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'Axed civil servants failed exam'



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NIDA issues 8,397,524 IDs



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Govt hires engineering consultancy firm



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Jerry Silaa (C), legislator for Dar es Salaam's Ukonga constituency on the CCM ticket, is led out of the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. This was on instructions from Speaker Job Ndogai shortly after the House endorsed recommendations by its committee on the Rights, Ethics and Powers of the Parliament. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Treasury now slices off 30pc in mobile cash transfer levies

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday announced a substantial reduction of the controversial mobile transfer levies by 30 per cent, providing a measure of relief to the public.

Treasury spokesman Benny Mwaipaja said that Finance minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba had signed a directive to effect changes on mobile transaction levy regulations, thus reducing the charged amounts.

"The reduced rates will be announced officially in the government gazette today," the statement indicated.

"The government believes that the decision to reduce the transfer fee will provide relief to the people," it asserted, he said, noting all the same that the levies are meant to support development initiatives.

So the levy will enable it to raise funds to implement various development projects and the government further believes that the public will support the decision and

the new changes, the spokesman affirmed.

The levy is meant to boost government revenue by 1.2trn/- to help finance the 36.68trn/- budget for the 2021/22 financial year, by amending the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (CAP 306) in June, imposing a levy of sums not exceeding 10,000/- in charges on mobile money transactions, scaled by amounts transferred.

But amounts applied at agents' kiosks were at variance with what the public expected when the minister was winding up debate on the budget, and issued specifications on the charges.

When the new levies started applying, sending 1m/- to someone and having the money withdrawn would cost a total of 31,000/-, whereas the minister earlier said receiving 5m/- would be charged 10,000/-.

The levy had reportedly led to fewer users of direct cash transfers, with critics saying this compromises business growth

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Parliament bars Gwajima, Silaa until January 2022

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

TWO MPs, Josephat Gwajima (Kawe) and Jerry Silaa (Ukonga) have been suspended from attending two parliamentary meetings after being convicted of misconduct by the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee, and the resolution approved by the whole legislature.

Emmanuel Mwakasaka (Tabora Urban), the committee



...and if they failed to do that they would be hauled for interrogation in the legislature

chairman, said the two MPs showed poor cooperation when summoned for interrogation by the committee last week. The two will not attend the current and the November meetings of the legislature, and further steps will be taken if they repeat the misconduct after these measures, Speaker Job Ndogai asserted.

He also declared that Silaa will have to formally apologise over his remarks that MPs don't pay taxes on their salaries, before being readmitted to the legislature.

Committee members were satisfied that the two legislators lied to the public and degraded the stature of the House before members of the public, recommending that Silaa be suspended from representing the legislature in the Pan-African Parliament (PAP).

The two MPs showed unwillingness to admit their

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MPs to wear facemasks, House cuts session time

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE National Assembly has rescheduled sessions at its ongoing meeting, with sitting hours cut from seven to five while requiring legislators to wear face masks when they take their positions in the debating chamber, to curb the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The meetings will be held from 2pm, with question and answer sessions held for 60 minutes from the previous 90 minutes, with MPs sitting in two

separate chambers to cut the numbers of MPs and parliamentary staff in the buildings. National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai said in the House yesterday that no visitors will be allowed to enter the Parliament building, other than government officials and journalists.

"We have restricted entrance for those coming for study tours or other visitors. We aim at reducing congestion to curb the spread of COVID-19," he said, noting that the Msekwa Hall will be installed with multiplex facilities to enable MPs follow sessions in the debating chamber.

MPs using the Msekwa Hall will be able to ask additional questions, contribute to debates and ask for the Speaker's guidance on any matter arising during the meeting. The list of MPs required to sit in either chamber will be issued on a daily basis by the Clerk of the National Assembly, he stated.

Similar rules will be applied to

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Dutch firm to invest in mushroom production

By Guardian Reporter

DUTCH firm Limax B.V. has expressed interest in investing in mushroom production and processing in Tanzania, a diplomat has stated.

A statement by the Foreign Affairs ministry issued in Dar es Salaam yesterday said that Tanzania's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Irene Kasyanju visited the firm's offices where she held talks with company director Tom Van Walsem.

She said after their conversation that the company expressed its intention to setting up a factory for processing and drying mushrooms in Iringa Region at a cost of 2.1m euros, (around 5.5bn/-), it said.

When completed, Tanzania will benefit from the investment from the growing world mushroom trade, the envoy had stated, highlighting data from the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) that the world mushroom trade is projected to reach \$62.3m in value by 2023, a sharp

increase from \$42.4m registered in 2018.

The envoy noted that the mushrooms industry is among growing sub-sectors in Tanzania and was now valued at around 4bn/- a year on average, in which case investment by the Dutch firm will enhance the country's position on the horticultural product's global market.

She cited in particular EU countries especially the Netherlands, as well as Germany and Poland, as key potential outlets for the crop.

While touring the company premises Ambassador Kasyanju viewed modern mushroom farms along with processing and packaging methods, expressed expectations that Tanzania will benefit significantly from the projected investment.

Tanzania has ample land where natural diversity shows where mushrooms grow that are suitable for human consumption, she said, underlining that it is high time

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Dodoma Urban legislator Anthony Mavunde seeks explanation from the Agriculture ministry in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday on how the government plans to develop grape farming and processing. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Parliament bars Gwajima, Silaa until January 2022

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having been wrong in what they said, he stated, noting that the Kawe MP failed to substantiate his statements on the Covid-19 vaccines and assertions that top public officials were paid to accept to receive the jobs.

During summary remarks, an MP pointed out that Gwajima said during interrogation that by 'received money' to accept the jobs he meant acceptance of foreign aid by condition of accepting the jobs.

MPs accused the controversial church leader of trying to undermine the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, declaring that campaigning against vaccines was seditious, and asked both the top CCM leadership and the relevant state agencies to take further steps on the matter.

The cleric-cum-politician has continually battled the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in weekly addresses at his Ubungu church premises, notably on July 25th, August 8th and 15th.

Committee members also rejected Gwajima's claims that he was using his freedom of worship and a church platform, saying that he was constantly responding to statements by public officials including cabinet ministers, which can't be construed as 'preaching.'

They also insisted that as an MP he cleric was supposed to speak with evidence; "but he had no document or evidence to support his claims about the coronavirus vaccines," in which case he aimed at creating misunderstandings between the National Assembly and the government, the committee affirmed.

The MP must observe the country's laws and regulations when using his church platform, the committee chairman intoned.

The committee recommended that Silaa should not continue being the legislature's representative to the PAP "as we are worried that he might also lie to his fellow MPs." There is need to continue monitoring the MP's conducts outside the House, he affirmed.

Speaker Ndugai warned Bishop Gwajima from continuing to make such statements as this would compel state agencies to take appropriate measures against him, "and if they failed to do that they

would be hauled for interrogation in the legislature," he emphasised, naming the relevant officials as the Attorney General (AG) and the Minister for Home Affairs, also urging the CCM Secretariat to take up the matter.

Parliament has a duty to ensure that President Samia Suluhu Hassan is respected by every Tanzanian, he said to prolonged applause, noting that the House leadership "cannot leave this to the president alone."

The suspended MPs will receive half of their salaries and other entitlements during this period, he further explained, with an explicit requirement that Silaa should make a public apology and Gwajima not repeat his claims.

MPs praised the committee for their adept handling of the issues, with the Speaker saying the sentences were lenient.

Kilindi MP Omary Kigua narrated how the suspended MPs misbehaved during interrogations, with Gwajima not responding to questions as required.

"Bishop Gwajima was disrespectful to committee members: he was not prepared enough to defend his controversial sentiments on COVID-19 vaccines and accusations that some government officials were bribed to accept the vaccine," he declared.

Special Seats MP Sophia Mwakaganda (Chadema) urged Bishop Gwajima not to lie to his followers and Tanzanians generally.

Mariam Ditopile, also a Special Seats legislator, suggested that Bishop Gwajima be expelled from the legislature for what she saw as betrayal to the nation, supporting the position that Silaa, once the Dar es Salaam City Mayor, should apologise to the National Assembly and to the public.

Singida West MP Elibariki Kingu, also a member of the committee, said that Bishop Gwajima has been misleading people on the COVID-19 vaccine especially after the death of the fifth phase president, the late Dr John Magufuli.

Tanzania is currently rolling out vaccination after a substantial donation of Johnson&Johnson Covid-19 vaccine doses by the United States government via the COVAX arrangement, at 550 designated health facilities on the Mainland.

Treasury now slices off 30pc in mobile cash transfer levies

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and financial inclusion efforts.

While the Treasury and a number of MPs defended the charges, President Samia Suluhu Hassan directed the government to review the charges. A first draft of reduced charges was rejected by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, who

demanded an improved version by August 31.

Yesterday's announcement was low key as no event involving a new proposal and its acceptance by the premier came up, raising questions as to whether it wasn't the same proposal rejected last week which has now been endorsed.

Despite complaints that the levy rates increase costs of sending or withdrawing cash or transferring cash to the banks, commitment to make it user friendly that was given by the president was only met half way.

Treasury has been at pains to emphasise that the levy had become

legally-binding after the legislature approved the 2021 Finance Act and Appropriations Act, citing amounts collected in three weeks after the levy started being collected, and the specific areas to which funds had been sent to speed up implementation of development projects.

MPs to wear facemasks, House cuts session time

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legislators in the main chamber as well as the alternative chamber, like the dress code and wearing of face masks. "Those who cannot wear face masks due to various reasons should seek permission from my office," he directed.

Jenista Mhagama, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) said the changes conform to the Parliamentary Standing Orders in their 2020 edition.

As the country is still battling COVID-19, a number of preventive measures are taken by the government to control its spread, she said, noting that the National Assembly will continue to implement the recommended preventive measures. These include having fewer parliamentarians and staff in the buildings, the minister explained.

The Steering Committee of the National Assembly met on Monday and agreed to reschedule the fourth meeting in accordance with decisions made under the Standing Orders. Despite the changes, the House will complete all the tasks as planned, she added.

FAO pleads for renewed digital push in small Island developing countries battered by Covid-19

ROME/SUVA

THE Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, today called on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to foster the power of innovation and digitalization to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Qu spoke at the opening of the two-day virtual SIDS Solutions Forum (30-31 August), co-hosted by FAO and the Government of Fiji. Heads of State and Government from nine Pacific Island countries attended or were represented at the high-level event, as well as government ministers holding key portfolios related to agriculture, food, nutrition, environment, health, and information and communications technology. African and Caribbean nations were also represented.

FAO is committed to building a world free from hunger and malnutrition, "where no one is left behind regardless of land size, population and geographic location," Qu said in an address to the opening session. Today's meeting is an "example of how innovation and digitalization bring opportunities in the face of challenges."

"Advances in digital innovation have seen the vast oceans that separate us give way to vast possibilities. Alone, we are small islands. Together, we are one connected continent bound by a spirit of innovative resilience," said Josaja V. Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji. "Our 39 states, from the South Pacific, to the Caribbean, to the Indian Ocean, are home to incredible minds, cutting edge innovation and deep traditional knowledge."



Limax Group operations director Rob Menheere (L) briefs Tanzania's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Irene Kasyanju (R), on mushroom sorting, processing and packaging. The envoy was on a recent tour of the firm's factory at Horst aan de Maas, the epicentre of mushroom cultivation and processing in the country. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry

Dutch firm to invest in mushroom production

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the country exploited the horticultural potential more adequately.

LimaxGroup will provide training in harvesting mushrooms from the wild for trade as well as for environmental protection, she added.

Many axed civil servants fail Form IV exam sitting

● No reinstatement, payments for those producing fake certificates

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

A TOTAL of 1,491 civil servants with primary school education who were purged years back during a nationwide verification of academic credentials have failed to attain passes in the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) as a condition for reinstatement. The government gave the expelled workers until December 2020 to go for ordinary level secondary school education exams to qualify for reinstatement.

Deogratius Ndejemi, the deputy minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), told the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday that the government has so far reinstated a total of 4,380 public servants with Standard Seven qualifications who have attained the CSEE.

The number of those reinstated includes 3, 114 ward and village executive officers, he stated.

He referred to directives from President Samia Suluhu Hassan upon which the government on May 7th 2021 directed employers to start working on modalities to pay the suspended workers employed on the basis of Standard Seven qualifications.

"Civil servants who have been reinstated are those who were employed before May 2004 without the CSEE qualifications," he explained, emphasizing that

the government will not reinstate or make payments to any expelled civil servants discovered to have presented fake academic credentials.

He told MPs that the government has so far paid 2.6bn/- to 1, 643 reinstated workers, responding to a question from Mikumi MP Dennis Londo who wanted to know the number of reinstated civil servants and paying those who do not qualify for reinstatement.

During the nationwide verification exercise, the government unearthed a problem of payroll fraud that was prevalent in most public offices, he asserted.

The late President John Magufuli at that time declared that a total of 5,507 ghost workers in government departments and agencies were detected in the crackdown, with 236 ghost workers identified in local government authorities.

While the government spends 583bn/- each month to pay civil service salaries, an estimated 54bn/- of that amount was being rerouted to private accounts using lists of phantom workers, he had lamented.

"Civil servants who have been reinstated are those who were employed before May 2004 without the CSEE qualifications"



Prisons officers escort Freeman Mbowe (in jeans and white mask) out of the Dar es Salaam court where the economic sabotage case the opposition Chadema national Chairman is facing came up for mention yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Home Affairs ministry tells MPs over 8 million national identity cards issued

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

HOME deputy minister for Home Affairs Khamis Hamza Chilo has said the government through the National Identification Authority (NIDA) has registered and issued a total of 8,397,524 national identification cards.

Speaking in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday, Chilo said the government is determined to ensure all eligible citizens are provided with the national IDs by December 2021.

He was responding to a question

from Special Seats legislator, Saada Hussein who asked the government strategies to ensure all registered Tanzanians are provided with the national identification cards.

"NIDA continues to produce the national identification cards; plans are to make sure that all eligible citizens are registered and given the cards by end of this year," said the deputy minister.

He assured Tanzanians that all those registered and given national identification numbers (NIN) will be provided with the cards.

He however said there are a number of Tanzanians who have not collected their national ID cards.

"We have been making announcements through local government authorities, district and regional offices but yet some ID cards are not collected," he noted.

The deputy minister admitted to be aware of the shortage of workers at its NIDA offices across the country, saying the government is working to employ more young Tanzanians for the job.

A single machine has a capacity to produce 4,500 IDs within an hour

and at least 12,000 cards per day.

Late last year, Minister for Home Affairs, George Simbachawene said the government plans to buy sophisticated machines from Germany to help improve the production of IDs.

He said: "It is unfortunate that the technicians from German have been delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic...I am confident that immediately after installation of the new machines we will be able to fast track the process and every individual will receive the ID."

Genetic research to tackle hereditary diseases - study

By Geoffrey Tusiime, TUDARCo

GENETIC scientists in the country are set to undertake a countrywide research among major tribes to identify their links to hereditary, communicable and non-communicable diseases so as to enable control of the same.

The study plan was unveiled in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the 13th conference of the African Society of Human Genetics (AfSHG) under the theme, 'Genomics and Translational Research to Improve Health in Africa'.

Tanzania Society of Human Genetics (TSHG) Vice Chairperson Dr Kilaza Samson said the countrywide genetic research will help in precise diagnosis of diseases as well as appropriate administration of medication.

He said the research would be undertaken after getting approval from the National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Chief Government Chemist.

"We know that Tanzania has more than 120 tribes but we cooperate with all the necessary stakeholders and government institutions to ensure that the proposed genetic research complies with all the laws and procedures for the benefit of the whole country and Tanzanians at large," he said

He said the genetics non-governmental organization is presently soliciting for funds to finance the genetic research project adding that soon as the funds are secured, the organization will inform the public.

"Undertaking research for all Tanzanians is very costly so we will focus on identifying the major tribes that will act as a representative of the entire population. We however hope to have representatives of all the tribes," he added.

Earlier, the TSHG Chairperson Dr. Siana Nkya the conference that is held in Tanzania for the first time in the country's history comes at a

time when researchers are looking forward to changing the dynamics of human genetics and health in Tanzania, Africa and globally.

She said the It will bring together participants from both the H3Africa consortium and AfSHG sister organizations such as Human Genetics Societies of Tanzania, South Africa, Cameroon, Mali, Senegal, DRC, Rwanda and Egypt to discuss the concepts, challenges.

Dr Nkya said the conference would give a platform to scientists who are in the field to present their work and important research findings that are crucial to policy making, therapy and preventive measures for the betterment of health in the country.

"Most importantly, it will allow researchers and stakeholders to discuss the importance of technology and genomics for implementing genetic testing and research as well as discuss challenges faced by scientists and the way to pave for the future," he said.

The conference is expected to generate various strategies in ensuring genetics education is implemented in universities throughout the country and ways to collaborate with international stakeholders in the areas of research, diagnostics, counseling, training and capacity building.

It will not only provide sessions for discussion and presentations about the current genomic world but also will mark another immense step in promotion of the genetic and translational knowledge to clinical practices that will benefit and promote health among African countries.

"Undertaking research for all Tanzanians is very costly so we will focus on identifying the major tribes that will act as a representative of the entire population. We however hope to have representatives of all the tribes"

'Govt will not issue permits for bulk wine importation'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government will not issue permits for bulk wine importation until the locally manufactured grapes are fully exhausted as part of efforts to protect local farmers.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe affirmed that apart from protecting local farmers, efforts are also taken to increase production as the grape is among those lined up for strategic crop farming.

Bashe gave the explanation in the National Assembly yesterday when

responding to a question by Anthony Mavunde (Dodoma Urban-CCM), on measures to promote grape farming in the country.

He said the ministry will apply the quota system for the bulk wine imports as it is the case with sugar to protect local farmers and industry. He said the ministry will soon meet with three major winery industry in the country so that they together agree on the quota to ensure that they buy wine juice from local manufacturers and import only when need arise.

Further, Bashe said they are working with the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) for further improvement of the grapes value of chain

where grape farmers will be trained for wine juice production.

The Deputy Minister said they have also sent for further studies in South Africa three agriculture extension officer to specialize on grape farming so that upon return they will impart farmers with the latest farming methods for increased production. Tanzanians grapes production is approximately 16,000 tonnes a year compared to its potential to produce 150,000 tonnes annually.

He added that the need of wine juice by wine manufacturers is 15-million liters a year while local production is five-million liters thus making the winery industries in the country to import 10-million liters worth six-million US dollar.



TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: No. RFP/KAS/SUPPLY/2021/SUP/001 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW OFFICE BUILDINGS AT UNHCR KIGOMA

- 1. Background:**
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Dar es Salaam invites capable, qualified and eligible Firms/Contractors duly registered with the Tanzanian Government, and by Contractors Registration Board (CRB) as **Building Contractor Class Five (V) and above for Lot 1 and Class Six (VI) and above for Lot 2** to make firm offers to carry out the work as per the scope of works, specifications and Terms of Reference for construction of UNHCR office in Kigoma.

- 2. Eligibility:**
Contractors duly registered with relevant government authorities, with sound financial basis, relevant experience, reputed clientele and with knowledge of how to meet UNHCR's requirements are invited to participate in the bidding process.

Kindly download the tender documents in the below link:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RlhoxKP-xXoHNKGuM0GwAP6MZ5roddFV?usp=sharing>

If you fail to access the link, please write to jacksonw@unhcr.org copy kioko@unhcr.org, ishobeza@unhcr.org and ndassa@unhcr.org.

CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Monday 20 th September 2021 at 2359hrs EAT
Site Visit	Thursday 09 th September 2021 at UNHCR Kigoma Office from 1000hrs EAT
Deadline for submission of offers	Tuesday 05 th October 2021 at 1600hrs EAT

UNHCR tenders are free of charge, no fees are charged to collect the tenders.

CHANGE OF NAMES

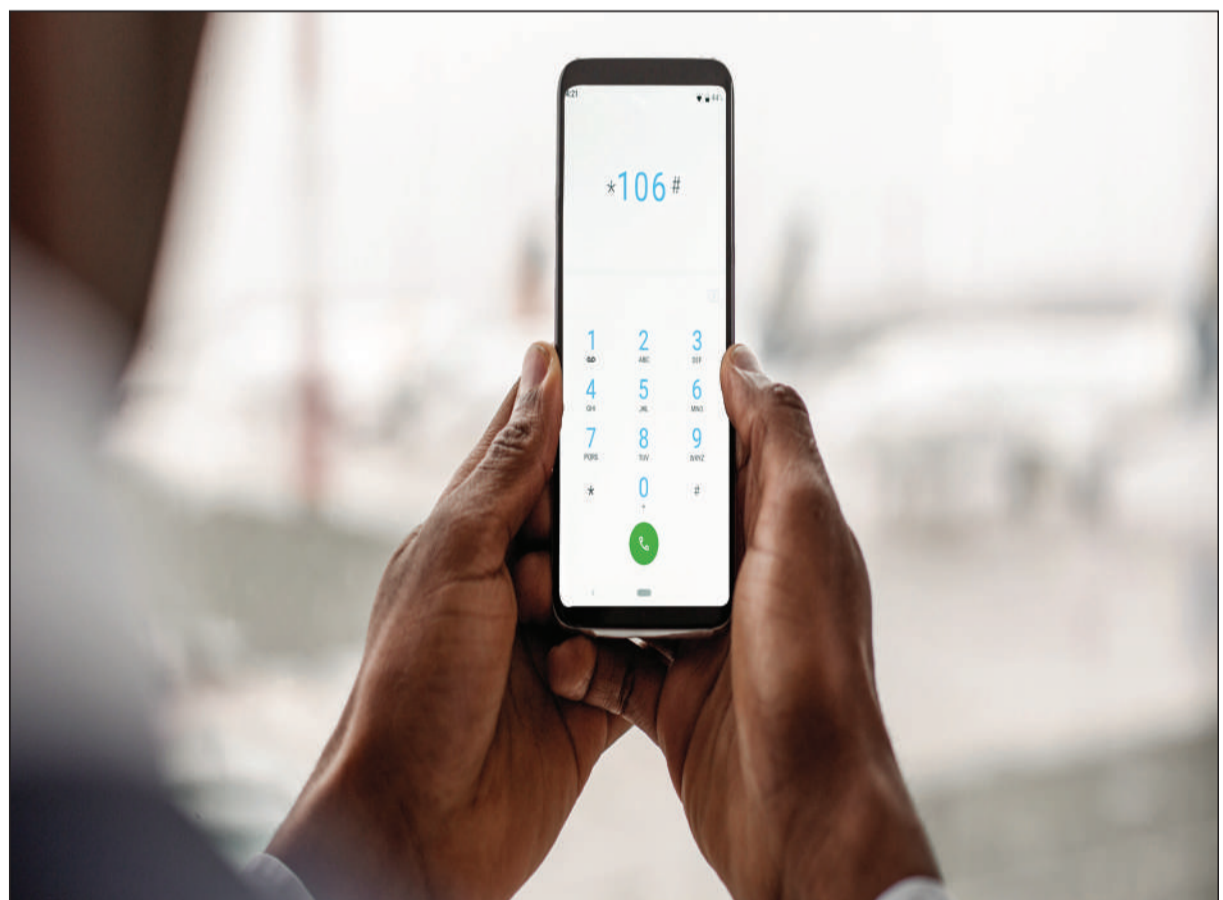
I, MISHKA NANDA, changed my name to MISHHKA NANDA via Deed Poll registered under Folio/s V.175338 the laws of The United Republic of Tanzania.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DIVISION

RE: APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:
MRS PATIENCE JAHENDA MUSINGA BOX 1226 MOSHI-KILIMANJARO
Whose picture is provided above, is applying for Tanzanian Citizenship to the Minister for Home Affairs. That any person who has any reason why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant, should send a written and signed statement of facts to the:

COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION SERVICE,
P.O. BOX 512
DARE ES SALAAM
FOR: REGIONAL IMMIGRATION OFFICER,
KILIMANJARO



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Hello, declare your number by dialing *106# then 5 or visit a registration agent with your NIDA number. Do not give out your Mobile Money PIN. Beware of fraudsters!

