mongella said the RCs in the zone will implement the directives by the Chief Secretary.

Rubondo Island National Park is one of two Tanzanian national parks located on an island in Lake Victoria (the other being Saanane Island National Park).

The island attracts a small number of visitors each year, mainly game fishermen and bird enthusiasts.

Tanzania has a total of 22 national parks has set aside 32.5 percent of its land for conservation activities. The country has a total of 23 zoos, 20 zoological gardens and six ranches.

The tourism sector in Tanzania currently contributes 17% to the country's overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is responsible for employing more than 400,000 people.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi (holding microphone) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday presenting to Vuga Mkadini Primary School representative Khadija Hamad Khamis chairs and tables bought by the government for use by the school. Photo: ZSVO

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENTIAL aspirants through the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) will be officially named on August 2, it was announced yesterday.

Speaking when he addressed journalists at a press conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the party's secretary general Ado Shaibu said the party has already opened doors for aspirants to collect forms from July 1 to July 13, this year.

"Our party's central committee sat on its ordinary meeting in Dar es Salaam under its chairman Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad in which among other things it

ACT-Wazalendo to officially name presidential candidates in August

discussed the report by the secretariat on the general elections preparations," he said.

He said the secretariat had already started the process for collection of forms where on July 11 the central committee will meet and on August 1 for the purpose of nominating presidential aspirants from both parts of the union.

Shaibu said among other things, the secretariat permitted the party to form

alliances with other opposition parties as well as guard their votes at all costs.

"The central committee has assured party members that this year's general election will be a do or die therefore the party will guard its victory at all costs.

He added the party's leadership has also insisted that it will continue with the war against corruption during the whole election process.

"ACT-Wazalendo will not tolerate any member who will be involved

in corruption especially during this period, there is a department within the party that is following up on the matter, so anyone who will be found engaging in the malpractices will be dealt with accordingly," he said.

He said the party's central committee also directed election administrators within the party at all levels to ensure the nomination of aspirants follows the law and order as indicated in the party's constitution.



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (L), who is also legislator for Zanzibar's Kikwajuni constituency, shows handbag containing forms for him to complete as an aspirant for nomination by CCM as the party's candidate for the Zanzibar presidency in later this year's elections. The forms were presented to him at the CCM offices at Kisiwandui in Zanzibar yesterday. He is with his wife, Thania Abdulla. Photo: Abubakari Akida

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to see one million virus infections, but the last one million cases have come in just eight days, Dr Tedros said at a videoconference for the Dubai-based World Government Summit.

The WHO chief never mentioned the US president or the fact that he is determined to pull the United States out of the UN health agency but warned against "politicizing" the pandemic.

"The greatest threat we face now is not the virus itself. It's the lack of global solidarity and global leadership," he declared. "We cannot defeat this pandemic with a divided world."

Trump has criticized the WHO for its early response to the outbreak and what he considers its excessive praise of China, where the outbreak began, as his administration's response in the US

'Politicising Covid-19 situation won't help'

has come under scrutiny. In response, Trump has threatened to end all US funding for the UN agency.

Nearly nine million people have been infected by the virus worldwide with more than 468,000 fatalities, on the basis of data compiled by the Johns Hopkins University. Observers say the actual numbers are much higher, due to limited testing and asymptomatic cases.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that, indeed, the world was not prepared," Dr Tedros said. "Globally, the pandemic is still accelerating."

Companies around the world are racing to find a vaccine to counter Covid-19 and there is a fierce debate

about how to make sure that vaccine is distributed fairly.

Speaking later in the conference, the agency's special envoy on Covid-19, Dr David Nabarro, said he believed it would be "two or two and a half years until there is a vaccine for everybody in the world."

"Even if there's a candidate by the end of the year, the safety and efficacy tests will take some time," the British physician said.

"And then the effort has to be put into producing large amounts of vaccine so everyone in the world can get it and then organizing the vaccination programs." He added: "I would love it to be proved wrong."

The UNAIDS agency, meanwhile,

warned that the pandemic could jeopardize the supply of AIDS drugs in developing countries and lead to deadly shortages. Lockdowns and border closures adopted to stop the spread of COVID-19 were affecting both the production and distribution of the medicines, which could result in higher costs and shortages in the next two months, it affirmed.

As of June 2019, more than 24 million people were on life-saving antiretroviral drugs, it said.

"I call on countries and buyers of HIV medicines to act swiftly in order to ensure everyone who is currently on treatment continues to be on it," said Winnie Byanyima, executive director of UNAIDS in a statement.

NBS: Current inflation tracking tools outdated

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Household Survey 2012 that is likely to have been overtaken by events," she emphasised.

The director was addressing a working meeting that drew participants from ministerial departments and professional organisations observed that the changes will see Tanzania lead most other African countries in adoption of a new CPI methodology.

NBS earlier in the 2017/18 financial year conducted a survey to help provide the way forward for which plenty of progress has been realized. The shift in measuring the rate of inflation is likely to boost national development, she asserted.

One aspect of the review is that people Tanzania have reduced expenditure on food, an indication that more money now goes to economic initiatives than in the recent past. "Globally, reduced expenditure on food means a lot of investments are taking place," she explained.

In 2007 food purchased took 47.8 percent in the basket while in 2011/12 it had declined to 38.5 percent, adding that it is likely to decline further in the new basket, 2017/18.

More investments in other areas propel national development, such that the current method of CPI does not provide a correct image of the situation on the ground, the director added.

Yet more aspiring for Zanzibar's presidency

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vowed that if given that opportunity he is well committed to serve Zanzibar in a patriotic, focused, creative way to bring improvements in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Hamad Yusuf Masauni, another CCM cadre who has shown interest to vie for the top Zanzibar office, arrived at the party's head office at 10:24am where he picked his nomination forms.

Accompanied by his wife, Masauni commended the party for opening more doors of democracy to allow members to contest for that important position.

"I'm well prepared to lead Zanzibar, and if I will be elected, my priority would be protecting all Zanzibaris and the union. This in turn has brought a lot of employment, trade and investments opportunities. I would also maintain and develop all the good things done by our former national leaders," he said.

Others who have shown interest to contest for the position include the

Minister of State in the Isles Second Vice President's Office, Mohamed Aboud Mohammed along with Bakari Rashid and Hussein Makungu (Mtoni MP).

The exercise was finalized Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud, the Zanzibar South Regional Commissioner who arrived at the party's head offices at 3:39pm.

The 23 cadres who have so far picked the presidential nomination forms are Mbwana Bakari, Ambassador Ali Karume, Mbwana Mwinyi Yahya, Omar Shehe, Muhammed Jafar, Muhammed Hija, Major General Issa Suleiman Nasser, Shamsi Vuai Nahodha, Dr Hussein Mwinyi, Prof Makame Mbarawa, Mwantumu Mussa Sultani, Haji Rashid Pandu and Dr Abdulhalim Mohammed.

Others are Jecha Salim Jecha, Dr Khalid Salum Muhamed, Rashid Ali Juma, Khamis Mussa, Mmanga Mjengo Mjawiri, Hamad Yusuf Masauni, Muhammed Aboud, Bakari Rashid, Ibrahim Makungu and Ayoub Muhammed Mahmoud.



Njombe regional commissioner Christopher ole Sendeka (R) has a word with Works, Transport and Communications deputy minister Elias Kwandikwa (C), who was on inspection tour of the construction of the 107.4-km Njombe-Moronga-Makete road yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania lures world investors to bolster conservation tourism

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania has great conservation and tourism potential - but needs investment and the government's intention is to show investors that Tanzania is open for responsible investment in the conservation sector and for conservation organisations to take note of the opportunity to co-manage protected areas with the government and therefore tourism stakeholders in the country have been advised to create marketing synergy for tour packages and Mkomazi National Park in Same district to lure more tourists and investors.

This follows remarks by the Mkomazi national park assistant conservation commissioner, Adel Mtui that the national park spends 2bn/- while it generates an average of 250m/- annually.

Located in north-eastern Tanzania in Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions, and upgraded as a national park in 2006, it is home to a rhino sanctuary which hosts breeding black rhinoceros, giving the park international recognition but still not receiving enough visitors.

Mtui imputed the small number of visitors to low investment, mostly in accommodation, noting that at the moment there is only one camp which can host 12 (twelve) guests at a time.

"We have allocated areas where tourists and visitors can set up camp but we need more investments in the national park because that would bring more visitors," he added.

He noted that it is a no-brainer that investors would want a return on their investments and thus naturally would also come up with strategies to attract visitors to their accommodation facilities.

Mtui thus called on investors to take advantage of the existing shortage of accommodation facilities in the national park to come and invest because they are well prepared to receive new investors and competition is minimal.

He was speaking during a recent tour of the national park by Tanzania

Investment Centre (TIC) executive director, Geoffrey Mwambe, who advised stakeholders to include the park's attractions in holiday and tour packages of Mount Kilimanjaro to give the former more visibility to visitors planning to trek the latter and in the process also attract investors.

Mount Kilimanjaro attracts a huge number of tourists annually thus blending the marketing strategies of the two attractions would help publicize further the national park and increase revenue collection from the tourism sector in the country.

"Mkomazi National Park has many tourist attractions, including a wide diversity of fauna, including the big five, investors would greatly benefit if they choose to come to invest here," he opined.

"We believe that huge investments are needed in the tourism sector especially in our national parks because the opportunities and resources are there and we have been observing how Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has been allocating areas where investors could come and invest," he added.

He also called on regional authorities to pinpoint investment opportunities in their areas so that TIC could come up with proper strategies to attract investors. "It is difficult to convince investors, but where there are preparations the task is made easier because we will be aware of where an investor can come to invest and what are the procedures and regulations involved," Mwambe said.



We have allocated areas where tourists and visitors can set up camp but we need more investments in the national park because that would bring more visitors

LATRA vows to act on polluting buses

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) in the Southern Highlands is making follow ups on bus drivers and conductors using the VCT to identify environmental law violators who throw garbage on the roads and in forest reserves.

LATRA manager for the southern highlands zone Denis Daudi made the remarks when speaking to this paper on the procedure to control cleanliness

in buses, adding that they are forced to use the system following the continual environmental degradation.

Daudi said rampant throwing out dirt is a public health risk to both humans and wild animals, hence the habit must stop.

"We issued directives to allocate areas where the dirt can be dumped and every bus must have dust bins for passengers to put the waste there into, but still the problem exists and we are looking for the violators to be booked,"

he said.

Daudi called upon bus owners to sit together with conductors and drivers and instruct them to abide by the guidelines from the government and that for Mbeya region the most notorious spot for waste dumping was the Igawa area in Mbarali district.

Some residents appealed to various government organs concerned with transport issues to assist in the control of waste dumping now rampant in various areas.

One of them, Selina Joram, a resident of Mbeya City said the issue of environmental cleanliness has to be given top priority by inspecting buses before the start of their journeys and at inspectors should be placed at every bus stop to spot unruly conductors.

However one LATRA official Saco Sinapesa, said they often educate passengers on the need for cleanliness but some of them are always arrogant.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title : Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)
Position Type : Full-time
Location : Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Salary : Commensurate with experience

Description:
OVERVIEW: The Global Health Supply Chain – Technical Assistance – Tanzania (GHSC-TA-TZ) program, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC-TA-TZ assists Government of Tanzania (GoT) by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broadening stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

JOB SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) will be located in Dar es Salaam and will serve as a liaison with USAID Tanzania, the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), the GHSC-TA-TZ home office, and all other counterparts involved in program implementation. The DCOP will provide overall program management and oversight of program operations to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, compliance and high-quality delivery of technical assistance services and deliverables. Qualifications include a minimum of eight years' experience managing USAID or other donor funded projects, an advanced degree in public health, supply chain management, international development, or related field, and experience from multiple countries in health system strengthening, supply chain management, pharmaceutical management and/or other relevant technical area. Knowledge of private sector best practices, management information systems, health financing, performance management, innovative solutions, and USAID's global health priorities and initiatives required. Experience working on previous USAID global supply chain projects highly desired.

- Responsibilities:**
- Build and maintain a high performing technical team, providing thought leadership and demonstrating technical expertise across a range of supply chain functional areas including but not limited to: quantification, data use and analysis, capacity building, logistics management information systems, and supply chain financing
 - Maintain strong and positive working relationships with clients and partners including USAID, MOHCDGEC, President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Medical Stores Department (MSD), and others
 - Develop and implement annual work plans and budgets that reflect the priorities of USAID, GoT, and other stakeholders
 - Identify capacity gaps within the project team and arrange for appropriate training, mentoring and coaching of project staff
 - Ensure the use of appropriate management methodologies to plan, organize, and manage resources to achieve GHSC-TA-TZ goals
 - Supervise the implementation of the project's performance monitoring plan that includes project-wide performance measures
 - Lead change management strategies to cultivate a culture of data use across the project and within key stakeholders.

- Oversee regular data collection, data quality assessments and reporting and lead quarterly reviews of performance analysis to identify issues and drive evidence-based interventions
- Develop and implement risk mitigation strategies for technical services provided by the project
- Support the enhancement of various management information systems
- Coordinate with relevant stakeholders to build the capacity and capability of national systems
- Report results of the project's work to USAID, GoT, other stakeholders, and the home office; ensure quality completion of quarterly and annual reports, and compliance with USAID reporting requirements.
- Ensure timely submission of all deliverables
- Develop and maintain synergistic working relationships with other supply chain and governance projects funded by various development partners including USAID, Global Fund, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and others
- Work with and support home office project management team to oversee and manage the project budget, provide guidance on field office projections, and provide budget inputs

- Qualifications:**
- Minimum Year(s) of 8 years of experience managing USAID or other donor funded projects
 - Advanced degree in public health, supply chain management, international development, or related field

- Work Experience:**
- Experience in health system strengthening, supply chain management, pharmaceutical management and/or other relevant technical area, in multiple countries
 - At least 5 years' of experience in a developing country setting

- Core Competences:**
- Demonstrated experience leading and managing the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of supply chain strategic planning initiatives
 - Demonstrated success developing and implementing project work plans and managing performance against objectives and timelines.
 - Demonstrated success in building and leading high performing teams
 - Demonstrated capacity to effectively present project results and accomplishments to national and international stakeholders and audiences
 - Written and spoken English fluency (native or equivalent)

If you are interested in applying this positions please send your resume, cover letter and copies of your academic certificate to ghsc.recruitment@gmail.com. And kindly include title you are applying to and your name in the subject line.

While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for interview will be contacted. Deadline for submission shall be on **3rd July, 2020**. GHSC - TA - TZ is an equal opportunity employer.

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- Bids to be addressed to the Managing Director, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam. Bids should be clearly marked as Bid for trucks, trailers and other motor vehicle equipment.
- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 121000TZS5108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Assets can be inspected at MEM MIKOCHE NI YARD.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
- The bank reserves the right to accept any bid and is not obliged to explain the reasons thereto.
- All assets will be sold on the condition of "as is basis".
- The winner shall bear all charges and taxes involved, including but not limited to stamp duty, for the transfer of the motor vehicle herein sold.
- The highest bid is not necessarily considered as the winning bid. The bank's decision is final.
- Bidding is open to the general public. Bidder may choose to bid for one lot or all lots.

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Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) CEO Godfrey Nyaisa (C) opens a seminar for regional business officers in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Mirajimsala

Police holding two feared to be behind 'sabotage' of water projects in Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

POLICE in Tabora are holding two people for allegedly sabotaging water projects including the major one from Lake Victoria to the region.

The suspects were arrested during police patrol in Igunga district.

Tabora Regional Police Commander, Barnabas Mwakalukwa told journalists that during the patrol, police arrested the suspects, Creti Fortunatus Mabula (20) a residents of Elimu Street in the district and Thomas Bilal Katoro (38) a resident of Nzega district.

He said Mabula and four others were found with various equipment that are alleged to be stolen from a Chinese construction firm which is implementing water projects in the area. The equipment include three welding machines, one hold detector, water motor, water pump and three grinding machines worth approximately 57.6m/-.

The RPC informed that the stolen equipment belongs to a Chinese construction company—AFCONS-SMC JVC REF which is implementing the major Lake Victoria water project from Mwanza to Tabora region. The project is funded by the government to the tune of 600bn/-.

According to Mwakalukwa, Thomas Bilal Katoro (38) was arrested at the Uchama dam whereas he was found in possession of a water pump worth 32m/-, property of Nzega district council in Tabora region.

"After interrogations, the suspects admitted to have stolen the equipment which were to be sold to clients in Shinyanga region. They have confessed to have stolen them from construction companies that implement the Lake

Victoria water project," said the Regional Police Commander.

He said all the suspects have been arraigned at court facing economic sabotage charges. He warned other people from engaging in crime incidents including theft of equipment from the various water projects.

"We will take stern measures against anyone hindering development in our region. The police force is determined to ensure safety of people and their security," he said.

In another incident, police have arrested Ramadhan Juma (65), a resident of Ndekeli village in Nzega district, Tabora region for being in unlawful possession of a shotgun with registration numbers—TZCRA 36462 and four ammunitions.

He said the firearm and the bullets were stored inside the suspect's house. Commander Mwakalukwa said: "The seized shotgun was hired to different people engaging in crime incidents in the region. It was last used by suspected bandits who invaded on of the houses in Ndekeli village."

At least 1.1 million people will benefit from the water project within Lake Victoria to Tabora through Kahama, Uyui, Igunga, Nzega and Tinde.

About 89 villages within the 12 kilometres from the main pipeline in the project will be connected to water.

During the first phase of the project, the townships of Tabora, Igunga, Uyui, Nzega and Tinde will be connected to the water supply chain and the main activities during the phase include, laying of the main pipeline from Solwa village.

In the second phase, there will be pumping of water from Lake Victoria to Sikonge.

Rombo in new drive to revive coffee plantations

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Rombo

AUTHORITIES in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region have embarked on a special strategy to revamp coffee plantations and promote massive cultivation of the crop.

The strategy, engineered by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa will include free distribution of high yielding coffee tree varieties to replace the old ones. Farmers will also be imparted with skills on fresh agronomic practices, among others.

Cultivation of the key cash crop experienced a sharp fall in the past few years due to several challenges, a situation which propelled many farmers to start growing alternative

crops, including bananas.

In an interview, Rombo District Commissioner, Agnes Hokororo said the Prime Minister had ordered all extension officers within the district to make sure they reach farmers in all the wards and villages.

She said the premier insisted on extension officers to also educate coffee farmers on best cultivation methods to improve their yields.

"Farmers must be equipped with skills on agronomic practices in growing coffee. We have conducted an exercise to collect statistics over the number of coffee growers in the district to know the exact number of coffee trees to be distributed to farmers," said the DC.

According to the district commissioner, farmers in the region

are now preparing farms with some of them uprooting the old coffee trees in their plantations.

She said the newly improved coffee trees will ensure farmers with more yields. The high yielding coffee tree varieties are resistant to diseases.

Hokororo added that under the strategy, the government also aims to encourage young people to engage in coffee cultivation.

Recently, Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga challenged the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) and the Tanzania Coffee Research Institute (TACRI) to ensure new varieties to coffee trees are distributed to farmers.

According to Hasunga the production of coffee, once the leading export cash crop for Tanzania, called for serious

overhaul due to the declining earning to the economy.

He said the leading snag facing the coffee sector was continued uses of poor coffee trees that are susceptible to diseases and pests.

Recent statistics from TCB depicts that coffee exports for 2019/2020 season was estimated at 50,000tonnes, down from 68,000 tonnes in 2018/19 farming season.

Until 2000, coffee used to contribute to at least five percent of Tanzania's export earnings with Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions accounting for 20 percent of the crop export.

By 2010, the country's share in the global coffee had shrunk to a mere 0.8 percent though Tanzania is ranked third after Kenya and Ethiopia in the export Arabica coffee.

'Govt will make sure Zanzibar presidential election is peaceful'

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

AS the country gears up for general elections in October this year, Home Affairs Deputy Minister Hamad Yussuf Masauni has said defence and security organs will make sure they will oversee all election activities to enable the people use their democratic right in peaceful environment.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with police officers in Zanzibar yesterday, Masauni said as the elections approach, peace and security will be beefed up and called on the citizens to continue with their activities without fear.

"I appeal to you all... ..in this period towards the elections go on with your social activitiesthose wanting to contest for elective posts should do so, the country will continue to remain peaceful," he said.

He congratulated the police force for the good work in maintaining peace for the people of Zanzibar and visitors as they have reduced incidents of crimes.

Zanzibar's acting Commissioner of Police Awadhi Juma Haji said the force is fully prepared for the elections this year and assured that it will be conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.

He said during the entire campaign period, voting and announcement of results the police force will ensure that are conducted peacefully.

He also called on all citizens to continue obeying the country's laws and whoever will contravene them stern steps will be taken against them according to the laws.

He said the police will not tolerate acts that can breach the peace and no one should use politics as an excuse for violating laws.



I appeal to you all...in this period towards the elections go on with your social activities ... those wanting to contest for elective posts should do so, the country will continue to remain peaceful



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (R, foreground) shares a light moment with government officials in Tanga Region led by regional commissioner Martine Shigella (to his right) before inaugurating a lands office yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Agriculture ministry tasked to find more markets for crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Ministry of Agriculture has been advised to establish a special unit tasked to find markets for crops which farmers are to save them from incurring losses.

The advice was given at the weekend by the Mbeya Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila when opening the Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS Trust) meeting attended

by stakeholders from the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.

PASS Trust convened the meeting with the stakeholders involved with in the value chain for agricultural crops on opportunities in accessing to loans in the agricultural sector.

Chalamila said the ministry of agriculture has been mobilizing farmers to produce various crops in abundance but the search for markets thereof remains in the Ministry of

Industry and Trade, the situation that affects the accessibility of the markets.

He said in order to ensure farmers benefit from what they produce the Ministry of Agriculture should establish a unit that would work together the Industry and Trade ministry in searching for markets.

"Right now we mobilize more and more youth to take farming and the ministry employs great efforts in

mobilizing for crops production but the availability of the markets remains a big challenge," he said.

He hailed the PASS Trust for its efforts in assisting farmers to access to loans from various financial institutions to enable them increase production, the situation that has enhanced the country's food security.

Earlier, in his report on accessibility to loans, PASS Trust managing Director Nicomed Bohay said the institution

was officially registered in 2007 and up to now it has assisted 1.2 million Tanzanians to get loans valued at 916bn/-.

He said the institution task is to bring together farmers and financial institutions by acting as guarantors.

He said the meeting was attended by various stakeholders including farmers, fertilizer importers, food processors, farming equipment dealers and representatives from banks that

work together with PASS Trust.

Mbeya Region's assistant administrative secretary (economy and production) Said Madito said loans given to farmers assists in increasing production of their crops and therefore enhancing their incomes.

He called upon all stakeholders assisted in getting loans to be trustful in the repayment thereof and to ensure they utilize them for the intended aims.



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Tasaf to disburse billions to needy Z'bar households in FY 2020/2021

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ABOUT 21bn/- is expected to be spent as cash handouts to poor households in the coming financial year by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) after a successful completion of two phases in Unguja and Pemba Islands.

The amount is an increase from 12bn/- in the previous two phases after Zanzibar shined in implementation of the TASAF projects in the previous two years.

TASAF Managing Director Dr Ladislaus Mwamanga made the remarks when he opened capacity building training to officers who are expected to oversee the implementation of the TASAF phase two to poor households in the Isles.

The official asked the officers to conduct verification of poor households in line with President Dr John Magufuli's directive to have the households verified to facilitate records keeping.

He said trust was needed during the implementation period whereby

people who were to be included in the project were supposed to have met the conditions to ensure the goals for the project are met.

The Director for coordination of union government, Khalid Bakari Amrani said activities to verify poor households have involved government officials to give them the knowledge on verification.

He asked the officials to use good language during the exercise because people had a different understanding of the exercise.

"We ask you to use a simple language which will be understood by many because there are people who understand easily and there are those who will need proper clarification," he said.

