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Zanzibar to strengthen ties with Brazil



National Pg 4

Obesity major concern for health



National Pg 6

23.9bn/- for construction of hospitals



JPM leads emotional ceremony



President John Magufuli pays his last respects for the late IPP Executive Chairman Dr Reginald Mengi at the Karimjee in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

“He believed in a life of forgiveness, when he knew he did wrong to anyone he repented. We should emulate him,” said the pastor

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday led thousands of Tanzanians who paid their last respects to the fallen philanthropist Dr Reginald Mengi at an emotional ceremony in Dar es Salaam.

Current and retired senior government officials, private sector executives as well as envoys representing foreign missions were among a mammoth crowd that thronged the Karimjee Hall in the city as thousands followed the event from outside the venue and millions via radio and television.

Speaking during the mass, Rev. Manford Kijalo from Msaani Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) parish said Dr Mengi has been an exemplary leader to others.

“He believed in a life of forgiveness, when he knew he did wrong to anyone he repented. We should emulate him,” said the pastor.

Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) Secretary General Dr Charles Kitima said Dr Mengi touched lives of many Tanzanians in various ways.

He said he has personally lost a true friend who helped the country in many ways, including serving the needy.

Speaking on behalf of the government,

Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said Dr Mengi's death was a big blow to the nation.

“As government, we have received the news of Dr Mengi's death with profound shock. He was a true son of the land who dedicated all his life serving others,” said Prof Kabudi.

Prof Kabudi said upon receiving the news of Dr Mengi's demise, the government through its consulate in Dubai coordinated arrangements for a respectful handling of the body starting from preservation to transporting the remains back home.

He said Dr Mengi has used most of his time and resources to promote investment, and at times took the matter as personal.

“We will remember him for the book that he has left us with. He has explained how he struggled from nothing and then moved to build a business empire,” he said.

The death of Tanzanian dollar millionaire and executive chairman of IPP Group of Companies, Dr Reginald Mengi, has touched millions of Tanzanians and a veteran diplomat, Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, is one of them.

Eulogizing at the event to pay last respects to the body of Dr Mengi, Ambassador

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Envoy lauds Dr Mengi's good feelings for China

By Guardian Reporter

CHINESE ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, (pictured) has delivered a message of condolence for the passing away of Dr. Reginald Mengi.

The message was personal and emphatic in character, where the envoy notably expressed her sadness “to hear about the passing away of IPP

Executive Chairman and my friend Dr. Reginald Mengi. I have been always impressed and inspired by not only his good feelings towards China, but his vision and spirit of innovation, dedication and social responsibility. I believe Dr. Reginald Mengi will be remembered forever for his relentless effort and great contributions to promoting economic and social development and improving people's well-being in Tanzania.

“At this sad moment, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to Dr. Mengi's family, IPP workers and the business community of Tanzania for their tremendous loss. May Dr. Mengi's soul rest in peace.”

Wang Ke is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China in the United Republic of Tanzania, a diplomatic rank which also shows the level at which relations with Tanzania are prized in the Chinese foreign ministry and diplomatic work as a whole, observers noted.



Serving the less fortunate, encouraging the despaired

By Henry Mwangonde

THE late Dr Reginald Mengi will go down in history as a man who dedicated his life to serving humanity, uplifting the less fortunate and encouraging the despaired.

Mourners who paid their last respects to the industrialist in Dar es Salaam yesterday described the fallen businessman as a rare species since he spent much of his fortune in empowering others.

Speaking during the requiem mass at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam, the Minister for Information, Culture and Arts Dr Harrison Mwakymbe said the nation has lost a great

man who played a key role in promoting the information and sports sectors.

“Dr Mengi believed in national unity. He supported everything as long as it was for the benefit of Tanzanians, at times giving what he has. The largest thing we could remember is the recent support to the Under 17 national football team (Serengeti Boys) during the Africa Cup of Nations finals some weeks ago,” he said.

Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairman Salum Shamte said Dr Mengi taught them a lot of things during his lifetime, one being that everyone was created important and in this

TURN TO PAGE 2

Universal Health Coverage awaits next financial year

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE much-awaited Universal Health Coverage (UHC) bill is set for tabling in the National Assembly next financial year with the prospect of ending the burden of out-of-pocket payment for millions of Tanzanians.

House Speaker Job Ndugai (pictured) said here yesterday that all preparations for the proposed law are in place including learning tours by MPs to some African countries that have successfully implemented the programme.

“MPs went to several countries including Uganda and Ghana to learn how the Universal Health Coverage model works,” he said.

The Speaker who spoke during the official opening of Medical Laboratory Scientists Association of Tanzania (MELSAT) at Nyerere Square here noted

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Members of the Parliament wait to register their Airtel lines as directed by Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zanzibar vows to reinforce relations with Brazil - Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday met and held talks with the ambassador of Brazil Antonio Augusto Cesar vowing to continue strengthening relationship between the two nations.