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Serengeti Breweries Ltd board chairman John Ulanga (2nd-R) has a quick word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) CEO Geoffrey Kirenga (2nd-L) shortly after the presentation of the firm's Sustainability Report. Others are SBL managing director Mark Ocitti (L) and the Deputy British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Rick Shearn. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt to spend 43bn/- for technology and innovation in HEET project - Ndalichako

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government plans to spend 43bn/- for establishing incubators for the development of technology and innovation in the country's institutions and universities for the Higher Education for Economic Transformation (HEET) project that begins this year 2021/22.

In addition, 1,785 innovators and inventors of various technologies produced in the country have been raised in the three years of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition (MAKISATU).

The remarks were made here yesterday by the Minister for

Education, Science and Technology, Prof Joyce Ndalichako as she was opening a task force meeting with community development officers from various local councils on the issues of science, technology and innovation.

She said the project is sponsored by the World Bank and claimed that the government vows to make sure innovation is accorded high priority to speed up economic and community development.

He said the centres will be established at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), Mbeya University of Science and Technology, Nelson Mandela

Institute of Science and Technology, Mzumbe University, Open University of Tanzania (OUT), and Ardhi Institute.

She instructed institutions dealing in science and technology issues in the country to enhance the speed in identifying and develop young innovators and appropriately empowering them to make sure their innovations are protected.

She also said the ministry in collaboration with regional and district administrative secretaries has recognized and verified the technologies that have been produced by 389 young Tanzanians and whose information has been

included in the ministry's relevant database.

However, he said the ministry has convened the meeting due to various challenges that came up during the collection and verification of technology and innovation reports that had been identified.

"The challenges include poor collection of innovators' reports from the district, ward and village level as well as poor response by some innovators in the identification exercise," Prof Ndalichako added.

She said after the meeting, the officials will fully participate in identifying and developing young innovators especially those from the informal sector.

Construction of Tabora-Kigoma section of SGR underway - govt

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE government has hired an engineering consultancy firm - COWI Tanzania to conduct an architect design and feasibility study for construction of the 411 kilometers section of the Standard Gauge Railway from Tabora to Kigoma regions.

Works and Transport Deputy Minister, Mwita Waitara told legislators that the consultant firm is expected to complete the task in September 2021. The standard gauge railway is intended to replace the old metre-gauge railway system and reduce road congestion.

He was responding to a question posed by Buhigwe Member of Parliament Kaveru Felix (CCM) who wanted to know when the government will start to construct the Tabora-Kigoma SGR section.

According to Waitara, the government continues to search for funds from different sources including soft loans for implementation of development projects including the entire proposed SGR project and that from Tabora to Kigoma measuring 411 kilometers and the Kaliua-Mpanda-Karema with 316.7 kilometers.

He said the ministry through the Tanzania Railway Cooperation (TRC) continues to implement the SGR project from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza measuring 1,219 kilometers.

He said due to high expenses of the project, the government resolved to implement the standard gauge railway project in five phases which are the 300 kilometers section from Dar es Salaam-Morogoro,

Morogoro-Makutupora (422 kilometers), Makutupora-Tabora (368 kilometers), Tabora-Isaka (165 kilometers) and the Isaka-Mwanza section with 341 kilometers.

Waitara told the House that construction of the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro, Morogoro-Makutupora and Mwanza-Isaka is on-going, adding the government is finalizing processes for procurement of construction materials for implementation of the SGR sections-Makutupora-Tabora (368 kilometers) and Tabora-Isaka (165 kilometers).

In June this year, the government allocated \$513m for construction of the SGR in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Prime Minister Kasim Majaliwa said in March this year that construction of the second phase of SGR from Morogoro region to Makutupora in Dodoma region covering 426km was on track and has reached 51 percent.

In mid-June, President Samia Suluhu Hassan laid a foundation stone for the construction of the fifth lot of the SGR at Misungwi in Mwanza Region.



He said the ministry through the TRC continues to implement the SGR project from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza measuring 1,219 kilometers

CAG to roll out analytical and technical laboratories for development projects

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE office of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) has said that investigative and technical laboratories in development projects will soon start operation—a move that will increase efficiency in auditing public properties.

An economist from the CAG office, Emmanuel Philipo revealed this here yesterday when presenting the office's five-year strategic plan and a special public edition of the CAG Report for the 2019/2020 financial year.

According to him, the hired contractor has already completed procurement, and that from September 13, this year; he will start installing the plants of the investigative laboratory.

He also said that the technical auditing laboratory is in the procurement stage and will be completed before the end of this year.

Philipo said the laboratories will be equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to test samples of various projects such as roads and eliminate the acts of drilling of road parts or other means to find the required quality.

"The investigative laboratory has been completed and we hope it will

commence on September 13, the contractor has been given the task of installing modern and technical equipment. We expect that by the end of this year, all laboratories will be ready," he said.

He further said that CAG is working to ensure that there are enough offices for servants so as to eliminate situations of an auditor and the one who is audited from using the same office, something which undermines accountability.

Philipo named kinds of auditing that are being carried out now as those which involve efficiency; looking at financial value and technical which include going to projects and inspecting special equipment by sending to laboratories.

"We also have special investigative audits, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) audits, and those based on legal principles or guidelines and policies of an organisation, institution or public office.

Paul Shilinde, an auditor from the CAG office said in the 2019/2020 financial year, the office failed to audit various embassies abroad due to travel restrictions brought by the Covid-19 pandemic, and ended up inspecting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation.



Allly Mkwanda (gesturing), a teacher at Dar es Salaam's Feza Nursery School, briefs parents on the glass painting game - as part of the school's Parents Day commemoration held at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

VARIOUS legal steps have been taken against 17 engineers for violating professional conduct during FY 2020/2021.

This was revealed here yesterday by Engineers Registration Board (ERB) Registrar, Eng Patrick Barozi as he spoke to reporters on celebrations to mark 2021 Tanzania Engineers Day to be held for two days beginning September 2 to 3 at Dr Jakaya Kikwete Conference Hall.

"The 17 engineers have been held accountable according to various punishable violations committed including being involved in acts of bribery, favoritism at work places

ERB disciplines 17 engineers for professional misconduct

and failure to oversee some of the country's projects," said Eng Barozi.

For his part, the chairman of the event's organising committee, Prof Bakari Mwyniwiwa said more than 600 engineers are expected to take the oath of loyalty during the event to ensure they become professionally accountable in their day to day activities.

Prof Mwyniwiwa also stressed that the oath will be used against

the engineers whenever they violate work ethics during the performance of their duties and various legal organs will be employed to hold them accountable.

The event, with the slogan "Hazards from the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Infrastructures and Industries for Middle Economy Sustainability" will involve various stakeholders from within and outside the country including Uganda, Egypt, and others with

others who will participate online including South Africa, Rwanda, Botswana, DRC and Kenya.

He said: "ERB introduced the oath taking procedure for all engineers and would be an offence to go against any of their professional ethics."

He said the oath will instill trust in the public on the engineers, as the ERB will be ready to take legal steps against any engineers violating the terms of the oath.



We also have special investigative audits, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) audits, and those based on legal principles or guidelines and policies of an organisation, institution or public office



Dr Zainab Chaula (C), Communications and Information Technology ministry Permanent Secretary, launches a website for an NGO known as Action Girls Foundation in Dodoma city yesterday. Left is the foundation's director, Rabia Saad (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TRA seeking ways to create awareness on new tax regulations and compliance

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Kilimanjaro Region has embarked on an initiative aimed to intensively create awareness on the new government tax regulations, changes on export and import duty and thus stimulate voluntary tax payment.

Speaking during a special training to traders in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region over the weekend, Lazaro Mafie, TRA officer in charge of taxpayer services and education from the authority's head-office said they have decided to have the training to enable taxpayers and Tanzanians in general expand awareness on the laws.

Mafie said as there are some changes and small amendments in various tax, duty and tariffs, the targeted taxpayers should be told so as to avoid unnecessary tax disputes.

"In line with the on-going public awareness campaigns, we are also

patrolling the borders with a view to identifying unofficial routes and seizing smuggled products which are sold in the market with fake tax stamps," he said. He said stern legal measures will be taken against those who will be identified to be using fake tax stamps to evade tax.

Some traders who participated in the training commended TRA for educating them on the important changes done in-laws and regulations, and some changes on export and import duty, as well as changes on various tariffs.

Hillary Lyatuu called on TRA to be more friendly when collecting tax so as to build a voluntary tax payment culture among traders.

Lyatuu, who operates a spare parts shop in Moshi, said tax collection procedures which were previously being applied by some officers created enmity between TRA and taxpayers.

"They were using force to collect tax. And we took that as total abuse

of power and that's why we found no reason to cooperate. Besides, their assessments were too high," he said.

He noted that the ongoing public awareness campaign on different changes on tax regulations would improve cooperation between TRA and taxpayers.

Another trader, Adelina Shayo who operates a retail shop at Bondeni ward, in Moshi municipality said they have received well the ongoing public awareness campaign as it will widen their understanding on tax issues.

TRA Regional Manager, Msawa Masatu assured traders that the education campaign will be conducted in a friendly manner calling upon members of the business community in the area to show cooperation.

"With this we hope that more Tanzanians will know the importance of paying tax as well as the significance of digital tax collection mechanisms," he said.

Millions face food crisis in SADC, says Red Cross

GABORONE, Botswana

THE International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) requires US\$8 million to assist millions of people facing food insecurity because of climate related crisis across four Southern African countries—Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

Since February 2020, Africa Migratory Locust (AML) outbreaks damaged crops and livestock grazing compounding the effect of the drought on the food security of approximately 2.3 million people in these areas.

Despite intervention and response activities, the outbreaks persisted throughout 2020 into 2021 and projected to last until post-harvest period due to favourable breeding environment.

IFRC had already ongoing food security related emergency operations in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, hence this multi-country Emergency Appeal was designed to cover Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

The Red Cross added COVID-19 containment measures exacerbated the food insecurity situation by causing loss of livelihoods and employment opportunities as a result of lockdowns and other movement restrictions,

and by consequence also the loss of remittance incomes, as well as the closure of school meal programmes.

Lockdowns and restrictions prevented rural workers from attending to their jobs, leading to loss of employment opportunities on one hand, and the loss of essential work force in the fields on the other, risking late or failed harvesting and

selling of produce.

"These factors have further increased the risk of malnutrition in the region, as food diversity has been constrained, inaccessible and unaffordable to the most vulnerable households, pushing them to adopt negative eating practices to adapt, including reducing frequency, quantity and quality of foods."

Form alliances to boost capital base, NEEC boss urges Vicoba

By Henry Mwangonde

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Executive Secretary Beng'i Issa has called on Village Community Banks (VICOPA) to form alliances that will enable them to compete for government tenders to provide services hence expand their capital.

Beng'i made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the function to award the best financial groups for the year 2021.

She said to expand their capital, the groups ought to think more of investing in profitable sectors instead of focusing on issuing small loans to members.

Data shows there are 9,000 community financial groups with about 10 million members.

"Members of these groups are men and women, as you think of expanding your financial capital,

think of investing in sector that produces results but also unites and compete for government tenders," she said. She added that the financial groups have extended their existence to villages and that the government has put in place laws to regulate them hence the need for financial institutions to come up with products that are attractive to community financial groups.

Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) managing director, Irene Madeje said by 2017, about 65-percent of adults in Tanzania were beneficiaries of the community financial groups hence contributing to financial inclusion.

The Head of Operations for Banc ABC Joyce Malai who were among the sponsors of the event said financial groups were important to women's economic empowerment.

During the event, the Community Financial Group of the Year 2021

(Female) award went to Women of Hope Alive (WHA), community financial group of the Year 2021 (Mixed) - went to Association of Bcom Graduates (2008), Community Financial Group of the Year 2021 (People with Disability) went to Famasa Disabled Group and Community Financial Group of the Year 2021 (Upcoming) went to MATES Vicoba Group.

Other awards were as follows, best community financial group in financial markets 2021 (Vicoba MUWAWA) best Community Financial Group in Entrepreneurship Projects 2021, (Faith Vicoba Group), best community financial group in agriculture projects 2021 (LISED0 Group). The list also included best community financial group in Real Estate 2021 (LISED0 Group), best community financial group in Social Impact 2021 (Queens Vicoba Group), best community financial group in using Technology 2021 (Century Vicoba Club), and best Community Financial Group in Innovation 2021 (Women of Hope Alive (WHA).



AGREEMENT PERFORMANCE OF WORK (APW) CONSULTANCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL OXYGEN PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND USE SCALE UP PLAN TERMS OF REFERENCE

BACKGROUND

In April 2020, the Case Management and IPC Sub-Committee at the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, established the Oxygen The group's coordinated a rapid assessment of the situation of oxygen in Tanzania, understand the needs and priorities for scale-up, and produce a plan and investment strategy for the scale-up of oxygen production, supply and use in the country.

A rapid assessment activity was conducted on 20th May to 5th June 2020 in hospitals in Tanzania which were identified to have installed and operating oxygen plants. Along with the assessment the team visited the commercial/private companies generating and supplying oxygen cylinders to hospitals within the respective areas.

The result of the assessment and consultation was the production of the draft oxygen plan which has been used for resource mobilization. However, the plan is not costed and framework for its implementation, which include cost recovery strategy need to be defined.

Main Objective

To review the drafted plan, highlight and include the implementation framework of the oxygen production, supply and use scale up plan in Tanzania.

Specific objectives

- To review and finalize the first draft of the oxygen production, supply and use scale up plan
- To develop the implementation operational framework
- To develop the cost recovery model for sustainable oxygen supply in the Country.

To ensure timely review and shortened period towards document finalization, a three (3) weeks consultancy will be used, of which the Ministry proposes to use consultant who will facilitate consultation process, gather evidence, develop plans and submit to the stakeholders meeting for validation.

Expected Outputs

The overall activity is expected to take place for 30 days; The consultant is expected to support desk review, stakeholder's consultation and Validation process. It is expected that the consultant will work for 3 weeks (21 days) to accomplish the task with the following are the expected outputs

- Reviewed and costed final National Oxygen Production, Supply and Use scale up plan
- Developed Implementation Framework.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Terms of Reference for the Consultant

- Conduct a thorough desk review to understand the actual status of Oxygen supply in Tanzania and elsewhere to inform the Situation Analysis
- Conduct stakeholder's consultation at National level, and produce report highlighting the following:
 - Summary of the problem analysis
 - Proposed solutions/ Objectives and the Theory of Change
 - Proposed list of Interventions for Oxygen supply
 - Literature review
 - Situation analysis with clear causality analysis
- Theory of Change describing how the costed plan will contribute to the objectives of the Health Sector Strategic plan for sustaining oxygen supply for patient care in country.
- Develop and Implementation framework with clear Targets, Baseline, Milestones, Resources and Responsible institution/ Individuals
- Based on National norms and standards for service delivery, identify service packages to be offered by outreach teams to improve the service delivery and the capacity of the staff in lower level facilities
- Identify sustainability cost recovery strategies for oxygen supply
- Conduct a stakeholder consultation to describe and validate the plan and the implementation framework
- Prepare and present the draft costed plan and implementation framework to key stakeholders, incorporate comments, and produce final draft

Profile of the Consultant

- Degree in Biomedical Engineering or Emergency Medicine or related fields
- 5 to 10 years of relevant experience in result Based planning
- At least five (5) years' of biomedical or clinical experience
- Demonstrated expertise in analysis and development of guidelines and reports in the public health
- Experience in capacity building
- Capacity to work independently yet with ability to share information, receive feedback and engage in dialogue with partners

Duration of assignment

21 working days starting from 3rd week of September 2021

Deliverables

- An inception report including a desk review for oxygen supply in Tanzania
- 2 workshops reports (stakeholders' consultation and validation meetings)
- Reviewed and costed final National Oxygen Production, Supply and Use scale up plan
- Implementation Framework.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Framework


Payment to the Consultant

The Consultant shall be paid in three instalments using the standard UN rates based on the following deliverables

- 1st Payment: 30% after submission of an Inception report and Workshop report (Synthesis meeting)
- 2nd Payment: 30% after submission of first draft of oxygen supply and implementation framework
- 3rd Payment: 40% after submission of final draft of costed plan, implementation framework and Monitoring and evaluation framework.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested individual should submit a cover letter; Curriculum Vitae and Comprehensive Survey Proposal with detailed budget to: afwotzremif@who.int not later than 10th September 2021. Applications must be submitted through the email address mentioned above with the subject clearly stated: Submission of Curriculum Vitae for "FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL OXYGEN PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND USE SCALE UP PLAN".



THE HINDU COUNCIL OF TANZANIA
P O Box 21635, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 688 428 428; email: secretary@hinducounciltz.org
www.hinducounciltz.org

1st September, 2021 HCT/PHSS/2021/008

All Members,
The Registered Trustees of Punjab Hindu Stri Satsang (PHSS),
P. O. Box 81,
Kisutu,
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

Dear All,

RE: Notice of General Meeting for Election of 2 x Trustees

The Administrator General of Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has instructed The Hindu Council of Tanzania, being the apex body for all Hindu Communities in Tanzania, to conduct election of 2 x trustees of Punjab Hindu Stri Satsang (PHSS), vide their letter dated 16th August, 2021 with reference ADG/T.I/626/55 subsequent to the meeting held at RITA on 16th June, 2021.

Pursuant to these instructions the Hindu Council of Tanzania invites all members of PHSS to attend a general body meeting on 8th September, 2021, Wednesday at the PHSS premises at 7:00PM.

The Agenda of the meeting is as below:


- To conduct a free and fair election of 2 x trustees of PHSS.

Those who are interested in participating in the elections are requested to collect the Nomination Forms from the office of the Hindu Council of Tanzania at Shree Sanatan Dharma Sabha Temple and submit the duly filled form on or before 6th September, 2021 electronically or in person to the Hindu Council of Tanzania.

For election only those contestants would be considered whose forms are duly received by the Hindu Council of Tanzania as per the deadline given above.

We look forward to your participation in this important meeting and election of the trustees. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,
For, The Hindu Council of Tanzania



Bhavin J. Borkhataria
President

I Hindu Affairs | Capacity Building | Bridging Hindu Community |

Dar bank to increase customer base through its agents service

By Francis Kajubi

AKIBA Commercial Bank (ACB) is set to reach 100,000 of its customers and non-customers in the coming three months through its Wakala service.

Bank's head of marketing and communications, Dora Saria said just within the first three weeks since the service was introduced on the market, it has attracted thousands of consumers.

"We are confident of reaching more than 100,000 consumers of Akiba Wakala for both customers and non-customers. The uptake of the service has been incredible in the eyes of consumers since its introduction about three weeks ago.

We have been receiving numerous requests of establishing Akiba Wakala shops from different places of the country where the services are yet to be provided. This shows that the service has been attractive to the general public," said Saria.

In strengthening its services, the bank is in the process of opening a new business chapter by building a robust digital service delivery system after acquiring a strategic investor, the National Bank of Malawi (NBM).

The recent joint venture between ACB and NBM aims to further build the bank by expanding its financial services network in the country and withstanding competition among service providers.

"The bank has found a strategic investor, the National Bank of Malawi (NBM). We are confident that this partnership will help expand our business scope considering NBM is one of the largest banks in the southern African region.

The partnership we have established between us and NBM has brought a great deal of motivation which is not only to ensure that banking services are available nationwide but are available digitally and reliably," she asserted.

According to her, the process of transforming the bank into a digital one is progressing well and the bank is confident that it will bring relief

and save on the cost of access to services.

The bank currently provides Akiba mobile money service, which enables its customers to make LUKU payments, transactions, recharging airtime as well as facilitating the government payment system.

Mobile money services are also offered through the unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) system and through Mobile APP. It enables the client to conduct his or her banking transactions through agents as well.

The bank offers other services of deposits, loans, selling and buying float, sending and receiving money through Western Union etc.

"We believe that, through this service the bank becomes a good participant in supporting the government's efforts to ensure financial inclusion for all Tanzanians.

We have entered the market with a total of about 200 agents and our goal is to continue to increase as many agencies as possible with the aim of satisfying customers' need by enabling access to this service nationwide without the need for a customer to come to bank branches," she explained.



We believe that, through this service the bank becomes a good participant in supporting the government's efforts to ensure financial inclusion for all Tanzanians



Said Salum of Ndachi B Centre Block D in Dodoma looks on forlornly yesterday with members of his family next to what used to be his house in the national capital before it was pulled down, reportedly on instructions from "the relevant authorities". Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent,

Sumbawanga

RUKWA Region has been found to have ideal soil for cocoa, oil palm, and macadamia (wild groundnuts) cultivation that have never been grown in the region.

The research done by Tanzania Agricultural Institute at its Uyoile Centre in Mbeya Region has shown that these crops can be cultivated in Rukwa Region and assist the country to solve the challenge in regard to edible oil shortage as well as for income generation for farmers and the nation in general.

Submitting his research report on soils, TARI-Uyoile Director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki said the exercise has also revealed the existence of high levels

Rukwa soil is ideal for cocoa and oil palm growing - TARI

of soil acids in some areas of the region.

However, he said, "apart from the soil acid issue, the research also revealed that the soil has its other benefits including the cultivation of other crops as already mentioned."

He said oil palm, cocoa and macadamia can grow well on the coastal areas of Lakes Tanganyika and Rukwa in the region.

Dr Bucheyeki added that already agricultural experts have been provided with special training on

how to identify soil defects that could affect crops and on how to deal with the situations.

For his part a TARI-Uyoile soil researcher, Frederick Mlowe said after finding the existence of high levels of acids in the soil in some areas of Rukwa Region, they have recommended strategies on how to deal with the issue.

He said among the recommendations is the use of lime in the soil to control acid levels and they have already communicated with a lime factory in Dodoma

Region to provide Rukwa Region residents with lime to put in their farms to control acid levels.

The exercise to test soil condition will also be done on other regions, including Morogoro and Mbeya.

Receiving the research report, Mbeya Region's Acting Administrative Secretary, Donald Nssoko said the identification of other cash crops that can grow well in the region was good news as the crops will assist in increasing farmers' incomes and that of the region in general.



Community Support Initiative Tanzania director Patrice Gwasima (L) and farmers show samples of natural food items at an exhibition of organic seeds held at Babati in Manyara Region on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Activist calls on Tanzanians to support war against GBV

By Erica Kyomo, Tudarco

TANZANIANS have been urged to continue supporting the fight against gender-based violence (GBV)—a challenge that deprive women from participating fully in economic activities.