A total of 32,660 are expected to be verified during the exercise which is being undertaken by Tasaf in the Isles.

The government has set aside 2.03trn/- for the Tasaf projects in the next four years to various poor households in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland.



Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha descends from the top of a water tank being built by the Shinyanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority in implementation of a project meant to supply Shinyanga municipality and its environs with water from Lake Victoria at a cost of 2.4bn/- Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

New Wami Bridge to promote country's economic activities

By Guardian Reporter

THE completion of the new 50m Wami Bridge that will join the country with East African neighbouring countries through northern regions will witness the increase of many economic activities for the country through the transportation of crops and passenger.

This was expressed by the Deputy

Minister for Works, Transport and Communications Elias Kwandikwa during his visit in the Coast Region during which he inspected the project's work progress undertaken by the contractor - Power Construction Corporation who was also instructed to make good of the time lost due to recent heavy rains.

The deputy minister said he was satisfied with work progress that was

now 40 percent complete.

He also assured Tanzanians that the project will be completed in time as the government wants the bridge to be in operation as soon as possible as it will reduce many transport woes of road users.

He stressed that there is no reason for the delay of the project as the contractor has already been provided with money and will continue receiving

payment in time to ensure its timely completion.

The deputy minister said more than 723bn/- has been paid to all contractors in the country engaged in infrastructures construction to ensure no project delays due to lack of funds.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister met with the owner of the lorry that sank under the bridge two weeks ago

Mwajuma Selemani and consoled her for the destruction of her property and the death of her driver.

Coast Region's Tanroads Manager Eng Yudas Msangi explained that survey work and trenching work for the bridge's pillars is 100 percent complete while other works were progressing well and they supervise well the contractor for timely completion of the project.

He added that up to now 3 kms out of 4.3 of the approach roads have been cleared and surface leveling over the hilly area was also progressing well.

The construction of the new bridge over Wami River is the government's strategy to reduce hardships to people using the bridge that was built in 1959 that was showing its shortfall to serve the present day road traffic.



Rural Electrification Agency board members pictured at the weekend inspecting one of the transformers distributed by NIPO Group contractors for supplying electricity in Arusha Region. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

RESIDENTS of Masasi District in Mtwara Region have raised their concerns over poor water services with some parts of the area missing the precious liquid for seven days.

They claimed that the Masasi-Nachingwea Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MANAWASA) have suspended the services to customers in Masasi District without any notice.

In separate interviews with this paper, the residents complained of suspended water services saying the situation forces women and girls to spend hours in search of water.

"There are no water flowing at our taps, most of us get water from unreliable sources, the thing that poses risks to our health because people use the collected water for domestic

Masasi District residents lament shortage of water

consumption," said Hassani Issa, a resident of Kambage village in Napupa ward.

Issa called upon authorities at Manawasa to work on the problem because the situation is likely to lead to the outbreak of waterborne diseases.

Fatuma Mwasu from Matankini Street in Nyasa ward said they are forced to work for long distances to get water from unreliable sources.

Rehema Husseni, a resident of Migongo village in Migongo ward said most of the women have abandoned

other economic activities to only spend hours in search of the precious liquid.

"We are spending too much time in search of water, I no longer open my shop in morning hours," she said calling for the water body to restore the service.

Manawasa Executive Director, Nuntufye David said: "We are aware of the problems; the situation has been caused by pipe breakage, of which our technicians are working on."

He said the major water distribution pipe that takes water to Masasi town ruptured hence suspension of services

to enable technicians to repair it. He said water services will return to normal in coming few days.

The government increased water budget by over 99bn/- in the 2020/2021 budget aiming to achieve 85 percent supply of the precious liquid in both rural and urban areas.

The 2017 National Environmental Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 between 10 people (59.7 percent) had access to clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people accessed clean and safe water in urban areas.

More than 5,000 farmers in Rombo due to benefit from Banana Agronomy Project

By Guardian Correspondent, Rombo

AT LEAST 5,000 small-scale banana farmers in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region have benefited from Banana Agronomy Project, a vital four years initiative which eyes to improve production and productivity of the favourable highlands cash crop.

Through the ambitious project, beneficiary farmers are trained to embrace best agronomic practices, including soil fertility, ways of conserving soil moisture and to mitigate common banana pests and diseases.

Other practices are creation of basins for harvesting water, banana weevils trapping and pairing of planting suckers.

Through adoption of the agronomic practices, the farmers have impressively managed to uplift their productivity, from former 9kg to 15kg per one banana bunch to currently between 40kg to 60kg.

Under financial patronage from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the project is implemented by Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Tengeru) in collaboration with Bioversity International, International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Makerere University and Uganda-based National Agriculture Research Organisation (NARO).

Head of the Project, Juma Kitundu, Researcher, told The Guardian in an exclusive interview that the initiative was focusing on improving scalable banana for small scale farmers in highland banana cropping systems in East Africa.

"The project targets to develop decision support tools to guide scaling partners in select context-specific, environmentally sound and self-sustaining practices for improving

banana productivity," he informed.

Kitundu told the publication that the project was useful because despite several interventions so far done in researching and inventing improved banana seed varieties and distribute the seeds to farmers, production of banana in the country had however remained low for years.

"As per the 2017 research, production of banana in the country was at 9 tonnes per hectare in a year," he expressed, adding that as part of positive outcomes of the project, production has currently increased to at least 19 tonnes per hectare in a year.

For her part, Rombo District Commissioner (DC) Agnes Hikororo said the project has a helpful role in supplementing efforts by the government to revive and improve cultivation and productivity of banana, a key cash crop in the district and the county in a whole.

"For instance, before inception of the project, the district's banana production per season (year) was at 159,500 tonnes, but currently production has catapulted to at least 239,500 tonnes," she detailed.

Moreover, she said through significant outcomes of the initiative there is significant increase in the number of freight trucks from diverse regions and neighbouring countries to purchase banana at different markets within the district.

Dr Stephen Sebastian, Manager for TARI-Tengeru sub Center in Arusha said the project has assisted farmers to improve their farming by using modern agronomic practices through uses of the same local seeds they have been growing for years.

Moreover, he added that the timely project however managed to fetch extra results by benefiting even farmers who were not in the beneficiary lists.



Advertising agents pull down a billboard yesterday to pave the way for the expansion of Dar es Salaam's Shekilango Road. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Do work collectively to guard rights of widows, stakeholders counselled

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

STAKEHOLDERS have been urged to join efforts and work collectively to ensure that all widows in the county have access to human rights including the right to own and inherit properties.

Speaking during the commemoration of International Widows' Day, Acting director of gender in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Grace Mwangwa said that widows have been facing a lot of challenges which have been thwarting them from achieving their development goals.

She said that the government has been taking firm actions to protect widows' human rights but the initiatives also need support from stakeholders to ensure that the group access their rights and lives peacefully.

According to him, as per statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), widows are estimated to be 880,000 which is equivalent to 3.1 percent of all women in the country. The number of women is estimated to reach 28.5 million in 2019.

She said that the day is commemorated to identify and recognise the violence, discrimination, and other harms that widows face as well as to celebrate their important contributions in the country. "We also commemorate the day to create

awareness and solidarity within the community, our aim is to educate the public, recognise the value of widows, protect their rights and stop humiliating them once they are abandoned by their husbands," she added.

Mwangwa further urged the stakeholders to also support the widows by empowering them economically so as to enable them improve household income and fight poverty.

She added that, apart from educating the public to do away with outdated customs and traditional beliefs, the government has also initiated several plans and strategies which aim to eradicate violence by 50 percent as of 2020/21.

"To implement the plan, the government has also formed a total of 16,343 security committees for women and children. We have also recognized 125 legal aid institutions as well as 2599 paralegals have been registered countrywide with widows being one of the top beneficiaries," she said.

Mwangwa further added that in 2018/19, the government provided legal aid to 277 widows with inheritance cases thus enabling them to access their rights.

Rose Sarwat, director of the Tanzania Widows Association (TAWIA) urged the public to ensure that they write legal wills so as to avoid putting their family into conflicts once they die.

Construction of PAPU infrastructure creates hundreds of jobs

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CONSTRUCTION work on the 17-storey building for the headquarters of Pan African postal Union (PAPU) in Arusha city has provided hundreds of jobs directly and indirectly.

The 33.58bn/-building is will be completed in June next year,

according to Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Zainabu Chaula.

Chaula made the remarks when she inspected the construction site here over the weekend.

According to her, much work was accomplished in the six months period since the start of the project in January

this year that included a basement, which she said was going on fast.

The PAPU building complex whose main contractor are Beijing Construction from China is a joint venture between the government through the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) with 40 percent share and PAPU with 60

percent share.

Chaula said the project has provided employment to 56 Tanzanians and also provided practical training to students from various technical colleges including Arusha Technical College.

"The building that will be of international standards will also house conference halls that will earn the

country the much needed forex as well as increase the beauty of Arusha City landscape, as one will be able to view both Mounts Kilimanjaro and Meru.

PAPU Secretary General Younous Djibrine thanked President John Magufuli for allocating the plot for the building's construction.

Earlier, the project's consultant

Hanington Kagiraki, a Tanzanian said the complex will be supported with 189 underground pillars each 19mts high.

The complex's cornerstone was laid on January 18 this year by the Minister for works, Transport and Communications, Eng Isack Kamwelwe.



Moses Joel Harty (R) of Engorika in Arusha Region's Kiutu ward has his status verified in the Biometric Voters' Register yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

By Special Correspondent, Abidjan

AfDB exhibits strong capital adequacy, global agency says

RATINGS agency S&P Global has affirmed its 'AAA/A-1+' long- and short-term issuer credit assessment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) with a stable outlook.

The rating agency positively assessed the bank's very strong financial risk profile, very strong capital adequacy, strong funding and liquidity, extraordinary shareholder support and adequacy of its governance and management.

"We are therefore affirming our 'AAA' long-term issuer credit rating on the AfDB," S&P Global stated.

The rating agency noted the Bank's \$115 billion capital increase, approved by shareholders in October 2019, and the replenishment to the African Development Fund, the Bank's concessional window, in December 2019.

"The stable outlook reflects our expectation that, over the next two years, AfDB will prudently manage its capital while maintaining solid levels of high-quality liquidity assets and robust funding," S&P Global said in a statement.

S&P expects that "shareholders will remain supportive by providing timely capital payments"; the Bank "will continue benefiting from preferred creditor treatment (PCT); and "prudently manage growth in private-sector lending in a way that's aligned with its mandate."

The rating agency's report further noted that the "AfDB will play a key role supporting the region, particularly in the context of COVID-19. The institution

approved an up to \$10 billion relief package for 2020, of which \$6.9 billion will be financed by AfDB and the remainder through its concessional lending window."

The President of the Bank, Akinwumi A. Adesina, said: "We are delighted with and welcome S&P Global's decision to affirm the Bank's AAA/A-1+ rating. It reflects the Bank's very strong financial position and risk management, as well as our sound governance. We will continue to maintain these standards, with the strong support of all our shareholders, as we deliver much needed financial, knowledge and policy support to our regional member countries during and after this period of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Canada

CONTRACT OPPORTUNITY - CANADA FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVES (CFLI) - HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA TO TANZANIA

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Coordinator, High Commission of Canada to Tanzania

Duration: One year beginning immediately with the option to renew for two additional years with the mutual agreement of both parties.

Deadline to apply: Tuesday 07 July, 2020 at 11:59 am

Maximum contract rate: CAD\$25/hour - payable in Tanzanian Shillings at the exchange rate established by the Canadian High Commission.

Maximum contract value: CAD \$19,000

Area of Selection:

Residents of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with the legal right to work in Tanzania and dependents of diplomatic personnel of the Canadian High Commission over the age of 18 years.

Requirement:

Candidates must legally be allowed to work in Tanzania. The High Commission of Canada will not provide candidates with any assistance to acquire the necessary work permits to work in Tanzania.

The ability to telework is essential. Candidates are required to have a personal computer with Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, Internet Explorer and a broadband internet connection to be considered for the contract.

The successful candidate will be required to travel within Tanzania, to Comoros, and Zambia to conduct project monitoring visits once COVID-19 imposed travel restrictions have been lifted in these countries (and points of transit).

STATEMENT OF WORK

The High Commission of Canada in Dar es Salaam is looking to contract a Coordinator for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) Program.

The individual will be responsible for:

- Carrying out project identification, project monitoring, and maintenance of files for Canada Fund projects in Tanzania, Comoros, and Zambia;
- Preparing lists of project proposals for the CFLI Committee with recommendations for consideration by the Head of Mission and rationales for those recommendations;
- Preparation of appropriate Canada Fund approval documents and reports;
- Plan, implement and administer effective systems and procedures, in accordance with CFLI and Global Affairs Canada regulations, enabling the CFLI to deliver its goals and objectives successfully; and
- Monitoring project activities in accordance with the approved

monitoring plan (which may require field visits), to ensure that funded projects are meeting their targets and fulfilling their reporting requirements.

Evaluation criteria:

Interested parties should submit a résumé and a cover letter (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font), outlining how they meet the requirements listed below along with a sample of their writing in English (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font).

Interviews will be conducted via Zoom. The following criteria will be assessed using a point system:

- Significant experience in project management with additional points awarded for experience managing international development projects (6-10 years);
- Strong planning and organizational skills, attention to detail, and ability to coordinate conflicting priorities within tight deadlines and meet work targets;
- Experience in the delivery of daily operational requirements, in particular managing a budget;
- Experience managing a small grants fund;
- Strong ability to communicate effectively with clients in English orally and in writing;
- Strong ability to provide analysis of political and economic factors influencing decision-making and assess capacity of potential partners;
- Ability to communicate effectively with clients in French;
- Experience using MS-office (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), Internet, WhatsApp, and social media tools (Twitter, Facebook);
- Graduation from relevant post-secondary education program.

IMPORTANT: Interested candidates must clearly outline in their covering letter how they meet the above-noted criteria. Those candidates who do not clearly demonstrate meeting the criteria by the deadline will not be considered.

Asset:

- Demonstrate ability to communicate effectively with clients in Swahili

TO APPLY

Individuals meeting the criteria above are invited to submit:

- Their résumé (in English);
- Their cover letter (in English, double spaced, and no more than two A4 pages in length using Arial 12 point font) outlining how they meet the requirements listed above; and,
- A sample of their writing in English (no more than two A4 pages double-spaced and in Arial 12-point font),

To procurement@fssptz.org no later than Tuesday 07 July, 2020 at 11:59 am

Please put "CFLI Coordinator" as the subject line of your submission message.

Global health institutions should address the impact of sanitation

IN 2010, the UN General Assembly recognised access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right, and called for international efforts to help countries to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation.

Sustainable Development Goal target 6.2 calls for adequate and equitable sanitation for all. The target is tracked with the indicator of safely managed sanitation services - use of an improved type of sanitation facility that is not shared with other households and from which the excreta produced are either safely treated in situ, or transported and treated off-site.

Some 827 000 people in low- and middle-income countries die as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene each year, representing 60 per cent of total diarrhoea deaths. Poor sanitation is believed to be the main cause in some 432 000 of these deaths.

Diarrhoea remains a major killer but is largely preventable. Better water, sanitation, and hygiene could prevent the deaths of 297 000 children aged under 5 years each year.

Access to water and sanitation remains low in Tanzania. Determining data on access is particularly difficult because different definitions and sources are used, which results in significant discrepancies. In 2015, 50 per cent of the population had access to at least basic water, 79 per cent and 37 per cent of urban and rural areas, respectively.

In Tanzania, around 26 million people, in 2015, lacked access to at least basic water. Regarding sanitation around 40 million, in 2015, lacked access to at least basic sanitation. In 2015, only 24 per cent of the population had access to at least basic sanitation, 37 per cent and 17 per cent in urban and rural areas respectively.

The government has embarked on a major sector reform process since 2002 when an update was made to the National Water Policy. At that time, the central government reported that only 42 per cent of rural households had access to improved water and that 30 per cent of all water systems in the country

were inoperative. An ambitious national water sector development strategy that promotes integrated water resources management and the development of urban and rural water supply was adopted in 2006.

At the historic United Nations Millennium Summit held in 2000, 189 heads of state formed a global partnership with the aim of ending extreme poverty by 2015. Sanitation, a fundamental means for preventing disease and elevating quality of life, was not explicitly included until two years later, reflecting its status as the "forgot-ten stepchild" of the Water Supply and Sanitation sector. The goal established in 2002 was to halve the number of people without access to and use of improved sanitation by 2015.

Since 2002, sanitation activists and practitioners have expanded global awareness of the critical role sanitation plays in improving human health and overall well-being. However, after many years of advocacy and increasing political willingness, sanitation remains one of the developing world's most intractable challenges. To get back on track, roughly 200 million people per year need to begin using improved sanitation facilities.

The greatest sanitation shortages exist in South Asia, with serious shortfalls in East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. On average, just half of the population in these regions uses improved sanitation facilities. In all, about 2.5 billion people worldwide lack access to improved sanitation, including billions who have no facilities at all and practice open defecation.

An estimated 76 per cent of urban dwellers use improved sanitation, compared to 45 per cent of people living in rural areas. It is difficult to overstate the dire impact of poor sanitation, particularly among young children, the poor, and those living in rural areas. Poor sanitation causes millions of people worldwide to contract fecal-borne illnesses, the most common of which are diarrhoea and intestinal worms. An estimated 1.7 million people die each year because of un-safe water and sanitation and unhygienic practices. About

Life after loss: Rights, dignity and justice crucial for widows

THE United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day, to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanise the unique support that they need.

The loss of a partner is devastating. For many women, that loss is magnified by a long-term struggle for basic needs, their human rights and dignity. They may be denied inheritance rights to the piece of land that they relied on for livelihood or evicted from their homes, forced into unwanted marriages or traumatised widowhood rituals. They are stigmatised for life, shunned and shamed. And, many of these abuses go unnoticed, even normalised.

Right now, there are an estimated 258 million widows around the world, and nearly one in ten live in extreme poverty. As women, they have specific needs, but their voices and experiences are often absent from policies that impact their survival.

International Widows Day is a United Nations ratified day of action to address the poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents in many countries. The day takes place annually on 23 June.

International Widows Day was established by The Loomba Foundation to raise awareness of the issue of widowhood. The significance of 23 June is that it was on that day in 1954 that Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba, mother of the foundation's founder, Lord Loomba, became a widow. One of the foundation's key goals is to highlight what it describes as an invisible calamity.

The first International Widows Day took place in 2005 and was launched by Lord Loomba and the foundation's president,

Cherie Blair. On 21 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted 23 June as International Widows Day, endorsing by unanimous acclaim a proposal introduced by President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon.

As well as formally recognising 23 June as a day of observance, the accompanying resolution called upon member states, the United Nations system and other international and regional organisations to give special attention to the situation of widows and their children.

A widow is a woman whose spouse has died and a widower is a man whose spouse has died. The treatment of widows and widowers around the world varies.

The state of having lost one's spouse to death is termed widowhood. These terms are not applied to a divorcée following the death of an ex-spouse.

The term widowhood can be used for either sex, at least according to some dictionaries, but the word widowerhood is also listed in some dictionaries. Occasionally, the word viduity is used. The adjective for either sex is widowed.

In societies where the husband is the sole provider, his death can leave his family destitute. The tendency for women generally to outlive men can compound this, as can men in many societies marrying women younger than themselves. In some patriarchal societies, widows may maintain economic independence.

A woman would carry on her spouse's business and be accorded certain rights, such as entering guilds. More recently, widows of political figures have been among the first women elected to high office in many countries, such as Corazón Aquino or Isabel Martínez de Perón.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Muhammad Muftahu

GLOBALLY, higher education policies have long been limited to assumptions and loose projections with little research-based evidence for policy. However, higher education has a key role to play in nation building through the provision of research-based evidence on which to base policy.

Despite the debate as to whether higher education is a specialised field of research or a professional academic discipline, it is undoubtedly clear that its relevance to policy is now supported by several universities and higher education institutions around the globe.

Higher education expertise gives research-based support to policy-makers where such universities and institutes exist.

Several Asian and European universities have already adopted or are adopting higher education research by establishing departments, centres and institutes specifically on higher education matters to address both policy and academic demands for sustainable development.

Through higher education research, universities and higher education institutions are becoming globally competitive. The widespread adoption of higher education research is part of a move to increase universities' global knowledge, global competence and visibility.

Evidence-based policy

Since the Nigerian government is striving to improve the quality of higher education in order to build a skilled and competitive workforce, the need for the institutionalisation of higher education research has become crucial. This is to ensure the promotion of quality research-based evidence to help tackle the country's socio-economic challenges through academic approaches.

What better way for this to be achieved than by focusing on the enactment and implementation of evidence-based policies?

Evidence-based policies derived from the findings of higher education research help to strengthen teaching institutions and increase innovation that will fuel Nigeria's education sector with its multiplier socio-economic effects.

It is worth noting that many other developing countries are already in the process of promoting higher education as a tool for achieving greater transformation.

Challenges

There's no doubt the Federal Ministry of Education and other relevant agencies have high ambitions to rejuvenate the higher education sector. However, higher education challenges remain.

Nigeria does not have any policy for promoting higher education research

Need for introduction of higher education studies



as a field of study. That means there is no existing body established by the government to provide research-based evidence to guide higher education policy implementation. At best, ad hoc committee recommendations form the basis for policy enactments.

However, many countries have developed visionary higher education strategic plans and blueprints linking higher education and development.

For example, the National Higher Education Strategic Plan of Malaysia (2007-2020) and now Higher Education Blueprint (2015-2025), the National Plan for Higher Education in South Africa and the Eight-Year Egyptian Plan for Higher Education are among the products of developing a conscious policy direction for national development, with higher education as the main driver.

Nigeria has all it takes to achieve greatness in higher education if it can spell out its needs and prioritise its higher education challenges in relation to its developmental challenges.

Despite Nigeria having numerous state-owned universities and other higher education institutions, very few states have clear higher education policies that identify their institutions' priorities.

Few too have used their higher education institutions to give a sense of direction to the state, the region and the country as a whole.

Nigeria is late to adopt evidence-based policy recommendations which make it less competitive globally.

Lessons from Malaysia

Across the globe, in countries where higher education has been recognised as a field of academic endeavour, it

provides key support to ministries of education and other major stakeholders in the education sector and industry.

For instance, the key objectives of the Malaysian National Higher Education Research Institute include identifying issues and critical challenges related to higher education; helping to develop higher education institutions in Malaysia; and becoming a reference and resource centre pertaining to higher education issues and policies nationally and globally.

The Malaysian National Higher Education Research Institute also runs academic programmes for masters and PhD students in the field of higher education.

Besides this research institute, the Malaysian government, under the Ministry of Education, has the Higher Education Leadership Academy that trains and develops leaders who can bring their professional expertise to local higher education institutions and elevate their standing in the global community.

A clarion call for stakeholders

As a scholar with a specific interest in higher education, I am calling on the Nigerian government to consider the establishment of a National Institute of Higher Education Research and Policy Development.

This would accelerate advancements in research, innovation, teaching and learning in our universities and other higher education institutions.

The body would also facilitate the global visibility of Nigeria and its achievements in the field of higher education and international academic excellence and standardisation.

There are, of course, constraints on Nigeria's education development. These include inadequate funding, inconsistent policy changes, lack of infrastructure and the constant disruption of the school system.

But with higher education research, inconsistency in policy changes could be addressed because policy implementations would be critically researched and articulated, thus ensuring they are not only effective, but they target long-term improvement in higher education.

Moreover, higher education institutions would be guided by clear development plans. Policy planning and implementation would be properly administered.

The National Universities Commission, which regulates the activities of federal, state and private universities, would continue to work on developing evidence-based policies that enable quality improvement of university programmes.

There have been significant improvements and changes recently in the Nigerian higher education sector.

This has strengthened my belief in the need to introduce higher education as a field of study in Nigeria.