Speaking during the meeting at the Zanzibar State House, Dr Shein said that the two nations have been cooperating in various economic and social development issues for over 50 years insisting that the long historical ties should be maintained and honoured for mutual benefits.

He explained how Zanzibar has been blessed with plenty of resources thus calling upon investors from Brazil to come and grab a number of opportunities available in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

"The Isles government is well prepared and determined to market well its attractions and investments opportunities to enable more investors from Brazil to seize them for mutual benefits," he added.

He added "As we work to cement our relationship, we should also consider strengthening our businesses, tourism and cultural relations for the benefits of residents of the countries..." Dr Shein told the envoy.

For his part, ambassador Cesar hinted on the note that his government will continue working closely with the Tanzania

government, strengthen ties economically, socially and politically.

The envoy said that he is going to work to ensure that the two countries' relations flourishes and brings more positive impacts.

According to him, the already established relations have enabled more interactions among the peoples of the countries in sharing skills and experiences towards exploitation of available opportunities for sustainable development.

"We need to strengthen relation in tourism sector saying that Zanzibar has been blessed with a number of attractions and opportunities ...I will do my best to encourage and bring more investors from Brazil," he said.

Abdulsamad Abdulrahman, the Brazil's honorary consul in Zanzibar said that later next month at least 37 youths from Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland will travel to Brazil to attend a ten-day trade conference.

According to him, during the conference, the group will be able to learn and grab new skills and knowledge from their fellow on how to improve their business.

"The young Tanzanians will also get opportunity to visit various major cities such as Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. While in these cities, the group will get chance to visit small-scale industries of poultry, meat processing as well as oil and gas companies," he added.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

SIDO: One district one product initiative gaining ground

THE Small Industries Development Organisation's (SIDO) said here that its agro-industrial initiative known as one district one product (ODOP) is gaining ground countrywide.

Speaking to journalists recently, the SIDO Director General, Prof Sylvester Mpanduji, named Singida, Mbeya, Dodoma, Manyara and Morogoro regions as having excelled in embracing the initiative, explaining that sequel to

this production of sun flower, maize, paddy and green vegetables has increase and agro-industrial plants have been built to process the produce.

"We have evidence that this programme has encouraged economic growth in districts that have used it. Farmers have increased crop production and home-grown industrial

base is gaining ground in innovative districts. The growth contribution of this programme is now visible at district up to national levels," Prof Mpanduji explained.

Under this programme, a district chooses the most popular crop or livestock or fisheries product and gives it priority in its development

programme in order to raise residents' welfare and disposable income.

He called on regions and district leaderships to embrace the ODOP initiative to speed up the national industrialization programme and contribute positively to the national efforts towards making Tanzania an industrialized middle-income nation

by 2025.

Acting Director for Marketing and Investment, Shoma Kibende, said on the whole many districts have understood the logic behind the ODOP initiative and have used the initiative to mobilize peasants to increase crop production.

"Where the initiative has been used,

peasants have accessed ready markets because peasants are selling produce to their chosen agro-industries established in their own districts," she explained.

She said Sido's principal role in the initiative is to ensure districts produce quality products for local and external markets.



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PAYING LAST RESPECTS TO LATE IPP GROUP OF COMPANIES EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, DR REGINALD MENGI



The family of the late Executive Chairman of IPP Group Dr Reginald Mengi enter Karimjee Hall yesterday. All Photos: Selemani Mpochi



Mourners carrying the casket bearing the body of Dr Mengi enter in the Karimjee Hall for last respects ceremony.



The family of the late Dr Mengi attend the last respects ceremony. Left is the widow, Jacqueline Mengi.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan pays her last respects.



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, former First Lady Sitti Mwinyi and former Speaker of the National Assembly Anne Makinda pay their last respects.



Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro consoles Dr Mengi's family.



Mourners pay their last respects



Mourners wait to pay their last respects

PAYING LAST RESPECTS TO LATE IPP GROUP OF COMPANIES EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, DR REGINALD MENGI



A large crowd of mourners waiting to pay last respects to the late Dr. Reginald Abraham Mengi at the Karimjee grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



Some mourners pay their last respects before the body of the late Dr. Mengi.



People living with disabilities pay their last respects.



Clouds Media Group Managing Director Joseph Kusaga delivers the media community condolences.



Members of the Red Cross assist one of the mourners who fainted shortly after paying her last respects.



Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Msasani Parish choir performs during the last respects ceremony.