Project officer and trainer at the Dar es Salaam-based Rural Women and Children's Welfare Organisation, Donald Bwire said majority of rural women are still living in the trap of harmful traditions and customs that greatly suppress their rights.

"We must realise that women are part of the country's development. Looking at the current situation in rural areas, many women do not realise their rights in business and other development activities," Bwire said in an interview.

He appealed to men to allow women engage in business and other income generating activities because by so doing they will help their families and the society at large.

He however said the challenge has somehow decreased compared to previous years because many women are motivated to engage in entrepreneurship activities which gives the stakeholders great hope by seeing the group improving.

He said that the challenge needs combined efforts to ensure that all harmful traditional and custom

beliefs that have been accelerating GBV actions in the country are eradicated.

"We should all work together to ensure that our girls and women have access to all their rights including the right to own land and other properties," he explained.

Bwire commended the ongoing steps by the government and various stakeholders to address patriarchal systems, traditions and oppressive practices that prevent women from engaging in economic business and other development activities.



We must realise that women are part of the country's development. Looking at the current situation in rural areas, many women do not realise their rights in business and other development activities

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

SMALL and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) in Zanzibar have described the Kizimkazi Festival as a success, it has brought them benefits as it created a big market for their products.

One of the beneficiaries, Sinajambo Mconde Makame, said business was good at the event

'Kizimkazi festival a boon for Zanzibar SMEs'

because her ten bags were bought.

She said the traders are faced with market challenges hence such events are opportunities for them to sell their products.

"I came here with 10 bags, all of which were sold at 30,000/- each,"

she said, calling on the government to hold frequent festivals to enable them sell their products.

She said apart from the market challenges, there was also the challenge of getting special raw grass fibres 'ukindu' for making

basket ware.

Another entrepreneur, Futari Ali Abdallah from the Kizimkazi village said the festival was a good occasion for them, as they have sold their products and earned income.

Futari, who makes carvings, said he mostly sells his products at tourist hotels and it was his first time to sell them at the festival where many customers were attracted by his products.

Speaking at the Kizimkazi festival

which President Samia Suluhu Hassan graced, Hamida Juma, the Constituency Member of the House of Representatives, said CRDB Bank held a training seminar on saving to 450 entrepreneurs in Zanzibar South Region.

He said the aim of the training is to solve markets challenges facing them and use various festivals to advertise their products.

EAC promises to further promote women's participation in AfCFTA

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community (EAC) has expressed determination to leverage on its existing trade environment so as to promote women's participation in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Speaking during the opening of a special workshop meant to discuss on the issue, EAC deputy secretary general in charge of the productive and social sectors, Christophe Bazivamo, said that traders in Africa especially women, youth and SMEs face significant challenges when attempting to benefit from multilateral and regional trade agreements as many trade agreements do not include their specific needs and concerns.

Bazivamo, who represented the EAC secretary general, said that the goal of the EAC was to ensure that women in the region were fully equipped and capable of accessing and exploiting the numerous opportunities and benefits that accrue from the AfCFTA initiative, adding that the continental free trade area provides significant business opportunities for the region.

"In EAC, the AfCFTA will allow our people to access a large continental market and increase EAC export to African countries outside the region. It will also improve movement of people across Africa, advance trade and development aspirations and ultimately put the region in a better position to trade more with the rest of the world," said Bazivamo.

The deputy secretary general disclosed that the EAC had initiated a number of steps towards the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

"We have now almost finalized the submission of our tariff offers which conform to the agreed modalities in addition to the schedules of liberalization of trade in services. We have also prepared a draft strategy

for the implementation of the agreement, which takes into account the need for capacity building. It is presently under consideration by the partner states," said Bazivamo.

"Further, we are also fully involved in negotiations on the outstanding areas such as rules of origin, trade in services as well as the phase II issues on investment, competition, intellectual property rights and e-commerce," he added.

Kenneth Bagamuhunda, EAC director general for Customs and Trade said that women own approximately 40 percent of businesses in the EAC region.

Bagamuhunda, however, noted that women traders face various challenges including limited market knowledge, low access to capital and credit, limited access to information, limiting cultural practices, attitudes and beliefs and low levels of education.

He said that the expectations of the EAC were that AfCFTA would result in, among other things, lowering of business costs, promote local content and provide a platform for settlement of disputes.

The DG said that EAC will work hard to increase women participation by investing in regional customs and trade instruments, interconnectivity of systems including customs and other border clearance agencies, One Stop Border Posts, national Trade Information Portals, simplified trade regimes, trade exhibitions and symposia, and expansion of the EAC especially the anticipated admission of DR Congo into the community.

Bagamuhunda said that the EAC was currently operationalising a framework for affirmative trade development through the digitalisation of markets, information dissemination, showcasing the region's products and market opportunities, and the transitioning of the dominance of women in the informal sector to the formal sector.



Iringa town councillors pray shortly before starting their meeting yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

Pakistan expresses readiness to raise level of bilateral links with Tanzania

By Correspondent James Kandoya

PAKISTAN has promised to further strengthen its bilateral relationship with the Tanzania government that has existed for decades for mutual benefit of the people in two countries.

Muhaamad Saleem, Pakistan High Commissioner to Tanzania who is also accredited to the East African Community Secretariat, told The Guardian at week end during the Contemporary Art exhibition to commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan. He said to commemorate the day,

the embassy had organised an art exhibition comprising paintings and calligraphy of 35- Pakistan renowned artists.

Saleem said the aim of the event was to promote Pakistan-Tanzania cultural relationship through exchanging arts and paintings.

The envoy said Pakistan and Tanzania has had a historically cordial relationship basing in the political, defence, security and trade spheres.

Saleem said further that Pakistan has universities in arts and culture where Tanzania students can go and learn about arts and crafts.

"This just one step, we look forward to seeing more Tanzanian artists going to universities in Pakistan to learn Pakistan's culture," he said.

"As the embassy, our role is to facilitate people to people contact and to make business and trade linkages between the countries," he added.

According to the envoy, Pakistan has a trade volume reaching over U.D \$ 300 million investing in textiles, steel industries, agriculture, mining, medical and pharmaceutical.

Pakistan celebrated its 75th Independence Day on Saturday,

however, the Indian Independence Act, 1947, gave birth to two sovereign countries, India and Pakistan, on August 14 that year.

It was the day when Pakistan achieved independence and was declared a sovereign nation, following the end of the British Raj in 1947

It came into existence as a result of the Pakistan Movement aimed for creation of an independent Muslim state by division of the north-western region of the South Asia and was led by All-India Muslim League under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah.



Lushoto district commissioner Kalisti Lazaro (L, back to camera) pictured in Tanga city at the weekend engaged in talks with High Court officials in Tanga Region, including the court's deputy registrar Beda Nyaki (L, facing camera). Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchala

Stakeholders share views on execution of GCM in Africa

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

STAKEHOLDERS involved in the migration sector met yesterday to share their perspectives on a cohesive implementation of the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (GCM) in Africa.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the GCM's implementation, discuss pressing challenges, share good practices and make recommendations to the first Africa Regional Review of the Global Compact for Migration taking place on 31 August and 1 September. About 100 stakeholders, including members of local authorities, civil society, business, academia, human rights groups, media and humanitarian bodies, attended the meeting.

In her opening remarks, Thokozile Ruzvidzo, Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's (ECA) Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, said:

"The GCM offers us opportunities to boost migration benefits for migrants as well as for origin, transit and destination societies. While its adoption is a milestone, the GCM's implementation remains key."

She added: "This meeting allows us to reflect on the status of the GCM's implementation by African member States since its adoption in 2018 from stakeholders' perspectives. I urge all of you to continue your active engagement in ensuring the GCM's vision of safe, orderly and regular migration is achieved in Africa."

The meeting comprised of two main activities with one focused on summary reports drawn from the four stakeholder consultations held since December 2020 while the other featured discussions on the GCM's implementation progress, challenges and good practices in Africa.

In the reports and the discussion, stakeholders expressed that while advances have been made

in implementing the GCM in Africa, the progress remains slow, with the COVID-19 pandemic undermining the momentum. They raised concerns over various aspects of migration, especially on human rights violations, border governance, corruption, access to basic services, trafficking, missing migrants, detention, forced return and reintegration.

Limited data, uneven commitment to the GCM, lack of legal identity and unawareness of regular migration pathways, stakeholders stressed, put migrants at greater risk and weaken better targeting of policies and programmes. They outlined a range of practices which governments could replicate to meet the ambitious vision of the GCM. These included migrant labour permits, training of border officials as well as the role of human rights commission in advocating with governments on behalf of undocumented migrants.

In his address to the meeting, Jonathan Prentice, Head of Secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM), said: "Today's consultation is an opportunity to focus on what impact the GCM has achieved in Africa to date, but it is also vital to identify what challenges still remain to be overcome to realize this cooperative framework."

Recognizing the challenges, stakeholders recommended more research into climate-induced migration, bilateral labour agreements and child protection, efforts to provide all migrants legal identity, partnerships for safe return, anti-discrimination laws, harmonized remittance market, accountability measures and enhanced consular services.

They identified a significant data gap in the sector, which could be addressed by national and local authorities investing in data collection to bridge the gap between evidence and policy while using technology to share information for transnational cooperation.

France donates 10 million Covid-19 doses to Africa

By Special Correspondent

AFRICAN Union Member States are to receive an additional 10 million doses of AstraZeneca and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX and the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), thanks to a new arrangement with the French government and the African Union.

As well as a contribution of EUR 200 million in funding, France was the first country to donate doses through COVAX, and 3.7 million doses have already been shipped to 22 countries across Africa and Asia. As part of a pledge of 60 million doses in 2021, this new alliance will ensure that more people in Africa will be able to access vaccines, helping countries battle the

pandemic. COVAX, a longstanding partner of the African Union, will be on the frontline in ensuring these doses are allocated and delivered where they are needed.

"France's leadership in dose donation will further the cause of equitable access and help end the acute phase of the pandemic."

"Dose-sharing is not only the expression of solidarity; it is a key condition to ensure equitable and universal access to high quality vaccine against COVID-19. This partnership built with the African Union and Gavi/COVAX will enable the donation by France of 10 million of AstraZeneca and Pfizer doses to African countries. It embodies the will of France to stand side by side with African people and face the

pandemic together." Jean-Yves Le Drian, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

African Union Special Envoy responsible for the AVAT initiative, Strive Masiyiwa said: "Our mission as Africa is to vaccinate at least 60% of our population. We have been working with COVAX in a partnership to make this possible despite the supply challenges. This generous offer by the people of France is welcomed indeed, and we urge other donors to step forward in dose sharing, as well as releasing of production capacity in their countries."

COVAX has delivered over 55 million doses to the African continent, while also investing in readiness and delivery to ensure

countries can roll vaccines out effectively. COVAX looks forward to deepening its existing partnership with the African Union, AVAT and the Africa CDC to work together to fight the pandemic. This will contribute to the African Union's target of vaccinating at least 60% of the African population.

These doses donated by France are produced by the AstraZeneca and Pfizer manufacturing networks. Donating through COVAX helps to increase vaccine coverage, ensures that no dose goes to waste, and helps to bring an end to the acute phase of the pandemic. The design and operationalization of the COVAX dose sharing mechanism is being supported by a contribution of CAD 5 million from Canada.

Booster shot after Sinovac positive, to check infection

SCORES of people in Zanzibar especially are likely to be disturbed by the discovery that Sinovac shots that many people have taken, some actually preparing for the annual pilgrimage, are not recognized for Umrah visas. That is what has been declared by the relevant authorities, in which case the Isles health minister says Zanzibar has notified the counterpart Union authorities to obtain Janssen jabs to make up for a visa requirement, taken as a booster shot or even an alternative dose. That situation isn't something to be scared of, but among those who hold vaccines to be dangerous, they may throw people into a panic.

This information has been availed to the media just as Zanzibaris prepare for the Umrah and Hajj pilgrimage - some of them, at any rate - and in that case they will have to get vaccinated again as China's Sinovac vaccine rolled out in the Isles is not in the list of jabs accepted for an entry visa in Saudi Arabia.

Nassor Ahmed Mazrui, the Zanzibar minister for Health, Social Welfare, the Elderly, Gender and Children, said pointedly that those who took the Sinovac vaccine are now required to get Johnson & Johnson's Janssen jab if they are to get Saudi visas. This will be an added assurance for those who were already enthusiastic about the jab, while those who treated as extreme precaution due to disease unpredictability may start scrambling for new answers, what taking two different vaccines could imply.

The reason the Sinovac vaccine is not in the list of vaccines approved by Saudi Arabia, compelling all those who have already taken the China-sourced vaccine to take

another vaccine to convince the Saudi authorities that their immune systems have been sufficiently boosted, is not just foreign policy. A few pundits will start spreading half baked explanations that the Saudis work closely with the Americans and thus this is a plot by this alliance against the Chinese vaccine, etc. The point is that most early research to develop a vaccine was designed for the first wave of Covid-19 infections, in which case most were fairly effective against that original variant of the virus, but show declining results with the Delta variant, later.

Even in the United States where the Sinovac or Sinopharm vaccines are nowhere in view, authorities have insisted on a third or booster jab as vital to strengthen immunity and protection against the Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus mutations.

The Janssen jab was different all along, as it is a sort of double inoculation in one jab, and thus proved resilient even against the Delta variant, or at least it has showed more promise than several other jabs applied in the US, Israel and other early starters. As the Union authorities may have received more Janssen jab stocks, it is even better for the Isles authorities to take up.

In that case the Umrah requirement might be a blessing in disguise as it may convince other Zanzibaris who have taken the Sinovac shot to access a booster shot to be more safeguarded. Sinovac shots are taken to be slightly weaker against the Delta variant, even though approved for emergency use by the World Health Organisation. All one needs to know is that there is no ping-pong about the issue but just science; the booster shot need is positive as prevention is always better than cure.

Agrarian population shifts need to wake up planners

THERE is plenty of food for thought in a recently presented report on an agricultural sector survey during the farming season 2019/2020, whose main points were outlined at a seminar in the capital early this week. One major area of emphasis is that climate change woes are rising in agro-sector activity, that maize dominates crop farming as a whole, and that 'cattle only' households are in sharp decline over the past ten years or so. That image sort of corresponds with what we know on a day to day basis, but we get different experiences when we look at economic activity, so scientific surveys are vital for setting it right.

A summary presentation of the 2019/20 National Sample Census of Agriculture (NSCA) released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows how climate change is a major constraint in the agriculture sector. This feature is even more constraining as farming remains smallholder-based, dominated by crop productions along with livestock rearing and fishing, while it appears that these other activities are in some decline. All these spheres of agro-sector activity all the same show low productivity and increases in production chiefly from expansion of areas under cultivation, which says a lot about growth prospects.

Productivity in large scale farms is higher, and in some value chains it is twice the level of smallholder farmers, a situation that belies the industrialization agenda in its focus on agro-processing. Even without the benefit of another seminar to put things more clearly, it is one thing to seek an empowering environment for large scale farms and another to enable poor agro sector households. Our strategy so far is to cater for the latter, albeit without restricting activities for the larger scale farmers,

but they face plenty of problems as in many places their claims to land occupancy are queried by land hungry peasants.

An observation in the presentation hinting on the need for special treatment, including special incentives to encourage processing of food and cash crops to minimize post-harvest losses while absorbing global price shocks, is especially candid. With large scale farming it is just a matter of removing tax impediments as the Minister for Finance (both the former and the current incumbents) tried in a series of budgets to remove 'nuisance taxes.' But it must be admitted that requiring the Treasury, Agriculture or the regional authorities to make small holding units efficient, sort out problems, is way above their kiln.

Were it that the government is prepared to 'think big' as some American psychologists taught the world over the past half century, the right method would be to encourage small farms to merge with big farms. Not as cooperatives but as 'business enterprises' being swallowed by major enterprises. This is ordinarily the case in industrial and commercial activities or service sectors generally, that a loss making enterprise sells out and leaves, collects what it can obtain in the market and the small entrepreneur shifts elsewhere.

But here we are held down by tradition, as by limiting citizenship to one nationality and refusing to allow permanent residence of foreigners by capital backup criteria, we artificially keep the price of land low. It is also uninviting, for it is essentially government owned. This report may help the more visionary sections of the government to figure out how to hurry up reforms as inefficient producers will blame government authorities, help plotters to cause chaos.

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Scourge of food contamination

By Special Correspondent

THERE is need for public enlightenment on food preservation. The recent death in Sokoto State of 24 members of the same family after consuming poisoned food should alert Nigerians to this growing danger. The incident, according to Ali Inname, Commissioner for Health, occurred in Danzanke village, Isa Local Government Area of the state when a fertiliser popularly known as 'Gishirin Lalle' in Hausa was used as a food seasoning in place of salt. "Regrettably, the entire family who ate the meal lost their lives except two female members who merely tasted the food and are currently responding to treatment," he said.

While we commiserate with the family of the deceased persons, authorities in Nigeria must pay attention to food poisoning. Available reports indicate that at least 200,000 persons die annually of food poison in Nigeria. Indeed, hardly any day passes without reports of some families dying after eating food that may have been contaminated through improper processing, preservation, and service. Since the causes of most of these deaths were never accurately determined, it is becoming increasingly clear that some of them could have been avoidable. For instance, many food products sold in the open market across the



country are reportedly preserved with dangerous chemicals. When you combine that with low level of literacy, the danger is high.

Two years ago, there was panic over beans, a popular staple food. The worry came as result of the public health implications of misapplied chemicals on food consumers. A video had gone viral on how some retailers were using Sniper, a powerful insecticide, to preserve beans before bagging it for sale. The practice is reportedly commonplace, often used to eliminate or protect beans from weevils' infection. It has also been established that other food

items like banana, plantain, corn, sorghum, apples, and vegetables are improperly preserved or hurriedly ripened with dangerous chemicals.

Sniper, a dichlorovinyl, available against the counter, is a dangerous chemical used for killing bugs and insects. Indeed, the Director General of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service, (NAQS) Dr Vincent Isegbe said sniper is injurious to health, if applied as a pesticide. "Sniper in beans is a material equivalent of death in pot," he said. "So, it may not be an exaggeration to say that sniper in beans is a weapon of mass destruction." Calcium Carbide,

another dangerous substance used by welders, is also often used by many retailers in the ripening of banana and plantain and other produce for quick money.

There is therefore the urgent need to find an enduring solution to ensure that the food we put on the table meet some minimum standards. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) and other regulatory agencies must ensure proper public awareness on the right use of chemicals. The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) must be well positioned to live up to its responsibilities. The Agriculture Ministry itself could do a lot better by ensuring that useful and relevant information - from planting to harvesting and preservation - is passed on to farmers and retailers many of whom are unaware of the risks.

As we have reiterated several times on this page, given the alarming rate at which people, including sometimes a whole family, die after meals, there is need for public enlightenment on the danger associated with some of the food items we consume. It is also important that people be alerted on the safe keeping of household items that could be injurious to their health and the safety of their families. Addressing this challenge will require continuous sensitisation, especially in the rural areas.

Power struggle is the worst enemy of progress

By Special Correspondent

REPORT of a brawl between the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs Nathaniel F. McGill and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dee-Maxwell Kemayah over which one of them should get the attention of President George Manneh Weah is both troubling and disappointing, to say the least.

It is even highly incomprehensible why both officials who enjoy equal privileges under the executive or they should, would resort to adapting acrimonious postures against each other in government.

Specifically, seeming disagreement between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah over whether or not, President George Manneh Weah should address this year's United Nations General Assembly in New York in person or do so virtually, is nothing to quarrel about. We believe a final decision on

such a matter must be in the best interest of the State rather than any personal ego or satisfaction.

Since taking office in 2018 President Weah has but twice (2018 and 2019) gone to New York and addressed the U.N. General Assembly in person. We also believe he should do so as many times as the opportunity avails itself, but if the U.S. Government is advising world leaders to address this year's UNGA virtually because of a renewed surge of COVID-19 as the Foreign Minister is reportedly advising, we see nothing wrong.

Equally so, if the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs strongly thinks the President should be in New York personally to address the General Assembly and to perhaps take advantage of sideline discussions with friendly governments and international partners that can be also reasoned out as a government instead of getting into the boxing ring.

Besides, we are hearing that Minister McGill is posturing and directing that, the Foreign Minister, who is also Dean of the Cabinet, should report to his (McGill's) office rather than directly to President Weah. We think this is against protocol except the President chooses similarly, and if Mr. Weah would desire so, it could raise eyebrows, because the Foreign Minister directly represents the President on foreign matters particularly, State-to-State, not the Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

What was more regretting and disappointing, however, is that President Weah himself sat and watched such bitter exchanges between two key officials of his cabinet and made no intervention or take punitive action as a deterrence. That singular omission or inaction further demonstrates the President's lack of leadership that has crept right before his nose.

It is about time the Weah administration rise up and lead as a capable government in which the Liberian people overwhelmingly placed their trust to govern them and properly manage the state of affairs. But time and again, this seems not to be the case.

The issue about President Weah going to New York to personally address the UNGA should not be a personality contest between Minister McGill and Minister Kemayah. The fact of the matter is, the President has a team of advisors who should intervene accordingly and suggest the expedient approach in such a matter.

What happened recently at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia was a total disgrace. It is our wish that this would be repeated because it doesn't show maturity and leadership that the next generation could copy from.

Read the original article on New Dawn.

By Francis Kajubi

Covid-19 impact on Dar's real estate business

WORKING from home had become the only option of avoiding further spread of Covid-19 since mid-2020, the approach that is blamed by developers and property managers for affecting the real estate business in Dar es Salaam.

The economic sector that developers and managers say contributes billions of money to the gross domestic product (GDP), the government on the other hand say it is growing fast but with less investment returns.

National Bureau of Statistics' report dubbed National Economic Status for June 2021, states that between July 2020 and June 2021, the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector provided 61.5 percent of all jobs followed by the trade and maintenance sector (14.5 percent). The real estate industry accounted for only 0.04 percent of all jobs with a smaller contribution than other sectors.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Annual report for 2019/20 on the other hand states that industry and construction activity, which includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, electricity and gas supply, as well as water supply and sewage, grew by 11.8 percent in 2019 compared with 9.7 percent in 2018.

BoT asserts that construction, which contributed 27.5 percent of GDP, grew by 14.1 percent in 2019, mainly associated with on-going infrastructure projects including: Standard Gauge Railway (SGR); Ubungo interchange; construction and expansion of ports, airports, roads and bridges; and building of ships and ferries in major lakes.

Far from the central government's relocation to Dodoma capital, real estate managers say that the Covid-19 pandemic eruption has disturbed property business in Dar es Salaam because some of their tenants, mostly non-government institutions, have been working from home for almost a year now.

Property managers blame that economic crunch and working from home has led to suspension of some tenant contracts while others demand for rental charges relief to renew their letting contracts. According to them, working from home is an extension to cutting down on working hours and staff retrenchment as a way of avoiding spread of the pandemic and cutting down operational costs.

However, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its World Employment and Social Outlook for June 2021, states that total working-hour losses have translated into a sharp drop in labour income and an increase in poverty due to Covid-19 related lockdowns. Around half of the working-hour losses were due to the reduced hours of those who remained employed.