I firmly believe that focusing and adopting higher education research as a field of study in Nigeria will be a major leap towards the improvement of higher education in Nigeria and the attainment of Nigeria's development goals and objectives.

Dr Muhammad Muftahu is a Nigerian who works as a senior lecturer and coordinator of the Global Higher Education Network, National Higher Education Research Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The latest news on the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine

By Jesse Smith

WITH a dizzying number of vaccines against Covid-19 in various stages of development, it is hard to keep news and updates straight. Added to the complexity is the fact the vaccines currently under development are quite distinct from one another, and each carries its own questions of safety and efficacy.

With demand continuing to surge, the normally slow and arduous process of vaccine research and development has been spurred into an all-out sprint, raising the question of whether vaccines developed at this pace are safe and effective.

There are dozens of vaccines in early development, but a few have surpassed early clinical trials and seem to be promising candidates for a vaccine. Here is where we are at with those.

Moderna: mRNA-1273

The vaccine currently winning the race is Moderna's experimental mRNA vaccine mRNA-1273, which this past week finalised its Phase III clinical trial protocols and is set to study a cohort of roughly 30,000 people in July. This phase of trials involves much larger subject groups than Phase II trials and seeks to determine the long-term efficacy and safety of the vaccine.

The mRNA-1273 vaccine is a new technology that involves introducing genetic material in the form of messenger RNA (mRNA) into the body to serve as a template for the production of coronavirus antigens in the body. These antigens are expected to then trigger a person's adaptive immune response and ultimately protective antibodies.

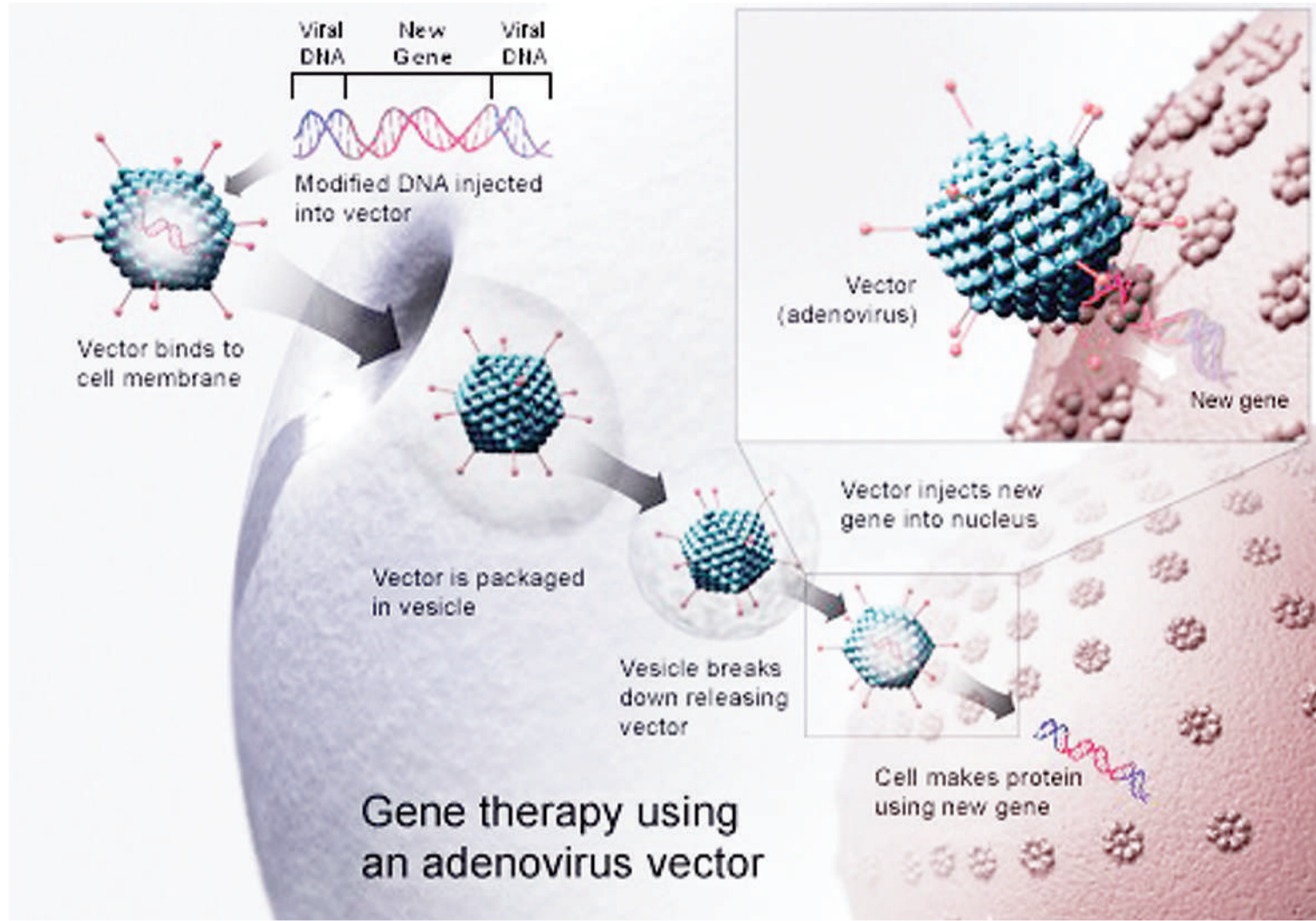
This technology is still relatively new and unproven, but animal studies have shown promising results. The technology relies on shuttling mRNA into cells in the body by enclosing it in a fat-lined nanoparticle that will fuse with our cell's outer membrane.

Although not reliably proven, mRNA technology does hold promise for rapid production of vaccines should they pass the later phases of clinical trials.

Compared to traditional vaccine development, RNA vaccines can be developed quite rapidly. Moderna feels confident that they have the capacity to generate as many as a billion doses of the vaccine by 2021.

University of Oxford: ChAdOx1

The University of Oxford in conjunction with British pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca is moving into phase II/III trials for their recombinant adenovirus vaccine against SARS-CoV-2. This vaccine, called ChAdOx1 (also named AZD1222) packages the genetic material synthesized from coronavirus antigens into a modified adenovirus.



Once introduced into the body, the modified adenovirus will be able to penetrate human cells and introduce the coronavirus RNA without causing any disease. Once introduced, the viral genetic material will be translated into antigen proteins, thus eliciting an immune response.

The ChAdOx1 vaccine has shown some preliminary efficacy in generating antibodies in monkeys.

Recombinant virus vaccines are a relatively labour-intensive vaccine development method, though designing them in this way ensures a more efficient transfer of viral genetics when compared to RNA/DNA virus technologies.

AstraZeneca secured an agreement with the Inclusive Vaccines Alliance to provide large-scale production of the virus. Pascal Soriot, CEO at AZ said in a press release: "This agreement will ensure that hundreds of millions of Europeans have access to Oxford University's vaccine following approval."

CanSino: AD5

One of the earliest biotech companies to enter the vaccine race was CanSino with another modified adenovirus vaccine against Covid-19. The vaccine AD5, which uses similar technology as the Oxford vaccine, has moved out of phase I trials and is set to begin phase II trials in China this summer.

Adenovirus vaccines can be a double-edged sword. Since by using the adenovirus (modified) that expresses both its own antigens as well as antigens from SARS-CoV-2 engineered into it, AD5 poses the possibility that it may induce some level of immunity to both adenoviruses - which cause a range of human diseases from cold-like syndromes to pink eye - as well as coronavirus, making these vaccines a potentially valuable advancement.

On the flip side, because adenoviruses are relatively common, some people may have already been exposed to them, which would lessen the response to the modified adenovirus vaccine. In fact, CanSino

found that roughly half of their participants showed a muted response to the vaccine.

The Chinese biotech company Sinovac is putting its efforts into the time-tested vaccine technology that utilises inactivated virus as its mode of vaccination. SARS-CoV-2 viruses were isolated from infected people and cultured and later inactivated to be tested as vaccines.

This technology has a long history - dating back to early experiments with immunity leading up to Jonas Salk's development of a polio vaccine in the 1950 that contained inactivated polio virus.

Sinovac released the results of their Phase I/II trials in a press statement that showed that the PiCoVacc vaccine induces antibody production against SARS-CoV-2 within two weeks. The firm is also preparing to move the PiCoVacc vaccine into Phase III trials some time this summer.

Whole inactivated viral vaccines come with some drawbacks as well. Because they require the isolation, culture and modification of whole viruses, they are time and labour-intensive and difficult to develop quickly on a mass scale. Because a Covid-19 vaccine is needed as soon as possible, this vaccine technology has been criticized as too slow to meet this demand.

Keeping up with Covid-19 vaccine development is a challenging process. Never before in history have we seen such rapid and widespread efforts to develop a vaccine. History has shown that vaccines are traditionally difficult and time-consuming to develop, but researchers and governing bodies are hoping that these groups are able to break with history and produce a much-needed vaccine against Covid-19 by 2021.

A report in The Startup, Medium's largest active publication. Jesse Smith is a medical student who writes about science, medicine and business.

Blood type may play a role in Covid-19 susceptibility

By Emily Mullin

IN April, DNA testing company 23andMe began combing its vast consumer database to uncover genetic links to Covid-19.

Now, preliminary results from the firm's study, which looked at genetic profiles of more than 750,000 customers, suggest that people with blood type O may be more protected from getting the disease than those with other blood types.

The company zeroed in on a variant in the ABO gene - the gene that determines your blood type - that seemed to be associated with a lower risk of infection.

23andMe found that, compared to individuals with other blood types, those with type O were between 9 per cent and 18 per cent less likely to have tested positive for Covid-19. Among healthcare and other front-line workers, who are more likely to be exposed to the virus, type O blood was similarly protective.

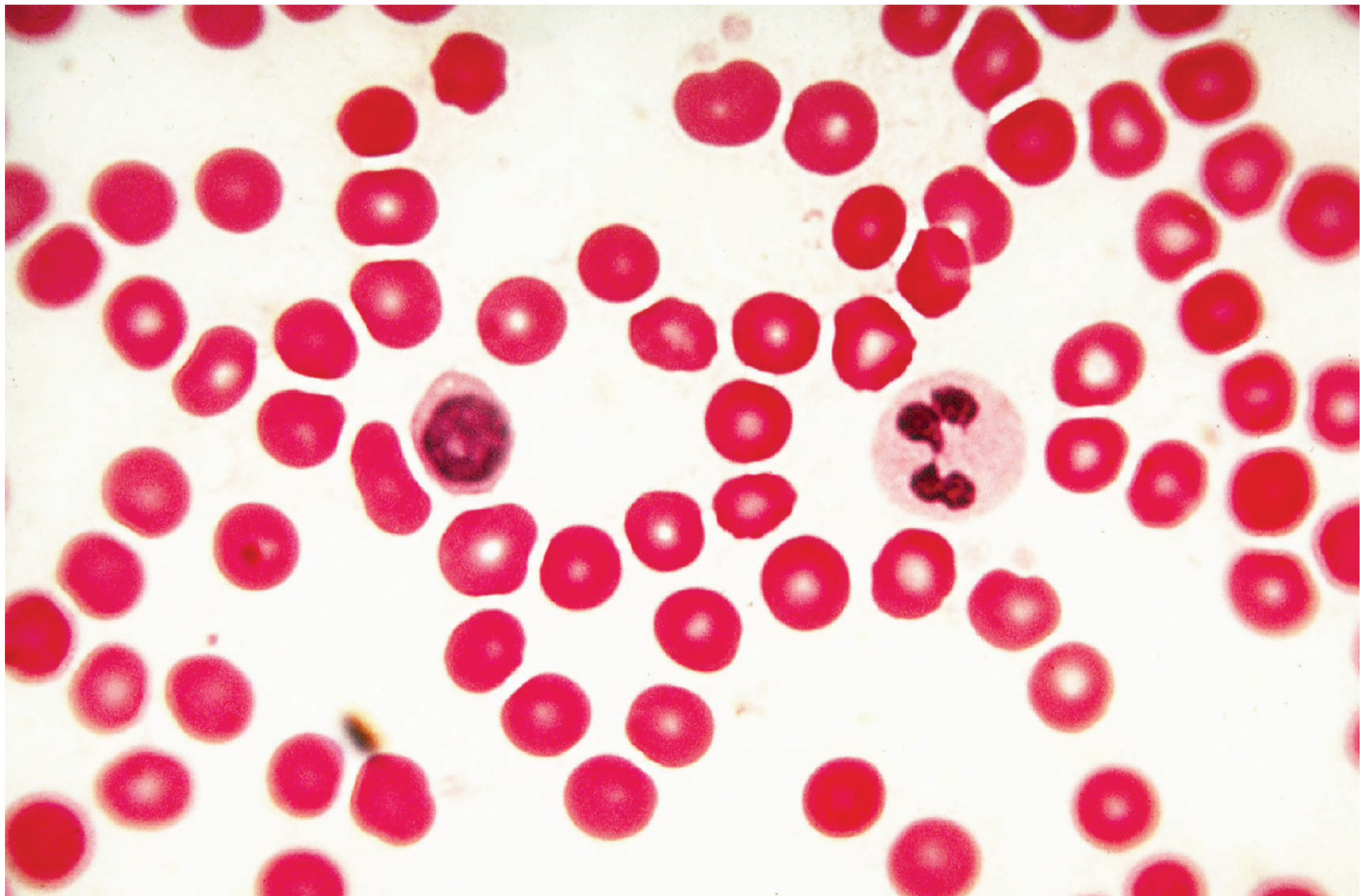
The results are still preliminary, and a major caveat is that the study relied on self-reported Covid-19 cases and hospitalisations from customers.

While not definitive, the results add to mounting evidence that the gene that determines blood type may be important in Covid-19. For instance, researchers in China also found that those with type O blood were at less risk of infection.

People with type A blood seemed to be more likely to get infected and more likely to die from Covid-19 complications. The preliminary findings were posted to a preprint server and have not yet been peer-reviewed.

Another preprint by researchers in Italy and Spain found that people with Covid-19 with type A blood were 50 per cent more likely to need oxygen or go on a ventilator. That study looked at the genes of more than 1,600 people with Covid-19.

23andMe is now trying to find out whether genes can explain why some people with Covid-19 have more severe symptoms than others. Its plan



was to recruit 10,000 people who have been diagnosed with Covid-19, including those who have been hospitalised.

Genetics firm Ancestry.com, 23andMe's competitor, is also mining the genomes of its customers for clues about disease severity and suscep-

tibility. For the studies of both firms, customers who have opted into sharing their DNA for research are asked to fill out a survey.

Another effort, called the Covid-19 Host Genetics Initiative, involves researchers from academic institutions across dozens of countries.

We already know that age and underlying disease are risk factors for Covid-19. But there are still some healthy and younger adults who are hospitalised and die from the infection.

In the future, the study results from 23andMe, Ancestry and other large-scale genetics studies

could help identify those more likely to get a severe infection by finding important risk factors for Covid-19.

Emily Mullin is Staff Writer - covering biotech and Covid-19 - at OneZero, a new Medium publication.

Is a Covid-19 vaccine actually possible? Medical, other experts optimistic, but...

By Markham Heid

SINCE the earliest days of the United States' Covid-19 crisis, Anthony Fauci, the White House's top coronavirus expert and director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has said that - best case scenario - a vaccine could be ready within a year to 18 months.

In an interview published on June 8 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, Fauci stated that if one of the several vaccines currently in trial proves effective, hundreds of millions of doses could be ready by early 2021.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that, with the multiple candidates that we have with different platforms, we're going to have a vaccine that shows a degree of efficacy that would make it deployable," he said.

Fauci's mention of different "platforms" may not have meant much to lay readers. But the scientific community is intensely aware of these next-generation vaccine-development technologies and processes that Fauci was talking about.

The vaccines that these new platforms aim to create are easier to produce quickly and in volume, which is one reason the usual "decade or more" timeline for vaccine development has shrunk to less than two years.

But two of the new platforms that are generating the most hype and optimism are also largely unproven. "They're so new, in fact, that a commercial vaccine has never been brought to market using either one of them." This is according to Mark Cameron, PhD, an associate professor in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland.

Cameron says that he's "as

hopeful as anyone else", but that some big hurdles still stand between humanity and a safe, effective Covid-19 vaccine.

Genes at the centre of the new vaccine 'platforms'

Historically, the development and production of any vaccine has relied on real, laboratory-grown viruses. These viruses tend to be weakened, inactivated or stripped down to their benign parts before being introduced into a person's body, where they trigger a protective immune response.

Some institutions are working on these sorts of old-school vaccines for Covid-19. But the new platforms that are leading the way are fundamentally different in that they do not require developers of vaccine makers to physically grow live coronavirus in cells.

"The one people are hearing a lot about is the mRNA platform," says Amesh Adalja, MD, a pandemic expert and senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Centre for Health Security.

Adalja explains that mRNA stands for "messenger RNA", a type of molecule that helps convert a DNA's blueprint into an actual, functional protein molecule.

He says the mRNA platform is designed to isolate a virus's "gene of interest" - the one that codes for the protein that the immune system reacts to - print its genetic sequence, and then formulate it so that it can be injected into a person. Once injected, the idea is that the body's cells will take up the mRNA and start making proteins that trigger a protective immune response.

The mRNA platform is one of several new "genetic vaccines" that all work in more or less the same way. "Whether DNA or mRNA, you inject these genetic vaccines, which go into the cells and use the cells' ma-



chinery to make the so-called spike protein", says Paul Offit, MD, chair of vaccinology at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine.

Offit says that the spike protein allows the coronavirus to attach itself to healthy cells, which is how the virus takes root and spreads.

Genetic vaccines are designed to expose the immune system to this spike protein - but not the virus - so that it will generate antibodies and other defences that will block the virus from setting up shop.

An mRNA Covid-19 vaccine from the drug company Moderna, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, is now in Phase II clinical trials. Several other closely related "genetic vaccines" are in various stages of development, Of-

fit says.

Apart from genetic vaccines, a much-hyped new vaccine platform is known as the adenovirus platform, which works somewhat like genetic vaccines in that it uses a person's cells to make proteins that generate an immune response.

"With these, you're infecting people with a known virus, but one with the original genetic payload ripped out and replaced with genetic instructions to make the coronavirus proteins that generate an immune response," says Derek Lowe, PhD, a drug-development researcher who writes about - and sometimes works with - the pharmaceutical industry. Like Moderna's mRNA vaccine, some adenovirus vaccines have performed

well in Phase I clinical trials. Companies are already producing these new vaccines

Should one or more of these vaccines work, the world needs them to be ready and available as soon as possible. In an effort to ensure that happens, many companies - with massive financial support from the US government and other sources - are already producing these new vaccines.

"This is a big financial risk, but the thinking is that some of these vaccines will work, and if they do, we'll be ready to get them to people quickly," says Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, a professor of medicine at UPenn and one of the creators of the mRNA platform.

"I think these new platforms are going to be able to solve

the current pandemic, and will also be useful in prevention for any future pandemics that may appear," adds Weissman.

While expectations are high that one or more effective vaccines will be ready for wide deployment by early next year, nothing is certain. "I'm optimistic about these efforts, but you have to ask what can go wrong," Lowe says.

So what can go wrong? Lowe mentions some established vaccine risks or side-effects, which range from injection-site soreness or mild illness to, in vanishingly rare cases, Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) - a disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the outer lining of healthy cells.

"GBS is very rare and most people survive it and recover,

but not everyone does, and vaccines can set it off," he says.

Apart from these familiar risks, Lowe says it's possible that the new vaccine platforms could come with new and unexpected risks - though he's confident that Phase II and III clinical trials would identify those before the vaccine is widely deployed.

"Early on, people were really worried about something called antibody-dependent enhancement - or ADE - where the vaccine can actually make a pathogen more virulent in a person," he says, adding: "But we know what to look for, and so far none of the research has shown these ADE mechanisms."

While new platforms are raising the odds that medical science will develop a Covid-19 vaccine quickly, Lowe says that hundreds of research teams and initiatives are exploring all manner of vaccine development - new and old.

"We want as many shots on goal from as many different directions as we can get," he says, adding that even if the mRNA or other newer platforms fail, this shouldn't set timelines back more than a few months.

Others agree. "If we have to go back to a traditional vaccine, I think we go back to that original statement by Anthony Fauci and a number of others, which is that a vaccine is 12 to 18 months away," says Case Western Reserve's Cameron, adding: "So instead of early 2021, we're talking autumn of 2021."

But even some of those who believe that we'll have a vaccine in the next year or so say that nothing is certain. "Nature gives up its secrets slowly, and I'm sure there are surprises ahead for us," says UPenn's Offit, adding: "We need to stay humble and not rush things."

A report in *Elemental*, a new Medium publication on health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.

By Gideon M-K

IT may seem clichéd, but if there's one constant during coronavirus, it is change. Whether that's referring to our lives, which have shifted dramatically over the last few months, or to the scientific evidence, which is changing literally every week, the changes we are seeing from day to day are truly enormous.

However, despite this, there seems to be one simple thing we can't get over during Covid-19: the question of influenza.

Virtually every time you see an article published about the deadliness of coronavirus, the author has chosen to compare it to the flu, because if there's one thing that we need more of, it's analogies.

The problem is that comparing Covid-19 to the flu has serious issues. Covid-19 is a new disease, which has only been studied for just over half a year, which makes studying things like the number of deaths it causes overall somewhat challenging. On the other hand, we've been studying influenza for decades, and know an enormous amount about the disease.

Now, this doesn't make the comparisons entirely a waste of time, but it does make them somewhat problematic. Take the death rates for both diseases - many people have argued that Covid-19 is only about as deadly as the flu, because influenza kills about 0.1 per cent of the people it infects and some studies have shown that the true infection-fatality rate - the proportion of people who die from the disease divided by the total number of infections, including asymptomatic cases - of COVID-19 is around the same ballpark.

The problem is that, while this comparison seems reasonable at first, it's actually deeply flawed.

The first thing to do is to figure out the infection fatality rate of both diseases. For influenza, that's relatively simple - just go to the CDC's website, and they have easy-to-find estimates right there about how many people get the disease and die each year.

If you divide those two numbers, you end up with a rate of between 0.1 per cent and 0.2 per cent - or between 100

Why Covid-19 is probably much deadlier than the flu



and 200 deaths per 100,000 infections.

So, with influenza out of the way, let's look at Covid-19. There are dozens of estimates out there, but a colleague and I conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to answer this very question and came up with an overall number of 0.64 per cent - or 640 deaths per 100,000 infections.

Right off the bat it seems like Covid-19 is worse than the flu - 0.1 per cent compared to 0.6 per cent makes it about six times as deadly. But some people have argued that Covid-19 is much less fatal than this aggregated estimate would suggest, with an infec-

tion-fatality rate of just 0.1 per cent. What about then?

Let's go back to the CDC's estimate of influenza fatality. This is the most widely cited number, and is used as the benchmark for flu deaths by people across the world. How is this number calculated?

Firstly, there's a problem - the CDC doesn't account for asymptomatic cases in their calculation. This 0.1 per cent number is actually the CASE fatality rate, which is the rate of deaths in people who have symptoms of the disease - not the INFECTION fatality rate that we're interested in.

According to CDC estimates, the rate of asymptomatic infections in influenza may be as high as 50 per cent, so straight away we need to reduce this figure by quite a bit.

Moreover, it turns out that the 0.1 per cent figure is more complex than you might've guessed. It is very hard to accurately know when people have died from influenza, because often they are old and frail anyway, and so the cause

of death is listed as pneumonia, or simply an underlying condition that contributed mostly to their death.

This is particularly a problem because we don't always test for flu - if someone has symptoms, people are often diagnosed without a test. For example, if someone catches the flu at 95 in an aged care institution and eventually passes away from pneumonia, the cause of death might be attributed to the pneumonia and not the flu.