The casket bearing the body of the late Dr. Mengi shortly after arriving at his Kinondoni home



The late Dr. Mengi's family spokesman Advocate Michael Ngalo delivers a vote of thanks

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Mengi played key role in sports promotion- govt



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, offers tribute to IPP Executive Chairman, the late Reginald Mengi, at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: SELEMANI MPOCHI

SPORT

Kompany winning City the title would be fitting farewell

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Afghanistan Cricket Board's Chief Selector, Dawlat Ahmadzai.

Captaincy row past, Afghanistan eyeing semis - chief selector

NEW DELHI

AFGHANISTAN'S leadership overhaul has not created any bad blood in the dressing room and the players are toiling to achieve the goal of reaching the semi-final at this year's World Cup, chief selector Dawlat Khan Ahmadzai said on Tuesday.

Ahmadzai and his selection panel colleagues effected a leadership revamp last month, naming different captains for different formats, which resulted in Gulbadin Naib replacing Asghar Afghan as their ODI skipper.

Senior players including spinner Rashid Khan, who has been named Afghanistan's Twenty20 captain, took to social media to criticise the overhaul while many others questioned its timing.

Ahmadzai said it was the right time to blood a new captain even though Asghar remains part of their World Cup squad.

"At this point, Afghanistan cannot win the World Cup with Asghar or with Gulbadin (as the captain). But it's a great opportunity to promote a young captain... we have to go for the transition phase," he told a news conference in New Delhi.

He said dissenting senior players like Rashid and Mohammed Nabi have since been taken into confidence and it was now a united dressing room.

"That was their personal opinion... we handled it very professionally and now they are happy," Ahmadzai said.

"Gulbadin has said he'll make use of Asghar's experience. There is nothing wrong with the team environment. Changes do happen, like Sri Lanka did with their captaincy.

"The top management wanted a change in captaincy. There must have been reasons why we took such a decision - keeping the betterment of the team in mind rather than individuals. We are hopeful of good results."

Afghanistan made their World Cup debut in Australia four years ago, beating Scotland but crashing out from the opening round but have scripted a fairytale rise since then.

They beat Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the 2018 Asia Cup and played a thrilling tie with a depleted India and became the 12th test playing nation last year.

"In 2015, there was no Rashid or Mujeeb. So we are expecting a lot this year and looking for semi-finals in the World Cup," he said.

"We have identified teams we can beat but obviously I can't tell you which teams."

Ahmadzai said fit-again paceman Hamid Hassan's return to the squad would significantly improve their pace attack which would complement their world class spin attack spearheaded by Rashid.

"I don't accept that our batting is weak, but we need some order there," Ahmadzai said.

"With Dawlat Zadran and Hamid Hassan, we have a good fast bowling attack."

Afghanistan begin their World Cup campaign against holders Australia in Bristol on June 1. REUTERS

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has said the departed IPP Executive Chairman, Reginald Mengi, played an important role in the development and growth of sports in Tanzania.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, issued the statement when he paid his last respect to Mengi at Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Mwakymbe described the passing of Mengi as a big loss to the country.

In his moving eulogy, Mwakymbe said the

country would always cherish Mengi's contributions to the development of sports.

He said Mengi was very passionate at seeing to it that sports, especially football, is growing in the country.

"Here is a man who was very passionate about the development of sports in the country, he did all he could to see to it that the country is doing well in sports...we will miss his contribution to sports and other sectors which he was supporting," he said.

Mengi's recent contribution to sports promotion at the domestic level turns out to be his willingness to be patron for national U-17 football team, which is popularly known as Serengeti Boys.

He promised good rewards to the team should they perform well at the 2019 AFCON U-17 championship that took place in Dar es Salaam last month.

Mwakymbe said after dismal performance by the team at the championship, Mengi called him to discuss the way forward for the team.

"After Serengeti Boys had performed badly at the AFCON U-17 finals, everyone was disappointed, but Mengi called me to chart the way forward for the team, it's unfortunate that he has passed away before we had the meeting," he said.

Many high profile dignitaries that included President John Pombe Magufuli, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, politicians, religious leaders,

business people turned up at the Karimjee Hall to pay their last respects to the late Mengi.

His body will today be flown to his home village, Nkuu-Sinde Kiserani in Machame, Kilimanjaro for burial set for tomorrow.

There was a somber atmosphere at the place when the body of the pathologist, Mengi, was taken inside the hall. Many people failed to control their emotions and were seen weep uncontrollably.

The somber mood increased when domestic musicians Ben Paul, Ruby and Joe Lwangwa performed their touching songs.

In an interview on Monday, Member of Parliament for Ilala Constituency, Mussa Azzan,

alias Zungu, said he firstly knew well Mengi in late 1980s when Mengi was the chairman of a committee for rallying support for Mainland Tanzania's soccer team, Kilimanjaro Stars, in a CECFA tournament which was held in Kenya.

"Mengi was a man of the people, a true patriot, he did everything for his country... I first knew him well when he was the chairman of the Kilimanjaro Stars committee, he did all he could to help his country in all the sectors," Zungu disclosed.