"The economic and labour crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic could increase global unemployment by almost 25 million people," reads part of the report.

ILO states that global labour income, which does not include government transfers and benefits, was US\$3.7trillion (8.3 per cent) lower in 2020 than it would have been in the absence of the pandemic. For the first two quarters of 2021, this shortfall amounts to a reduction in global labour income of 5.3 per cent equivalent to US\$1.3trillion.

Covid-19 eruption has been an additional challenge to the central government's relocation to Dodoma capital.



A side view of Treasure Victoria Apartments at Victoria area in Dar es Salaam.

Property managers have told The Guardian that the pandemic has pushed them to further cut down their rental and purchasing prices.

Along new Bagamoyo road, a neighborhood that is becoming prime with booming real estate projects, current rental prices stand at an average of US\$12 per square meter compared to the city center US\$14 per square meter. Apartments are sold at an average of US\$130,000 lower from the city center average of US\$280,000.

In the posh neighborhoods of Masaki, Oysterbay and Upanga rental prices for apartments with three to four bedrooms ranges between US\$4,500 and US\$6,000 per year. Purchasing prices, however, stand between US\$500,000 and 1,500,000. Previously, managers say that rental prices went up to US\$8,000 per annum and purchasing prices topped US\$2million.

Jacqueline Samson, Property manager, Skyline Property Limited said that its 20 flats skyscraper along

new Bagamoyo road is rented at US\$10 per square meter excluding VAT but US\$12 with VAT inclusive. She said that the minimum lettable space is 50 square meters. The buildings have two wings covering 800 square meters.

"The rental price is negotiated and can even be lower to that depending on how large the space the customer needs. We charge US\$50 a month for parking one car. Water bills are inclusive to the rental charges but every tenant owns his own electricity meter. Letting period starts with a minimum of three months," said Samson.

Just next to it is the ZO Spaces commercial block with ten floors. The property is rented at US\$12 per square meter on its second and third floors but the price can be a bit higher on upper floors.

Clarah Herman, Sales Supervisor at Victoria Noble Center, said that the property which is along the new Bagamoyo road, with 15 flats, is on market with a rental

price of US\$10 per square meter and a minimum purchasing price of US\$168,000.

"The US\$10 per square meter includes tax and service charge. A fully furnished three bedroom apartment goes at a minimum purchasing price of US\$168,000. Why choose Noble Center? It has office spaces in the front and residential apartments in the back. Its spacious offices start with 53 square meters," said Herman.

On its opposite side, there is a newly Treasure Victoria Apartments by the Jiangxi International Tanzania Investment, a China based company. The company has so far committed over US\$9million into the 17 flats building.

Rehema Mahmud, the company's marketing and sales executive, told The Guardian that the three bedroom apartment goes at US\$150,000 and at US\$120,000 for a two bedroom apartment.

"One has to pay 20 percent of the purchasing price before moving in and complete the rest of the money in 12 months. The building has 83 apartments. It has a five star swimming pool, kids swimming pool, kids play area, gym, CCTV, restaurant and a roof top drink lounge where one can have a view of Dar es Salaam," said Mahmud.

According to the Center of Affordable Housing Africa data, Tanzania had 12.3 million households in 2018 of which 8.2 million (66 percent) are in rural areas and 4.2 million (34 percent) are in urban areas. The report anticipates that in the next five years households in rural areas will increase by 255,000 a year and 130,000 households in urban areas.

"This rapid urbanization, coupled with a reducing average household size, will require consistently larger numbers of smaller, more affordable housing units to satisfy urban housing demand from rural-urban migrants and newly formed families in urban areas," reads the report in part.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Least Developed Countries Report 2020 (LDCs) dubbed 'Productive Capacities for the New Decade' states that while the pandemic had at least initially a less than catastrophic health impact, its economic repercussions have been ruinous.

According to the report, the protracted recession led to job destruction, threatened enterprise survival with related losses in terms of productive capacities and could have a long-term effect on potential output.

The list of LDCs is reviewed every three years by the Committee for Development Policy, a group of independent experts that report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In this context, the list developed countries are: Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Togo.

US' politicised virus origin report condemned

By Yang Han in Hong Kong and Wang Xiaodong in Beijing

THE United States intelligence community's report on the origins of COVID-19 lacks credibility and marks another attempt to politicize the pandemic, experts said in calling for intensified international cooperation to fight the coronavirus. They also made clear that efforts to determine how the virus arose should be left to scientists.

"We must be clear that it is the summary of a report that is prepared by intelligence networks, not through any scientific team, approach or a method," said Irfan Shahzad Takalvi, president of the Eurasian Century Institute, a think tank in Islamabad, Pakistan.

"The world must not forget that it is the same intelligence community that told us that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, killed hundreds of thousands under that pretext, and it was proved to be false."

The intelligence community's assessment on the origins of COVID-19, released on Friday, does not rule out either natural exposure or a laboratory accident. It falsely claims that China "continues to hinder the global investigation, resists sharing information and blames other countries". The report was released by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

China had repeatedly criticized the preparation of the report, saying that the use of intelligence officials, rather than scientists, to produce a report on the origins of the novel coronavirus is a manifestation of how the US has politicized the issue.

Takalvi said the US has openly attempted to politicize the issue since the beginning, and this has hurt the global fight against the virus. In ad-

dition, the issue has been turned into a means to instigate hatred against Asians, especially Chinese.

"The US must give serious thought to allowing investigations on its own soil, involving its own facilities," said Takalvi, adding that the newly unclassified report summary is yet "another attempt to highlight China in a negative light in global discourses".

Nako Stefanov, chief executive of the Bulgarian Strategic Management Institute, called the report "ironic".

Given that tracing the origins of COVID-19 is a matter for science, "problems in the scientific field should still be investigated by experts in related fields" rather than the intelligence community, he said.

Rana Jawad Asghar, chief executive of Global Health Strategists and Implementers, a consultancy in Islamabad, said the US report was inconclusive and did not show any new information.

Asghar, who is also an adjunct professor of epidemiology at the University of Nebraska in the US, said the world needs to focus on the anti-pandemic fight and enhance cooperation, while leaving the origins tracing discussions to the academic world.

"Infectious diseases don't respect national borders. Our fight against this should be in the mentality that we are all human beings and we need to fight it out together," he said.

According to Kenyan international relations expert Cavince Adhere, the efforts to politicize the origins of the virus are reminiscent of the unprogressive policies and decisions made by the administration of former US president Donald Trump. Trump, who left office in January, played down the severity



Passengers with face masks in a bus seen in New York City on Aug 2, 2021. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

of the virus, failed to provide adequate support for its healthcare systems and transferred blame to other countries.

The US' obsession with politicizing the virus' origins instead of focusing on stemming the spread of the disease at home has made it the hardest-hit country in the world, Adhere said.

"Politics does not have a constructive role to play in overcoming the human and economic toll that this virus has inflicted on different countries," said Adhere, who stressed that multilateralism and international cooperation are the best way to

prevail over the pandemic.

'Extremely unfortunate'

Fredrick Mutesa, general secretary of the Zambia-China Friendship Association, called it "extremely unfortunate" that US politicians insist on politicizing the pandemic by releasing a report without conclusive evidence. He objected to the move to put the presumption of guilt on China.

Mutesa also urged for "joint and transparent" investigations into the US military bio-lab at Fort Detrick in Maryland.

Ayman Salama, professor of international law at Egypt's Nasser Higher Military Academy, said the US report runs counter to the spirit of the United Nations Charter by ignoring scientific conclusions and blaming China.

In an article published in The Guyana Chronicle newspaper, Guyana's former president Donald Rabinranauth Ramotar said: "All of this is occurring because of the phenomenal and social economic progress that China has made over the last four decades."

Fear and confusion rife among foreign nationals about accessing Covid jab in South Africa

By Rebecca Davis

SIMON*, 42, is a Malawian national who works as a caretaker in Sea Point in Cape Town. At his age, he has been eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine for some time. He told Daily Maverick, however, that he won't be queuing for his jab in the foreseeable future – for one very specific reason.

"I don't have papers," Simon said. "If they see this, maybe I can be sent back to Malawi."

By "papers", Simon meant that he lacks the legal right to live and work in South Africa. But he does have a passport – a Malawian one – which is all he technically requires to be vaccinated.

Although confusion is widespread on this point, Dr Nicholas Crisp – the head of the government's vaccine programme – clarified the situation to Daily Maverick on Monday: all foreign nationals over 18 are eligible for free vaccination in South Africa as long as they have some form of identification. This could be a passport from any country, an ID book, refugee or asylum-seeker papers, and so on.

The requirement of a form of registration, Department of Health spokesperson Popo Maja has previously said, is to be able to track anyone who experiences adverse effects from any of the vaccines.

But Simon's fears appear to be widespread.

Vinayak Bhardwaj, the regional migrant referent for Doctors Without Borders (MSF), told Daily Maverick that fear of deportation is a barrier to seeking vaccination.

"Speaking to migrants themselves, we have heard some express fear of getting vaccinated as they have expired passports which they've been unable to renew due to Covid," Bhardwaj said.

In reality, any information gathered during Covid-19 testing or vaccination cannot lawfully be used to police immigration.

"Healthcare workers should not be expected to be immigration enforcement officers," Sally Gandar, the Scalabrini Centre's head of advocacy, told Daily Maverick.

"The information provided is for health-related reasons, and should not be shared with other departments."

Gandar says that the information gathered is supposed to be kept confidential and password-protected. Sharing the information with the Department of Home Affairs for immigration enforcement purposes would violate the privacy of the patient, which would be unlawful.

She adds that the Scalabrini Centre, which supports migrants in South Africa, is fielding constant queries from non-citizens expressing confusion about whether they are entitled to register for vaccinations.

"We have also received reports where people have been refused the vaccine based on their documentation type. This indicates that there is also a need to provide communication targeting healthcare workers, so that they too know that non-citizens are eligible for the vaccine, and should be assisted to receive it," Gandar says.

It is also possible that some non-citizens are being denied vaccination for xenophobic reasons. In June, NGOs including the Jesuit Refugee Service released a statement drawing attention to the fact that at certain healthcare facilities in Gauteng, migrants were being charged for basic healthcare services they are entitled to receive free in terms of the Constitution.

The University of the Witwatersrand's Professor Francois Venter told Daily Maverick that in inner-city Johannesburg, "Everyday experience of xenophobia – especially at the hospitals – is routine to the point of being institutionalised. Foreigners are turned away by security guards and clerks, illegally, long before they see a health worker."

Venter added that given the police's reputation for clampdowns and extortion, "any 'come and get vaccinated, foreigner' message may well get met with justifiable nervousness".



Refugees at the Diakonia Centre on March 08, 2021 in Durban, South Africa. (Photo: Gallo Images/Darren Stewart)

With an estimated three million foreign nationals in South Africa, and many more South Africans lacking any form of identification, some are asking whether enforcing the vaccination ID requirements is worth it in the vital quest to achieve herd immunity.

MSF's Bhardwaj says only the Department of Health, which has a full view of the vaccine programme, can determine whether "the marginal benefit of recording accurately who got what [vaccine]" would outweigh "the urgent need to avoid a fourth wave of Covid-19 which would devastate our significantly depleted human resources for health".

Crisp told Daily Maverick that vaccine

authorities are "busy with a solution" for registering undocumented individuals, which should be available by 10 October.

In the meantime, it appears that many vaccine sites are finding workarounds to the problem of registering those without any identity documents. The Western Cape government has already made provision for vaccinating undocumented people using a paper-based registration form. In Gauteng, some sites have permitted people to register using a police affidavit.

Health experts contacted by Daily Maverick were in unanimous agreement that vaccine-related communication from the government had not been clear

enough.

"We don't think any of the Covid-19 vaccine-related communication has been adequate, even for South Africans," Bhardwaj said.

"What we are seeing in [MSF's] support for the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out here in Khayelitsha, Western Cape is that there are not even the most basic information and education materials available to counter the deluge of disinformation out there."

"What we also see, though – encouragingly – is that with some engagement and willingness to engage concerns, vaccine registrations effectively double."

DM

Future Forex betting on crypto asset arbitrage gaining traction in South Africa

By MFUNEKO TOYANA

IF you have read or watched The Big Short, this story about two childhood friends buying and selling cryptocurrencies via a light-speed algorithm for juicy profits may have a familiar ring to it.

Only this version does not end in an apocalyptic financial crisis that changes the face of the Earth. Well, not yet. And in place of the exotic asset classes like collateralised debt obligations and sneaky financier moves such as short selling, childhood friends and business partners Harrison Scherzer and Joshua Kotlowitz, an actuary and a rocket scientist, respectively, employ arbitrage to pocket the spread between the price of Bitcoin here and overseas.

Easy-peasy

The Cape Town-based pair co-founded Future Forex, a "digital asset arbitrage" firm that, two years in, now manages millions of rands of clients' money.

In that time, they have traded just under R400-million, with annualised returns to date of 282%, net of fees.

As cryptic as it sounds, crypto asset arbitrage is a fairly straightforward concept. Investors buy a cryptocurrency on one exchange and sell it on another for a higher price, as quickly as possible, in order to take advantage of the price difference.

"Josh and I were doing this in our personal capacities without actually seeing it as a business opportunity – we were like wow, what a great way to make abnormally high returns, because when we first looked at it, the difference between crypto asset prices here and overseas was around 30%," Scherzer told DMI68 in an interview.

That difference can range from a little to a lot, from a small amount to more than a few thousand dollars, especially given the volatility of Bitcoin, which can sometimes swing 5% to 10% in either direction in a single day, if not a few hours.



Hence the use of algorithmic trading to limit the delay between seeing an arbitrage gap and acting on it.

"At the moment, we use the conservative approach. A human initiates a trade. Once that happens, they click a button, and what the algorithm will do is it will buy Bitcoin for the clients. It will send the

Bitcoin to South Africa, and as soon as it arrives in South Africa, it will sell the Bitcoin in South Africa. It does it instantly, quicker than any human could," said Scherzer.

Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin currently trade at around R750,000, or \$50,000 at the current rand-dollar exchange rate. But because digital coins

do trade on one centralised platform like typical currencies, their prices differ depending on where you trade them. They are therefore easier to buy and sell overseas, where the energy-intensive blockchain technology needed to mine or create the coins is concentrated.

For that reason they sell for

a bit cheaper in places like the US than in South Africa, which only has a handful of crypto asset trading platforms like Luno, Valr and AltCoinTrader, making them even more sought-after, and therefore more expensive.

"The entire thing rests on the fact that South Africans are willing to pay a bit more for Bitcoin than people abroad, and the main reason for this is the capital controls," said Scherzer.

"So this is a way of getting exposure to a global asset. Bitcoin is a global asset usually denoted in US dollars. And you don't use any of your foreign allowance to do so."

In South Africa, individuals may purchase crypto assets from abroad using their single discretionary allowance of up to R1-million and their individual foreign capital allowance of up to R10-million. But that would also involve swapping the rand for dollars, creating exchange-rate risks. Future Forex takes on these risks on behalf of their clients.

"The South African Reserve Bank regulates exchange con-

trols and that pertains directly to this arbitrage. There is a lot of talk about them regulating this space, to basically include cryptocurrencies into the balance of payments system. The way they design that is obviously going to determine what happens to this arbitrage opportunity," said Kotlowitz. "In all likelihood, it will still be limited in that sense. I don't see the South African government completely relaxing exchange controls."

The South African regulatory space around cryptocurrencies remains a little murky, but regulators are warming up to the realities of the new asset's popularity.

Earlier this year the Reserve Bank said that individuals were not allowed to use cross-border or foreign-exchange transfers to purchase crypto assets. The R10-million foreign investment allowance, which can be used to buy crypto overseas, means that for now the arbitrage opportunity is capped, but the winds are changing.

DMI68

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Viungo project beneficiaries drilled on modern vegetable farming, processing in Z'bar

By Guardian Reporter

BENEFICIARIES of the Viungo Project in Zanzibar have started receiving training on vegetable processing and value addition for the products they produce with the aim of empowering them economically.

The move is also meant to make smallholder farmers be able to introduce new business from their horticultural produces, hence reinforce their financial muscles and step out from the poverty trap.

Viungo project's agricultural officer, Salma Nassoro Marshed, said the training was also meant to enable farmers to process their products to address market shortages and that they would now be able to store the agro produce without damage.

She said vegetable processing would also increase nutrition for mothers and children as they would be able to use processed vegetables even during the dry season.

At the same time, he said the processing would also add value to money as the farmer would be able to store the processed produce

even in the dry season when many fruits and vegetables are depleted.

The nutritional officer in the project, Witness William said the training on vegetable processing will reach more than 5,000 beneficiaries from the ten districts of the Viungo project in Unguja and Pemba.

She said the beneficiaries of the training would be responsible for training others so that more people can benefit from the education in the interest of all.

Elaborating on the importance of processing, she said the beneficiaries would be able to improve the health of their families, as well as increase their income by generating income from the sale of their products.

Some of the beneficiaries of the training said it came at a time when many farmers lacked proper ways to store their produce.

Co-implemented by Tanzania Media Women Association (Tama) Zanzibar, Community Forest Pemba (CFP), and the Dar es Salaam based People's Development Forum (PDF), the European Union (EU) funded project has come up with an important component of



The project is meant to reach 21,000 small-scale farmers in Unguja and Pemba islands.

empowering agricultural experts with all the necessary skills that would be trickled down to farmers for better outputs.

So, the €5 million project comes to relieve

Zanzibar's spice, fruit, and vegetable growers from the poverty trap, and to realize this they need to be well trained and informed on all issues which are in the horticulture value

chain. It also addresses challenges on technical-how, lack of reliable markets, lack of expertise in the production, handling, and transportation of produce, which have been the farmers' outcry in Zanzibar.

Group delivers 33pct profit after-tax growth, eyeing EAC growth

By Special Correspondent

REGIONAL Financial Services Group, I&M Group PLC has announced an increase of 33-percent after tax profit for its 2021 half year financial results up from Kshs 3.2 billion to Kshs. 4.2billion.

The group's total Assets recorded a growth of 12percent to close at Kshs 382.6 billion up from Kshs 340.6 billion in June 2020 bolstered by expansion into Uganda and increased private and public

sector lending.

The Group's Executive Director, Sarit Raja Shah underscored significant investment made during the first half of 2021.

"Along with innovation of market driven solutions, we have also made significant investments in new systems across the Group in a bid to increase operational efficiencies and improve our customers' banking experience." He said.

The acquisition of Orient

Bank Ltd (OBL) in Uganda has expanded the Group's balance sheet by Kshs 23.5 billion as at the reporting date.

Net interest income recorded strong growth of 28-percent to Kshs 8.9 billion up from Kshs 6.9 billion in June 2020 attributed to increased interest income from government securities.

The Group's total Non-Funded Income reduced by 6percent to Kshs 3.9 billion from Kshs 4.2 billion.

Net non-performing loans

reduced by 8percent compared to June 2020, to close at Kshs 7.5 billion attributed to strengthened remedial actions in improving the loan book quality. Customer deposits recorded a 10percent growth from Kshs 252.5 billion in June 2020 to Kshs 276.8 billion as at June 2021.

Commenting on the Group's financials, Daniel Ndonge, I&M Group PLC Chairman confirmed that the Group's focus on increased lending to both the private

and the public sector was key in determining the bank's growth at a time when economies world over were hard hit by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is on the back of strong capital and liquidity base at group and country levels reported all well above regulatory minimums.

"We will also continue to invest and offer cutting edge technologically driven solutions to our customers and expand opportunities to attract more investors," Ndonge

concluded. At Group level, capital adequacy ratios closed at 21-percent at the same level as previous year, while liquidity ratio was 48-percent well above the statutory minimum of 20percent.

This is on the back of strong capital and liquidity base at group and country levels reported all well above regulatory minimums. At Group level, capital adequacy ratios closed at 21percent at the same level as previous year, while liquidity ratio was

48percent well above the statutory minimum of 20percent.

The period under review saw the Group finalize the acquisition of a 90 percent shareholding in Uganda's OBL. During the period under review, the Bank invested in a new Risk Management infrastructure for Anti-Money Laundering, Operational Risk and Fraud Management, as a key step in protecting its customers from the threat of financial crime on the Bank's systems.

G20 pledges to secure Africa's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic using private sector development, vaccine making

BERLIN, Germany

PARTICIPANTS of a G20 Compact with Africa meeting this week assessed Africa's progress in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are meeting at a pivotal time in the relationship between Africa and the rest of the world," said Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi.

The Compact with Africa is a G20 initiative that promotes macroeconomic, business and financing reforms to attract more private investment in Africa, including in infrastructure.

The conference brought together heads of state of the 12 Compact members and institutional partners, including the African Development Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It involved strategy discussions around attracting higher inflows

of foreign direct investment to Africa and the urgent imperative to develop vaccine manufacture capability on the African continent. Securing the continent's recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 is one of the Compact's near-term objectives.

Vaccine inequity was a recurring theme, and heads of state shared reforms that they had undertaken as part of the initiative. Closer international cooperation was urged to address climate change, debt levels and investment shortfalls.

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa emphasized: "Africa will not be able to recover until Africans are vaccinated."

President Emmanuel Macron said France had committed to providing \$10 million vaccine doses for Africa.

African Development Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said AfDB



A new commitment for vaccine equity and defeating the Covid-19 pandemic

had committed to investing \$3 billion dollars in building Africa's pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity, including manufacturing of vaccines, while World Bank President David Malpass highlighted vaccine financing programs set up in 54 countries, noting that more than half of these are in Africa.

African leaders expressed consensus on the need for vaccine self-sufficiency as a longer-term solution. President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana said there should have been lessons learned from Ebola. Euro-

pean Commission President Ursula von der Leyen drew attention to the initiative to develop mRNA technology in Africa across different regional hubs.

Adesina referred to gains made by Compact members. "We have seen a lot of improvement in public private partnerships and in the cost and ease of doing business but also in terms of the companies that are investing in a lot of African countries."

He also underscored the African Continental Free Trade Area and its expected impacts.

Other constraints discussed included rising levels of debt and restricted fiscal space resulting from the pandemic. "The reduction of liquidity," hit us hard," said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi. Although Ghana sustained growth through 2020, President Akufo-Addo acknowledged that national debt had risen to 77.1% of GDP.

Many speakers noted that reforms were yielding results. The IMF's Georgieva said that Compact countries outperform their peers. Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said his country had stabilized its debt through prudent management and opened up its telecom sector for investment.

A virtual session held on the sidelines of the conference provided a forum for German and African private sector representatives to discuss investment opportunities on the continent.

The Conference also included a follow-up session that focused on how to overcome economic, skills and intellectual property constraints to developing domestic mRNA vaccine manufacture across Africa.

By Special Correspondent

THE use of leaded petrol has been eradicated from the globe, a milestone that will prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths and save world economies over \$2.4 trillion annually, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has said.

Nearly a century after doctors first issued warnings about the toxic effects of leaded petrol, Algeria -- the last country to use the fuel -- exhausted its supplies last month, UNEP said, calling the news a landmark win in the fight for cleaner air.

"The successful enforce-

UNEP: Use of leaded petrol eradicated from the globe

ment of the ban on leaded petrol is a huge milestone for global health and our environment," said Inger Andersen, executive director of UNEP, which is headquartered in Nairobi.