Because of this, the CDC does something clever. They take all of the disease codes - a standardised record of the diagnoses someone had - across the US, combine this with known data on excess deaths and cases, and use a statistical model to estimate the number of deaths that have been caused by influenza every year.

Now, this is a big problem. We're comparing this number to an infection-fatality rate calculated by dividing official Covid-19 deaths by infections determined from an-

tibody testing. We haven't modelled the number of people who are likely dying from Covid-19 but aren't being reported officially - but, according to a number of sources, that figure is extremely high.

So what happens if we compare apples with apples? A 2014 systematic review into influenza looked at infection-fatality rates calculated as deaths as a proportion of infected people estimated from serological testing - the main source of data for our Covid-19 estimate of 0.64 per cent - and found that between one and 10 people died per 100,000 influenza infections.

This gives an infection-fatality rate of between 0.001 and 0.01 per cent, which is quite a lot lower than even the lowest estimates for Covid-19.

In fact, if we take a reasonable range from most of the published research, it looks like Covid-19 has a fatality rate roughly between 50 and 100 times higher than influenza. In other words, between one and 10 in 100,000 people who get the flu will die, while it is between 500 and 1,000 in 100,000 people getting Covid-19 who will.

This puts into context all of the cheerful statements this year that Covid-19 is just the flu so we can safely ignore it. Yes, influenza is a serious disease, but the evidence shows quite strongly at this point that Covid-19 is far more of an issue. When we take the most appropriate figures on both diseases, Covid-19 comes out as deadlier in every aspect.

Ultimately, the comparisons probably aren't going to go away. Analogies are helpful for us to understand reality, and there will always be people who want to minimise the coronavirus and make it seem as routine as the flu. Sadly, the evidence shows that Covid-19 is far deadlier than influenza, and just overall a very nasty disease.

We all wish that coronavirus were mild, as that would make our lives so much easier. Unfortunately, the evidence shows that it is not.

Gideon M-K is a Health Nerd epidemiologist.

African entrepreneurs called on to scale up learning innovations

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN-based entrepreneurs and innovators have been called upon to scale up remote learning innovations, in a bid to address the dangers of remote learning in Africa linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result, innovators will benefit from over US\$200,000 that was disbursed recently as an incentive to promote remote learning during the crisis.

This comes after countries across the continent are struggling to come up with solutions that will enable students to cope

with academics at home.

For instance, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) says that 89 per cent of learners in Sub-Saharan Africa have no access to a computer, 82 per cent have no internet access and around 56 million learners live outside mobile networks, thus complicating

their ability to study remotely.

So far, all schools on the continent are still closed in an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus.

"Covid-19 has taught us that technology can protect people and enable life and learning to continue. But this technology is not accessible to everyone," said Bodour Al Qasimi,

the vice-president of the International Publishers Association (IPA), which will administer the fund.

She said: "We are looking for bright minds and clever solutions to overcome these challenges in Africa by bringing learners, teachers and educational materials closer at a safe distance."

She also pointed out that IPA will fund African innovators with potential ideas that will prove to eliminate bottlenecks to distance learning created by Covid-19.

Experts argue that the coronavirus pandemic containment measures like the viral lockdowns have hurt various sectors, includ-

ing education. Basing on the fact that schools have been closed since mid-March, says Maurice Twahirwa, an academician, most learning institutions are grappling with remote learning. Therefore, in order to address this challenge, this fund should motivate local innovative solutions, Twahirwa asserts.

Bank launches digital awareness campaign to embrace cashless economy amid Covid

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank has launched a new digital awareness campaign aimed at encouraging its customers to embrace cashless economy whereby they can access services and transact digitally.

The bank's move comes in light of the recent social behavior change due to the emergence of global COVID-19 pandemic.

The campaign, dubbed 'Maliza Kirahisi Kidigitali', will run throughout the remainder of the year with an aim to encourage customers to perform different banking transactions anytime, anywhere using the bank's mobile and online options.

"The campaign is aimed at transforming user behavior and further accelerating the country's ongoing shift from cash to digital payments especially during the course of the recent pandemic," said Andrew Lyimo, the bank's retail banking head.

Over the last few months as the global pandemic has unfolded, the bank has been focused on ramping up digital operations so that customers are able to conduct needed transactions in a safe and secure way and in their own homes.

"So, the campaign is also in line with supporting the Government's vision to promote a cashless economy on top of ensuring our clients are served without having to go to branches" he added

Lyimo further emphasized: "To make transactions more



Exim Bank's head of retail banking, Andrew Lyimo (C), addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam during yesterday's launch of the bank's digital awareness campaign dubbed 'Maliza Kirahisi Kidigitali', whose thrust is on encouraging customers to support the development of a cashless economy. He is flanked by head of marketing and communications Stanley Kafu (L) and head of alternative channels and digital transformation Silas Matoi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

efficient and convenient for customers, the bank announced the following available options for facilitating easier transactions, mobile banking either through USSD or smart phones, bouquet of cards, vast POS network as well as online banking via web or app through which customers will be able to access services and perform transactions twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week with ease."

"Through our digital services customers can access their accounts, make bank transactions conveniently from their homes or anywhere else and in turn have more time for other important matters in their everyday personal or work lives," said Stanley Kafu, the bank's marketing and communications head.

The latest 'Maliza Kirahisi Kidigitali' campaign follows the Cash Management Solutions awareness campaign launched by the bank last year that aimed at enabling its clients to access to a slew of customized products like Cash-In-Transit service, Host to Host services, Corporate Cheque Capture service and Cash Deposit Machines services among others.

Both campaigns aim at putting innovative financial services at the fingertips of its growing customer base.

"Exim Bank is always at work today for a better tomorrow through providing more financial freedom." Kafu concluded.

Radical shift is a necessity in Africa's agricultural research funding models

By Olivia Yambi

WITH unsustainable forms of intensification driving negative social and environmental impacts in Africa, and the COVID-19 pandemic revealing major vulnerabilities in food supply chains, there is a need for a radical shift in agri-development priorities and the money flows behind them.

A new report by Biovision International, IPES-Food and the UK-based Institute of Development Studies reveals that only a small fraction of agricultural research funding coming to Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa is being used to support agro-ecology and other sustainable approaches.

Money flows in Africa's agricultural development sector are mainly reinforcing damaging industrial models. Funding for agricultural research, education and extension through official development assistance (ODA) has more or less stagnated over the last 10 years, and stood at only 14 per cent of agricultural aid in sub-Saharan Africa in 2017. Most funders and governments still favour 'green revolution' approaches, in the belief that industrial agriculture is the only way to produce sufficient food.

Despite the merits of agro-ecological approaches in transforming farming systems, only a handful of donors recognise it as a means of building sustainable food systems, despite comprehensive Africa agriculture development programme commitments to invest more than one per cent of agricultural GDP in research, investments in agricultural research by governments in sub-Saharan Africa have fallen significantly with the overall investment ratio dropped below 0.5 percent between 2010 and 2014. The agricultural funding has generally been de-prioritised in favour of other development issues, including health, education and national security.

Though Kenya and Ethiopia attract significant bilateral and multilateral agricultural aid, the resources for agricultural research are mainly used for industrial agriculture, with limited resources going to agro-ecology.



More than 70 per cent being agro-ecological. Another 13 per cent of funding is used to replace synthetic inputs with organic alternatives.

Top donors for Kenya are the US, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the EU, Germany, the World Bank's International Development Association and Japan. At US\$274 million a year, Kenya's investment in public agricultural research is the third highest in Africa.

The 'Money Flows' report also shines a light on Switzerland (a major bilateral donor) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the biggest philanthropic investor in agri-development. The findings paint an interesting picture.

Some 85 per cent of the projects funded by the Gates Foundation support industrial agriculture and/or targeted ap-

proaches such as improved pesticide practices. Only 3 per cent of Gates Foundation projects were agro-ecological. By contrast, 51 per cent of Swiss-funded Agr4D projects had agroecological components, and most of these (41pc) also included aspects of socio-economic and political change like decent working conditions and gender equality. Just 13 pc of Swiss aid focused only on industrial agriculture.

A fraction of UK and Belgian development aid, and minimal United States agricultural research funding, also goes to agro-ecology. Solutions The good news, though, is that the tide is changing. There is a growing interest in agro-ecology by bilateral and multilateral donors – notably France, Germany, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Inter-

national Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

To accelerate this shift, donors must encourage long-term, pooled funding models that encourage research institutes to implement agro-ecological projects. They should also ensure that the projects are inclusive and co-designed with farmers and communities.

They also need to increase funding to African organisations and transparency. Donors also need to address the issue of unequal power relations in the agricultural sector.

This can be done by building strong, long-lasting partnerships and supporting the development of bottom-up alliances with the involvement of farmer groups and researchers. The primary focus must be on smallholder farmers contributing to a safer and healthier world

who support agro-ecological approaches.

Let us turn our backs on the vested interests obsessed with the technological fixes damaging soils and livelihoods, and creating a dependency on the world's biggest agri-businesses. African countries need to reform their farming systems and put more money into agro-ecological approaches.

They need to implement sustained actions to effectively deal with the negative impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. They must be responsive to the needs of the millions of African smallholder farmers, who are counting on them to make the right decisions. Olivia Yambi is co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food); Hans Herren is president of the Biovision Foundation.

Care and child protection during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

EVIDENCE from previous infectious disease outbreaks indicate that existing child protection risks are exacerbated, and new ones emerge, as a result of the epidemic as well as of the socioeconomic impacts of prevention and control measures.

Some children are at increased risk in these circumstances, especially those without parental/family care, those at risk of separation from family, those in alternative care, and those who have recently left alternative care.

The aim of this Technical Note is to support child protection practitioners and government officials in their immediate response to the child protection concerns faced by children who are at risk of separation or in alternative care during COVID-19 pandemic.

A non-governmental organisation, Women against HIV/Aids in Kilimanjaro (KIWAKUKI) has offered child development trainings for professional educators and stakeholders, a move aimed to ensure child protection during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

The trainings will help the para teachers to ensure children's good health by preventing them from contracting the new viral disease.

Speaking with this paper on the child development programme, Kiwakuki project coordinator, Egla Matechi said the trainings for the children will focus on five components including nurturing care, good health, adequate nutrition, safety, security and responsive care.

The training which is sponsored by the US-based organisation—Firelight Foundation aims at ensuring good health and child protection, among many others, she said.

She added that the para teachers and stakeholders who participated in the training will be responsible for training children aged between 0 and 3 years. She said children will be provided with more skills that will add to what they get from their parents and guardians.

"To reach their full potential, children need the five inter-related and indivisible components of nurturing care; good health, adequate nutrition, safety, security and responsive care," Matechi explained.

She added that in the first years of life, parents, family members and caregivers should be closest to the young children since they are the best providers of nurturing care.

"This is why secure family environments are important for young children. In order to provide caregivers with time and resources to provide nurturing care, policies, services and community supports need to be in place," she said.

Kiwakuki is a Kiswahili acronym for 'Kikundi cha Wanawake Kilimanjaro Kupambana na Ukimwi'. The NGO was registered in 1995.



This is why secure family environments are important for young children. In order to provide caregivers with time and resources to provide nurturing care, policies, services and community supports need to be in place

It's possible that immunity to Covid-19 might not last

By Yasmin Tayag

SOMETIME in late March to early April, antibody testing dominated the Covid-19 conversation largely because of its exciting potential to identify who was immune to the disease.

The basic idea was that people who tested positive for Covid-19 antibodies must have already been infected, meaning that their immune systems could protect them from re-infection as they stepped out into the slowly reopening world.

If this sounds too good - and simple - to be true, that's because it is: there are many caveats to antibody testing and its implications for immunity. Not only does the accuracy of antibody tests vary significantly, but there's also no guarantee that the presence of antibodies means that a person is immune.

In its guidance on this point, the World Health Organisation cautioned that there wasn't enough evidence that the presence of Covid-19 antibodies meant that a person was immune.

Accordingly, WHO warned officials not to use results from antibody tests for policy decisions. Furthermore,

even if a person did become immune to Covid-19, their immunity might not last.

It's understandable if these caveats about antibodies and immunity seem confusing. There's a popular idea that people who are infected with a virus gain immunity as they recover.

The thinking is that their immune systems produce antibodies to attack the virus, and those antibodies stay primed and ready to fight the virus the next time it comes along. This is true for some viruses, like chickenpox and measles - but not for all of them.

The immune response is not always so black and white. As the New York Times has reported, it can exist in shades of gray: "Scientists have also repeatedly cautioned that the presence of antibodies does not signify protection from the virus. Some preliminary evidence suggests, for example, that people who are asymptomatic might not produce enough antibodies to prevent a second infection."

It's not merely the presence of antibodies that confers protection - but a certain quantity of antibodies - but scientists don't know what that quantity is yet, and most antibody tests don't



measure exact amounts. And, as STAT noted, scientists also don't know whether a person with antibodies can still infect others.

It's also possible that a person's immunity to Covid-19 could decrease with time, as Antonio Regalado reported at a recent MIT Technology Review.

In a study on immunity to common respiratory viruses - including four within the coronavirus family, to which SARS-CoV-2 belongs - researchers at Columbia University found that people can get re-infected with the same virus within a year, or even multiple times in a year.

Co-author Jeffrey Shaman said that for coronaviruses, "immunity seems to wane quickly," though it's not clear yet whether the same holds true for Covid-19.

Since it has only been several months since the Covid-19 pandemic started, there's no way of knowing yet how long immunity to it lasts, but finding out will be crucial to plans to reopen nations and revert to some semblance of normalcy.

In the best-case scenario, infection or vaccination would confer lifelong immunity but, until we know more, we must acknowledge the potential for the worst: that immunity could fade after each infection, sweeping across nations year after year.

Yasmin Tayag is Senior editor - covering science - at OneZero, a new Medium publication.

75th anniversary of the Great Victory: Shared responsibility to history and our future

By President Vladimir Putin

75 years have passed since the end of the Great Patriotic War. Several generations have grown up over the years. The political map of the planet has changed. The Soviet Union that claimed an epic, crushing victory over Nazism and saved the entire world is gone.

Besides, the events of that war have long become a distant memory, even for its participants. So why does Russia celebrate the 9th of May as the biggest holiday? Why does life almost come to a halt on June 22? And why does one feel a lump rise in their throat?

They usually say that the war has left a deep imprint on every family's history. Behind these words, there are fates of millions of people, their sufferings and the pain of loss. Behind these words, there is also the pride, the truth and the memory.

For my parents, the war meant the terrible ordeals of the Siege of Leningrad where my two-year old brother Vitya died. It was the place where my mother miraculously managed to survive.

My father, despite being exempt from active duty, volunteered to defend his hometown. He made the same decision as millions of Soviet citizens. He fought at the Nevsky Pyatachok bridgehead and was severely wounded. And the more years pass, the more I feel the need to talk to my parents and learn more about the war period of their lives. But I no longer have the opportunity to do so. This is the reason why I treasure in my heart the conversations I had with my father and mother on this subject, as well as the little emotion they showed.

People of my age and I believe it is important that our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren understand the torment and hardships their ancestors had to endure. They need to understand how their ancestors managed to persevere and win. Where did their sheer, unbending willpower that amazed and fascinated the whole world come from? Sure, they were defending their homes, children, loved ones and families. However, what they shared was the love for their homeland, their Motherland. That deep-seated, intimate feeling is fully reflected in the very essence of our nation and became one of the decisive factors in its heroic, sacrificial fight against the Nazis.

People often wonder: What would today's generation do?

How will it act when faced with a crisis situation? I see young doctors, nurses, sometimes fresh graduates that go to the "red zone" to save lives. I see our servicemen fighting international terrorism in the North Caucasus, fighting to the bitter end in Syria. They are so young. Many servicemen who were part of the legendary, immortal 6th Paratroop Company were 19-20 years old. But all of them proved that they deserved to inherit the feat of the warriors of our Motherland that defended it during the Great Patriotic War.

This is why I am confident that one of the characteristic features of the peoples of Russia is to fulfil their duty without feeling sorry for themselves when the circumstances so demand. Such values as selflessness, patriotism, love for their home, their family and Fatherland remain fundamental and integral to the Russian society to this day. These values are, to a large extent, the backbone of our country's sovereignty.

Nowadays, we have new traditions created by the people, such as the Immortal Regiment. This is the memory march that symbolises our gratitude, as well as the living connection and the blood ties between generations. Millions of people come out to the streets carrying the photographs of their relatives who defended their Fatherland and defeated the Nazis. This means that their lives, the ordeals and sacrifices they endured, as well as the Victory that they passed to us will never be forgotten.

We have a responsibility to our past and our future to do our utmost to prevent those horrible tragedies from happening ever again. Hence, I was compelled to come out with an article about World War II and the Great Patriotic War. I have discussed this idea on several occasions with world leaders, and they have showed their support. At the summit of CIS leaders held at the end of last year, we all agreed on one thing: it is essential to pass on to future generations the memory of the fact that the Nazis were defeated first and foremost by the entire Soviet people and that representatives of all republics of the Soviet Union fought side by side together in that heroic battle, both on the frontlines and in the rear. During that summit, I also talked with my counterparts about the challenging pre-war period.

That conversation caused a stir in Europe and the world. It means that it is indeed high time that we revisited the les-



sions of the past. At the same time, there were many emotional outbursts, poorly disguised insecurities and loud accusations that followed. Acting out of habit, certain politicians rushed to claim that Russia was trying to rewrite history. However, they failed to rebut a single fact or refute a single argument. It is indeed difficult, if not impossible, to argue with the original documents that, by the way, can be found not only in Russian, but also in foreign archives.

Thus, there is a need to further examine the reasons that caused the world war and reflect on its complicated events, tragedies and victories, as well as its lessons, both for our country and the entire world. And like I said, it is crucial to rely exclusively on archive documents and contemporary evidence while avoiding any ideological or politicised speculations.

I would like to once again recall the obvious fact. The root causes of World War II mainly stem from the decisions made after World War I. The Treaty of Versailles became a symbol of grave injustice for Germany. It basically implied that the country was to be robbed, being forced to pay enormous reparations to the Western allies that drained its economy. French Marshal Ferdinand Foch who served as the Supreme Allied Commander gave a prophetic description of that Treaty: "This is not peace. It is an armistice for twenty years."

It was the national humiliation that became a fertile ground for radical and revenge-seeking sentiments in Germany. The Nazis skillfully played on people's emotions and built their propaganda promising to deliver Germany from the "legacy of Versailles" and restore the

country to its former power while essentially pushing German people into war. Paradoxically, the Western states, particularly the United Kingdom and the United States, directly or indirectly contributed to this. Their financial and industrial enterprises actively invested in German factories and plants manufacturing military products. Besides, many people in the aristocracy and political establishment supported radical, far-right and nationalist movements that were on the rise both in Germany and in Europe.

"Versailles world order" caused numerous implicit controversies and apparent conflicts. They revolved around the borders of new European states randomly set by the victors in World War I. That boundary delimitation was almost immediately followed by territorial disputes and mutual claims that turned into "time bombs".

One of the major outcomes of World War I was the establishment of the League of Nations. There were high expectations for that international organisation to ensure lasting peace and collective security. It was a progressive idea that, if followed through consistently, could actually prevent the horrors of a global war from happening again.

However, the League of Nations dominated by the victorious powers of France and the United Kingdom proved ineffective and just got swamped by pointless discussions. The League of Nations and the European continent in general turned a deaf ear to the repeated calls of the Soviet Union to establish an equitable collective security system, and sign an Eastern European pact and a Pacific pact to prevent aggression. These proposals were disregarded.

The League of Nations also failed to prevent conflicts in various parts of the world, such as the attack of Italy on Ethiopia, a civil war in Spain, the Japanese aggression against China and the Anschluss of Austria. Furthermore, in case of the Munich Betrayal that, in addition to Hitler and Mussolini, involved British and French leaders, Czechoslovakia was taken apart with the full ap-

proval of the League of Nations. I would like to point out in this regard that, unlike many other European leaders of that time, Stalin did not disgrace himself by meeting with Hitler who was known among the Western nations as quite a reputable politician and was a welcome guest in the European capitals.

Poland was also engaged in the partition of Czechoslovakia along with Germany. They decided together in advance who would get what Czechoslovak territories. On September 20, 1938, Polish Ambassador to Germany Józef Lipski reported to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Józef Beck on the following assurances made by Hitler: "...in case of a conflict between Poland and Czechoslovakia over our interests in Teschen, the Reich would stand by Poland." The Nazi leader even prompted and advised that Poland started to act "only after the Germans occupy the Sudetes."

Poland was aware that without Hitler's support, its annexationist plans were doomed to fail. I would like to quote in this regard a record of the conversation between German Ambassador to Warsaw Hans-Adolf von Moltke and Józef Beck that took place on October 1, 1938, and was focused on the Polish-Czech relations and the position of the Soviet Union in this matter. It says: "Mr Beck expressed real gratitude for the loyal treatment accorded to Polish interests at the Munich conference, as well as the sincerity of relations during the Czech conflict. The Government and the public [of Poland] fully appreciated the attitude of the Fuehrer and Chancellor."

The partition of Czechoslovakia was brutal and cynical. Munich destroyed even the formal, fragile guarantees that remained on the continent. It showed that mutual agreements were worthless. It was the Munich Betrayal that served as the "trigger" and made the great war in Europe inevitable.

Today, European politicians, and Polish leaders in particular, wish to sweep the Munich Betrayal under the carpet. Why? The fact that their countries once broke their commitments and supported the Munich Betrayal, with some of them even participating in divvying up the take, is not the only reason. Another is that it is kind of embarrassing to recall that during those dramatic days of 1938, the Soviet Union was the only one to stand up for Czechoslovakia.

The Soviet Union, in accordance with its international obligations, including agreements with France and Czechoslovakia, tried to prevent the tragedy from happening. Meanwhile, Poland, in pursuit of its interests, was doing its utmost to hamper the establishment of a collective security system in Europe. Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Józef Beck wrote about it directly in his letter of September 19, 1938 to the aforementioned Ambassador Józef Lipski before his meeting with Hitler: "...in the past year, the Polish government rejected four times the proposal to join the international interfering in defence of

Czechoslovakia."

Britain, as well as France, which was at the time the main ally of the Czechs and Slovaks, chose to withdraw their guarantees and abandon this Eastern European country to its fate. In so doing, they sought to direct the attention of the Nazis eastward so that Germany and the Soviet Union would inevitably clash and bleed each other white.

That was the essence of the western policy of 'appeasement,' which was pursued not only towards the Third Reich but also towards other participants of the so-called Anti-Comintern Pact - the fascist Italy and militarist Japan. In the Far East, this policy culminated in the conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese agreement in the summer of 1939, which gave Tokyo a free hand in China. The leading European powers were unwilling to recognise the mortal danger posed by Germany and its allies to the whole world. They were hoping that they themselves would be left untouched by the war.

The Munich Betrayal showed to the Soviet Union that the Western countries would deal with security issues without taking its interests into account. In fact, they could even create an anti-Soviet front, if needed.

Nevertheless, the Soviet Union did its utmost to use every chance to create an Anti-Hitler coalition. Despite - I will say it again - the double-dealing on the part of the Western countries. For instance, the intelligence services reported to the Soviet leadership detailed information on the behind-the-scenes contacts between Britain and Germany in the summer of 1939. The important thing is that those contacts were quite active and practically coincided with the tripartite negotiations between France, Great Britain and the USSR, which were, on the contrary, deliberately protracted by the Western partners. In this connection, I will cite a document from the British archives. It contains instructions to the British military mission that came to Moscow in August 1939. It directly states that the delegation was to proceed with negotiations very slowly, and that the Government of the United Kingdom was not ready to assume any obligations spelled out in detail and limiting their freedom of action under any circumstances. I will also note that, unlike the British and French delegations, the Soviet delegation was headed by top commanders of the Red Army, who had the necessary authority to "sign a military convention on the organisation of military defence of England, France and the USSR against aggression in Europe."