During his life, Mengi was also closely supporting artists from all sectors and one of his companies was also sponsoring a basketball tournament in the country.



Tanzania's women cricket squad's players in a group picture with coaches, Riziki Kiseto (Sitting front row) and Hamisi Abdallah (Standing left) prior to the start of this year's ICC Women's T20 Qualifiers, Africa in Zimbabwe early this week.

National women cricket team lose to Zimbabwe in ICC T20 Qualifiers

By Guardian Reporter

SENIOR national women cricket team has experienced a frustrating start to their campaign in this year's ICC Women's T20 Qualifiers, Africa, given they suffered a 92-run loss to hosts, Zimbabwe, at the Old Hararians Sports Club venue in Harare on Monday.

After winning the toss, Zimbabwe girls elected to bat in the Group A match and went on to register 143 runs for four wickets in the allotted 20 overs. A 50-ball 65 by opener, Shame Mayers, which consisted of two sixes and eight boundaries, helped Zimbabwe stay in control of the innings, with fellow opener, Modester Mupachikwa, chipping in handsomely with 30 runs that consisted of two boundaries.

Mary-Anne Musonda and Mugeru recorded 19 runs and 15 runs respectively for the team.

Experienced all-rounder, Monica Paschal had the best bowling spell for the Tanzania women team, given she took two wickets and conceded 20 runs in two overs.

The rest of the team's bowlers did little to prevent the opponents from recording a convincing score.

Needing 144 runs to win, the senior national women team was though less impressive with the bat, given the squad managed 51 runs for eight wickets to concede the loss.

Gertrude Leopold and Tabu Omary were the batters with meaningful performance, in the innings, posting unbeaten 16 runs and 10 runs respectively. Zinaida Kelvin chipped in with unbeaten eight runs.

Anesu Mushangwe, Tasmeen Granger and Audrey Mazvishaya successfully foiled Tanzania's chase, as they took two wickets each for the hosts.

Participating squads have been put into groups A and B. Mozambique, Rwanda, Nigeria, Tanzania and Zimbabwe make Group A and Group B has brought together Kenya, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Namibia.

The tournament is looking to build on an excellent run of African qualifying events of late.

The competitions include a dramatic Under-19 tournament in Namibia, as well as the rapidly approaching Men's T20 World Cup, Africa Finals tournament in Uganda later this month.

Uganda female cricketers are the defending champions for the women's tournament, having memorably held off Zimbabwe in Windhoek two years ago.

The hosts will be out to settle that score, and also to do well in front of their home supporters.

As women's cricket continues to flourish in Africa, it is tournaments of this nature that will ensure that the game thrives even further, and this is thus an important week for the region.

The group winners at the end of the week will contest the final, where the winner will seal passage to the Global Qualifiers.

The competition's champions will secure a place in both ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifiers 2019 and ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers 2020.

Australia set for marathon home summer after India rebuff

MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA'S international schedule will stretch into late-March for the first time in 41 years in 2020 after the country's cricket board was unable to cut a deal with India to move a one-day tour.

Cricket Australia had hoped to host New Zealand in an ODI series in January but Aaron Finch's team will instead travel to the subcontinent after India's board declined to shift their home series.

That has pushed the three-match New Zealand series back to the middle of March, with the final ODI in Hobart on March 20 making it the latest finish to a home international schedule since Australia hosted Pakistan for a test in Perth in 1979.

"CA took the position that while January was our preference for these ODI matches there are times we need to honour our commitments to work in the greater context of international cricket scheduling," CA's Peter Roach said.

"We evaluated different options for an alternative and saw the most value in the March opportunity to extend our window in the traditional cricket season."

The Gabba returns as venue of the opening test of the summer in a two-match series against Pakistan from Nov. 21.

Last summer, the Brisbane ground was snubbed as one of the venues for the marquee test series against India and relegated to a January test match venue for the short Sri Lanka tour.

Adelaide Oval will host the second and final test against Pakistan, a day-night match, from Nov. 29.

Australia also host New Zealand in a day-night test at Perth Stadium from Dec. 12, before the three-match series moves to the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the traditional Boxing Day test and to Sydney in the New Year.

In a tweak to the usual day-night scheduling, the Perth test will start at 1 p.m. local time and finish at 8 p.m. to cater to Australia's dominant TV audience in the east of the country.

It will also have the longer 40-minute lunch break at the first interval, while the Adelaide pink ball test will continue to have the 20-minute tea break between the first and second sessions with the longer "dinner" break in the evening.

The international summer opens in late-October with back-to-back three-match Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Women's international cricket will also play a prominent role in the schedule as Australia play a T20 tri-series against England and India from late-January in the leadup to hosting the women's T20 World Cup from Feb. 21.

REUTERS

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