Even as recently as two decades ago, more than 100 countries around the world were still using leaded petrol, despite studies linking it to premature deaths, poor health and soil and air pollution.

Concerns were raised as early as 1924, when dozens

of workers were hospitalised and five declared dead after suffering convulsions at a refinery run by US giant Standard Oil, nicknamed the "looney gas building" by staff.

Nevertheless, until the 1970s almost all the gasoline sold across the globe contained lead.

When UNEP launched its campaign in 2002, many major economic powers had already stopped using the fuel, including the United States, China and India. But the sit-

uation in lower-income nations remained dire.

By 2016, after North Korea, Myanmar and Afghanistan stopped selling leaded petrol, only a handful of countries were still operating service stations providing the fuel, with Algeria finally following Iraq and Yemen in ending its reliance on the pollutant.

UNEP said in a statement that the eradication of leaded petrol would "prevent more than 1.2 million premature deaths per year, in-

crease IQ points among children, save \$2.44 trillion (2.07 trillion euros) for the global economy, and decrease crime rates."

The agency said the dollar figure came from a 2010 study led by scientists at California State University at Northridge.

Its chief factors were the benefits of better health for the overall economy; lower medical costs; and a dip in criminal activity -- higher crime rates have previously been linked to expo-

sure to leaded fuel. UNEP warned that fossil fuel use in general must still be drastically reduced to stave off the frightening effects of climate change. Greenpeace hailed the news as "a celebration of the end of one toxic era."

"It clearly shows that if we can phase out one of the most dangerous polluting fuels in the 20th century, we can absolutely phase out all fossil fuels," said Thandile Chinyanhu, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace Africa.

"Africa's governments must give no more excuses for the fossil fuel industry," she added. Globally, vehicle sales are set to climb exponentially, particularly in emerging markets.

"The transport sector is responsible for nearly a quarter of energy-related global greenhouse gas emissions and is set to grow to one third by 2050," UNEP said, adding that 1.2 billion new vehicles would hit the streets in the coming decades.

"This includes millions of poor-quality used vehicles exported from Europe, the United States and Japan, to mid- and low-income countries.

Jamaica walking a tightrope between boosting the economy and cutting emissions in COVID-19 era

KINGSTON,

EVEN as COVID-19 walloped Jamaica's economy last year, the government overhauled its energy emissions milestones to create what many described as a post-pandemic recovery package, based on stronger carbon targets for the farming and forestry sectors.

According to the plan, the country would reduce emissions from both sectors by almost a third over the next decade, by optimising water and energy use and diversifying food production.

Released at a time when most countries around the globe struggled to manage their economies during the pandemic using measures that were expected to set back their sustainability goals, experts hailed the plan as a game changer for a country in a steep economic decline resulting from COVID-19.

Climate change expert Carlos Fuller said the new measures "will create new economic opportunities and generate employment for Jamaicans."

Changes in land use, for development and increased agricultural activities, and reducing deforestation will cut emissions up to 28.5 per cent by 2030, according to the plan, which satisfies both local and international targets. Agriculture currently contributes about six per cent to Jamaica's total emissions, while land use change and forestry account for 7.8 per cent.

Jamaica is one of the Caribbean's small island developing states (SIDS). On Monday and Tuesday, representatives of the 38 SIDS worldwide, UN agencies and civil society will gather in person and online to discuss how they can kickstart their economies post-COVID-19 in order to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

by 2030.

The SIDS Solution Forum is organised by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in partnership with the UN International Telecommunications Union and co-hosted by the Government of Fiji.

Other current investments in Jamaica have made climate data collection, modelling and analysis priorities. Projects like the Climate Data and Information Management Project should help to improve the collection and analysis of climate data while strengthening early warning systems. The Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project is expected to enhance physical resilience to disasters.

Co-heads of the Climate Studies Group at the University of the West Indies, Dr Michael Taylor and Dr Tannecia Stephenson, recently deciphered the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in terms of what it could mean for the region.

"The intensity and frequency of heat extremes in the Caribbean are increasing and will continue to do so. It will impact energy use, demands for water, agricultural production among other things," Dr Taylor said.

Jamaica's emissions and development goals are tied together in the country's Vision 2030 Development plan, an ambitious guide for this highly indebted nation's development. Launched in 2014, the document aims to make "Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business."

There have been tweaks, updates and a Road Map, but Vision 2030 remains grounded in four inter-related national goals: Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential, society is secure, cohesive and just, the economy is prosperous, and the country has a



Cattle farming in Jamaica.

healthy, natural environment.

In pursuit of the Vision 2030 aims the results have been mixed, said Wayne Henry, Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the agency tasked with tracking the implementation of the SDGs.

In his September 2020 overview of SDG implementation, Henry noted that Jamaica has recorded positives in the social sector, accountability and governance. For example, there is continued focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women. According to the International Labour Organization, 59.3 percent of managers in the country are women.

But Jamaica has struggled, Henry said, in the areas of security and safe-

ty, environmental sustainability and the rate of non-communicable diseases. The murder rate has hovered between 47 and 47.7 per 100,000 in recent years, diabetes and hypertension rates have climbed alarmingly in the 15-and-over age-group, and overall environmental performance has fallen.

Even as the systems for SDG implementation are woven into the national development strategies, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of economies like Jamaica's. According to Henry, the pandemic shows "how quickly a development path can be challenged."

COVID-19 brought the world to a standstill and in its wake upended the lives and livelihoods of thousands in the Caribbean, shuttering entire sectors that depend on tourism and according to the PIOJ, contracting the Jamaican economy by 10 percent.

With tens of thousands of jobs lost, the government turned to the island's fast-expanding business process outsourcing (BPO) sector as a much-needed source of jobs, providing a level of diversification from the agrarian society of old. Initially focused on call centres, the sector has expanded to include to more specialised areas including accounting, human resources management, digital marketing, animation and software development.

But the sector's employers are prone to COVID-19 outbreaks, and its dependence on the existing fossil

fuel-based energy sector is a negative factor for a country keen on cutting emissions.

Still, Jamaica may well have captured the essence of the SDGs by balancing the temporary growth from the BPO sector with its commitment to reduce energy costs and diversify the fuel mix. It plans, for example, to increase the share of electricity generation from renewables from 9 percent in 2016 to 30 percent by 2030. And in 2019, the government commissioned a 36-megawatt wind farm, which is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 66,000 metric tons of CO2 equivalent per year, equal to taking roughly 13,000 cars off the road. **IPS**

Taliban welcomes US troops pullout, Kabul residents disappointed at 'irresponsible' evacuation

KABUL

THE Taliban welcomed the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan early yesterday after the last U.S. troops left the Kabul airport, ending a 20-year invasion war in the Central Asian country.

"In this way, our country became completely free and independent," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid wrote on Twitter.

The final evacuation flight was conducted on the last hours of Monday night, airlifting the last U.S. military and non-military personnel back home one day before the Aug. 31 deadline set by U.S. President Joe Biden.

"The U.S. had withdrawn from Afghanistan after two decades, but the Americans left a mess in our country," said Khoja Wahid, a Kabul resident.

"The U.S. is defeated and they are badly defeated," said the 42-year-old man. "As I found in media report early yesterday that Americans are going to open Afghanistan's embassy in Qatar. It is showing that the

U.S. lost everything in Afghanistan."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said just hours after the final evacuation flights left Kabul that the United States shifted its diplomatic operations to Qatar.

"As of today, we've suspended our diplomatic presence in Kabul and transferred our operations to Doha, Qatar," the top U.S. diplomat said.

Another Kabul resident Ahmad Fawad said the U.S. claimed they came to Afghanistan to ensure peace and security and uphold human rights, but "you can see their evacuation was not conducted in a responsible manner, as so many people died, including 13 U.S. soldiers."

Fawad referred to the suicide bomb blast and gun firing on Aug. 26, which killed at least 160 Afghans and 13 U.S. troops, and injured nearly 200 others at a gate of the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, when huge crowds were waiting to board evacuation flights. ISIS-K, a local affiliate of the Islamic State group in Afghanistan, claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

"Although thousands of Afghan experts and educated people left the country, and the young generation is still determined to stay in Afghanistan if peace returned and their safety and security are ensured," he said.

"Now, it is on the United States, their allies, the UN and countries in the region to help Afghans in building our future."

Shortly after Mujahid's comments on social media roughly at 1:00 a.m. yesterday local time, Taliban members started celebratory gun firing in the capital Kabul, which lasted for about an hour, causing panic among local residents.

Following the firing, Mujahid said in a separate tweet that "the gunshots heard in Kabul are as a result of celebratory firing, the Kabul residents should not worry, we are trying to control it."

The capital city Kabul is calm "like other normal days," but a U.S. unmanned plane has been spotted flying over the city, witnesses in Kabul told Xinhua. Like many, Salima, a female teacher in Kabul, ex-

pressed her hope for lasting peace in the country, welcoming the U.S. pullout from Afghanistan.

"At least there is no more pretext for any armed group to continue war and fighting," she said. "Americans did not accomplish what they promised to Afghans."

Although I am also concerned by the ongoing uncertainty, hopefully the situation will get better eventually, borders will reopen, and the prices are not out of control. It will take a little time to have everything well," she added.

The U.S. Central Command announced Monday that the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan has completed, ending the longest war in the U.S. history.

"I'm here to announce the completion of our withdrawal from Afghanistan and the end of the mission to evacuate American citizens, third country nationals and vulnerable Afghans," Kenneth McKenzie, commander of U.S. Central Command, told a news conference in Washington.

"The last C-17 lifted off from Hamid Karzai International Airport

on Aug. 30, this afternoon, at 3:29 p.m. East coast time, and the last manned aircraft is now clearing the space above Afghanistan," McKenzie said.

The general said the number of U.S. citizens currently still stranded in Afghanistan is "in the very low hundreds," stressing that the Department of State is in charge of assisting those evacuees.

The United States and its allies speeded up their troops withdrawal from Afghanistan after the Taliban took control of Kabul on Aug. 15.

The U.S. allies, including Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Australia, have pulled out their troops from the war-torn country.

Claiming to be in pursuit of Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, the U.S.-led military forces invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban within weeks of the terrorist attacks in 2001.

Over 2,400 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan over the past two decades, with 20,000 wound-

ed, according to the Pentagon. Estimates showed that over 66,000 Afghan troops have been killed, and over 2.7 million people have had to leave their homes.

Xinhua



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RADIO One **RATIBAYA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTA WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS CHAGUO LA MICHEZO 15:15 HRS MIDUNDO MCOMOTO 18:00 HRS SONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMSHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	

AE-COMMERCE

NMB's Mastercard holders to purchase online flight tickets from Skylink Tours

By Guardian Reporter

MASTERCARD holders with NMB Bank Plc will now be able to buy flight tickets online from Skylink Travel & Tours Limited of Dar es Salaam following a partnership deal between the two parties.

The country's most profitable bank and the travel management firm also launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday a rewards campaign known as, 'NMB kama upepo,' to kick-start the electronic commerce partnership that will enable customers to purchase tickets using smartphones, tablets, laptops and other

electronic gadgets.

"Under this arrangement, eligible NMB customers will be able to buy discounted air travel tickets from the Skylink website and point of sale devices at offices in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Zanzibar," said NMB's Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi.

Mponzi said the ultimate goal of the online alliance and digital investment is to support efforts to make Tanzania a cashless society. "The partnership, which also doubles as an 'NMB kama upepo' rewards campaign will see lucky customers and their spouses win a three-day all-expense paid holiday trip

to Dubai," he said.

Through the deal, the six winners will be picked after six months of the promotion and for the first five months of the campaign. NMB Mastercard holders will receive a 60 percent discount on service charges when they purchase tickets online and PoS machines.

He said benefits of the new system include efficiency, convenience and the broadening of NMB Bank digital platform to a larger population in the market. "Digitalization being one of the core elements of the government's Vision 2025 is embraced by the bank by continuously adapting agile systems in line with global technology trends to deliver satisfactory customer experience,"

he added.

In remarks at the same event, Skylink's CEO, Moustafa Khataw said NMB's focus on digital transactions is an ideal investment to encourage a cashless culture which his company aspires for in its operations. Khataw said synergies between NMB and Skylink will not only enhance digital penetration but also encourage

customer loyalty and provide cost effective travel choices.

"We are thrilled to enter into partnership with the leading bank in Tanzania and through leveraging on their huge customer base, we expect new revenue streams resulting from sales," he noted adding that all bookings for air travel worldwide can be done at ease and faster through Skylink's website.



NMB Bank Plc's chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (2nd-R) speaks after announcing partnership with Skylink Travel & Tours Limited in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a ceremony also attended by the travel agency's CEO, Moustafa Khataw (2nd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.



SBL managing director Mark Ocitti speaks at a past event.

GENEROSITY

SBL's community support programmes supply clean water to over 2m people

By Guardian Reporter

OVER two million rural based people have benefitted from clean water supply projects since 2010 thanks to funding from Serengeti Breweries Limited.

Another 400 smallholder cereal farmers and their 70 children have also benefited from the brewer's community investments aimed at improving living standards of people in rural areas, SBL Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Unveiling the company's corporate social responsibility report christened, EABL Sustainability Report 2020 with a theme of, 'Crafting a Sustainable Future,' Ocitti said the report provides a detailed overview of EABL community support programs in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. East African Breweries Limited is SBL's holding company.

In the country, SBL's implemented programmes also include support for local farmers, promoting responsible drinking, championing inclusion and diversity as well as environmental conservation through tree planting. The programs are implemented under the banner of Society 2030.

He said the investments in community projects are aimed at giving

back to the community which supports the company's beer business through consumption but also supplying of raw materials.

"In 2020, SBL sourced 70 per cent or an equivalent of 17,000 metric tonnes of its raw materials including barley, maize and sorghum from a network of 400 local farmers in eight regions," the SBL Managing Director said.

The brewer also provides the 400 smallholder farmers with support through regular training on sustainable farming, early warning, assessment and links them to financial institutions to access credit facilities for increased commodity production.

SBL has also been financing a agro-industry scholarship programme popularly known as 'Kilimo-Viwanda' which has since last year benefitted over 70 students attend diploma courses in agriculture at four tertiary colleges in Coast, Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Kagera regions.

Promoting moderation drinking as a way of a balanced lifestyle is another contribution that beer maker is engaged which has reached thousands of youth countrywide with its trade mark slogan

of, 'Don't Drink and Drive.'

"This campaign that SBL runs countrywide targets drivers of public service vehicles, 'bodaboda' riders and pedestrians in general," SBL Corporate Affairs Director, John Wanyancha said while adding that in collaboration with traffic police officers, the campaign has contributed towards reducing unnecessary road accidents.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second-largest beer company in the country with 25 percent share of the market. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi with its highest selling brands being Serengeti Lite and Serengeti Lager.



In 2020, SBL sourced 70 per cent or an equivalent of 17,000 metric tonnes of its raw materials including barley, maize and sorghum from a network of 400

DEFICIT

Zambia material export ban sends feed prices record high

NAIROBI

THE cost of animal feeds has hit a record high after Zambia banned the export of soya and sunflower meals, which are major raw material used in feed production.

Zambia is one of the main source markets for Kenya for the products, and a freeze in exports is expected to have a negative effect on feed supply. The Association of Kenya Feed Manufacturers (Akefema) says that 15 millers have already closed shop due to high cost of doing business.

The cost of Soya has now doubled to Sh130 from Sh65 a kilogramme in August last year, while sunflower meal is up from Sh25 to Sh35. Akefema appealed to the government to allow duty-free importation of GMO yellow maize and soya to ease the current deficit.

"Since this (Zambia) is one of the main source markets for Kenya, the price of the little available soya has gone up resulting in a sharp rise in the cost of producing feeds," said Martin Kinoti, the general secretary of Akefema.

As a result, the price of a 70-kilogramme bag of dairy meal has gone up to Sh3,400 from Sh2,500 in August last year, chick mash is retailing at Sh4,200, up from Sh3,250 while layers mash is now selling at Sh3,800 from Sh3,100. The price of other key ingredients such as wheat bran have also gone up to sell at Sh28 a kilo from Sh18 previously while maize germ is retailing at Sh30 from Sh20 previously.

Akefema said that in the last six months there has been scarcity of sunflower seed and cottonseed cake with no indication yet that the situation will improve in the short term.

"We are therefore appealing to the government to allow the feed industry to import soya bean meal from the world market, including from GMO producing countries," said Mr Kinoti.



Since this (Zambia) is one of the main source markets for Kenya, the price of the little available soya has gone up resulting in a sharp rise in the cost of producing



A worker carries a bag of animal feeds in Nairobi.

MARKETING

TTB luring Pakistani investors to choose destination Tanzania

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIA'S doors are open for Pakistan tourism investors to come and explore opportunities in the leading foreign currency earning sector that currently contributes about 18 percent of gross domestic product.

Tanzania Tourist Board's Legal Service Manager, Benjamin Mihayo said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that the country is revisiting its investment policies and regulations to attract the private sector not in all sectors. Mihayo said during a 75th anniversary of Pakistan's independence that the Asian nation has the financial muscles and expertise to boost the

country's tourism sector.

"Tanzania is blessed with a myriad of tourism attractions and destination for many foreign tourists hence provides a conducive investment jurisdiction for Pakistan investors. Our strong bilateral relationship should not just be limited to diplomatic issues but also in doing trade and investment," Mihayo said.

He asserted that the country is endowed with tourism attractions almost in every region where Pakistan investors can exploit to make profit. "Tanzania is ready to do business with Pakistan for the mutual benefit of our people in a win-win situation," he affirmed.

Pakistan's High Commissioner in



Pakistan's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Mohammad Saleem.

Tanzania, Mohammad Saleem said that it is encouraging to see the two nations strengthen bilateral ties not only on diplomacy but also arts

and culture. Saleem said that about 20 painters from the Asian nation are in Dar es Salaam at National Museums showcase their artwork.

"The artwork showcased here at the National Museum includes paintings of respected personnel who played a critical role in build-

ing Pakistan in the past 75 years. They also feature cultural illustrations and tradition," Saleem noted.

Director of National Museum of Tanzania, Dr Noel Lwoga said that the Pakistan art exhibition is an important step towards the two countries cultural corporation diplomacy. "The exhibitions thus provide an appropriate platform for preserving, promoting and sharing our diverse culture and heritage. It also plays a vital role in fulfilling our global need for increased international dialogue and understanding of cultural diversity," Dr Lwoga said.

He noted that the exhibition also gives an opportunity to the two people nations to share human values and celebrate excellence and innovation. "Artwork is important as a tourism attraction as we have received here at the National Museum many visitors who are interested in experiencing not only contemporary artworks, but also ancient arts such as rock art painting of Kondoa Rock Art Site in Dodoma," he added.

PROMOTION

Experts' take on conference tourism recovery

KIGALI

EXPERTS in the tourism and hospitality sectors say that resumption to normalcy for the sector is likely to have a different outlook and performance drivers with a new set of factors driving performance.

Following the interruption of Rwanda's ambitions to be a conference hub due to the pandemic and measures introduced to contain the spread of the virus, experts in the domain say that

even if conferences would go back to taking place in person, they would still not be as many as they used to be before.

In the course of the past ten years, Rwanda had managed to become a potential successful Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) destination. Rwanda had attained the capacity to host international conferences, exhibitions, trade fairs, and conventions regularly making it a potential conference hub

in the region.

The latest figures from the tourism department in the Rwanda Development Board and Horwath HTL (Hotel, Tourism, and Leisure) indicate that Rwanda's facilities meet a majority of global conference requirements.

Dr. Carmen Nibigira, a Tourism Policy analyst, also noted that Rwanda has rolled out multiple measures in response to the pandemic to allow resumption of normalcy in the sector.

"Rwanda is doing a good job, positioning itself to be safe for the pandemic and a welcoming destination for conferences and tourism activities," she said.

"However, the adaptations made in the pandemic by different people and countries, like online meetings are quickly becoming a more flexible and convenient way, with the technological advancements, it would be naive to assume that things will go back to how they were before all those

new facilities were in place" she added.

Others say that remedial strategies could include realignment of marketing and communication strategy as well as capitalising on domestic meetings and events. This will see stakeholders attempt to incentivize the local market to make the most of local tourism facilities.

This requires sector players to adopt virtual and hybrid events and are also strengthening home grown

events. Sector players say that that business had halted as a result of the measures put in place to curb the spread of the pandemic.

"I thought establishing an apartment for tourists to rent would be a promising venture for me to profit from as well as contributing to the infrastructure development of the country. I built my apartment on loan but now I'm afraid I might be auctioned soon," said Nizeyimana (not his real name) middle-aged entrepreneur.

Claude Nkundimana, the

Chief Executive of Correct Service which offers buffet service, protocol, photography, and cakes at events and conferences, in an interview with The New Times, said that orders have significantly dropped as compared to those they used to have before. "With the exception of prior bookings that had been postponed, we don't have many new orders and it's not particular to us, even others who offer the same services have been telling the same," he said.



Solar energy students at Don Bosco Dodoma undergo training.

WEANING

Don Bosco Dodoma, Iringa cut power bills by over 70pc through solar energy use

By Beatrice Philemon

ELECTRICITY bills at Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre in Dodoma and Iringa regions have declined for 70 percent thanks to use of solar energy donated by US based Charles S. Mott Foundation.

Don Bosco Network Tanzania's Project Officer, Alfred Dalasia said on Monday that the move has been possible through a three-year project dubbed, 'Solar Electrician and Entrepreneurship Training,' which has been implemented at the two centers.

"We use electricity for almost everything here such as machine operations, administration blocks, production units and workshop activities which used to attract huge bills from Tanesco," Dalasia said saying that the hiked bills forced the Don Bosco Dodoma and Iringa managements to look for alternatives.

He said with funding from the US based not for profit organization, youth were trained in installing and servicing solar energy systems with two min-grid plants consisting of more than 120 solar panels with capacity to generate 34kilowatts deployed to the two centers.

Dalasia noted that 511 marginalized youth from Don Bosco centers in Iringa and Dodoma regions received training under the project who are currently servicing the solar systems which are helping reduce power bills.

"On behalf of Don Bosco centres in Dodoma and Iringa, I would like to thank the Charles S. Mott Foundation for supporting us with these solar power systems but also skills and knowledge acquired by the marginalized youth in both regions," he added.

Apart from financing the purchasing of the solar systems, Charles .S. Mott Foundation also paid for the renovation of two solar energy workshops which are now fully equipped with necessary tools at both centers.

"Through this project, we also got solar energy training curriculum which was developed by Don Bosco, SELCO Foundation of India, experts from Vocational Education and Training Authority and IMED Foundation.

IMED Foundation's Programme Manager, Junior Ndesanjo said so far, 41 youth have graduated from Don Bosco Centres during the past one-year project dubbed, Tanzania Renewable Energy Business Incubator Phase II incubation programme which his foundation implements in collaboration with SELCO Foundation with funding Charles S. Mott Foundation.

Under the training and mentorship programme, incubatees who graduate get registration with Business Registrations and Licensing Agency to become formal and offer solar energy system services in their communities.

"Also under the programme, the incubatees were trained on various issues relating to the business of solar energy management and deployment but also technical skills on solar technology," Ndesanjo said.