Poland played its role in the failure of those negotiations as it did not want to have any obligations to the Soviet side. Even under pressure from their Western allies, the Polish leadership rejected the idea of joint action with the Red Army to fight against the Wehrmacht. It was only when they learned of the arrival of J. Ribbentrop to Moscow that J. Beck reluctantly and not directly, but through French diplomats, notified the Soviet side: "...in the event of joint action against the German aggression, cooperation between Poland and the Soviet Union, subject to technical conditions which have to be agreed, is not out of the question." At the same time, he explained to his colleagues: "...I agreed to this wording only for the sake of the tactics, and our core position in relation to the Soviet Union is final and remains unchanged."

In these circumstances, the Soviet Union signed the Non-Aggression Pact with Germany. It was practically the last among the European countries to do so. Besides, it was done in the face of a real threat of war on two fronts - with Germany in the west and with Japan in the east, where intense fighting on the Khalkhin Gol River was already underway.

Stalin and his entourage, indeed, deserve many legitimate accusations. We remember the crimes committed by the regime against its own people and the horror of mass repressions. In other words, there are many things the Soviet leaders can be reproached for, but poor understanding of the nature of external threats is not one of them. They saw how attempts were made to leave the Soviet Union alone to deal with Germany and its allies. Bearing in mind this real threat, they sought to buy precious time needed to strengthen the country's defences.

Nowadays, we hear lots of speculations and accusations against modern Russia in connection with the Non-Aggression Pact signed back then. Yes, Russia is the legal successor state to the USSR, and the Soviet period - with all its triumphs and tragedies - is an inalienable part of our thousand-year-long history.



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Agricultural Council leader praises Treasury on pro-agriculture budget

By Smart Money Reporter

THE 2020/21 budget which was endorsed by parliament last week has been commended as offering more incentives to encourage private investments in agriculture.

Chairperson of Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT), Dr Jacqueline Mkindi showered praises on the government for coming up with one of the greatest budget in recent years as it offers incentives needed by investors eager to put their money in crop cultivation, livestock keeping and aquaculture.

"We are so grateful that this budget is skewed towards creating a conducive environment for agri-business to sprout. It is an incentive for the current and prospective investors in the agricultural value chains of livestock, fisheries and crop cultivation," Dr Mkindi said while commenting on the budget last week.

She further noted that the budget will position the agriculture sector more appropriately to play its fundamental role of producing raw materials needed for industrial development. "As if that is not enough, the budget will shield domestic industries against unfair competition, enhance our products competitiveness in the regional and international markets," explained Dr Mkindi who is also a Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) board member representing agriculture cluster.

The ACT chief paid tribute to President John Magufuli's last budget after his first five year term, because, among other things, it scraps off a record 60 nuisance fees and levies hence offering relief to majority investors in agriculture value chains who include smallholder



Agricultural Council of Tanzania chairperson who is also Taha Group CEO, Dr Jacqueline Mkindi speaking to journalists in Arusha last week. Photo courtesy of ACT.

farmers.

"The government's move will improve the business environ-

ment, taking into consideration the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. This tax relief will translate into

competitiveness of commodities," noted Dr Mkindi who is also TAHA Group CEO.

She applauded President Magufuli's response to the Coronavirus outbreak with careful restrictions introduced which allowed productive activities in the agriculture sector to continue without being disrupted.

Tanzania's agriculture sector—which contributes nearly one-third of the country's gross domestic product and employs 75 percent of the population, has potential to increase incomes and improve livelihoods. Experts have said that horticulture, fisheries, coffee, cotton and cashew have been hardest hit subsectors by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To relieve the sub-sectors, for instance, with the theme "stimulating the economy to safeguard livelihoods, jobs, businesses and industrial recovery," the 2020/21 budget offered value added tax exemption on Agricultural Crop Insurance.

Dr Mkindi praised Finance Minister, Dr Phillip Mpango, Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga, Hussein Bashe and Omar Mgumba for amending the VAT Act to enable exporters of commodities to recover input tax and enhance competitiveness at international markets as well as comply with VAT destination principle.

"We appreciate government's efforts to waive duty on agricultural seed packaging materials to 0 percent instead of 25 percent," the ACT Chairperson added.

The budget also contains a stay application of East African Community Common External Tariff (CET) rate of 25 percent and impose 35 percent duty for one year on imported horticultural products, a move intended to protect local farmers against unfair competition.

Exemption of custom duty on imported implements by person or entity engaged in horticulture, aquaculture and floriculture in order to promote growth of the sub-sector, is also another incentive granted by the new budget.

Mkindi also applauded Treasury for abolishing Occupational Safety and Public Health training fees of 250,000/= for each participant, saying that the provision of public education on safety and health is a core obligation of OSHA.

"Reduction of Skills Development Levy from 4.5 percent to 4 percent in order to relieve employers is among the key incentives to investors that will encourage expansion of businesses hence creating more jobs while creating wealth," she noted.

She also lauded Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina for abolishing loyalty of \$0.4 per kg of targeted fish catches from deep-sea fishing and reducing export license fee on fish and associated products from fresh water bodies. The 2020/21 budget is effective next week Wednesday.

UK firms apologise over links to slavery

LONDON

Global protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd are pushing the UK to acknowledge past links to slavery and racism.

In the space of less than 24 hours, insurance marketplace Lloyd's of London, insurer Aviva, and pub company Greene King apologised for their connection to the slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries, while a college at Oxford University recommended the removal of a statue of colonialist Cecil Rhodes after years of criticism.

Britain has been confronting some of its most brutal and shameful history after marches by Black Lives Matter throughout the country. The BLM movement has particular resonance in the UK, with its track record of colonizing swaths of Africa and the Caribbean and its central role in the global slave trade.

Lloyd's of London said Wednesday that it would offer unspecified financial support for charities and organisations promoting inclusion and it would also step up efforts to hire more Black and racially diverse talent.

"Over the last week we have listened

carefully to our Black and ethnic minority colleagues in the Lloyd's market," the company said in a statement. "We have heard their frustrations, and it is clear that we must commit now as a market to take meaningful and measurable action."

Greene King, owned by billionaire Li Ka-shing's real-estate company CK Asset Holdings, said it was inexcusable that one of its founders profited from slavery and argued against its abolition in the 1800s. Benjamin Greene was one of 47,000 people that received compensation from the government for their slave-related assets when the institution was abolished in 1833, the Telegraph reported.

Greene surrendered three plantations in the West Indies and received the equivalent of 500,000 pounds (\$622,000) in today's money, the paper said. The pub firm will make a "substantial investment to benefit the BAME community and support our race diversity in the business as we increase our focus on targeted work in this area," Chief Executive Officer Nick Mackenzie said in a statement, referring to a British acronym for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. Greene King will invest in its own diversity and inclusion work, as well as with charity



Protesters hold placards during a demonstration at Oxford University in June 2020.

partners.

The insurer and the pub company are far from alone. University College London's Legacies of British Slave-ownership Project has identified 1,201 individuals that left behind some slave-

related commercial legacy. That includes docks and canals, insurance companies and banks, according to Katie Donington, a historian at London South Bank University who participated in the UCL project.

While it's "impossible" to put a figure on total revenues from slave-related industries, Britain would not have the wealth and development that it has today without its history of empire and slavery, Donington said.

Insurance giant Aviva said it was likely that an earlier incarnation of the firm insured people or property that enabled the slave trade. "Given our long heritage, there have been decisions, actions and behaviours made by our predecessors that are clearly unacceptable to us today," Aviva said in a statement. "Acknowledging this happened and the legacy it has left is important."

The governors of Oxford's Oriel College voted on Wednesday to recommend removing the statue of Rhodes, one of Britain's leading imperialists. He made a fortune after pushing the empire to seize South Africa's diamond mines in the 19th century and co-founded De Beers, which became the dominant producer of the gems. He was a major benefactor of Oriel, which established the Rhodes Scholarship in his name.

Rhodes must fall

The campaign to remove the statue - as the University of Cape Town did, in 2015 - has been underway for years, but the global outrage over the killing of Floyd by police in Minneapolis energised the effort.

Earlier this month, protesters in Bristol toppled a statue of the slave trader Edward Colston during an anti-racist demonstration and dumped it in the English city's harbour.

By the mid-18th century, just three decades after Colston's death, Britain controlled the lion's share of the slave trade. The profits from colonialism fuelled the Industrial Revolution and funded great civic buildings across the UK, with cities raising statues to their benefactors.

Migration has positive impact on advanced economies, IMF says

WASHINGTON

THE migration of workers from low-income countries to developed economies has a positive effect on global economic growth, the International Monetary Fund said.

"Immigration into advanced economies increases output and productivity, both in the short and medium term, but these positive effects are not clearly detected for refugee flows in emerging market and developing economies," the fund said in a chapter of its World Economic Outlook set to be released on June 24.

About 270 million people in the world were classified as migrants in 2019, with the num-

ber having increased by 120 million since 1990. While migrants have accounted for about 3 percent of the world's population over the past six decades, their number as a share of the total population of advanced economies rose from 7 percent to 12 percent during the same period.

The coronavirus pandemic halted migration as countries locked borders and enforced movement restrictions - a move that could possibly have a significant long-term effect on their economies.

Conflict is an important driver, prompting large-scale movement of people from war-ravaged developing economies to neighbouring countries.

The IMF said the share of migrants relative to the global population will remain "broadly stable" under a baseline scenario. However, the share of migrants moving to advanced economies will expand relative to the population increase in emerging economies.

Climate change will also be an instigator of long and short-distance migration, the fund said. Continued large-scale migration is expected to contribute to output and productivity growth in advanced economies in the short and medium term.

However, refugee flows into emerging and developing economies do not appear to produce similar gains, the multilateral lender said.

According to the IMF, labour market policy focused on the vocational training and education of immigrants could boost macroeconomic gains.

It also called for international financial support and policy co-ordination measures to address refugee crises and support the integration of refugees within host countries.

The effect of migration on global output is positive due to increased productivity in the case of labour movement from low- to high-productivity countries.

"An additional, but small, contribution to global GDP comes from the gradual closing of the productivity gap between immigrants" and

host populations, the IMF said. The trend is also expected to improve the skills of host populations.

Emerging and developing economies also receive a boost to per capita income from remittances sent from abroad, helping offset some of the negative effects of large-scale emigration. The IMF's note on the economic contribution of migrants comes after a call by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation for their rights to be protected.

The coronavirus pandemic left migrant workers, who form an integral part of the agriculture industry in advanced economies, impoverished while host countries were affected negatively.

BRELA calls upon district officials to mobilise business registrations

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

BUSINESS officers at district and ward levels in the country have been challenged to mobilise business owners of all sizes in their areas to register with Business Registration and Licensing Agency (Brela), to get official recognition.

Brela CEO, Godfrey Nyaisa said in Dar es Salaam this week while opening a one week seminar for business officers from different regions in the country that most businesses are not registered in the country.

Nyaisa said Brela has planned to have regular capacity building seminars with business officers from the country so that they can take charge of the agency's activities to reduce operational costs but also ensure that more businesses are registered.

"In the past, it was common for business owners to fear government officials when visiting their premises with some of them closing their shops to avoid them but now we must change that attitude and create a friendly environment because we are partners," he said.

The Brela chief pointed out that business officers in the country must also change their attitude by becoming more friendly with the business community something that will enable them to work as partners hence easily archive set goals.

"As business officers, apart from sensitizing people to start and register their businesses, you are required to find market both local and international for their produce," he challenged them while promising that Brela officials will teach them among other things, how to register new business, update information, register factory and to get class A and B licenses online.

Nyaisa said in the next financial year, the agency will conduct zonal sensitization and capacity building training session country-wide targeting business officers to equip them with knowledge and skills on how to discharge Brela's roles in their areas.

Brela which has already started distribut-



Brela CEO Godfrey Nyaisa.

ing information communication technology equipment to district councils in Dar es Salaam, Coast and Mwanza regions to facilitate registration of businesses electronically.

"We are now better organized to make sure no corrupt practices are entertained at Brela hence want people to

get their registration certificate timely online," he noted while stressing that Brela will facilitate growth of businesses and not frustrate them.

Vodacom to bid in consortium for Ethiopia operating licence

NAIROBI

THE largest wireless carriers operating in Africa are starting to form partnerships ahead of making offers for new licences to be awarded by Ethiopia, which is opening its telecommunications industry to international companies.

Vodafone Group is part of one consortium planning to bid for a licence. The UK carrier has teamed up with its South African unit Vodacom Group and Nairobi-based affiliate Safaricom, according to the Kenyan company's chief financial officer, Sateesh Kamath.

The companies have engaged with CDC Group, the UK development finance institution, to assess interest in joining their bid, people with knowledge of the matter said. The Vodafone-backed consortium has previously reached out to Cerberus Capital Management about teaming up, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private.

Kamath declined to comment on potential additional partners to the Vodafone-led alliance. Spokespeople for Vodafone, Vodacom, CDC and Cerberus declined to comment. "The family will bring its combined global strengths to the table, with Safaricom bringing the region's strength, Vodacom bringing an African strength and Vodafone bringing a global strength," Kamath said in an interview ahead of his move to a new job at Vodafone starting on 1 July.

Ethiopia announced the break-up of its state monopoly shortly after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power two years ago, part of a broader privatisation plan that also includes the sugar and rail industries, among others. The news immediately drew the attention of Africa-focused carriers, who have long seen the Horn of Africa nation and its population of more than 100 million as a fertile market for expansion.

MTN, Orange keen

MTN Group, Africa's largest wireless carrier by subscribers, and France's Orange have both expressed an interest in the privatisation process. Both companies reiterated that position when contacted, declining to comment on whether they would bid solo or as part



Safaricom's chief financial officer, Sateesh Kamath.

of an alliance.

The government is looking to sell a minority stake in state-owned Ethio Telecom alongside two new licences, a move designed to attract foreign investment and improve competition and quality of the sector. The transactions were meant to be completed by now but have been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic and the length of time needed to draw up regulations and valuations. Interested buyers now have until 22 June to submit expressions

of interest, with the International Finance Corp acting as adviser.

"It is very encouraging for us to see several companies pulling together resources that will be required to acquire these valuable spectrum licences," Brook Taye, adviser to Ethiopia's finance ministry, said in an interview. "Having a consortium of companies coming in and showing interest is a great testament to the appreciation to the value of these spectrum licences."

Mozambique's ENH seeking cheaper funding for major natural gas project

MAPUTO

THE state-owned Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH) de Moçambique intends to find cheaper financing than that it is currently using to facilitate its participation in the country's natural gas project, the government has announced.

"There is an agreement" with the other Area 1 partners - that is, international oil companies led by Total of France - to finance ENH's 15% stake "in the construction phase", explained Mozambique's minister of mineral resources and energy, Max Tonela, on a visit to the site on the Afungi peninsula on Friday.

"But as a company, ENH aims to maximise the return on its investment and, from that perspective, is working with financial advisers ... in order to find financing alternatives that allow lower costs of the operation," he added, without detailing figures. "This exercise is still ongoing."

"There are no risks to the project" arising from ENH's need to seek loans to take its place in the consortium, Max Tonela said. "This is an exercise in refinancing your participation in the project, with lower costs."

Bloomberg reported on Friday that financial advice is being provided by the bank Societe Generale, which is already providing this service to the Mozambique LNG megaproject in Area 1. In November of last year, raising approximately US\$1.5 billion (€1.3 billion) for ENH's participation in Area 1 was the most expensive project presented at an investment forum organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

It was the first presentation by the Mozambican state to international banks and investors after the sovereign debt restructuring agreed with creditors in October 2019, and after financial rating agency Fitch removed the country from its default list, following the case of the State's hidden debts, worth around €2 billion, which is still making its way through the courts.

Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) said at the time that supporting ENH's participation in Area 1 represented a "fantastic" investment opportunity in a "well-structured" project.

Asked in Afungi on Friday whether ENH's indebtedness and the drop in world demand could swallow the benefits accruing to the state from the megaproject, Max Tonela reaffirmed that the "project is viable" and that "all parties will benefit."

Economic models of the Area 1 project point to global gains, over 25 years, in the order of US\$61 billion (€54.5 billion euros) and "the Mozambican state, through taxes, profit sharing and its ENH participation, will retain just over 50%, about US\$31 billion (€27.7 billion)," he said.

Perspectives for the world's energy markets "indicate that in the medium, long term, there will be an increase in demand" and that, in this case, liquefied natural gas (LNG) "will have a higher growth rate than other products."

Minister Tonela says the trend towards cleaner energy will end favouring gas over other sources such as coal - which has hitherto been one of Mozambique's main export products. The Rovuma Basin Area 1 project, off the northern coast of Mozambique, is expected to start in 2024 and reach full production (13.12 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas) in 2025.

Meanwhile Mozambique appointed Societe Generale SA as financial adviser to the state-owned oil company, which is seeking funding for its stake in a liquefied natural gas project led by Total SA.

Societe Generale is already the financial adviser to Mozambique LNG, as the Total project is known, and it was "in this context" that the bank was chosen to serve in the same role for Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos, Natural Resources and Energy Minister Ernesto Max Tonela said in an interview Friday near the site of the project.

The government owns a 15% stake in Total's development through ENH. In November, then ENH Chief Executive Officer Omar Mitha said the company was seeking \$1.5 billion to finance its share of development costs. Societe Generale replaces Lion's Head Global Partners LLP as adviser, after its contract expired.



Mozambique's minister of mineral resources and energy, Max Tonela.

US says South Africa's poultry tariffs give EU unfair benefit

WASHINGTON

SOUTH Africa's recent poultry-tariff increases give European exporters an unfair advantage over their American competitors even though the country benefits from duty-free access to the world's biggest economy, according to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer. "That strikes me as completely crazy," he said in a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on trade policy on Wednesday.

The continent's most-industrialised economy has duty-free access to the US market under the so-called Generalised System of Preferences, America's oldest and largest trade-preference program for the world's poorest economies.

The African nation raised duties on frozen bone-in chicken pieces to 62% from 37% for imports from all countries excluding those in the European Union, with which it has a free-trade agreement, and the Southern African Development Community. South Africa also increased tariffs on frozen boneless-chicken cuts to 42% from 12%.

Increases in levies were effected to help protect local producers that sought measures to counter a flood of cheap shipments that contributed to annual losses of R6.5 billion for the local industry. The move drew immediate criticism from the US government, which previously threatened to exclude South Africa from a preferential trade agreement after a disagreement over the levies in 2015.

South Africa allows the US to ship a maximum of 65 000 metric tons of frozen bone-in chicken portions for free per year so it could remain a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which provides 39 sub-Saharan African countries with duty-free access to the US for about 6 500 products ranging from textiles to manufactured items.

The US wants its trade and investment relationship with South Africa to continue to grow, rather than shrink, the US Embassy in Pretoria said in an emailed response to emailed questions on June 12. The US began a review of the South Africa's market access under the GSP in January after the US Trade Representative accepted a complaint that the country's draft new legislation failed to "provide adequate and effective protection" of US copyrights. A negative review could put as much as \$2.4 billion of South African exports at risk.

Plummeting of world crude oil prices and its impact on African economies

By Sophia Kulaja

On April 20, 2020, the Business Insider reported that the world market for crude oil experienced a tremendous slump in prices. Excess supplies pushed the price per barrel from \$18 to negative \$40 in a span of hours. This was the lowest point in 18 years. The oil industry experienced booms and downfalls in the past but nothing compared to this happened before.

Tanzania's Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) price publication in June 2020, revealed a decline in world market prices by \$182.9/tonne and \$153/tonne for petrol and diesel respectively. For the month of June, pump prices in declined by 348/- (18.7 percent) and 300/- (16.2 percent) per litre of petrol and diesel respectively. The lowest regional price being 1,520/- for petrol and 1,546/- for diesel. Currently, world market price for crude oil is positive \$38 per barrel.

Since the novel Coronavirus was declared a pandemic by World Health Organisation, a number of economies across the globe experienced turns and twists. Business activities remained at a near standstill as a result of shutdown of factories, restricted movement and declining use of fuel consuming products. These together with grounded flights amidst lockdowns, travel bans, and stay-at-home orders led to a significant decline in effective demand for oil.

As it is for any other commodity, prices are influenced by demand and supply forces. Oil is traditionally a scarce commodity which customers are willing to pay more for, however over the years, technology played a huge role in ensuring producers can access oil at low cost and sell at affordable price. As demand sharply falls while supply maintains its inelasticity, prices are set to decline.

To salvage price decline, most producers embarked on curtailing production, however the attempt did not match the declining demand, eventually leaving more supply. Storage facilities were saturated causing cost escalation without immediate demand.

Some governments believe this is a short-term challenge while for others, this could be a precursor to a possible recession in their economies. Africa is no exception, some of the largest oil producers and exporters in the continent including Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt and Libya have been adversely impacted.

There are winners and losers. Winners include haulage companies that deal with the commercial transportation of goods, packaging industry that use crude oil in making plastics and farmers using fertilizers made from oil by-products. Operating airlines will be able to minimize fuel costs and users of private cars that use petrol/diesel have started to benefit from the decline in prices.

Losers include some of the governments. Oil is one of the strategic



commodities and some economies depend on oil revenues to balance their budgets. A lot less revenues are likely to be collected from oil sales and taxes this time around.

This has started to have adverse consequences on countries whose currencies have a high dependency on oil exports to drive economic growth. Investors within the oil industry now earn less and face potential significant losses. Jobs and the future of the industry is at stake.

The recent renewable threatened if consumers decide to switch to cheaper oil energy alternatives. We are already seeing deflation of currencies, as spending slows down monumentally while consumers are waiting for lowest prices, suppliers respond by dropping down prices.

Oil prices also affect the natural gas price. Other factors include among others: refinery costs, distribution costs, tariffs and margins. The industry has been volatile, with the world's natural gas prices dropping from \$280 per metric tonne in March to \$123 per metric tonne in April and \$149 per metric tonne in May.

The combination of price war and the pandemic has kept the price of natural gas below the March price by almost 50 percent. Companies within the energy industry need to take into account the impact of the price cuts on their cash flow projections and possible operational and supply chain disruptions.

Responses from governments and public health authorities play a significant role in reopening the economies, travel, supporting corporates, salvaging jobs, and ensuring the public is able to get back to the day-to-day routines including resuming the normal consumption pattern. I would also argue that it is important for oil prices to remain regulated to avoid supply shocks and attain balance in the future.

NB: Sophia Kulaja (pictured) is an Audit Senior at KPMG Advisory Limited. The views and opinions are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG Advisory Limited.

Restaurants across India struggling as Covid-19 scare keeps customers away

NEW DELHI

BUSINESS has never been so bad for Banjara Restaurant in Mumbai. Like so many millions of eateries and cafes across the country, the restaurant was forced to close its doors to dine-in customers in March, as the coronavirus pandemic gripped the country of 1.3 billion people.

New Delhi enforced arguably one of the world's strictest lockdown in a bid to restrict people's movements to contain the spread of the virus through Asia's third-largest economy.

Although the economy is opening up gradually despite a rise in the infection rate, many lockdown restrictions still remain in place in Mumbai. India's financial capital has the highest number of cases and Banjara, the multi-cuisine restaurant, is only offering delivery options via popular online apps including Zomato and Swiggy to try and keep its staff and customers safe. However, the business it is generating through online sales is not even enough to cover the costs. The pandemic caught everyone off guard, says the management.

"This is a situation which we had never anticipated ... so we were not ready," says Subhadeep Datta, the general manager of Goldfinch Hotel, which houses the restaurant. "We're trying to adjust to the situation as the months pass by. We don't know when the restaurant will be able to open [for dine-in customers]."

Even online orders are tough these days because of concerns that delivery staff might be infected, and a preference for cooking at home to limit potential exposure to the virus. The restaurant's current online orders are only at about 40 per cent of its online business before the pandemic, he says.

Banjara, however, managed to avoid laying off its staff. But to keep the business afloat, the management has cut the pay by 30 per cent, says Mr Datta. The National Restaurant Association of India says about 2 million people in India's restaurant industry are at risk of losing jobs because of the current situation.

"The reasons for the heartburn aren't difficult to fathom," according to Crisil, an Indian ratings and research firm, which is part of Standard & Poor's. "The organised restaurant sector has seen a 90 per cent reduction in sales since the lockdown. And when the lockdown is lifted, the rebound is expected to be only gradual."

Although many restaurants chose the use of online apps to keep business ticking over during the lockdown, their revenue is a far cry from pre-coronavirus levels. Online orders, according to analysts, have slumped 50 to 70 per cent before the pandemic gripped the country.

Crisil forecasts that once India's lockdown ends, it will take a year for the restaurant industry to recover, and some may not have the financial muscle to survive that long. Half of the country's restaurants are already seeing serious stress in their balance sheets, it adds.

Organised outlets account for 35 per cent of India's restaurant industry, with

their revenues estimated at 4.2 trillion rupees in the 2019 fiscal year, according to the consultancy. "India's organised dine-in restaurants are on course for a 40 to 50 per cent cut in revenue this fiscal [year] because of the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," the report says.

Restaurants in some states including Delhi have been allowed to reopen in June, as the central government is permitting a gradual easing of lockdown, should the individual state governments consider it appropriate to do so. Restaurants that have reopened have to follow a strict set of guidelines issued by the government, including keeping tables six feet apart, using disposable napkins instead of cloth napkins, thermal screening of staff and operating only at half of their seating capacity.

Prime minister Narendra Modi's government is eager to revive the economy, which like so many others across the globe, has taken a serious battering by the pandemic and resultant lockdowns. That is the reason why New Delhi is willing to ease restrictions despite a rise in the rate of infections in the country. However, despite the partial easing on restrictions, the pickup in restaurant business is not what the policymakers were hoping for, as customers remain wary.

"The restaurant industry is one of the sectors that's hardest hit by the lockdown," says Sachin Bhalerao, the founder of Walktails Events and Resto-bar Consultancy, based in Mumbai. "The fear of Covid-19 among customers is much more deep-rooted than anticipated."

India continues to see record daily spikes in the number of Covid-19 cases, with confirmed infections edging closer to 395,048 and fatalities nearing 13,000, according to Johns Hopkins University, which is tracking the disease globally.

It is a challenge to balance the health crisis and limit the slowdown in the economy. Investment bank Goldman Sachs forecasts India's GDP growth to contract 5 per cent in the current financial year, which runs until the end of March, in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"Many people in India have lost their jobs or they haven't been paid for two or three months, so no one has money to spend unnecessarily on eating out," says Radha Shinkre, director at Sincro. Many businesses, including restaurants, have opted not to open up despite permission to restart operations. Weak demand and in some cases, labour shortages have forced them to keep the shutters down, as most migrant workers have returned to their home towns and villages during the lockdown.

Sincro restaurant in the coastal state of Goa, which specialises in coastal cuisines, is among those keeping its doors shut to dine-in customers, despite having the permission to entertain them. "Our restaurant is only open for takeaways with a very limited menu," says Radha Shinkre, director at Sincro. "People are not going out to eat in Goa because of the [pandemic] scare."

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Coronavirus lockdowns increase poaching in Asia and Africa

JOHANNESBURG

A CAMERA trap photo of an injured tigress and a forensic examination of its carcass revealed why the creature died: a poacher's wire snare punctured its windpipe and sapped its strength as the wound festered for days.

Snares like this one set in southern India's dense forest have become increasingly common amid the coronavirus pandemic, as people left jobless turn to wildlife to make money and feed their families. Authorities in India are concerned this spike in poaching could not only kill more endangered tigers and leopards but also species these carnivores depend upon to survive.

"It is risky to poach, but if pushed to the brink, some could think that these are risks worth taking," said Mayukh Chatterjee, a wildlife biologist with the non-profit Wildlife Trust of India. Since the country announced its lockdown, at least four tigers and six leopards have been killed by poachers, the Wildlife Protection Society of India said. But there also were numerous other poaching casualties – gazelles in grasslands, foot-long giant squirrels in forests, wild boars and birds such as peacocks and purple morphens.

In many parts of the developing world, coronavirus lockdowns have sparked concern about increased illegal hunting that's

fuelled by food shortages and a decline in law enforcement in some wildlife protection areas. At the same time, border closures and travel restrictions slowed illegal trade in certain high-value species.

One of the biggest disruptions involves the endangered pangolin. Often caught in parts of Africa and Asia, the anteater-like animals are smuggled mostly to China and Southeast Asia, where their meat is considered a delicacy and scales are used in traditional medicine. In April, the Wildlife Justice Commission reported traders were stockpiling pangolin scales in several Southeast Asia countries awaiting an end to the pandemic.

Rhino horn is being stockpiled in Mozambique, the report said, and ivory traders in Southeast Asia are struggling to sell the stockpiles amassed since China's 2017 ban on trade in ivory products. The pandemic compounded their plight because many Chinese customers were unable to travel to ivory markets in Cambodia, Laos and other countries.

"They are desperate to get it off their hands. Nobody wants to be stuck with that product," said Sarah Stoner, director of intelligence for the commission. The illegal trade in pangolins continued "unabated" within Africa but international trade has been disrupted by port closures, said Ray Jansen, chairman of the African Pangolin Working Group.



A pangolin looks for food in Krueger Park, South Africa.

"We have witnessed some trade via air while major ship routes are still closed but we expect a flood of trade once shipping avenues reopen again," Jansen said. Fears that organised poaching in Africa would spike have not materialised – partly because ranger patrols have continued in many national parks and reserves.

Emma Stokes, director of the Central Africa Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society, said patrolling national parks

in several African countries has been designated essential work. But she has heard about increased hunting of animals outside parks. "We are expecting to see an increase in bushmeat hunting for food – duikers, antelopes and monkeys," she said.

Mr Jansen also said bushmeat poaching was soaring, especially in parts of southern Africa. "Rural people are struggling to feed themselves and their families," he said. There are also signs of increased poaching in parts of Asia.

A greater one-horned rhino was gunned down on May 9 in India's Kaziranga National Park – the first case in over a year. Three people, suspected of being part of an international poaching ring, were arrested on June 1 with automatic rifles and ammunition, said Uttam Saikia, a wildlife warden.

As in other parts of the world, poachers in Kaziranga pay poor families paltry sums of money to help them. With families losing work from the lockdown, "they will definitely take advantage of this," warned Mr Saikia.

In neighbouring Nepal, where the virus has ravaged important income from migrants and tourists, the first month of lockdown saw more forest-related crimes, including poaching and illegal logging, than the previous 11 months, according to a review by the government and World Wildlife Fund

or WWF. For many migrants returning to villages after losing jobs, forests were the "easiest source" of sustenance, said Shiv Raj Bhatta, director of programs at WWF Nepal.

In Southeast Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society documented in April the poisoning in Cambodia of three critically endangered giant ibises for the wading bird's meat. More than 100 painted stork chicks were also poached in late March in Cambodia at the largest water-bird colony in Southeast Asia.

"Suddenly rural people have little to turn to but natural resources and we're already seeing a spike in poaching," said Colin Poole, the group's regional director for the Greater Mekong. Heartened by the closure of wildlife markets in China over concerns about a possible link between the trade and the coronavirus, several conservation groups are calling for governments to put measures in place to avoid future pandemics. Among them is a global ban on the commercial sale of wild birds and mammals destined for the dinner table.

Others say an international treaty, known as CITES, which regulates the trade in endangered plants and animals, should be expanded to incorporate public health concerns. They point out that some commonly traded species, such as horseshoe bats, often carry viruses but are currently not subject to trade restrictions under CITES.

WORLD

COVID-19 cases surge in several US states as reopening efforts continue

WASHINGTON

SEVERAL U.S. states have seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases as businesses continue to resume operations across the nation, casting a shadow over the current path to reopening.

The southeastern U.S. state of Florida, for example, reported 4,049 new cases on Saturday, setting a single-day record for the third day in a row, according to data from the Florida Department of Health.

South Carolina, Missouri, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Montana also hit records on the day, according to a report from The New York Times, which noted that California, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Oregon hit records earlier in the week.

As of Sunday afternoon, more than 2.2 million confirmed COVID-19 cases have been reported in the United States, with over 119,800 deaths, according to a data tracking tool developed by Johns Hopkins University.

More than 30,000 new infections were reported across the nation on both Friday and Saturday, indicating a

nationwide uptick in COVID-19 cases, despite a downward trend in over 10 states including New York and New Jersey.

"We're seeing a resurgence in the south and the southeast, they really never got rid of their epidemics," Scott Gottlieb, former commissioner for the Food and Drug Administration, told CBS News' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Noting that some states could experience exponential growth of COVID-19 cases this weekend, Gottlieb said Texas, Arizona and Florida could be overwhelmed as case numbers continue to surge. Calling the situation "very unsatisfactory," Jeffrey Sachs, a renowned economics professor at Columbia University, recently told Xinhua that as the virus continues to spread rapidly, the federal government has "basically lost interest" in controlling the virus.

The results are likely to be very bad: a big resurgence of disease and deaths," said Sachs, also a senior United Nations advisor.

Public health experts believe that



Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) of Columbia University's Earth Institute, speaks during a press conference on the Deep Decarbonization Pathway Project (DDPP) interim report, at the UN headquarters in New York, on July 8, 2014. (Xinhua)

states' hasty efforts to reopen their economies, weeks of nationwide protests over the death of unarmed black man George Floyd, as well as some Americans' unwillingness to practice social distancing, or wear a mask, have all contributed to the recent surge in cases.

Since late April, U.S. states, facing record unemployment, have gradually started to reopen their economies, despite not seeing a significant downward trend in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations.

Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said at a virtual Senate hearing in May that the nation has not put the coronavirus outbreak under total control yet, warning of potential consequences for states that reopen too soon.

An influential COVID-19 model produced by the University of Washington raised its projections Thursday, forecasting more than 200,000 Americans could die of COVID-19 by Oct. 1, an increase of 30,000 deaths from its projections in the prior week.

"We're now able to look ahead and see where states need to begin planning for a second wave of COVID-19," said the university's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation Director Christopher Murray. "We hope to see our model proven wrong by the swift actions governments and individuals take to reduce transmission," Murray said.

Experts said further improving health and safety measures will be crucial to reducing the risk of widespread resurgence.

There are blueprints that will allow businesses and schools to open safely. If they follow these blueprints it will be possible to operate safely," Robert Schooley, a professor of medicine with the Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at the University of California, San Diego, told Xinhua.

"The priorities need to be helping the public understand that the virus is real, the outbreak is real, the deaths are real... and that we do know what works to control SARS-CoV-2," Schooley said.

Noting that it is a mistake that many Americans are not wearing masks, Gottlieb urged the public to wear masks to protect others and themselves and help reopen the economy safely.

Xinhua

South African president warns against job cuts amid COVID-19

CAPE TOWN

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa yesterday urged companies planning to cut jobs to balance the sustainability of business and the livelihoods of workers despite being hard hit by COVID-19.

"As much as we seek to protect current jobs, we also need to create new ones, and attract new, greater levels of investment," Ramaphosa (pictured) said in his weekly address to the nation. He stressed the importance of opening avenues for self-employment and entrepreneurship, especially for young people.

The president was speaking

after a number of companies last week announced plans to re-trench staff.

From aviation to construction, from entertainment and leisure to hospitality, companies have indicated their intention to cut staff because of heavy losses incurred over the past three months. In some cases, businesses are closing permanently.

Small businesses whose turnover has been wiped out will be even harder hit.

"As a country, we have all been keenly aware of the consequences of shutting down economic activity during the lockdown that was absolutely critical to save the lives



of our people," Ramaphosa said. A "job loss tsunami" has taken place around the world, and South Africa is no exception, he said.

In April the International Labor

Organisation forecast that there would be around 305 million job losses worldwide.

The situation of workers in the informal economy is even worse, with an estimated 1.6 billion workers in danger of losing their livelihoods.

For South Africa, which was already facing an unemployment crisis and weak economic growth, difficult decisions and difficult days lie ahead, Ramaphosa warned.

"We would urge that the difficult decisions to be taken are taken with care and with due regard to balancing the sustainability of companies and the livelihoods of

workers," he said.

It is important that whatever is done is underpinned by ensuring a just transition to all concerned, Ramaphosa said.

The government has taken measures to protect local businesses during the lockdown in the form of loans, tax relief, debt restructuring, extended credit lines, and retail rental exemptions are continuing to provide vital support, he said.

Temporary social assistance to poor households is gathering pace and providing vital relief, Ramaphosa said. "However, these measures can only go so far," he said.

Xinhua

Britain mourns victims of terrorism-linked stabbing that killed

READING

MOURNERS were to hold a minute's silence in the English town of Reading yesterday for the victims of a stabbing that killed three people in the latest attack authorities attributed to terrorism.

Three people were also injured when a man wielding a five-inch knife went on the rampage on Saturday in a park in the southern town, stabbing people at random who were enjoying a sunny, summer evening.

Describing the incident as an atrocity and terrorism, police say they have detained one man and are not hunting others.

A Western security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters that the arrested man was a 25-year-old Libyan called Khairi

Saadallah. Police have not named the suspect though they confirmed the arrest of a 25-year-old man.

The security source said Saadallah had come across the radar of Britain's domestic security agency MI5 last year over intelligence he had aspirations to travel for extremist purposes, although his plans then came to nothing.

Reading, which is about 65 km west of London, said a minute's silence would be held at 0900 GMT.

"Lone Actor"

"What you appear to have here is a lone actor and they are obviously particularly hard to detect," said Jonathan Hall, the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, whose job is to inform public debate on security laws.

"If, as has been reported, the individual is suffering from poor mental



Flower tributes at the entrance to Holt School in Wokingham, England, in memory of teacher James Furlong, a victim of a terror attack in nearby Reading, yesterday. (AP)

health that is a particularly difficult

When asked about the reports of the assailant being already on au-

thorities' radar, Britain's Security Minister James Brokenshire said the government did not comment on intelligence matters.

Teacher James Furlong, 36, is the only victim to have been named so far. "James was a wonderful man. He was beautiful, intelligent, honest and fun," his parents said in a statement.

The attack was reminiscent of some recent incidents in Britain that authorities also considered to be terrorism.

In February, police shot dead a man, previously jailed for promoting violent Islamist material, who had stabbed two people on a busy street in south London. Last November, another man who had been jailed for terrorism offences stabbed two people to death on London Bridge before he too was shot dead by police.

Agencies

Egypt tightens anti-coronavirus measures at airports ahead of resuming int'l flights - minister

HURGHADA, Egypt



EGYPT has imposed strict preventive measure at all airports ahead of resuming international flights on July 1, Egyptian Minister of Civil Aviation Mohamed Manar said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

Such measures have been taken in accordance with the criteria proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization against the spread of COVID-19, said Manar (pictured).

Passengers will be required to sign documents specifying information including the targeted city of residence in Egypt and health conditions, he explained.

According to the WHO list, travelers coming from countries affected by the pandemic will be required to submit a PCR test no later than 48 hours before their flight, Manar said.

All planes will be sterilized and disinfected, and face-masks are mandatory for the passengers and crews.

Distribution of paper publications onboard the plane will be banned, and only dry meals and canned drinks will be offered. Certain seats will be allocated for people with chronic diseases who may show symptoms, the minister said.

Sterilized gates and temperature scanners are installed inside the airports in case any passenger fabricated his health condition certificate but was proved to be infected by the virus, according to Manar.

Although the anti-COVID-19 precautionary measures are burdens for the flight crew, they have been well trained during the flights of transferring the Egyptians stranded abroad.

Egypt has suspended international flights since March 19 as a precautionary measure to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. Domestic flights, cargo and some special charters to repatriate stranded Egyptians have continued operation.

In April, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expected Egypt's airline industry to face a potential loss in revenues of 1.6 billion U.S. dollars and 9.5 million fewer passengers in 2020 due to the coronavirus crisis.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said in March that local aviation firms suffer the losses of 143 million dollars in wake of the harsh anti-coronavirus measures. "It's difficult to estimate the losses of the private airliner companies that shoulder the expense of planes' maintenance and insurance as well as the renting fees of the airports," said Manar.

However, the government has provided a package of economic incentives to boost the private sector, including postponing the payment of office rental fees inside the airports and the Central Bank of Egypt has provided soft loans with eight percent interests.

Xinhua

Kremlin comments on Bolton's 'assessments' of President Putin

MOSCOW



THE evaluations about Russian President Vladimir Putin that Trump's ex-National Security Advisor John Bolton provided in his recent memoir cannot be taken as a whole, since it is possible to agree with some but not all of them, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters yesterday.

"Regarding his (Bolton's) assessments of our president, there are various ones, one can agree with some of them, and one can disagree with some of them, that's why you need to look at individual messages here," the Kremlin official said.

In his opinion "one cannot give it a general evaluation." He also refused to comment on whether Bolton's perception of Putin is positive or negative.

Peskov also did not discuss the content of Bolton's book entitled: The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir, which touches on America's internal policy. "We would like to refrain from making comments on his opinions regarding the internal political situation in the US."

This is none of our business, and the characterization which Bolton gave his commander-in-chief, whom he had served under as an assistant for a year is none of our business, we will not [comment] on that," the Kremlin spokesman stated.

"As far as we could tell from the available materials about the book, Bolton largely brings the information related to his official activities, negotiations, and various top-level meetings," the press secretary noted.

He emphasized: "Of course, part of this information cannot really be made public, at least in our country it is "for internal use only." "We have such a practice, yet apparently it is different in the US which is again none of our business," Putin's press secretary pointed out.

Agencies

THE novel coronavirus found in Beijing's recent outbreak at Xinfadi market has come from Europe, but it is older than Europe's most recent virus, said Chinese health officials.

Although the coronavirus found in Beijing's Xinfadi market has come from Europe, it differs with their current outbreak, as it is older than the current European coronavirus, according to preliminary research results, said Zhang Yong, assistant director of National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, according to the website of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

"The large amounts of samples found in Xinfadi wholesale market indicate that the virus has been around for some time. If it had only just arrived in the city for a short period of time, there may not have been so many positive samples found; however, we need more data before making an informed decision about its origin," Zhang said.

Genomic epidemiology is the one of the main methods used to determine the lifespan of the virus. "We need to first sequence the whole genome, before putting all the different viruses together to see which virus has more

mutations; that is, those with more mutations normally suggest an updated virus, whereas those with less mutations closer to the original virus, and they are much older, circulating for a longer period of time compared to recently discovered viruses," Liu said, adding that some calculation also needs to be completed using mathematical models.

Gao Fu, director of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said on Tuesday that the Beijing's recent outbreak probably did not occur in late May or early June, but it probably started spreading a month earlier.

"In this specific outbreak, many

asymptomatic or mild cases were detected, and that is why the environment has such a large amount of recorded samples," said Gao.

In fact, the novel coronavirus will spread more easily in dark, humid, and polluted environments, which may catch some residents unexpectedly. If locals at the wholesale markets had been infected, it would have likely been exposed to many people very quickly, Gao added.

In regard to the virus' first transmission into the country, there are several possibilities being discussed. "For example, the virus may have remained in im-

ported frozen foods, and did not mutate due to frozen environment throughout the entire storage and transportation period, from overseas all the way to China," Zhang said.

It is also possible that the virus may have been lurking in dark, humid environments, which have not been properly disinfected and sterilized, before it was then exposed to local residents, causing its slow evolution. "In the end, what we see is that this virus is closer to the old European virus," Zhang said.

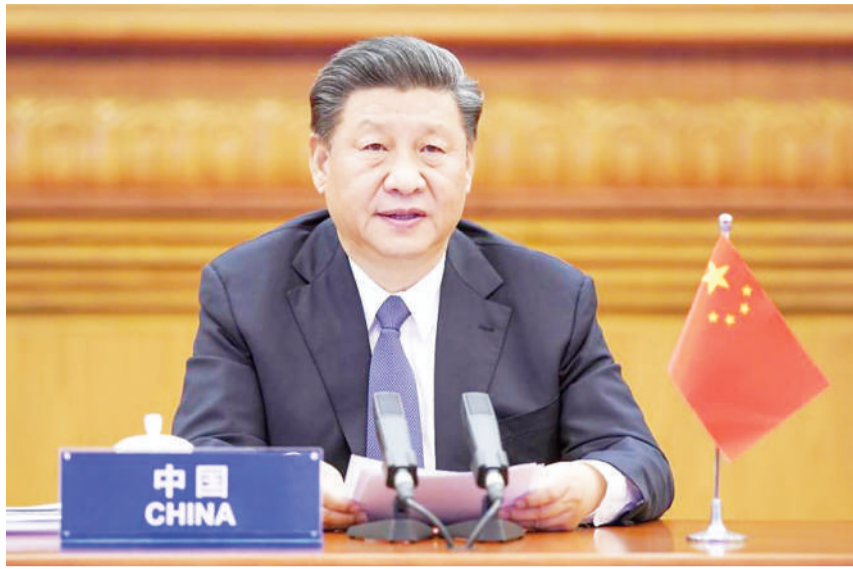
Epidemiological investigation and big data may find connections between cases, but it may also fail to determine

which individuals have been spreading the virus. "We hope that through laboratory tests and genome sequence analysis, that we can learn the transmission routes," Zhang said.

The Institute is taking the lead in establishing a nationwide virus monitoring and tracing system based on the entire viral genome, so as to deal with the current problems surrounded with virus traceability, which is a matter deeply related to national security, Zhang said.

Chinese scientists are working day and night to find out exactly how did the virus from Europe arrive at Beijing's Xinfadi market.

Global Times



Chinese President Xi Jinping

China and Africa to build community of health for all

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on June 17 emphasized that China and Africa must always put people and their lives front and center, and do whatever it takes to protect people's lives and health.

Xi made the remarks in a keynote speech titled "Defeating COVID-19 with Solidarity and Cooperation" delivered when chairing the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 via video link in Beijing on June 17.

The Chinese President called on the two sides to stay committed to fighting COVID-19 together, enhancing China-Africa cooperation, upholding multilateralism, taking China-Africa friendship forward, and building a China-Africa community of health for all and an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future.

A series of important proposals put forward by Xi at the Summit showcased China and Africa's resolution to defeat COVID-19 with solidarity and cooperation, offered a way forward for their joint fight against the pandemic and bilateral pragmatic cooperation, and charted the course for the future of China-Africa relations.

Xi's proposals also injected strong positive energy into the international community's joint efforts for an early victory over the pandemic.

Held at a crucial moment of global pandemic response, the summit carried special significance.

China, the world's largest developing country, and Africa, the continent with the largest number of developing countries, have fully demonstrated their solid friendship and ties, as they discussed joint response to COVID-19 and renewed their fraternity at the summit. The 2.6 billion Chinese and African people are an important force for securing a victory over the global COVID-19 fight.

At the Summit, China and Africa adopted the Joint Statement of the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19, reached consensus on a range of major issues and sent a strong message of solidarity and cooperation between China and Africa to the rest of world.

Enhancing solidarity and cooperation to combat COVID-19 at this special moment has demonstrated the sense of responsibility of the China-Africa community with a shared future.

Africa gave China invaluable support at the height of China's battle with the epidemic. Over 50 African leaders expressed their sympathy and support to China, and African countries donated anti-epidemic supplies to China.

In return, when Africa was struck by the virus, China was the first to rush in with assistance and has since stood firm with the African people. The Chinese government, enterprises, and social organizations have sent a tremendous

amount of medical supplies to over 50 African countries and the African Union (AU).

China has also sent 148 medical experts to 11 African countries, organized over 30 video conferences for exchanges between Chinese and African health experts, and held nearly 400 training sessions.

Besides, 46 resident Chinese medical teams in Africa are now helping with COVID-19 containment efforts locally.