The programme's Incubator Coordinator, Haika Donath explained that 36 incubatees have formalized their businesses so far out of 41 who received online technical training on solar system installation and servicing.

"Twelve of the graduates who impressed were given solar energy tool kits to help them serve the market," Donath said while noting that the training also involved use of a mobile application platform known as BESS.

CIVIL-SUIT

Gikomba traders sue Nairobi for Sh20bn over frequent fires

NAIROBI

OVER 900 traders at Gikomba have sued the Nairobi County government demanding Sh20 billion in compensation over frequent fires at the market. In a case before the High Court, the traders want the county government to pay them for direct financial loss and compensation for loss of business opportunity and re-establishment costs.

The traders have listed 15 fire incidences since 2015 saying the frequent occurrences shows that the county government has failed to take any or adequate precautions for their safety and that of the public while doing their business at Gikomba Market.

The traders says for example, cited a fire incident that occurred

at Gikomba Market on June 28, 2018, in which 15 people died while hundreds sustained severe injuries. Their lawyer Adrian Kamotho says every attempt the traders have made to rebuild their business has always been dealt further devastation by recurrent infernos.

The traders are accusing the county government of breach of duty and negation of the obligation by failing to put in place a suitable business continuity plan to sustain the business environment at Gikomba Market, affecting the performance of the overall economy.

They said the fires occur despite their remission of levies, rates, license fees among other charges collected by the government. "The Plaintiffs are at a loss as to why the Defendant would act so negligently,

in breach of contractual and legal duty," Mr Kamotho said.

Other than compensation, the traders want the court to compel the county government to establish a fire station and requisite fire containment apparatus in Gikomba market within a period 60 days. Gikomba market, the biggest open-air market in the country, has suffered numerous fires in recent times, which has even caught the attention of State House.

In June, fire gutted a section of the market, leading to losses amounting to millions of shillings. Past promises by the government to rein in on the menace have not been successful, even after President Uhuru Kenyatta promised stiff action would be taken against anyone found culpable.



Traders salvage their belongings after a fire gutted a section of the Gikomba market on June 25, 2020.

BULLISH

Zoom's Q2 net profit climbs 71pc, posts record collections

NEW YORK

ZOOM Video Communications' second-quarter net profit rose more than 70.6 per cent year-on-year as the company achieved its first billion-dollar revenue quarter, underpinned by the increasing demand for video conferencing as companies ever more adopted hybrid work models.

The California-based company's net profit attributable to shareholders climbed to \$316.9 million, almost \$131.2m more than the same period last year. Revenue during the three-month period to July 31 increased 54 per cent on an annualised basis to \$1.02 billion. It was nearly 6.8 per cent up on a quarterly basis.

"We achieved our first billion-dollar revenue quarter while delivering strong profitability and cash flow," Zoom founder and chief executive Eric Yuan said. The May-July period marked several milestones "on our expansion beyond the UC [unified communications] platform," said Mr Yuan.

The Nasdaq-listed company, which has its headquarters in California, raised its revenue outlook for the third quarter ending in October this year and the 2021-2022 financial year. Zoom became an essential service for office meetings and family gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic. A screenshot shows choir Sola rehearsing online using a Zoom platform in Riga. Reuters

Third-quarter revenue was forecast in the range of \$1.01bn and \$1.02bn while full-year revenue is expected to be between \$4bn and \$4.02 - about 55 per cent more than its financial earnings in the last financial year.

Zoom's share price rose almost 2 per cent to \$347.5 a share on Monday. But it plunged nearly 11.4 per cent to \$308 in after-hours trading. The company's stock has gained almost 7 per cent over the past 12 months.

Zoom said its second quarter revenue growth was driven by "acquiring new customers and expanding across existing customers." As of July 31, the company had nearly 504,900 paid customers with more than 10 employees, up by almost 36 per cent from the same period last fiscal year.

Zoom, which became an essential service for office meetings and family gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic, invested \$82.3m in research and development in three months to July 31, almost 93 per cent more than the prior year period. It was more than 8 per cent of the total revenue earned during the quarter.

The company's operating cash flow was \$468m for the second quarter, nearly 66.7m more than the same period last year. Total cash and marketable securities stood at \$5.1bn on July 31. Industry experts have said Zoom's sizeable cash reserves will help it acquire new start-ups and competitors in the space of video conferencing.

In its largest-ever acquisition, Zoom last month agreed to purchase cloud call centre software provider Five9 for \$14.7bn as part of its strategy



Zoom founder and chief executive, Eric Yuan.

to adapt to the post-pandemic world. It is the fourth deal by Zoom since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to Bloomberg.

In June, it joined forces with Ger-

man start-up Karlsruhe Information Technology Solutions-kites, a translation software maker. It was also part of an alliance that purchased a minority stake in a software firm Assembled

in March and acquired Keybase Financial Group, a secure messaging and file-sharing service, last year. Zoom's biggest competitors include Google's Meet and Microsoft's Teams platforms.

It is reportedly also developing an email facility that will compete with Google's Gmail and Microsoft's Outlook.

RESTRICTION

China limits children to only three hours of online gaming a week

BEIJING

CHINA is banning children from playing online games for more than three hours a week, the harshest restriction so far on the game industry as Chinese regulators continue cracking down on the technology sector.

Minors in China can only play games between 8pm and 9pm on Fridays, weekends and on public holidays starting from Wednesday, a notice from the General Administration of Press and Publication states.

It means that for most weeks of the year, gaming will be permitted for only three hours a week, down from a previous restriction set in 2019 that allowed minors to play games for an hour and a half per day and three hours on public holidays.

The new regulation will affect some of China's largest technology companies, including gaming giant Tencent, whose Honour of Kings online multiplayer game is hugely popular globally, as well as gaming company NetEase.

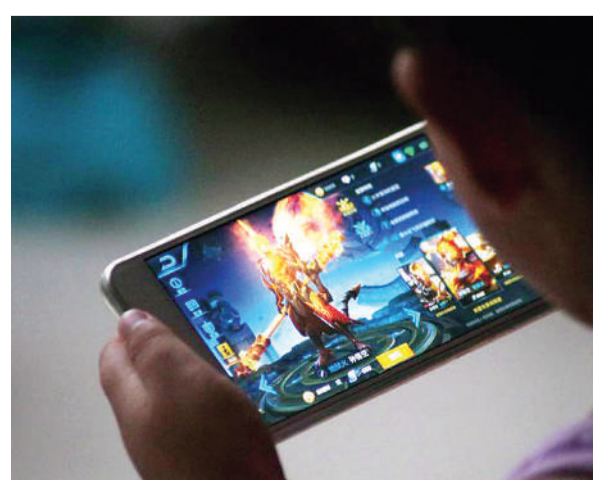
Tencent's stock price closed down 0.6 per cent at 465.80 Hong Kong dollars on Monday ahead of the regulator's announcement. Its market capitalisation of \$573 billion is down more than \$300 billion from its February peak, a decline equal to more than the total value of Nike Inc or Pfizer Inc.

New York-listed NetEase's stock was down about 9 per cent at the market's open. The gaming restrictions are part of an ongoing crackdown on technology companies, amid concerns that technology firms - many of which provide ubiquitous messaging, payments and gaming services - may have an outsized influence on society.

Earlier in August, Tencent said it would limit gaming time for minors to an hour a day and two hours during holidays, as well as ban children under the age of 12 from making in-game purchases. The company issued the curbs after a state-affiliated newspaper criticised the gaming industry and called games "spiritual opium." Regulators said in Monday's notice that they would strengthen supervision and increase the frequency of inspections of online game companies to ensure they follow the regulations closely.

Chinese authorities in recent months have targeted e-commerce and online education, and have implemented new regulations to curb anti-competitive behaviour after years of rapid growth in the technology sector.

In July, authorities banned companies that provide tutoring in core school subjects from making a profit, wiping out billions in market value from online education companies such as TAL Education and Gaotu Techedu.



A child plays the game 'Honour of Kings' by Tencent in Dezhou, Shandong province, in China.



ITV PGM SCHEDULE			
TUESDAY 31 Aug	20:00 Habari	18:00 Jiji Letu	11:00 Out n'about rpt
21:00 Habari	18:15 Chetu ni Chetu rpt	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	19:00 Shamba lulu	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
21:35 Ripoti Maalum	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
22:30 DWTV: Kesho Leo	20:00 Habari	13:00 Business edition rpt	13:00 Business edition rpt
23:00 Habari	21:05 Kipima Joto	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea
23:30 The Base	23:00 Habari	14:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt	14:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
00:30 Al Jazeera	23:30 The Base	17:15 Bundesliga kick off	17:15 Bundesliga kick off
02:00 DWTV	00:30 Al Jazeera	18:15 Capchat rpt	18:15 Capchat rpt
	02:00 DWTV	19:15 Mzengwe	19:15 Mzengwe
THURSDAY 2 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo
Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt	10:30 Shika Bamba 5	10:30 Shika Bamba 5	10:30 Shika Bamba 5
Habari za saa	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt	11:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt
11:00 The Base rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
Habari za saa	11:30 Habari	11:30 Habari	11:30 Habari
12:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Habari	11:30 Habari	11:30 Habari
12:30 Alya ya jamii	12:00 Shamba lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba lulu rpt
Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa
12:55 Ripoti Maalum rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt
13:00 Shika Bamba rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera
14:00 Shika Bamba rpt	12:30 Ijuzi sheria rpt	12:30 Ijuzi sheria rpt	12:30 Ijuzi sheria rpt
14:15 Makala Maalum	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
Habari za saa	13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt	13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt	13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt
15:00 Meza huru	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
16:30 Watoto wetu	14:00 Makala Maalum	14:00 Makala Maalum	14:00 Makala Maalum
17:00 The Base	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
18:00 Jiji Letu	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru
18:10 Yu wapi	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
18:15 Igizo: Mzengwe rpt	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base
18:20 Uchumi na biashara	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
Jarida la wanawake	18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:15 Mapishi rpt
19:00 Soap: Uzalo	18:30 Jagina	18:30 Jagina	18:30 Jagina
Habari	19:00 Usafiri wako rpt	19:00 Usafiri wako rpt	19:00 Usafiri wako rpt
21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo
21:30 Chetu ni chetu	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari	20:00 Habari
22:15 Makala Maalum	21:00 Makumbano ya hoja	21:00 Makumbano ya hoja	21:00 Makumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera	00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV	02:00 DWTV
WEDNESDAY 1 Sept	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo	9:30 Soap: Uzalo
Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa	Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt	10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt
Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:00 Soap: Uzalo	12:00 Soap: Uzalo	12:00 Soap: Uzalo
12:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Soap: Uzalo	12:30 Soap: Uzalo	12:30 Soap: Uzalo
Dakika 45 rpt	13:00 Makumbano ya hoja	13:00 Makumbano ya hoja	13:00 Makumbano ya hoja
13:45 Jagina rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Makala Maalum	14:00 Makala Maalum	14:00 Makala Maalum
14:00 Jagina rpt	14:15 Makala Maalum	14:15 Makala Maalum	14:15 Makala Maalum
14:15 Makala Maalum	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa	14:55 Habari za saa
Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru rpt	15:00 Meza huru rpt	15:00 Meza huru rpt
15:00 Meza huru rpt	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto Wetu
16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base
17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu
18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi	18:15 Mapishi
18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Ijuzi Sheria	18:30 Ijuzi Sheria	18:30 Ijuzi Sheria
18:30 Ijuzi Sheria	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo	19:30 Soap: Uzalo
19:30 Soap: Uzalo	17:30 Kisilam	17:30 Kisilam	17:30 Kisilam
	18:00 Al Jazeera	18:00 Al Jazeera	18:00 Al Jazeera
	19:00 Rev rpt	19:00 Rev rpt	19:00 Rev rpt
	19:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt	19:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt	19:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
	20:00 Culinary delight rpt	20:00 Culinary delight rpt	20:00 Culinary delight rpt
	21:30 Innovation rpt	21:30 Innovation rpt	21:30 Innovation rpt
	22:00 Al Jazeera	22:00 Al Jazeera	22:00 Al Jazeera
	00:05 Al Jazeera	00:05 Al Jazeera	00:05 Al Jazeera
	11:00 Out n'about rpt	11:00 Out n'about rpt	11:00 Out n'about rpt
	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
	13:00 Business edition rpt	13:00 Business edition rpt	13:00 Business edition rpt
	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea
	14:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt	14:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt	14:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
	17:15 Bundesliga kick off	17:15 Bundesliga kick off	17:15 Bundesliga kick off
	18:15 Capchat rpt	18:15 Capchat rpt	18:15 Capchat rpt
	19:15 Mzengwe	19:15 Mzengwe	19:15 Mzengwe
	19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor	19:30 The Decor
	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea
	21:00 Out n' About	21:00 Out n' About	21:00 Out n' About
	21:30 Movie: Street Kings (tape no 0000)	21:30 Movie: Street Kings (tape no 0000)	21:30 Movie: Street Kings (tape no 0000)
	23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love	23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love	23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	01:00 Al Jazeera	01:00 Al Jazeera	01:00 Al Jazeera
	Sun 29 Aug	Sun 29 Aug	Sun 29 Aug
	08:00 Al Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera	08:00 Al Jazeera
	09:00 In good shape	09:00 In good shape	09:00 In good shape
	10:00 Capchat rpt	10:00 Capchat rpt	10:00 Capchat rpt
	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter
	12:00 Jagina rpt	12:00 Jagina rpt	12:00 Jagina rpt
	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
	13:00 In good shape rpt	13:00 In good shape rpt	13:00 In good shape rpt
	13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love	13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love	13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	15:15 Abu yako	15:15 Abu yako	15:15 Abu yako
	15:30 Rev rpt	15:30 Rev rpt	15:30 Rev rpt
	Dakika 45 rpt	Dakika 45 rpt	Dakika 45 rpt
	16:45 Mzengwe rpt	16:45 Mzengwe rpt	16:45 Mzengwe rpt
	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt
	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea	20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea
	21:00 Dwe News Africa	21:00 Dwe News Africa	21:00 Dwe News Africa
	21:30 Capchat live	21:30 Capchat live	21:30 Capchat live
	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera	00:00 Al Jazeera
	Mon 30 Aug	Mon 30 Aug	Mon 30 Aug
	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt
	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	14:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt	16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru	17:30 Meza huru
	19:00 Rev	19:00 Rev	19:00 Rev
	Eco@Africa	Eco@Africa	Eco@Africa
	Abu Yako	Abu Yako	Abu Yako
	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition	20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News	21:30 Capital Prime News
	22:00 Makumbano ya hoja rpt	22:00 Makumbano ya hoja rpt	22:00 Makumbano ya hoja rpt
	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera
	Frid 03 Sept	Frid 03 Sept	Frid 03 Sept
	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera	06:00 Al Jazeera
	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt	12:30 Dwe News Africa rpt
	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
	16		

WORLD

Taliban celebrate victory as last US troops leave Afghanistan

WASHINGTON

CELEBRATORY gunfire resounded across Kabul yesterday as Taliban fighters took control of the airport before dawn, following the withdrawal of the last U.S. troops, marking the end of a 20-year war that left the Islamist militia stronger than it was in 2001.

Shaky video footage distributed by the Taliban showed fighters entering the airport after the last U.S. troops flew out on a C-17 aircraft a minute before midnight, ending a hasty and humiliating exit for Washington and its NATO allies.

"It is a historical day and a historical moment," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference at the airport after the departure. "We are proud of these moments, that we liberated our country from a great power."

An image from the Pentagon taken with night-vision optics showed the last U.S. soldier to step aboard the final evacuation flight out of Kabul - Major General Chris Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division.

America's longest war took the lives of nearly 2,500 U.S. troops and an estimated 240,000 Afghans, and cost some \$2 trillion.

Although it succeeded in driving the Taliban from power and stopped Afghanistan being used as a base by al Qaeda to attack the United States, it ended with the hardline Islamist militants

controlling more territory than during their previous rule.

Those years from 1996 to 2001 saw the Taliban's brutal enforcement of their strict interpretation of Islamic law, and the world watches now to see if the movement forms a more moderate and inclusive government in the months ahead.

Thousands of Afghans have already fled, fearing Taliban reprisals. More than 123,000 people were evacuated from Kabul in a massive but chaotic airlift by the United States and its allies over the past two weeks, but tens of thousands who helped Western nations during the war were left behind.

A contingent of Americans, estimated by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken as fewer than 200, and possibly closer to 100, wanted to leave but were unable to get on the last flights.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab put the number of UK nationals in Afghanistan in the low hundreds, following the evacuation of some 5,000.

General Frank McKenzie, commander of the U.S. Central Command, told a Pentagon briefing that the chief U.S. diplomat in Afghanistan Ross Wilson, was on the last C-17 flight out.

"There's a lot of heartbreak associated with this departure," McKenzie told reporters. "We did not get everybody out that we wanted to get out. But I think if we'd stayed another 10 days, we wouldn't have gotten everybody out."



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

The leaving U.S. troops destroyed more than 70 aircraft, dozens of armoured vehicles and disabled air defences that had thwarted an attempted Islamic State rocket attack on the eve of their departure.

But as the Taliban watched U.S. troops leave Kabul on Monday night, eight of their fighters were killed in clashes in the Panjshir valley north of the capital, said Fahim Dashti, a spokesman for the recently formed National Resistance Forces.

Several thousand anti-Taliban fighters, from local militias, remnants of army and special forces units, have gathered in the valley under the command of regional leader Ahmad Massoud.

"NATIONAL DISGRACE"

In a statement, President Joe Biden defended his decision to stick to Tuesday's withdrawal deadline. He said the world would hold the Taliban to their commitment to allow safe passage for those wanting to leave Afghanistan.

"Now, our 20-year military presence in Afghanistan has ended," said Biden, who thanked the U.S. military for carrying out the dangerous evacuation. He plans to address the American people on Tuesday afternoon.

Biden has said the United States long ago achieved its objectives set in ousting the Taliban in 2001 for harbouring al Qaeda militants who masterminded the

Sept. 11 attacks.

He has drawn heavy criticism from Republicans and some fellow Democrats for his handling of Afghanistan since the Taliban took over Kabul this month after a lightning advance and the collapse of the U.S.-backed government.

Blinken said the United States was prepared to work with the new Taliban government if it did not carry out reprisals against opponents in the country.

"The Taliban seeks international legitimacy and support," he said. "Our position is any legitimacy and support will have to be earned."

Mujahid said the Taliban wanted to establish diplomatic relations with the United States despite two decades of hostility.

"The Islamic Emirate wants to have good diplomatic relations with the whole world," he said.

Neighbouring Pakistan's foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, told a news conference in Islamabad that he expected a new "consensus government will be formed in the coming days in Afghanistan".

The Taliban must revive a war-shattered economy without the foreign aid running into billions of dollars that had flowed to the previous ruling elite and fed systemic corruption.

Agencies

China always open, transparent on COVID-19 origins tracing

BEIJING

THE report on the origins of COVID-19 by the U.S. intelligence turns a blind eye to China's persistent openness and transparency on origins tracing, further revealing the political intentions of the United States.

Since COVID-19 cases were reported in the city of Wuhan, China has always been open, transparent, responsible and cooperative.

It notified the World Health Organization (WHO) of the epidemic, shared the genome sequencing of the virus and engaged in international cooperation, all as quickly as possible, winning positive comments from the international community.

China has also actively engaged in origins-tracing cooperation with the WHO. It invited WHO experts to China twice for origins-tracing research, and provided the expert team with full support.

The assertion of a lack of transparency on the part of China is just an excuse for the U.S. to engage in a campaign of politicization and stigmatization.

Early this year, a WHO-China joint study team of leading international and Chinese experts conducted a 28-day research study in China. The team studied a massive amount of epidemic-related data. They visited every site on their list and met every individual they asked for.

In March, the WHO officially released the team's joint report, which provides the most authoritative, professional and science-based conclusions on origins tracing, stating that the introduction of COVID-19 through a laboratory accident is "extremely unlikely" and it is important to investigate early cases in different countries.

It is, in fact, the United States that is not being transparent, responsible and cooperative on origins tracing.

On the one hand, the United States is poisoning the atmosphere for international cooperation on origins tracing and undermining global solidarity against the pandemic by politicizing origins tracing and scapegoating other countries for its own failure to effectively protect its citizens from the virus.

On the other hand, the U.S. government, having itself proposed a so-called lab-leak theory, refused to respond to the international community's doubts regarding the Fort Detrick biolab and its over 200 overseas bases for biological experiments.

The United States should investigate its own biolabs and first coronavirus cases, and put together a report as soon as possible to answer the world's queries.

Xinhua

US is able to persuade Zelensky implement Minsk-2 agreements - Kremlin spokesman

MOSCOW

THE United States is capable of using its influence on Ukraine's President Vladimir Zelensky to persuade him to follow the path of implementing the Minsk accords, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"We are not in a position to interfere in the affairs of two sovereign countries - the United States and Ukraine - and we are not going to do so," Peskov (pictured) said. "But we keep a very close watch on the results of this trip (Zelensky's visit to Washington - TASS) from the standpoint the United States can use its influence on Mr. Zelensky to persuade him to follow the path of implementing the Minsk agreements, as well as the agreements that were concluded in Paris, and to give up actions that might cause tremendous harm to the entire Minsk settlement process."

"This is possibly what we would like to expect," he added.

Peskov stressed that the Kremlin did not believe Zelensky's visit to the United States posed some risks to Moscow-Washington relations.

"What sort of risks can there be? Our relations with these countries are one matter and relations between two sovereign countries is something very different," Peskov said while answering media questions.

Zelensky on August 30 left for the United States on his first visit, which had taken two years to agree. On Tuesday, he is to meet with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington. Zelensky's meeting with his US counterpart Joe Biden is expected on September 1.



Chinese, African experts host forum to discuss protection of wild species

NAIROBI

CONSERVATION experts from China and Africa on Monday participated in a virtual forum to discuss innovative ways to enhance sustainable management and utilization of wild species.

The webinar on enhanced protection of wildlands and iconic species was convened by African Civil Society Organizations Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) and China's Civil Society Alliance for Biodiversity Conservation (CSABC).

The virtual forum underscored the

importance of conserving biodiversity hotspots in order to secure the livelihoods of local communities. Both the Chinese and African experts agreed that the health, economic well-being, and cohesion among indigenous and local communities were directly linked to the enhanced protection of vital ecosystems including forests.

Zhou Hongguo, a professor at China's Jishou University said that preservation of genetic resources should underpin efforts to promote food security and the well-being of communities.

Zhou stressed the need to integrate ecological protection with shared economic benefits among local communities whose wealth of indigenous knowledge has proved effective in conserving rare species.

Experts attending the forum believed that the webinar will improve appreciation of the interdependence between planetary health, sustainable development, and improved well-being of local communities.

Tobias Nyumba, project coordinator, African Conservation Center said

that strategic engagement among Chinese and African green lobbies is key to promote the health of indigenous biodiversity.

Li Guanqi, coordinator, Farmer's Seed Network (China) said that local communities should be incentivized to protect endangered species and reverse damage to their livelihoods.

Xinhua

EU says it has reached target of vaccinating 70% of adult

ADDIS ABABA / BERLIN

THE European Commission said yesterday that 70 percent of the European Union's adult population had been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, hitting a target it had set at the beginning of the year.