At the summit, China announced to continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response to COVID-19. China will lose no time in following through on the measures it announced at the opening of the World Health Assembly, and continue to help African countries by providing supplies, sending expert teams, and facilitating Africa's procurement of medical supplies in China.

China pledged that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit.

Such measures boosted African countries' confidence in securing a victory over the pandemic. African leaders present at the summit pointed out that President Xi supports African countries' fight against the pandemic in good faith and attaches particular importance to African people's lives and health.

Taking a forward-looking approach, the summit also reached an important consensus on enhancing China-Africa public health cooperation and building a China-Africa community of health for all.

China has always been improving the public health capacity in African countries. To enhance public health cooperation with Africa is incorporated in both in the ten cooperation plans between China and Africa and the eight major initiatives for China-Africa cooperation proposed by China.

President Xi announced at the virtual event of the opening of the 73rd World Health Assembly in May that China would establish a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals and accelerate the building of the headquarters of the African Center for Disease Control and Prevention to help the continent ramp up its disease preparedness and control capacity.

"China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year," Xi said at the summit, adding that the country will work with Africa to fully deliver the health care initiative adopted at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and speed up the construction of China-Africa Friendship Hospitals and the cooperation between paired-up Chinese and African hospitals.

People's Daily

Spokesman comments on Putin's remark about civil servants who may 'look out for' successor

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's statement about the need for an amendment to the Constitution concerning the number of presidential terms does not mean that the system does not work in the context of power change, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

Speaking in an interview for the film entitled Russia. Kremlin. Putin on the Rossiya-1 television news channel Putin said it might be possible to introduce an amendment to the Constitution concerning his opportunity to run for president again.

Putin said he did not rule out such a possibility, but had not made up his mind yet. He urged all civil servants



not to look for his potential successor already now, but to focus on their current job. Putin believes that if the corresponding amendment is not adopted now, "in about two years from now instead of normal work at all levels everybody will be busy looking out for likely successors."

"The president is pleased with the system of power that has been built. The system has proven viable and resistant to stress," Peskov said about Putin's remark.

In his opinion "the president offered an exhaustive explanation of the potential threat of the situation, it's a description of our bureaucratic world."

"But this does not mean that the system does not work in the context of power change. Power does change, a permanent rotation is underway and it would be wrong not to see this," Peskov said.

About the motivation for civil servants' productive work Peskov said that "the main motivation is not connected with the president's replaceability or irreplaceability."

"The people who join the civil service are guided by far more lofty ideas, such as work for the nation and service to the Motherland," Peskov said. He described as absurd the question about those who may be looking out for alternatives.

Agencies

Fearing second COVID-19 wave, Europe to train 'army' of medics



This March 2, 2020 photo, shows a screen with a graphic updates on the progress of the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak around the world, during a press conference held at the Emergency Response Coordination Centre in Brussels, on the EU response to COVID-19. (AFP)

BRUSSELS

EUROPEANS are enjoying the gradual easing of coronavirus lockdown measures, but in hospitals they are already preparing for the next wave of infections.

Some intensive care specialists are trying to hire more permanent staff. Others want to create a reservist "army" of medical professionals ready to be deployed wherever needed to work in wards with seriously ill patients.

European countries have been giving medics crash courses in how to deal with COVID-19 patients, and are now looking at ways to retrain staff to avoid shortages of key workers if there is a second wave of the novel coronavirus.

"We need a healthcare army," said Maurizio Cecconi, president-elect of the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), which brings together medics from around the world who work in wards with extremely ill patients.

Cecconi, who heads the intensive care department at the Humanitas hospital in Milan, says medical staff need to be more flexible in the work they do, and more mobile.

"If there is another big wave, we should be prepared to deploy doctors and nurses from nearby regions within Italy. This did not happen a lot in the first wave," he told Reuters.

Many countries were caught unprepared by the COVID-19 pandemic in March and April, and hastily retrained medics to work with patients with severe cases of the disease, to ramp up numbers and replace those who fell

sick.

Some sent medical students and retrained doctors to help out in intensive care wards as hospital staff were overwhelmed. Those worst-hit by the pandemic had to provide more beds and essential equipment for acute care units, and some built new hospitals.

But problems and shortages persist. Italy, for example, may need to boost by 50 percent the number of anaesthetists, resuscitation experts and other medics it has working in intensive care, according to the Italian society of intensive care SIAARTI.

CRASH COURSES

Across Europe, hospitals have been re-training surgeons, cardiologists, internal medicine physicians and nurses from other departments, and have moved them to intensive care units when needed.

Many have attended crash courses on how to handle COVID-19 patients, said Jozef Kesecioglu, president of ESICM and head of intensive care at the University Medical Center of Utrecht, in the Netherlands.

"We gave them jobs with less responsibility, such as washing patients, turning patients around, checking the lungs or looking at scans," he told Reuters.

Intensive care specialists had continued to do the most delicate work, such as handling tubes in patients' throats or adjusting mechanical ventilation, Kesecioglu said.

He plans to call back the same people to offer them more training. Under normal circumstances, intensive care workers undergo years of training but

he said: "We should not wait until the new wave comes, we should give them regular training."

The Netherlands is trying to recruit more skilled workers and hopes to narrow structural gaps in the intensive care workforce, said Rotterdam's Erasmus Medical Centre, one of the largest university hospitals in Europe.

SIAARTI says medical students who specialize in intensive care medicine should be fully integrated into wards for the last two years of their five-year training, and has recommended financial incentives be offered to attract more students.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive, funded cross-border transfers of medical staff to the most affected countries at the height of the coronavirus crisis.

In April, teams of "flying doctors" were sent from Norway and Romania to Italy.

But the experiment has failed to gather much support, and Cecconi said moving doctors from one country to another "should be an option but not the first option," as language barriers may make them less effective.

Some patients were also moved around to receive treatment. France transferred some to less-affected regions of the country and sent others to Germany, which also took in COVID-19 patients from Italy.

But Cecconi warned of transportation risks and logistical complications.

"Often our patients are very sick," he said. "I'd rather have skilled people who know how to work in my environment"

Agencies

'Pandemic has changed regional dynamics'

THE COVID-19 pandemic has had a big impact on security in the Asia-Pacific, and countries in the region need to form a broader collaboration mechanism to tackle the challenges presented, experts who took part in an online forum said.

"Security and cooperation dialogue among Asian countries, such as China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and India, is needed for the stability in Asia and cooperation after COVID-19," said Surakiart Sathirathai, deputy prime minister of Thailand from 2005 to 2006.

The video discussion was part of the 2020 World Peace Forum virtual conference held by Tsinghua University in Beijing on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The pandemic has diminished multilateralism and international collaboration, including that conducted in the United Nations system, but has promoted regional collaboration to some extent, Sathirathai said. For example, regional organizations had been setting up mechanisms to help each other deal with COVID-19 since last month, he said.

Developing regionalism can help promote multilateral collaboration and discourage unilateralism, and regional organizations should be strengthened to play a more important role for peace dialogue, fostering post-COVID-19 collaboration, he said.

"Regionalization of multilateralism is the way forward for peace, security and economic cooperation. It is multilateralism that will lead all of us to a shared future of mankind."

COVID-19 has drawn the world's attention to food and health security, changing people's perceptions of regional security, he said.

"Technology for food safety, medical supplies and medicine development... will be the focuses of regional cooperation (in the future). Accordingly, major powers should strengthen the architecture to increase dialogue in the areas of food, health, security and economic recovery."

Shivshankar Menon, a former Indian diplomat, said the pandemic had accelerated the threat to security in the Asia-Pacific region, such as decoupling and reversing globalization, and stoking competition between major powers.

Increasing pressures
The pandemic has diminished all of the major powers, putting leadership under increasing external and internal pressures, said Menon, who was India's national security adviser from 2010 to 2014.

All countries now face heavier economic, political and other pressures, making it more difficult for them to deal with security issues, he said. In addition, a bilateral or multilateral security structure in the Asia-Pacific region in the near future had become more unlikely.

Menon echoed Sathirathai's opinion on the definition of regional security and suggested expanding its range to a broader one, as the pandemic has involved more "nontraditional security issues", such as climate change and hygiene.

He called for "issue-based coalitions" within the region because it would be impossible to build a single architecture within which to deal with all issues, especially nontraditional issues that would require collaborative solutions.

Agencies

China firmly opposes US interference in China's internal affairs

THE US signed into law the so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020" on June 17, local time.

This so-called Act deliberately denigrates the human rights conditions in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, viciously attacks the Chinese government's Xinjiang policy, blatantly violates international law and basic norms governing international relations, and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs. The Chinese government and people express strong indignation and firm opposition to this.

It must be pointed out that the essence of Xinjiang-related issues is not about human rights, ethnicity, or religion hyped by the US,

but about combating terrorism and de-radicalization.

Since the 1990s, the "three forces", namely separatists, religious extremists and terrorists, have executed thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, inflicting heavy casualties and property losses and trampling on all the rights of local people.

In light of such conditions, the Chinese government has taken a series of measures to combat these activities and prevent their re-occurrence, in an approach of addressing both the symptoms and root causes of the problem. The measures taken are in compliance with Chinese laws. They are also China's concrete steps in implementing the international

counter-terrorism and de-radicalization initiatives, including the United Nations (UN) Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

These efforts have proven to be efficient. Over the past three years and more, there has not been a single violent terrorist case in Xinjiang. The rights to life, health and development and other rights of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang are protected. The international community shares the view that China has actively contributed to the international cause of human rights and counter-terrorism.

The so-called Act disregards facts and distorts truth. Facts speak louder than words. Today,

People of different ethnic groups and religious beliefs in Xinjiang live together as equals, enjoy unity and harmony, and lead a peaceful and stable life.

That's the what's needed in the autonomous region.

In 2019, Xinjiang received over 200 million tourists, and its economic growth reached 6.2 percent. This year, it will eliminate absolute poverty.

Uyghur population in Xinjiang has grown to 11.65 million or 46.8 percent of the total.

There are over 24,000 mosques in Xinjiang, which means there is a mosque for every 530 Muslims on average. As one of the 56 ethnic groups of China, the Uyghur people are entitled to all the rights and

freedom under the Constitution.

The international community holds a fair opinion on Xinjiang-related issues. At the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, representatives of multiple countries praised China for its achievements in counter-terrorism and de-radicalization, speaking highly of China's openness and transparency.

They also commended China for inviting over 1,000 diplomats officials of international organizations, journalists, and religious figures to visit the autonomous region, as well as China's invitations to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Xinjiang.

In July 2019, ambassadors of

over 50 countries to the UN Office at Geneva co-signed a letter to the president of the UN Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, applauding China's respect to and protection of human rights in its counter-terrorism and de-radicalization efforts. In October, at the

Third Committee session of the 74th UN General Assembly, more than 60 countries commended in their statements the tremendous human rights progress achieved in Xinjiang and opposed the interference in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of human rights.

Ezzat Saad, director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs who has been to Xinjiang,

said frankly that the US using the so-called "human rights issues" to meddle in China's internal affairs is "blackmail."

Isabelle Carvalho, an expert at the Brazil-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry, believes that the true intention of the US is to maintain its global hegemony.

The so-called Act seeks to stigmatize Xinjiang's measures against terrorism, separatism and radicalization, and applies double standards on counter-terrorism.

As is known to all, the US has started warfare in Islamic countries such as Iraq and Syria under the pretext of counter-terrorism, killing and injuring millions of innocent people.

People's Daily



In Belgrade last week, (from left to right) Dusan Lajovic, Viktor Troicki, Grigor Dimitrov, Filip Krajinovic, Dominic Thiem, Alexander Zverev and Novak Djokovic (AFP Photo)

'I'm so sorry': Dimitrov tests positive for coronavirus after playing in Djokovic event

PARIS

GRIGOR Dimitrov said on Sunday he has tested positive for coronavirus after pulling out of an exhibition tournament which also featured world number one Novak Djokovic.

"I want to reach out and let my fans and friends know that I tested positive back in Monaco for Covid-19," world number 19 Dimitrov wrote on Instagram.

"I am so sorry for any harm I might have caused. I am back home now and recovering."

Last weekend, Dimitrov, 29, took part in the Adria Tour event in Belgrade with Djokovic, world number three Dominic Thiem and Alexander Zverev, ranked seven.

He also played in the second leg of the Balkans tournament in Zadar on Croatia's Adriatic coast on Saturday.

However, he withdrew after losing to Borna Coric, complaining of feeling unwell.

Later on Sunday, the final between Djokovic and Russia's Andrey Rublev was immediately cancelled as a precaution.

"This is the best possible decision. We have to take care about security of all involved," former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, the tournament director of the Zadar event, said in remarks quoted by local media.

"Those who were in contact with Grigor will be tested. I tested by chance three days ago and I'm negative."

Zverev and former US Open winner Marin Cilic were also in the Croatia line-up.

"I want to make sure anyone who has been in contact with me during these past days gets tested and takes the necessary precautions," added Dimitrov.

- 'Novak took news very hard' -

Djokovic's brother Djordje, who is the overall tournament director, told Sportske Novosti daily paper online edition: "Novak? He took this news very hard. We undertook all the measures prescribed by the governments of Serbia and Croatia."

Bulgarian Dimitrov is a former world number three who was the ATP Tour Finals champion in 2017, one of his eight career titles.

The Adria Tour, organised to fill the gap in the virus-hit tennis calendar which has been on ice since mid-March, played out to a daily crowd

of 4,000 fans at Djokovic's tennis centre on the banks of the Danube in Belgrade last week.

Dimitrov, Djokovic and Thiem, as well as the other players, were then seen partying at a packed Belgrade night spot.

Thiem has since travelled to the south of France to play in another exhibition tournament, the Ultimate Tennis Showdown in Nice.

On Sunday, tournament chief Patrick Mouratoglou, the coach of Serena Williams, tweeted a picture of Thiem undergoing a coronavirus test at the event being staged at his tennis academy.

The Adria Tour had already suffered an embarrassing setback when the planned Montenegro leg of the four-nation tournament was cancelled over coronavirus protocol rules.

Montenegro was due to be the third stop on June 27 and 28 after Croatia and before the conclusion in Bosnia.

But organisers said the visit to Montenegro had to be called off when it became apparent Serbia did not match strict health requirements.

Meanwhile, asked to comment on social distancing measures during the Belgrade leg, Djokovic said both Serbia and the region had been relatively successful in containing the virus.

"Of course you can criticise, you can also say this is dangerous or not, but it's not up to me to make the calls what is health-wise right or wrong," the 17-time Grand Slam winner told reporters, stressing he was acting in line with recommendations of the Serbian government.

Last week, the ATP and WTA said they were restarting their tours in August.

However, the US Open in New York will be played behind closed doors and under strict health protocols which Djokovic has described as "extreme" and "impossible".

The drama surrounding Dimitrov's test brought sympathy but also questions from fellow players.

"While watching images from the Adria Tour, I kind of felt that something was really wrong. Am I the only one? Is it a consequence of it? Get better soon Grigor," tweeted French player Alize Cornet.

Noah Rubin of the US added: "It's just not okay. Reckless and disappointing that they thought tennis deserved the risk."

AFP

Film, pop stars line up for global COVID-19 fundraising gig

LONDON

INTERNATIONAL music and film stars will headline a globally televised and streamed fundraising concert on Saturday to help fight COVID-19 as part of a joint initiative by the advocacy group Global Citizen and the European Commission. The initiative, called "Global Goal: Unite For Our Future," is aiming to raise billions of dollars in private and public donations to help lessen the impact of the pandemic on marginalised communities.

Speaking at an online panel ahead of the event, pop star Miley Cyrus said the pandemic was hitting the world's poor and marginalised people the hardest. She urged donors committing funds for tests, treatments and vaccines to ensure they are developed in ways that everyone everywhere has access to them.

Researchers and drugmakers across the globe are working on more than 100 potential vaccines against COVID-19, which has so far killed more than 463,000 people.

Hosted by actor Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, the virtual concert will feature Cyrus, Chloe x Halle, Christine and the Queens, Coldplay and Shakira and others, and include actors Charlize Theron and Hugh Jackman as well as retired soccer star David Beckham.

"We need our world leaders to commit the billions of dollars needed to develop and equitably deliver testing, treatments and vaccines," said Hugh Evans, Global Citizen's chief executive.

European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen said the concert would coincide with a pledging summit, at which artists, scientists and world leaders will "commit to helping the world end coronavirus, while leaving no one behind."

What the Morrison saga with Simba SC shows on talent growth, recruitment

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

A tug of war is being orchestrated on a possible shift to presumptive Premier League champions, Simba SC, of Ghanaian striker Bernard Morrison who was recruited by Yanga a few months ago and has for a while emerged as the goal hope of the side. When he is not around for any reason, fans and analysts don't sit to see what other combination can work but are rather given to count their woes already, as it doesn't appear he has an equivalent in the archrivals' forward line. His goal against Simba, which won the match, saved the Jangwani Street club from a potentially dreadful season to more of a smarting experience, decidedly.

What is unclear is why at this stage, well before the closure of the season, there is a jostling match between the city giants on the signature of the Ghanaian premier league superstar, and whether this is the best recruitment tactic that the premier league is familiar with. Ordinarily one seeks a good player who has no number in an equivalent or better club, in which case when Donald Ngoma could not be assured of a starting lineup position he moved to Azam FC, and it appears the same situation has cropped up there as well. In that case there are indications that he is shifting to Namungo FC, which definitely makes sense.

Alternatively, if any of the city sides and others in the premier league have some hefty amounts of cash to spare, they can look across the border - even as far away as Ghana or Brazil in recent years - to obtain talented players at prices they can afford. Quite a few Tanzania premier league superstars have often been recruited from within the sub-region, eastern and central Africa like Emmanuel Okwi, Heritier Makambo, Haruna Niyonzima or Meddie Kagere. In that sense the idea of recruiting a player from a rival club who faces no first team problems and definitely not expected to leave anytime soon is close to a sabotage wish.



Yanga winger, Bernard Morrison (front) and central defender, Kelvin Yondani, take part in the outfit's recent drills, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

These reports are coming up on the back of other disquieting developments in the recent past, including charges of Msimbazi Street club officials wishing to 'bribe' Yanga players that a player bubbled about the matter in broad daylight without fear of reprisals. Eventually a high club official made some assertions that could be classified in like manner, but unlike the player, he was pushed to retract and apologise, as 'he is an honorable man' thus he could have faced disciplinary steps at a higher level. Then player switch chatter started reverberating, first with Yanga captain Papy Tshishimbi and now the dependable striker.

This low level guerrilla warfare not just of recruiting good players in the premier league to appear for the big moneybags side at Msimbazi Street inhumane to good practices of premier league management, it also bespeaks of a certain domination of the league by one club at the moment. Part of the reason is that only the premier league title is worth fighting for, as the runner up slot has no continental commitment in the wake of imitating the England FA formula of the federation cup winners being the second competitor in continental tournaments.

This situation has watered down the premier league tournament and

ought to be changed so as to add vim and vigour to the competition, as it enables continued competition at CAF stage.

While this rule as to who competes in the CAF Confederation Cup did not emanate from local sports bodies, they don't appear to have worked hard enough at least to obtain an exemption from the rule. The side that wins the sponsored federation cup would as well be assured of a place in CECFA Club Championship run if that needs qualification, that the team would automatically qualify for the run. It could also automatically be listed for Mapinduzi Cup or any other, but ought not overshadow the premier league second slot rights.

At the same time this foreign player contention within the city rivals amphitheater tells plenty about the ministerial appeal to reduce players appearing for the premier league sides to five in registration and three on the pitch. The argument was to enable local players to obtain more playing time, thus building a good Taifa Stars side, and now we see the clubs fighting over a few good foreign professionals in the clubs and there are no talents on the horizon who can fill their gaps in either club. The minister recommends local players merely for the label, while coaches or club managements must examine who can actually deliver.

Thus the fighting over the two or three professionals that the premier league top underdogs dispose is an indication that local recruitment to fill key gaps in top premier line ups is an unworkable policy, whatever ministerial bigwigs shall say about that.

At the same time the removal of the second slot from continental competition has drained financing rivalry as only the title winners stand an outside chance of recovering their cash, but CAF introduced some other unfortunate measure of pre-tournament re-selection instead of going to groups. So there is a mess in soccer organization, wrong choices from the local to the CAF level.

Closing birdie binge lifts Simpson to PGA Heritage title

WASHINGTON

WEBB Simpson, the 2012 US Open champion, birdied five of the last seven holes in a Sunday shootout to capture the RBC Heritage for his seventh career US PGA crown.

The 34-year-old American fired a bogey-free seven-under par 64 to finish 72 holes on a tournament record 22-under 262 at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

It was the second triumph of the year for Simpson, who won at Phoenix in February, and it came after a storm delay of two hours and 47 minutes left players racing to finish before darkness.

"It was a crazy day," Simpson said. "I'm speechless right now."

Simpson, set to jump from ninth to fifth in the world rankings, made four birdie putts from beyond 10 feet and two-putted from 41 feet at the par-5 15th in an epic closing run.

"It was a long day on the golf course," Simpson said. "I didn't get it going until 12 and then it got going and I felt confident."

"I'm amazed I'm standing here right now."

Mexico's Abraham Ancer, seeking his first US PGA crown, was second on 263 after a 65, coming up short on a 37-foot birdie putt at 18 to force a playoff.

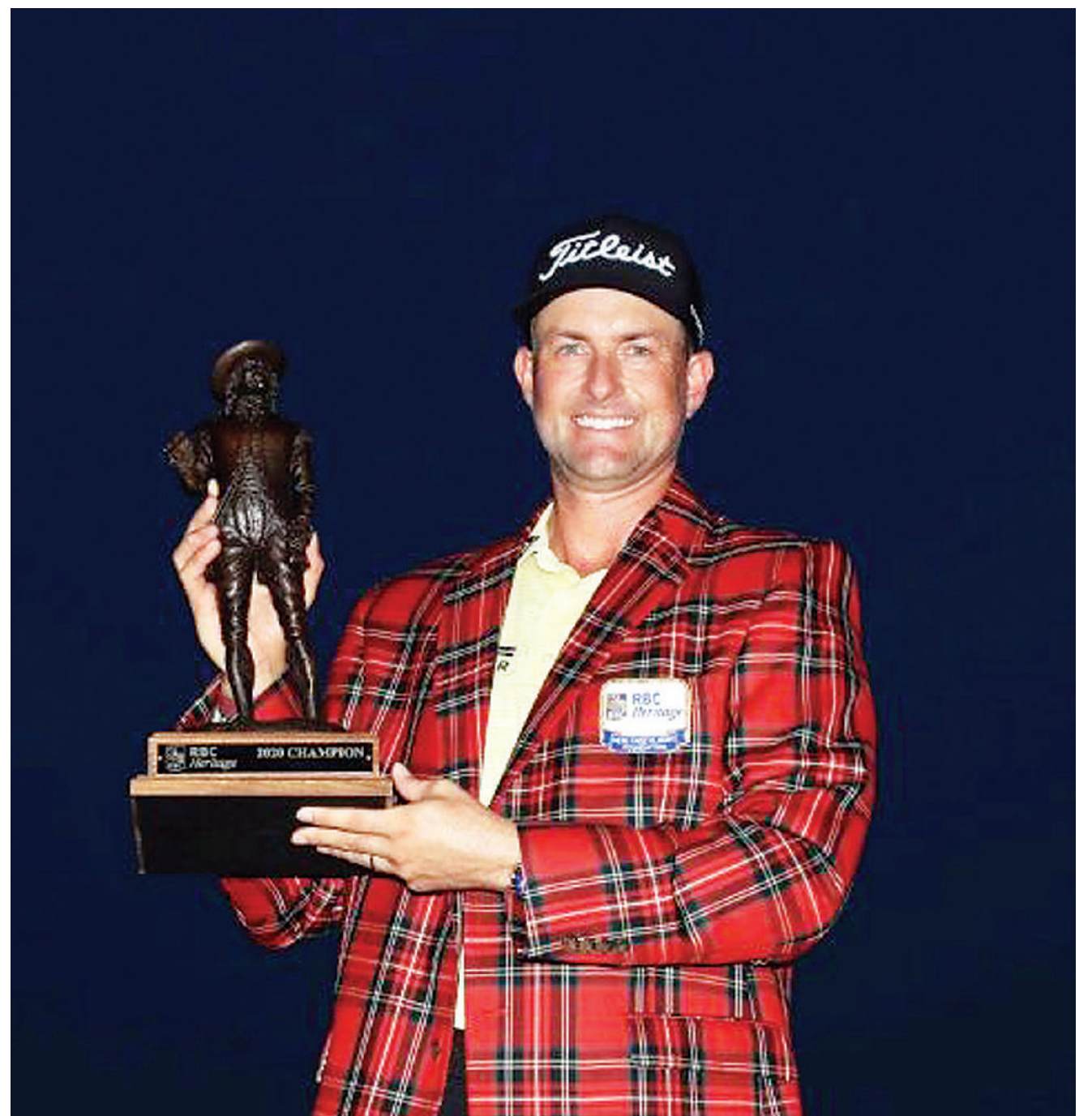
"I probably had my best ball-striking week of my career," Ancer said. "It was awesome."