The announcement marks an important milestone in the EU vaccination strategy after a slow start, but it also masks big differences among EU countries, with some nations being well above the 70 percent goal while others in the poorer eastern region of the bloc being far behind.

"70 percent of adults in EU are fully vaccinated. I want to thank the many people making this great achievement possible," the President of the European Commission

Ursula von der Leyen said on Twitter.

A volunteer directs vehicles into Zwartkops Raceway drive-through vaccination site, in Centurion, South Africa, to receive a dose of COVID-19 vaccine, on Aug 13, 2021. (LUCA SOLA / AFP)

Africa

The large number of people in Africa with a weakened immune system makes it ripe for the development of COVID-19 variants, the head of a South African genomics institute said.

The study of an individual with advanced HIV and limited adherence to anti-retroviral treatment showed that a COVID-19 infection persisted for more than 200 days and "multimutational escape variants" developed, Tulio



A health worker administers a dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (Janssen) against COVID-19, on Aug 5, 2021 at the Ambreck pharmacy, in Milan. (AFP)

de Oliveira, the head of the institute said.

Africa is home to the bulk of the world's HIV infections, with South Africa alone hav-

ing about 7.7 million affected individuals, and high burdens of diseases such as tuberculosis. HIV causes AIDS, a disease that affects the im-

mune system.

We "need to control the pandemic in the continent with the largest immunosuppressed individual population in the world," de Oliveira, who heads the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform, said in a presentation to an immunology conference on Monday.

"There is good evidence that prolonged infection in immunocompromised individuals is one mechanism for the emergence" of COVID-19 variants, he said.

De Oliveira urged a faster rate of vaccinations in South Africa to prevent the development of further mutations.

"South Africa really risks becoming one of the mutation factories of the world," he said.

COVID-19 cases are rapidly resurging in multiple countries, but U.S. politicians are still not "in the mood" for pandemic control. On the contrary, they keep telling lies and ducking responsibilities to undermine global anti-pandemic cooperation.

In an attempt to pass the buck to and stigmatize China, the U.S. intelligence community recently issued a so-called report on the origin tracing of COVID-19, and the White House also released a relevant statement. These documents, showing no respect for science and facts, are ironclad evidence of politicizing the issue of COVID-19 origin tracing.

The so-called investigation report by U.S. intelligence departments found no evidence they wanted, but

There's no way out for politicising origin tracing of COVID-19

it doesn't mean that U.S. politicians would stop their political manipulation.

The intelligence departments craftily applied verbal tricks in the report to work hand in glove with these politicians. On one hand, they pretended to be "objective" by saying that both natural exposure and laboratory accident as the origin of SARS-CoV-2 were not ruled out. On the other hand, they wrongly claimed that China hindered global investigation and resisted sharing information, trying to find an excuse for their unsuccessful manipulation over origin tracing.

Excuses are everywhere if one is bent on hurling accusations at someone. The distorted acts of the U.S. once again proved that the true intention of the White House is to politicize origin tracing. It just can't stop fabricating lies and calling white black, even when it runs counter to science and facts.

The U.S. side was lying through its teeth when accusing China of being non-transparent and uncooperative in origin tracing. China was the first country to launch global origin tracing studies with the WHO, and twice invited experts from the organization to proceed with the studies.

Earlier this year, experts from the WHO and China jointly conducted a 28-day research in China and together released a report on the origin tracing of COVID-19. The conclusions they reached, which are authoritative, professional, and science-based, have laid a solid foundation for global cooperation on origin tracing.

Recently, the WHO experts reviewed their work in China in an article published on Nature, saying they were well supported there and the Chinese team shared abundant new information. The two sides also conducted a lot of discussions on further duties that were necessary and data

sharing. However, the U.S. is turning a blind eye to these facts, which vividly explains what cherry-picking is.

As a matter of fact, it is the U.S. that being non-transparent, irresponsible, and uncooperative on the issue of origin tracing.

Scientific studies have constantly brought forward the incidence of COVID-19 in the U.S. According to recent research, COVID-19 infections were earlier than they were reported in at least five U.S. states. It is reported that the first COVID-19 death indeed occurred in early January in the country, two months earlier than what's on the official record.

If Washington were really transparent and responsible, early cases should be tested; the reasonable questions raised by the international society should be answered, and the labs of Fort Detrick and the University of North Carolina should be opened for investigation.

Being questioned by the rest of the world, the U.S. remains silent, comprehending China's reasonable questioning as an accusation. It fully exposes the habitual double standard and hegemony of the U.S. when it deals with international affairs, and further indicates the true intention of the U.S. in conducting the so-called origin tracing: politicization and stigmatization.

People's Daily

US intelligence community's origins tracing fiction is nothing but a farce

BEIJING

AFTER more than 90 days of so-called investigation, the U.S. intelligence community on Friday released a summary of its COVID-19 origins tracing fiction.

Without any persuasive new evidence, the fiction still points the finger at China, exposing its nature as being politically manipulative.

Origins tracing is far from an easy task. It must be left to scientists to take time to unravel the truth through careful research, and with a scientific approach and a rigorous attitude.

Clearly aware of this principle, Washington had nevertheless assigned the mission to those notorious intelligence agencies long known for lying, cheating and stealing, and the result is no doubt a fabricated report.

For a long time, Washington has been attempting to politicize origins tracing. The report of the China-World Health Organization (WHO) joint mission released in March has drawn a clear conclusion, but Washington viciously discredited the report.

To redouble its efforts to smear China, Washington later ordered the U.S. intelligence community to complete the political mission within three months. To the White House, origins tracing is never about science or facts, but about fabricating wished-for evidence to draw a wished-for conclusion.

In fact, the United States' malicious scheme to politicize origins tracing can cheat not so many around the world.

Noting that America is deeply upset about China's rise and wishes to curb its development by all means possible, Benyamin Poghosyan, head of the Center for Political and Economic Strategic Studies in Armenia, wrote in an opinion published in late July on the Voice of Armenia newspaper that the U.S. disinformation campaign against China, which uses COVID-19 out of geopolitical interests, has hampered global joint efforts against the pandemic.

Any sinister attempt to smear China without regard for the facts is doomed to fail. The ugly farce staged by Washington on origins tracing has achieved nothing but bringing to light America's disreputability and irresponsibility. **Xinhua**

Kremlin urges reporters to wait for Russian, Belarusian presidents' statements on roadmaps

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has urged reporters to wait for statements by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko, responding to a question about the Moscow-Minsk integration programme.

He confirmed that the Belarusian president's working visit to Moscow was scheduled for September 9.

"Talks between the two presidents will take place, and the two presidents will give a news conference," Peskov said answering a question yesterday about roadmaps. The Kremlin spokesman added that he would refrain from commenting on the contents of that news conference.

"I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the governments in both countries, with the participation of the heads of state, by the way, have made vigorous efforts for several years now to coordinate these programmes.

Substantial progress has been made. As to how and in what, let's wait for the heads of state and not put the cart before the horse," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Belarusian Ambassador to Russia Vladimir Semashko said at a meeting with Governor of the Voronezh Region Alexander Gusev and Deputy Speaker of the Russian State Duma (lower house) Alexei Gordeev that Putin and Lukashenko would discuss all roadmaps and integration maps on September 9.

According to the envoy, these documents can be signed in Minsk on September 10 at a meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Union State of Belarus and Russia.

New Delta variant mutation of COVID-19 confirmed in Japan

TOKYO

A GROUP of Japanese researchers said a new mutation of the COVID-19 Delta variant had been discovered for the first time in Japan, local media reported yesterday.

The research team, led by Associate Professor Hiroaki Takeuchi at Tokyo Medical and Dental University Hospital, announced the finding on Monday, saying the mutation was found when a patient infected with the Delta variant visited the institute in mid-August.

Genetic analysis revealed the N501S mutation, the team said, adding that only eight cases of the mutation have been reported outside Japan.

The N501S mutation is similar to the N501Y variation of the Alpha variant, which was first detected in Britain. The team said its impact on the virus's transmissibility is unclear so far, and researchers plan to study further.

The Tokyo metropolitan government said on Monday that after thousands of young people swarmed the walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site in its first days of opening, it is considering implementing an online lottery system to reduce crowds, local media reported Monday.

The walk-in site, located close to JR Shibuya Station, was set up in the wake of the COVID-19 resurgence in Tokyo, aiming to inoculate people between the age of 16 and 39, who reside in or commute to Tokyo, as the spread rate of infections among this age group began to speed up.

Japanese health minister Norihisa Tamura told reporters on Tuesday it was highly likely that foreign matter found in COVID-19 vaccines in Okinawa were caused when needles where stuck into the vials. **Agencies**

Hurricane Ida plunges New Orleans into darkness

NEW ORLEANS

HURRICANE Ida pounded Louisiana after sweeping ashore from the Gulf of Mexico, flooding wide areas under heavy surf and torrential rains as fierce winds toppled trees and power lines, plunging New Orleans into darkness after nightfall.

Ida weakened into a tropical storm over southwestern Mississippi early on Monday, the National Hurricane Center said, but it is expected to continue unleashing heavy downpours "likely to result in life-threatening" flooding.

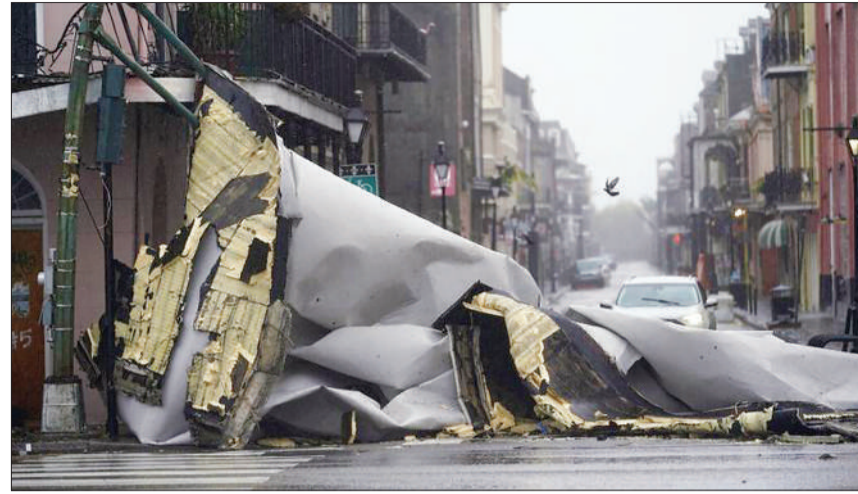
The full extent of storm damage remained to be seen at daybreak.

Sunday night, the sheriff's office in Ascension Parish reported the first known US fatality from the storm, a 60-year-old man killed by a tree falling on his home near Baton Rouge, the state capital.

Ida, the first major hurricane to strike the United States this year, made landfall around noon on Sunday as a ferocious Category 4 storm over Port Fourchon, a hub of the Gulf's offshore oil industry, packing sustained winds of up to 240 kilometers per hour.

Its arrival came 16 years to the day after Hurricane Katrina, one of the most catastrophic and deadly US storms on record, struck the Gulf Coast, and about a year after the last Category 4 hurricane, Laura, battered Louisiana.

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster in the state, ordering federal assistance to bolster recovery efforts in more than two dozen storm-stricken parishes.



A section of roof that was blown off of a building in the French Quarter by Hurricane Ida winds blocks an intersection in New Orleans on Sunday. AP

Ida crashed ashore as Louisiana was already reeling from a resurgence of COVID-19 infections that has strained the state's healthcare system, with an estimated 2,450 COVID-19 patients hospitalized statewide, many in intensive care units.

A loss of generator power at the Thibodaux Regional Health System hospital in Lafourche Parish, southwest of New Orleans, forced medical workers to manually assist respirator patients with breathing while they

were moved to another floor, the state Health Department confirmed to Reuters.

Within 12 hours of landfall, Ida had weakened into a Category 1 hurricane on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale, with top winds clocked at 135 kph as the storm pushed about 161 km inland past New Orleans, Louisiana's largest city, early on Monday.

By then, Ida had plowed a destructive path that submerged much of the state's coastline under several feet of

surf, with flash flooding reported by the National Hurricane Center across southeastern Louisiana.

Nearly all offshore Gulf oil production was suspended in advance of the storm, and major ports along the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts were closed to shipping.

Widespread outages

Power was knocked out Sunday night to the entire New Orleans metropolitan area following the failure of all eight transmission lines that deliver electricity to the city, the utility company Entergy Louisiana reported.

One transmission tower collapsed into the Mississippi River, the Jefferson Parish Emergency Management Department said.

More than 1 million Louisiana homes and businesses in all were without electricity by late Sunday night, according to the tracking site Poweroutage.US. **Agencies**

KINSHASA

IN northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the state of siege, declared in early May, is likely to be extended for the seventh time, as DRC's National Assembly urgently convened a plenary session on Monday for another examination in order to cope with tensions that are constantly on the rise in the violence-laden part of the country.

On May 6, 2021, after a decision by DRC's president Felix Tshisekedi, a state of siege was declared in Ituri and North Kivu, two DRC's northeastern provinces that are in the grip of

Insecurity looms in NE DR Congo after months of state of siege

endless violence.

The civilian authorities of the two northeastern provinces were soon replaced by military administrations, in an attempt to put an end to violence that has lasted for more than 25 years.

"To address the situation during the state of siege, the civilian authorities of the provincial governments of Ituri and North Kivu and the decentralized entities of those provinces will be replaced by the officers of the armed forces of the DRC or the Congolese National Po-

lice," said in early May the order announced by Tshisekedi's spokesman Tharsice Kasongo Mwema.

According to government spokesman Patrick Muyaya, the presidential decision on declaring a state of siege is "to swiftly end the insecurity that is killing our citizens in that part of the country on a daily basis".

According to a report published in March by the United Nations (UN) Refugee Agency, armed group the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) has in-

creased its attacks especially in Beni Territory of North Kivu, epicenter of looming violence and clashes among armed forces, since the beginning of this year, leaving nearly 200 people dead, dozens of others injured, and around 40,000 displaced in the region.

Another report published in April by the UN Children's Fund said more than 1.6 million people, out of a total population of 5.7 million, are estimated to be displaced in Ituri.

The state of siege in the two violence-laden provinces is

likely to be extended for the seventh time after an urgently convened plenary session of the National Assembly on Monday.

As the last extension of this state of siege is about to expire on September 3, DRC's parliament would take a vote for another extension after evaluating the situation on the ground.

In a recent trip to the two provinces to assess the situation of the state of siege, DRC's Prime Minister Sama Lukonde acknowledged some progress on the ground even if several things are yet to be done. **Xinhua**

China's services trade fair CIFTIS to include special digital services pavilion for first time

THIS year's China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), which is going to take place in Beijing from Sept. 2 to 7, will have a special pavilion for digital services for the first time, according to a press briefing held by the State Council Information Office of China on August 27.

It will also include a forum on the trends and latest developments in digital trade and conferences that will bring participants closer into new technologies, business forms and models and fruits in the field.

The theme of the 2021 CIFTIS is "Towards Digital Future and Service Driven Development", said Yang Jinbai, vice mayor of Beijing, who disclosed that the exhibition area will be divided into comprehensive exhibition and thematic exhibition.

The comprehensive exhibition area of the CIFTIS will include an exhibition of China's achievements in services trade, special exhibition zones for foreign countries, Chinese provinces (autonomous regions and municipalities) and special administrative regions, as well as a pavilion for digital services, and these exhibitions will be held at the China National Convention Center in Beijing, according to Yang.

Targeted at enterprises, the thematic exhibition of the CIFTIS, which will be staged at the Shougang Park in Shijingshan district of Beijing, covers eight subjects including telecommunications, computer and information services, financial services, culture and tourism services, education services, sports services, supply chain and business services, engineering consulting and construction services as well as health services.

The planned exhibition area of this year's CIFTIS is 20,000 square meters more than that of the 2020 event.

More than 10,000 companies from 153 countries and regions have signed up for the 2021 CIFTIS whether via online or offline platforms, compared with 148 countries and regions last year. The number of companies that will exhibit their products at the CIFTIS offline has risen 6 percent year on year.

The proportions of foreign companies and enterprises on the Fortune Global 500 list have both exceeded those of the event last year.

Five summit forums as well as 119 thematic forums and conferences centering around 12 trends in services trade and hot topics like digital economy and digital trade development are expected to be held during this year's CIFTIS.

The five summit forums, which will be held by China's Ministry of Commerce,



Visitors watch the performance of a robot at the 2020 China International Fair for Trade in Services, Sept. 9, 2020. File photo

Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Development Research Center of the State Council, World Tourism Cities Federation and other parties, will cover topics including high-quality development of services trade, openness and cooperation, new digital ecology and revitalization of world tourism, and allow participants to conduct in-depth discussions on strategic and structural problems of global trade in services, according to Zhang Haocheng, head of the conference organization team of the executive committee of the CIFTIS.

The thematic forums and conferences will focus on digital economy, digital trade planning and other subjects closely related to the theme of the CIFTIS, Zhang added.

During this year's CIFTIS, over 30 reports, standards, and indexes will be released, and more than 10 alliances, think tanks and platforms in such fields as international public procurement, food supply chain, finance, traditional Chinese medicine, ecological environment and other industries will be established.

The CIFTIS is a comprehensive and state-level exhibition and trading platform dedicated to trade in services with a global reach, said Wang Bingnan, vice minister of commerce in China.

Holding the 2021 CIFTIS as promised shows China's determination to promote higher-level opening-up and its sense of responsibility as a major country for facilitating international anti-epidemic cooperation

and world economic and trade recovery, Wang pointed out.

The preparation work for the event is going well on the whole, including that for summits, forums, exhibitions, epidemic prevention and control, publicity as well as safety precautions, according to Wang.

This year's CIFTIS will also include a specially designed exhibition of China's achievements in trade in services over the past five years, Wang said. From 2016 to 2020, China witnessed remarkable achievements in services trade and further solidified its position as the world's second largest country in the sector. During the period, the country's imports and exports of services totaled \$3.6 trillion, up 29.7 percent from that between 2011 and 2015.

People's Daily



The theme of the 2021 CIFTIS is "Towards Digital Future and Service Driven Development", said Yang Jinbai, vice mayor of Beijing, who disclosed that the exhibition area will be divided into comprehensive

New virus variant found in South Africa has concerning mutations

ADDIS ABABA

SOUTH African scientists said they identified a new coronavirus variant that has a concerning number of mutations.

The so-called C.1.2. variant was first identified in May in the South African provinces of Mpumalanga and Gauteng, where Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria, are situated, the scientists said in a research paper. It's since been found in seven other countries in Africa, Oceania, Asia and Europe.

The mutations on the virus "are associated with increased transmissibility" and an increased ability to evade antibodies, the scientists said. "It is important to highlight this lineage given its concerning constellation of mutations."

Changes in the virus have driven successive waves of the coronavirus with the delta variant, first found in India, now pushing up infection rates across the world. Mutations are first classified as variants of interest by the World Health Organization. Once they are identified as being more severe or transmissible, they're termed variants of concern.

C.1.2. evolved from C.1., a lineage of the virus that dominated infections in the first wave of the virus in South Africa in mid-2020.

The research was published by South African groups including the KwaZulu-Natal Research Innovation and Sequencing Platform, known as Krisp, and the National Institute for Communicable Diseases.

South African scientists also discovered the beta variant in 2020, but have been keen to stress that the country's advanced ability to sequence the genomes of the virus means that while new strains may be identified in the country, they could have originated elsewhere.

WHO

An increase in COVID-19 transmission rates across Europe over the last two weeks combined with low levels of vaccination in some countries are "deeply worrying", the head of WHO in Europe, Hans Kluge, said on Monday.

Speaking at a press briefing, Kluge also said that a third-dose booster shot is a way to keep the most vulnerable safe and "not a luxury".

The WHO said earlier this month data did not indicate a need for booster shots, while topping up already fully vaccinated people would further increase vaccine inequity between rich and lower-income countries.

"We have to be a little bit careful with the booster shot, because there is not yet enough evidence," he said.

"But more and more studies show that a third dose keeps vulnerable people safe, and this is done by more and more countries in our region," he said.

Kluge urged European countries with excess vaccines to share them with other countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe and Africa. **Agencies**

SPORT

Up-and-coming artists music lovers should know

By Elizabeth Richard, TUDARCO

BEYOND popular musicians in Tanzania's music industry and other well-known entertainers, there are little-known artists with talent that could catch the country's music enthusiasts' eye.

We all have a favourite artist, who just always gets it right when it comes to twisting our feelings and emotions in tune with the melodies and rhythms, but then what is music if one does not explore different sounds from different artists?

Is there a music enthusiast that wants to listen to more artists but he or she hardly knows where to begin?

A music follower can begin with these five up-and-coming domestic artists that are waiting for the music follower to press 'play' on their songs and be transported into a different world of music.

MEX

Simantha Manimendra, professionally known as 'Mex Cortez', is a Dar es Salaam-born and raised rapper, who originates from Sri Lanka.

Known for his ability to rap interchangeably in both English and Swahili, and impeccable lyrical ability, he is undoubtedly one of the best Hip Hop artists in Tanzania.

While growing up, he was a huge fan of Tanzanian Hip Hop artist, 'One The Incredible', and a prominent US rapper, Eminem, who both greatly influenced his lyricism and flow.

Mex began writing raps in Swahili and then decided to give English raps a try as a result of being influenced by foreign artists.

This in turn led him to employ both languages in rapping and many, including popular members of the country's music industry, have him hailed as a top lyricist.

He started his journey by releasing music and sharing it with friends and also sold CDs in festivals.

He has performed in several places including a festival, known as 'Nyama Choma Festival', and in events that took place at venues including Alliance France and The Lounge in Dar es Salaam.

He initially started doing hardcore rap music but expanded his genre to Afro-beats, R&B, and soft rap and is currently experimenting on rapping in Sinhala (Sri Lankan language).

Expressing who he would like to work with, he stated: "I want to work with Ruby. She has a powerful, mesmerizing voice that would go so well with my songs."

"Other artists in Tanzania that I have always wanted to collaborate with, I have them on my album. That is 'A.Y.', 'Nikki Mbishi' and 'G.Nako' to name but a few."

Commenting on what he would like to change in the music industry, he said: "More Hip Hop labels need to exist in Tanzania. They are there but they are not mainstream. Most labels in Tanzania sign singers and entertainers but we need to make the Hip Hop scene grow and be heard."

Mex's lyricism has led him to receive collaborations from the industry's prominent musicians such as 'A.Y.' and 'Fid Q', 'One The Incredible' and also has got cosigns from top Hip Hop artists such as Khaligraph Jones from Kenya.

His bilingual rap style found itself to the likings of legendary Hip Hop artist, 'Cassidy', who added Mex's song 'Barbender 3' on his mixtape 'Who Got Bars VOL. 2.'

His upcoming debut studio album, 'Monsoon Winds', includes hotshot tracks from prominent artists like 'A.Y.', 'G.Nako' of 'Weusi' music group, and 'Wakazi'.

The musician has also worked with international artists like Gemma Griffiths from Zimbabwe who dropped a track, known as 'Last Friday'.

MJB

Mjuni Benard Matovu, known professionally as 'MJB', is a rapper hailing from Mbezi, Dar es Salaam.