American Daniel Berger, who won last week at Colonial, shared third with Britain's Tyrrell Hatton on 264, with Spain's Sergio Garcia and Chile's Joaquin Niemann fifth on 265 and US four-time major winner Brooks Koepka seventh on 266.

The Heritage, whose prior 72-hole record was 264 by Brian Gay in 2009, was rescheduled from a typical April slot as the tour's second comeback event from a three-month coronavirus pandemic shutdown. It was played without spectators, except for those in course-adjacent backyards.

Simpson sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-4 12th and a 22-footer for birdie at 13 to grab a share of the lead at 19-under with Hatton and Ancer.

After tap-ins to par 14 and birdie 15,



American Webb Simpson celebrates with the trophy and the plaid jacket after winning the US PGA Tour RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in South Carolina (AFP Photo)

Simpson shared the lead with Ancer and Berger, who chipped in from 38 feet to birdie the par-3 17th.

Simpson reclaimed the lead alone with a 14-foot birdie putt at 16, then sank an 18-footer at 17 for his fifth birdie in six holes to reach 22-under.

He closed with a par at 18, leaving only Ancer as the final threat in the twilight drama.

- Koepka close -

It was a season-best finish for Koepka, who seeks a third consecutive PGA Championship victory in August.

"I've been putting in good work and starting to see the results," Koepka said. "I feel very close. I just felt good to be back in contention again."

Hatton, Ancer, Simpson and Ryan Palmer shared the overnight lead at 15-under, with 23 rivals within four strokes.

South African Dylan Frittelli, ranked 116th, sent a signal low scores were available with a career-low, 62, making birdies on six of the last eight holes for the clubhouse edge at 17-under before the 54-hole leaders teed off.

"I was just trying to stay out there and keep playing and get all the good golf out of me, squeeze it out," said Frittelli. "That was just a nice, consistent round."

AFP

Real boss Zidane annoyed by non-stop ref talk

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane has said constant talk about referees "annoys" him after three big decisions went Real Madrid's way in a 2-1 win at Real Sociedad that put them top of the La Liga table.

Madrid were awarded a second-half penalty, scored by Sergio Ramos, when defender Diego Llorente was adjudged to have fouled Vinicius Junior.

Adnan Januzaj had an equaliser ruled out - the referee deciding off-side teammate Mikel Merino put off keeper Thibaut Courtois - before Karim Benzema scored a second, having controlled the ball with his shoulder in a goal reviewed for handball by VAR.

"What annoys me is when people talk about just one thing, the referees," Zidane said in his postmatch news conference. "There's a team here, there are games we play, and sometimes it seems like we haven't done anything. But we can't control controversy. We won on the pitch and it was a deserved victory."

"There was a penalty on Vini. For Karim's goal, I've been told it touches his shoulder. It's up to the referee. I don't get involved, the referee does his job and I have to respect that."

On Friday, Gerard Pique had hinted that officials were favouring Real Madrid, saying it would be "difficult" for

Barcelona to win the title.

Their victory at Anoeta means Madrid go level with Barca on 65 points at the top of La Liga - but ahead of the Catalan side thanks to their head-to-head record - with eight games left to play.

"We haven't won anything yet," Zidane said. "It's three wins and nine points, but we know it will be difficult until the end. We have to keep going, we're in good form, the players are doing well physically and technically."

One concern for the French coach was an injury to captain Ramos, who hurt his knee in a collision with Real Sociedad forward Alexander Isak not long after scoring his penalty and had to be withdrawn with half an hour to go.

"Right now it hurts a lot, but I think it's just a knock, nothing else," Zidane said. "That's the good news. We'll see. He's the best defender in the world for me. He has character, he always wants more. That's what he brings to the team and it's a big plus."

Real Madrid play Mallorca on Wednesday night, 24 hours after rivals Barcelona host Athletic Bilbao.

They will do so without Isco - diagnosed with a hamstring injury last week - as well as midfield enforcer Casemiro, who will be suspended after picking up another yellow card on Sunday.

(Agencies)

Pep: Silva, Sane exits won't mean new signings

LONDON

PEP Guardiola has raised the possibility that Manchester City will not make any new signings in the next transfer window.

City are on the verge of surrendering their Premier League trophy to runaway leaders Liverpool - who drew 0-0 with Everton on Sunday - after back-to-back title wins. But Guardiola has hinted that it may be the same players who are charged with closing the gap with Jurgen Klopp's side next season.

"I don't know that right now," Guardiola, when asked about his plans in the transfer market, said. "The places I was - Barcelona, Bayern and here - when the club say we cannot afford it, we cannot afford it."

"But I don't know, it depends on the people who stay. Maybe in the next two months the team make a step forward and we stay with the same people. I don't know right now."

City were priced out of a move for Harry Maguire last summer before the England defender signed for Manchester United from Leicester in a £80 million deal. A new centre-back remains Guardiola's priority but the financial uncertainty caused by the coronavirus

pandemic, combined with the on-going battle to comply with UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules, means it may not be possible in the next window.

City will also have to contend with the departure of David Silva, who is out of contract at the end of the campaign, and possibly Leroy Sane, who has told the club he will not extend his deal beyond 2021.

"I don't know if he [Sane] is going to leave this summer or at the end of his contract but we have enough good players up front," Guardiola added. "Gabriel [Jesus] can play on the left, Phil Foden can play on the left, we have Raheem [Sterling] there."

"We have big, talented players up front. Most of them are in good healthy conditions, like Phil, Riyad [Mahrez], Gabriel [Jesus], Raheem [Sterling], they can play quite regularly for a long period of time, they are so stable in terms of injury situations."

"I think we have other priorities maybe [in the transfer market]. And I don't know, after the coronavirus, if the situation economically and financially for the clubs is changing. I don't know what the situation is. We're going to see at the end of this season."

(Agencies)

Iraqi football legend Radhi dies from COVID-19

BAGHDAD

IRAQI football legend Ahmed Radhi died Sunday from complications linked to COVID-19, the health ministry said, just hours before he was to be flown for treatment in Jordan.

Radhi, 56, scored what remains Iraq's only World Cup finals goal in 1986 against Belgium.

He had been hospitalised last week in Baghdad after testing positive for coronavirus but had checked out on Thursday after his condition improved.

He relapsed a few hours later and was readmitted, but passed away early Sunday.

In a video reportedly from his hospital bed on Saturday, Radhi could be seen in a green jersey struggling to breathe as medics in full protective gear try to treat him.

"Sometimes it's hard to breathe but that's normal," he could be heard telling the medical team, his voice strained.

"Ahmed Radhi passed away wearing the green jersey, which he loved so much that we loved

him in it," wrote Iraqi premier Mustafa al-Kadhemi.

Radhi, a striker, led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988, when he was voted Asian footballer of the year.

In the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, he scored against Belgium but Iraq went on to lose the match 2-1 and exited the tournament in the group stage without a point.

Radhi was such a household name that even popular sayings evoked his famous header.

If an Iraqi wanted to insist that something was accurate, they'd say, "This is as spot-on as Ahmed Radhi's header."

- "Unrivaled athlete" -

Radhi fled Iraq in 2006 after its Olympic Committee head was kidnapped during the height of the sectarian violence that followed the US-led invasion of 2003.

He moved with his family to the Jordanian capital Amman but returned to Iraq in 2007 for a career in politics, replacing a member of parliament who defected to join the bloody insurgency raging across the country.

AFP

Liverpool's wait for first title in 30 years goes on a little longer

LIVERPOOL, England

FOR Liverpool, the wait goes on, but when you have waited 30 years to become champions of England, what's another few days in the grand scheme of things?

The perfect script would have seen Jurgen Klopp's team - the runaway leaders at the top of the Premier League - defeat Everton in the 236th Merseyside derby on Sunday before clinching the title at Anfield, albeit in front of empty stands because of the COVID-19 safety protocols, in Wednesday's home game against Crystal Palace.

But this game always felt distinctly different, and nothing like normal, from the moment Liverpool stepped into their changing room at Goodison Park - a portable cabin in the players' car park. No wonder the game did not deliver what it would usually promise.

"Football looks slightly different, but I take that," Klopp said. "It was a real fight. Both teams showed they understand it is a derby. Intense, physical, all players were all in, but we didn't have enough chances. Most of the time we were dominant, but they had the biggest chance."

And what had been a simple equation - two wins and the title is in the bag - has now become somewhat more complex because of the congested nature of the Project Restart fixture list, which must cram 92 games inside 47 days.

If Manchester City lose against Burnley at the Etihad on Monday (and City haven't lost at home to Burnley since 1963) then Liverpool can still seal the title with a win against Palace this week. But the form guide points to a City win, followed by a Liverpool victory on Wednesday. If that proves to be the case, Liverpool could then be crowned champions while sat at home watching television if City drop points against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Thursday.

Only time will tell, but Liverpool and City have been - for the past two years now - so far in



Liverpool's wait for a first league title in 30 years will go on a little longer after their draw at Everton. (Agencies)

front of everybody else that it would be no surprise if at all boiled down to the clash between the two teams on July 2.

As it stands, that game is due to take place at the Etihad, but the fixture continues to have an asterisk against it due to the possibility of it being staged at a neutral venue amid concerns of Liverpool supporters travelling en masse to celebrate outside the stadium if their team gets the result they need.

Expect high-level talks in the coming days if City vs. Liverpool proves to be the title-decider, but if that game is the one that could seal the title for Klopp and his players, what a way to win it - against the side that has dominated the Premier League for the past two seasons.

Liverpool would have wanted to

get the title wrapped up as quickly as possible, though. They would also have wanted to win it at Anfield. But their failure to defeat Everton in their first game back since the coronavirus pandemic halted play in mid-March has removed the simplicity from what had been an incredibly simple narrative this season.

Liverpool just won and everyone else trailed in their wake. They had been so consistent, so much better than the rest, that they went into this game at Everton with a 22-point lead over second-placed City.

Until the league was suspended, Everton fans had been fearful of this game being the one that would have decided the title for their bitter rivals. Back in March, with Liverpool blowing

away the competition, it could have been a rout. But the 100-day shutdown has inevitably taken the edge of Klopp's team. Against Everton, they looked like a side in the early stages of pre-season, working on form and fitness, without the drive and intensity that we had come to expect from Liverpool.

And it helped Everton. Their winless run against Liverpool now stretches back to October 2010 - a 22-game sequence - but they created the best chances to win this game, with Tom Davies hitting the post in the 79th minute and Richarlison forcing a crucial save from Alisson two minutes later. Liverpool's best chance did not come until two minutes into stoppage time at the end of the game, when Fabinho's free kick was tipped over by Jordan Pickford.

With a typical derby crowd, and the atmosphere that comes with it, we may have ended up with a winner. But when each team had momentum, there was no backing from the stands and dominance quickly faded away. That is an unfortunate consequence of football behind closed doors - which is essential right now - but it is right when fans claim the game will not be the same until they are allowed inside stadiums once again.

There was one supporter outside Goodison Park, who seemed determined to create an atmosphere by playing a series of tunes on a saxophone, but it only added to the sense of the surreal.

So Liverpool continue to wait. Five more points will be enough, but who knows where or when they will get over the line?

(Agencies)

PSG re-emerge weakened but with eyes fixed on Champions League prize

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain are still optimistic they can win the Champions League for the first time when the tournament is played out in Lisbon in August, even if the coronavirus crisis has left the Qatar-owned club apparently weakened both on the field and off it.

The decision to bring an early end to the French season in late April, with more than a quarter of matches unplayed, did not prevent PSG from being crowned Ligue 1 champions for the third year running, but it was hardly how they wanted things to end.

Without having had the chance to celebrate, the Parisians return to training on Monday, over three months after their last game, the 2-0 defeat of Borussia Dortmund in their Champions League last 16, second leg.

Their players have since spent months confined at home before having some time to take a holiday.

PSG's rivals in England, Spain, Germany and Italy are back playing again. In contrast, Neymar returned to France last weekend after three months in Brazil and headed straight to join teammates Marco Verratti, Angel Di Maria, Leandro Paredes and Marquinhos in the glitzy Mediterranean resort of Saint-Tropez.

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe posted photos of himself on Instagram along the coast in Monaco.

They return this week to a club having to deal with the financial consequences of the pandemic and the early end to the season, with the resulting losses of ticketing and broadcast revenue.

Within PSG, it is estimated they stand to lose over 200 million euros (\$224m), an enormous hit even for a club ranked the fifth-richest in the world in the latest Deloitte Football Money League.

- Old heads move on -

That will probably ensure there are no headline-grabbing transfers coming soon, although they recently made Argentine striker Mauro Icardi's loan move from Inter Milan permanent for a reported fee of up to 58 million euros.

The financial situation has also helped make up the mind of sporting director Leonardo over the futures of Thiago Silva and Edinson Cavani, two of the biggest figures of the Qatar era whose contracts expire this month and will not be retained.

"Maybe we are making a mistake, I don't know, there is never a perfect moment," Leonardo told Le Journal du Dimanche.

It is hoped Brazilian defender Silva, the club captain, can be persuaded to stay to feature in the Champions League latter stages, but club record goal-scorer Cavani has reportedly opted to walk away at the end of June.

The exodus will not stop there.

Right-back Thomas Meunier, reportedly bound for Dortmund, will not stick around. Highly talented 18-year-old defender Tanguy Kouassi is expected to sign for Bayern Munich.

However, the prospects of either Mbappe or Neymar leaving appear less than slim, given the financial challenges faced by PSG's European rivals.

"He is the future of PSG. That is what everyone wants. Ideally we would extend his contract," Leonardo said of Mbappe.

What Mbappe and PSG want now is the Champions League, and after years of underachievement in Europe they are targeting glory when the competition is played out in a "final eight" straight knockout format in Lisbon.

- "More difficult" -

However, between now and a quarter-final somewhere between August 12 and 15, Thomas Tuchel's



Mauro Icardi alongside Neymar and Kylian Mbappe. The Argentine recently signed for PSG on a permanent transfer from Inter Milan. (AFP Photo)

team will only have two competitive games, with the French Cup final against Saint-Etienne and League Cup final against Lyon both set to go ahead in late July.

"We have felt good ever since the season began. Unfortunately, we know what happened with the coronavirus and everything had to stop," Di Maria told sports daily L'Equipe.

"The other major leagues are restarting. That must not be an excuse but it does make things more difficult for us," he added.

Like Lyon, PSG are therefore completely out of step with their Champions League rivals, although that could still work to their advantage.

For example, Spanish and English clubs will have completed an exhausting dash to get their seasons finished in late July.

Perhaps Mbappe, Neymar and their teammates will be fresher than ever and

Paris (AFP) - Paris Saint-Germain are still optimistic they can win the Champions League for the first time when the tournament is played out in Lisbon in August, even if the coronavirus crisis has left the Qatar-owned club apparently weakened both on the field and off it.

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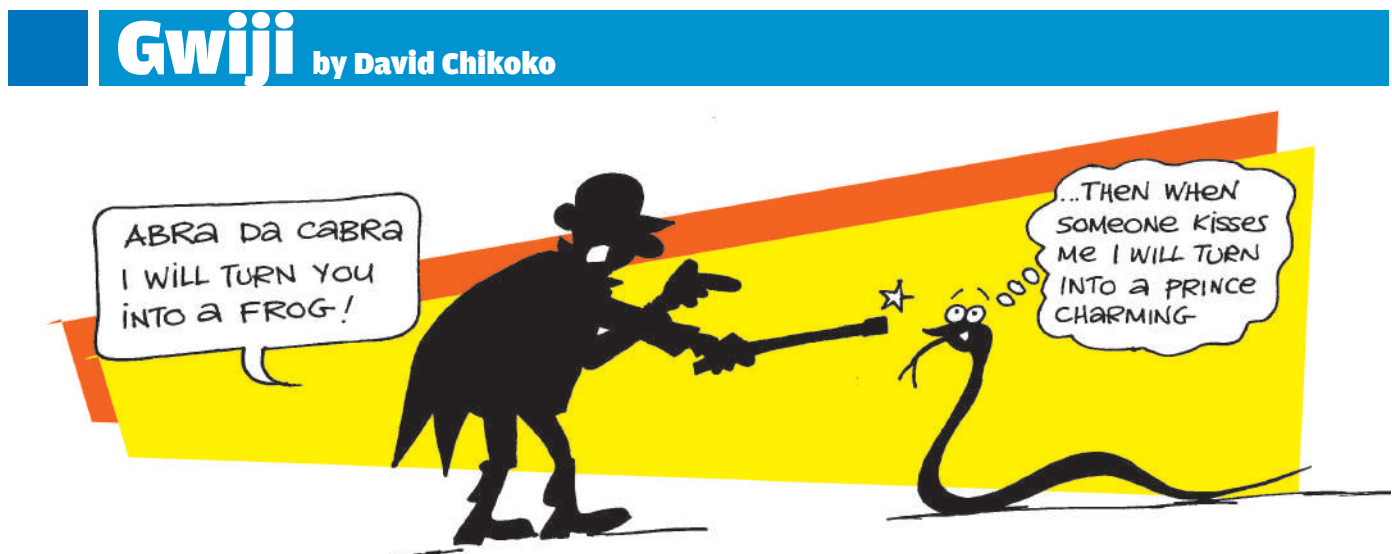
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- Old heads move on -

That will probably ensure there are no



SPORT

Liverpool's wait for first title in 30 years goes on a little longer

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



JKT women basketball team's players attend training session at National Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

T20 World Cup 2020 breaks new ground in women's cricket

LONDON

THE 2020 women's T20 World Cup has officially become the most-watched women's cricket event in history for that format. According to numbers released by the ICC on Monday, the tournament reached 89 million unique audience members globally, a 131% increase over the number for the 2018 edition, which was the first standalone women's T20 World Cup, held in the West Indies.

In Australia, the final recorded an average audience of 1.2 million viewers, making it the most-watched women's cricket match in the country's broadcast history.

Although the ICC did not share the aggregate viewership data for the 2018 edition, the upsurge during this year's tournament was a result of many factors, one of them being the increase in live-coverage hours by 62% compared to the 2018 edition.

Also, the 2020 edition was held in Australia, and therefore the match timings were more suitable for the Indian and subcontinental audience. That boosted global viewing hours from 55.9 million to 113.5 million, with 76% of the views coming from India.

India's live-viewing hours were 86.15 million, 152% higher than the 2018 edition.

The overall live-viewing hours in Australia were 13.45 million, 473% higher than the 2018 edition. Among other factors, that was driven by an increase in coverage on free-to-air channels.

Interest peaked during the final, played between India and the hosts. That was the most-watched game of the tournament with 53 million viewers tuned in.

Unfortunately for the 2018 edition, India and hosts West Indies had crashed out in the semi-finals, leaving Australia and England to fight for the title, leading to lower numbers in comparison.

The 2020 edition also clocked up 1.1 billion video views via ICC's digital channels, more than 20 times the video views delivered in 2018 and ten times that of the 2017 50-over World Cup, the most successful women's cricket event before the 2020 competition.

These figures also make the 2020 T20 World Cup the second-most-successful ICC event ever, after the 2019 men's 50-over World Cup.

AGENCIES



Mwadui FC defender, Agustino Samson (C), tackles Simba striker, John Bocco, when the outfits locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Mwadui FC, Lipuli FC in relegation six-pointer as Premier League continues

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

THE spotlight will once again be in the battle for avoiding relegation as the Vodacom Premier League continues today with five matches across different venues in the country.

Mwadui are scheduled to host fellow relegation candidates, Lipuli FC, in a must-win encounter at the Mwadui Complex in Shinyanga.

Mwadui lost to Simba over the weekend and they are gunning for a victory against the Iringa side, who earned a hard-fought 1-1 draw at home to Police Tanzania. The reverse tie between the two sides who are on level points ended in a 2-0 win in favour of Lipuli FC in November 2019.

Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar will be desperate for a win when they visit rock bottom Singida United at the Liti Stadium.

Zuberi Katwila charges find themselves in the relegation zone after last weekend's away draw with Coastal Union that left them level on points with Mwadui FC, Ndanda and Lipuli FC. The last league meeting between the two teams ended in a barren stalemate in November 2019.

A place in the top five will be at stake when Prisons welcome JKT Tanzania at the Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya.

The hosts dropped points when they drew with Mbao FC in

their last league match and they will face a confident JKT Tanzania side eager to cement their place in the top six.

In Mwanza, Mbao FC return from the weekend break with their topflight status on the red line. They sit 19th, at least thirteen points from safety.

They take on a Coastal Union side looking for revenge after a 2-1 home defeat earlier this season.

Coastal Union are placed fifth, six points behind fourth-placed Namungo FC.

Mbao have been playing well but they have nothing to show for it as they are enduring a goal drought in their last six matches where they have collected a sin-

gle point.

Lastly, Ruvu Shooting will welcome Ndanda FC at Mabatini Stadium. Ruvu Shooting are in 11th position on the table but only six points above the relegation zone.

Ndanda FC left it very late in beating Biashara United 1-0 on Saturday, but are only out of the drop zone courtesy of goal difference.

Fixtures:

Singida United v Mtibwa Sugar (Liti Stadium), Mwadui FC v Lipuli FC (Mwadui Complex), Ruvu Shooting v Ndanda (Mabatini Stadium), Mbao FC v Coastal Union (CCM Kirumba Stadium), Prisons v JKT Tanzania (Sokoine Stadium).

Windies' Dowrich chasing twin targets on England return

LONDON

WEST Indies wicketkeeper Shane Dowrich is targeting a century and an average of 40 in the three-test series against England next month, the 28-year-old has said.

Dowrich managed only 24 runs in six innings in his 2017 tour of England and is determined to make amends.

"I consider myself a different player to what I was three years ago," Dowrich told British media on Sunday.

"The last time I was here, it was very tough for me - it was a series that really changed around my career.

"Playing in England will always be a challenge, but I think I'm ready for it," added Dowrich, who since 2018 has an average of 40, the highest by any wicketkeeper.

"I'd like to leave England with a test hundred, and I'm looking to average around 40 in this series," he said.

"Scoring runs is always a challenge, but I think if you're going to rate yourself as a player, you have to be able to do it. I think I've put in enough work to come away with something in the series."

Batting at number seven Dowrich will need help from the tailenders to achieve his goals.

"You don't want them facing too many balls, but you still have to trust them in terms of when they do face the ball that they can get the job done," he said.

"You have to give them that confidence that they can do it. That's how it can work well for you as the main batter in that situation."

Southampton hosts the first test from July 8, with the next two matches in Manchester.

REUTERS

EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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

Flexibles by David Chikoko



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