He was born in March 1996, to



New genre artist, Jane Masha, nicknamed 'Neash'.

a father, who was responsible for some of his early encounters with music.

His grandfather, Gratian Matovu, was the first Tanzanian soccer referee to be renowned by FIFA.

He has always felt like music was his calling because, since he was a child, he would always try to create music by freestyling on the school bus, when he was aged six, and singing along to songs.

He began recording tracks on his sister's laptop when he was young and later, he and a friend created a band called 'Aloha', which was active for a year and later faced demise due to the youngsters' integrations with the school.

After he was done with high school in 2016, he decided to pursue his music career full-time.

His parents became divorced and the young boy resorted to doing music to escape reality.

The parents' separation gave him, even more, drive to pursue his music career since he had a lot of pain to release and music was the best tool.

In 2016, he dropped his debut long-playing vinyl record, titled 'Zone', which got him reviewed by a radio station Trace FM and the artist was invited in a music program, 'The Weekend Chat Show', hosted by one of Dar es Salaam radio stations.

The musician performed at the '5Selekt' events, Oasis, Culture Days in International Schools, and a festival, 'Onja Onja Festival'.

He then dropped his album, titled 'Mfalme wa Mbezi', which won him more viewership, and then he dropped extended play records 'EPs', titled 'Zero Sun' and 'Phenomenal', and a mixtape called 'Mbezi Night'. He has also organized his show known as 'SoundCloud Night'.

MJB has expressed his want of creating a new genre of music by fusing different genres into one. He describes his music as Rap, Afro-beats, and a little bit of R&B.

He hopes to collaborate with the likes of 'A.Y.', 'Mwana FA', 'T.I.D' and 'Diamond Platnumz' in Tanzania and South African 'Nasty C' and Nigerian Burna Boy.

He pointed out: "Up-and-coming musicians should not give up. Sometimes they will face challenges like not having money for studio sessions or an investor will try to change their vision for business purposes but they should do not forget why they are doing what they are doing."

In the next five to ten years, he expects to have millions of fans jamming to his music and he hopes to change different lives through his music.

NEASH

Jane Masha, a.k.a 'Neash', is an up-and-coming musician from Dar es Salaam. Born from a family of four, 'Neash' was exposed to music at a young age where her mother was a gospel singer and her late sister was an Afro-soul fanatic who used to play the songs often at home. Her brother wrote rap songs and asked her to perform them with him.

She moved to Uganda for studies and was exposed to different Ugandan veteran artists, who impressed her, namely Irene Namubiru, Juliana Kanyomozi, Joseph Mayanja 'Chameleone', and Radio & Weasel.

She has always been passionate about music, singing along to different existing music until her friends suggested she join the music industry.

After completing her studies, she came back to Tanzania and got in touch with the producer, Steve Kings, where she started releasing a series of songs titled 'The Unspoken' during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The songs centered around helping people speak their minds against the naysayers and unleash hidden emotions. The singles include 'Cup of Love' and 'Sogea Karibu na Mimi.'

She proceeded to compete in 'The Good Vibes' competition, hosted by legendary Tanzanian singer Judith Wambura 'Lady Jaydee', she was announced as the competition's winner.

Neash describes her music as Trap-Soul, Afro-Soul, Rap, and R&B. Her dream collaborators include Vanessa Mdee, Turunesh, and Yemi Alade from Nigeria.

She is also a TedX speaker where she took part in the 2021 TedX 'The Bigger Picture' and talked about how she feels that music is the big picture for her.

She participated in the Infinix 2021 competition where she came out among the top 10 among hundreds of competitors and walked away with a brand new phone.

Music is not the only thing she is venturing in as she is also an actress and she was in the movie 'Binti', directed by Seko Shamte, and the series 'We Men' by Maximilian Rioba.

SPORTS

A thriving Paralympic sports scene is direly needed



Female wheelchair tennis players participate in recent drills which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AS the new football season, globally, begins to gather steam, the Tokyo Paralympics continues to unfold apace.

For those still in the dark, the Paralympic Games are a sporting spectacular exclusively reserved for sportsmen with disabilities.

Like the Olympic Games, the Paralympics are a quadrennial affair meaning that they take place every four years.

From a national standpoint, we shall be keeping very close tabs on how our two flag-bearers will fare at this illustrious and august sporting showpiece event.

Our two athletes earnestly jockeying for medals at the Paralympics are Ignas Mtweve and Sauda Njopeka.

Ignas will be pitting his sporting wits against the world's premier Paralympians in the discus event while for her part, Sauda will be trading blows with her counterparts in the shotput event.

Most naturally, we fervently hope that Lady Luck will bestow her coveted blessings on our two Paralympic athletes who are venturing pluckily forth into the no-holds-barred, oft times merciless arena of international sporting competition.

But, if you will, let us redirect our gaze

away from the Tokyo Paralympics and cast it on the Paralympic sporting stage here on the home front.

Indeed, the status quo in domestic Paralympics is a regrettable crying shame that leaves much to be desired.

Distressingly, it is nigh on impossible to recollect the last time, remember, merely the last time, when any Paralympic sporting contest was organized on our shores within the last twelve months.

Even more disturbingly, our country has rarely had a dynamic and thriving Paralympic sporting scene throughout the year as is the case in other countries.

Indisputably, the fact that we ascribe such shamefully little importance to the dire need for a bustling annual Paralympic sporting calendar soils our image as supposedly a sports-loving country.

Even worse, our conspicuous neglect of Para-

lympic sports reveals the distinctly embarrassing fact that we as a society simply couldn't give a hoot about Paralympic sports.

Honestly speaking, our grave and costly neglect of matters Paralympic sports stand as a powerfully damning indictment of who we are as a people.

My lone hope is that our stewards of sports in this country will rapidly see the light and move expeditiously to fashion out a fitting solution for this glaringly almighty sporting conundrum that holds us back in our continuing national quest for sporting quintessence.

Let us now zero in on the 2022 Qatar World Cup qualifiers for the African region which are slated to kick-off in the early days of September.

Come September 2nd, we shall all doubtlessly be on tenterhooks as our Taifa Stars squad will lock horns with the ever-tricky DR Congo in the latter's backyard, which shall pose a distinctly arduous challenge for our national team to surmount.

Exactly seven days later, our Taifa Stars will get to experience home comforts as they will host minnows Madagascar in their second World Cup qualifying run-in.

Let us not forget, these qualifiers assume added importance for our national team especially when one remembers that we will be a no-show at the AFCON 2021 finals due to our failure to qualify for the prestigious football event, which is set to commence in early January next year.

With the DR Congo certain to provide our boys with a particularly hostile reception, it is hoped that the Taifa Stars will not be fazed in the slightest by the expectedly demoralizing jeering and booing of the home fans.

National volleyball team's preps for African Nations Championship in top gear

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's senior national men's volleyball team's preparations for the African Nations Championship, scheduled for September 7-15 in Rwanda, are in full swing.

Tanzania is once again taking part in the African Nations Championship after 44 years.

It should be recalled that they last participated in the 1977 tournament when it took place in Benghazi in Libya.

The coming tournament will also be used to secure qualification for the 2022 FIVB World Championship, with each country fielding one men's national team and the women's side.

In terms of men, the participating teams are Rwanda, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire, Cameroon, Congo DR, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

In a meeting held during the weekend, the leaders of the Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA) elected a 15-member squad to be led by head coach, Ally Mohamed from Polisi Zanzibar, assisted by Nassoro Shariff of Dar es Salaam volleyball giants, Jeshi Stars.

Players named in the squad include (Setters) Ezekiel Rabson, Nassoro Mohamed (JKT), Dismas Dick (Magereza), Middle Blockers, Ramadhan Mase (Chui), Abdulrahman Yusuf (Jeshi Stars), Deodatus Baitubaki (JKT), Michael Ngongwe (Jeshi Stars).

Receiver/Attackers include David Evarist (Equity Bank, Kenya), Joseph Mafuru (Jeshi Stars), Khantis Sadala (Mafunzo, Zanzibar), Ford Edward (Tanesco), Opposite players include Shabani Julius (Chui), Jackson Mmari (Rukinzo Police, Burundi), and Liberos, Rashid Mustapha (JKT), and Said Ali (Mafunzo, Zanzibar).

Alfred Selengia, TAVA Secretary-General, said that the players, who camped at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE), are doing



Volleyball players from outfits from across Dar es Salaam battle it out in a recent Faru volleyball tournament, hosted by Faru Volleyball Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FARU VOLLEYBALL CLUB

well with the training being held at the National Indoor Stadium.

He said the players are working hard to be fit to fulfill their strategy, ensuring they post good results.

Selengia said that the statement made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, urging them to make adequate preparations to do well, has boosted their morale and the players will ensure they prioritize patriotism to do well in the competition.

"If you remember, Tanzania managed to do well in various African competitions such as the one held at the Lido beaches in Entebbe, Uganda from December 18-22, 2019," he said.

The TAVA official pointed out: "Tanzania's victory over Uganda, Kenya, and Sudan kept them on top of their group, followed by Kenya who also qualified for the second round, with Sudan in third place and Uganda in the last place and now we will make sure we plan well to do well and if necessary to succeed in playing the World Cup."

The official said that the squad is expected to leave the country on September 5, 2021, led by a National Sports Council (NSC) official, who will be appointed as the head of the convoy.

How Man United persuaded Cristiano Ronaldo to come back

By Rob Dawson and contributors

TWELVE years after first leaving Old Trafford, Cristiano Ronaldo is back at Manchester United, having agreed to a sensational return.

It is a move that has been talked about again and again in the time since his departure to Real Madrid in 2009, but without ever really coming close to happening. There was speculation in 2013 and again in 2018, but finally in 2021, United and Ronaldo are preparing for a spectacular reunion.

In the span of 48 hours, and with less than a week remaining in the summer transfer window, Ronaldo told Juventus of his desire to leave the club and, appeared set to join Pep Guardiola at Manchester City. Then, a flurry of text messages and phone calls led to Ronaldo choosing his former club over their most immediate rivals.

After six years at United from 2003-2009 – 292 appearances, 118 goals, three Premier League titles and a Champions League triumph in 2008 – Ronaldo made no secret of his desire to join Real Madrid for a then-world record fee of £80 million. But he has remained a fan favourite at United and was celebrated as a returning hero on visits back to Manchester with Real Madrid and Juventus. He even refused to celebrate when his goal for Real Madrid at Old Trafford helped Real Madrid knock United out of the Champions League in 2013 – Sir Alex Ferguson's last European tie before his retirement.

Ronaldo still calls Ferguson his "football father" and the pair have stayed in regular contact over the years, with Ferguson greeting him after Portugal won the European Championships in 2016. Ferguson played his part in ensuring the five-time Ballon d'Or winner signed for United after deciding to leave Juventus this summer, just when it looked like Ronaldo could do the unthinkable and join rivals Manchester City. It also had long been the ambition of executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward to bring him back.

Here's how it happened.

With additional reporting from Gabriele Marcotti, Mark Ogden, Rodrigo Faez and Andrew Cesare Richardson

How Manchester United did it

United are not hiding the fact that they didn't begin the summer transfer window with plans to sign Ronaldo. ESPN reported in June, before the start of the European Championships, that Ronaldo's representatives (led by his agent, Jorge Mendes) were gauging interest from some of Europe's top clubs, including United, Manchester City, Real Madrid and Paris Saint-Germain, if – and, at that point, it was a big "if" – he left Juventus.

The answer from United at the time was a polite no, partly because of a belief that he would decide to see out the final year of his contract in Turin, and partly because of the numbers involved – especially for a player who, while at the peak of his fitness, turns 37 in February – but also because their priorities in the transfer market were elsewhere.

Mendes got a similar answer from Paris Saint-Germain, Real Madrid and Manchester City. Then came Harry Kane's announcement, made on Wednesday, that he would not be moving to City this summer and instead would remain at Tottenham for at least another year. With no prospect of signing their top target, City began looking into other options and before long, Mendes was back on the phone.

The response this time was more positive than it had been in June and with Ronaldo finally making a decision to leave Juventus, even missing a training session last week, City began looking at how to make a deal work. There was a reluctance to meet the financial demands of both Juventus and Ronaldo – he earned €31m net and bonuses per year at Juventus, who also asked for around €28m in a transfer fee to avoid a capital loss on the deal that brought Ronaldo from Real Madrid in 2018 – and Pep Guardiola also had reservations about how he would fit in on and off the pitch.

Still, on Thursday, City had agreed to keep talking to Mendes, but by then, things were already changing. As the prospect of Ronaldo joining City became more and more real and United fans began expressing their outrage, his former United teammates Rio Ferdinand and Patrice Evra, Portugal teammate Bruno Fernandes, and Ferguson all got involved. For their part, Ferdinand and Ferguson told him simply "you cannot sign for City." Phone calls were made and WhatsApp messages sent to Ronaldo – Evra later posted a portion of his conversation on Twitter – while Woodward began talking to Mendes.

On Thursday night, Mendes received a proposal from United. On Friday morning, conversations with Juventus began and United assured the Italian club they were prepared to pay a fee, something City had so far resisted. There were conversations about players possibly moving in the other direction but eventually a transfer fee of €15 million, with another €8m in add-ons, was agreed.

When United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's weekly news conference began at 1:15 p.m. UK time on Friday, he was already confident Ronaldo was coming back. Each question about Ronaldo was batted away by Solskjaer until, right at the end, he said pointedly "he knows what we feel about him and if he is going to move, he knows we are here."

The cat was out of the bag. City sources insist they pulled out well before Guardiola began his own news conference at 1:30 p.m. UK time, but official word didn't



Ronaldo's return after 12 years at Real Madrid and Juventus took the sporting world by surprise. (Agencies)

filter through until later in the afternoon. City remain unhappy with Mendes' role in the saga with some believing he used interest from the Etihad to force United into acting.

Sources close to Ronaldo admit he considered a move to City, but once United revealed their hand, his mind was made up and that he had even taken a small pay cut to make it happen.

Sources have also told ESPN that the pitch made to Ronaldo, done in part by former teammate and now technical director Darren Fletcher, was about "completing unfinished business at Old Trafford and writing a new chapter rather than trying to relive the past." And at 4:50 p.m. UK on Friday, the official announcement came through to cap off a remarkable 24 hours. (Bruno later joked he was an "agent" once the news was public.)

"Manchester United is delighted to confirm that the club has reached an agreement with Juventus for the transfer of Cristiano Ronaldo, subject to agreement of personal terms, visa and medical," it read. "Everyone at the club looks forward to welcoming Cristiano back to Manchester." United's announcement post on Instagram is the most liked post by a sports team ever, in any sport.

Even when, to outsiders at least, City seemed destined to sign Ronaldo, those within Old Trafford knew that the player's deep-rooted affection for United would give them a chance of persuading him to choose red rather than blue. Ronaldo has maintained contact with many from his time at United, principally Ferdinand and Evra, but he also has retained relationships with members of staff behind the scenes. And one staffer has told ESPN of a moment in Turin, following United's 2-1 Champions League win against Juventus in November 2018, when his ongoing respect for United became clear.

"We had just beaten Juve with two late goals and Jose Mourinho, the manager at the time, went onto the pitch and started to goad the Juventus fans by cupping his ear to the noise," the United source said. "A lot of the players were pissed off with [Mourinho] because it seemed like he was making the win about him rather than the team and Cristiano was furious with him, too."

"He walked past and said, '[Mourinho] doesn't have the class to manage Manchester United.'"

"We've always known that Ronaldo loved his time at Old Trafford, but I think what people outside the club don't appreciate is how much he still cares, and always has, about what happens here."

The Woodward factor

Since assuming his role as executive vice-chairman in 2013, following the retirement of chief executive David Gill, Woodward has made it his business to get close to the game's so-called "super-agents."

Gill, perhaps influenced by Ferguson's deep-rooted disdain for player representatives, always kept them at arm's length, treating many with suspicion and trusting only those he had grown to know and respect during a decade in the job. Woodward had no such inhibitions, and he worked hard to cultivate relationships with the likes of Mino Raiola – adviser of Paul Pogba, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Erling Haaland, among others – and Mendes, Ronaldo's long-standing representative.

On one occasion, while enjoying drinks with journalists before United's Champions League tie against Olympiakos in Athens in February 2014, Woodward's phone rang, with the screen clearly showing the caller's name. Rather than quickly diverting the call or moving away to take it privately, Woodward instead made sure everyone knew who was calling him – "Ha! It's Jorge Mendes," he said.

But while he was mocked at times for his determination to get close to powerful agents, Woodward continued to see it as a crucial element of his job and the hard yards have paid off with the signing of Ronaldo – and it might yet prove key to landing Erling Haaland from Borussia Dortmund next summer.

Sources have told ESPN that Woodward and Mendes have been in contact about Ronaldo throughout the summer, and that the United director was kept informed by Mendes about Ronaldo's intentions every step of the way.

Initial discussions in June led to United being told of the "eye-watering" numbers it would cost to do a deal, but those talks never progressed because of Ronaldo telling Mendes to inform clubs that he would be staying at Juventus.

When Ronaldo changed his mind earlier this month, Mendes made Woodward aware, but United had done their planned business by signing Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund and agreeing a deal for Real Madrid defender Raphael Varane.

Signing Ronaldo would also require finding funds from outside the transfer budget and Woodward would need to persuade co-chairman Joel Glazer of the financial and sporting sense of doing the deal that, sources have said, will cost at least £500,000 a week in wages for the next two years. It was only when City emerged as a potential destination for Ronaldo that Woodward was able to find the keys to the Glazer vault.

Sources have told ESPN that Guardiola and some members of the City hierarchy have been unimpressed with the way Mendes conducted negotiations, but if the ultimate objective of drawing City in was to lure United back to the table, it worked. Once it became clear that Ronaldo would soon be heading to City rather than United unless they acted quickly, the Glazers gave Woodward the green light to do a deal.

"It couldn't have been acceptable to any of us if [Ronaldo] wore sky blue," a United source told ESPN. "When he changed his mind [about leaving Juventus] and the deal popped up again, the way to get it over the line was City's interest."

When he replaced Gill in June 2013, Woodward had a list of dream targets. One was to re-sign Pogba from Juventus; the other was to get Ronaldo back to Old Trafford. Pogba returned in 2016 and Ronaldo, 12 years after leaving for Real Madrid, is also back in a red shirt.

"It's a shame it took so long," a United source told ESPN.

Why was he allowed to leave Juventus?

Juventus told Mendes way back in the spring, even before they parted ways with Andrea Pirlo, that they were facing heavy losses and while they'd be delighted if Ronaldo stayed

for his final season, they also would not stand in his way if he said he wanted to leave. The club was clear about wanting to recoup in the region of €28m to avoid a capital loss on his move from Real Madrid in 2018, so they could begin their rebuild, but all they asked was that it was best if business got done quickly.

There was zero interest in Ronaldo around Europe, despite Mendes' best efforts. Real Madrid was a no-go, United rebuffed him, Paris Saint-Germain were focused on extending Kylian Mbappe's contract, City were pursuing Kane, Chelsea were looking at Erling Haaland and then Romelu Lukaku. At that stage, Juve believed Ronaldo's preferred destinations were Real Madrid, PSG and Chelsea, in that order, because of his desire to win another Champions League.

When Ronaldo began to be heavily linked with Real Madrid in mid-August, Juve reached out to him and Mendes, though the forward gave no indication he wanted to leave. Mendes said there was interest from other clubs, but it would depend on movement elsewhere – particularly what happened with Mbappe. Juve also checked with coach Massimiliano Allegri. He said he would go with whatever the club wanted, but that if Ronaldo left, he would need another striker. Other than that, he wasn't too concerned.

With Ronaldo in the squad, Allegri was facing a problem both his predecessors, Maurizio Sarri and Andrea Pirlo, struggled to deal with: how to fit him in the team. Both realised Ronaldo couldn't play up front on his own (he has the worst pressing stats of any striker in Serie A), or on the wing (because he doesn't like to track back) and their solution was to play 4-2-2 and pair him with another forward, a system that didn't suit the rest of their players.

By Thursday morning, City appeared to be in pole position. Mendes told Juventus that City had been in contact and that things looked promising. Juventus had no contact with City at that point and while they briefed that they were expecting a formal bid, all they got from City was a verbal one. Then, United moved in.

On Friday morning, Ronaldo arrived at Juve's Continassa training ground and spent about 40 minutes

saying his goodbyes. The club gave him permission to go and excused him from the weekend's games, though they were still not 100 percent certain he would leave. They had been given information that Guardiola really wasn't sold on him and while they had been told the previous night that United had come into the picture, they did not take it seriously.

At that stage, if the City deal fell through, they thought it was far more likely he'd go to PSG, if they sold Mbappe, or come back to Turin. In the end, the lure of a return to United was too strong.

How does Ronaldo now fit at Old Trafford?

While it seemed unfathomable that Ronaldo could end up at City, you can make a case that he is needed more at the Etihad than at Old Trafford. Guardiola wants a striker after Sergio Agüero's departure to Barcelona, while United's need in the final few days of the transfer window appeared to be a holding midfielder and cover at right-back.

Still, in Ronaldo, United have added a proven goal scorer who continues to find the net well into his 30s. In 134 appearances across two years with Juventus, he scored 101 goals and recorded 22 assists. He finished as Serie A's top scorer in both seasons.

Ronaldo arrived at United the first time predominantly as a winger, but he has morphed into a striker over the course of his career and that's where he will play under Solskjaer. He "fits with the fast, attacking style of play that Ole is committed to," one source told ESPN, but it's likely the pace and energy will come from those around Ronaldo, like Marcus Rashford, Mason Greenwood, Jadon Sancho and Anthony Martial. Dan James, who started the 1-0 win over Wolves on Sunday, could now leave on loan, with Leeds United interested.

At Juventus, Ronaldo was used regularly in a two-man attack, and it's possible he could be played alongside Cavani, Greenwood, Rashford or Martial at United, depending on the opposition. Even with another attacker joining the squad, Solskjaer insists there will be enough games to go around and, as things stand, there are no plans to offload Edinson Cavani, who will compete for the spot at centre forward.

United also believe Ronaldo fits in off the pitch as well as on it. Last season, Solskjaer felt that a lack of Champions League experience had meant his team were a little naive in key moments against Paris Saint-Germain at home and away at RB Leipzig, when they were knocked out. Ronaldo and Raphael Varane – who won the competition four times during their time together at Real Madrid – should rectify that.

It has been part of Solskjaer's plan to supplement a core group of young players with the experience of Ronaldo, Varane, Cavani and goalkeeper Tom Heaton, and there is hope that the way Ronaldo conducts himself off the pitch, in the way he trains and looks after his body, will rub off on the likes of Greenwood and Sancho.

United were the premier force in Europe when Ronaldo was last at Old Trafford. He's back to see if he can do it again.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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Royal Rhinos cricket squad's Ally Mpeka poses for a photo with the best player of the match prize he clinched shortly after the squad confronted Twiga Titans in the 2021 Advanced Players League (APL) fixture in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Royal Rhinos lobber Twiga Titans in 2021 APL

By Guardian Reporter

ROYAL Rhinos' cricketers commanded a 62-run victory over Twiga Titans in the 2021 Advanced Players League (APL) match, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Twiga Titans won the toss and elected to bowl, Royal Rhinos went to notch 145 runs for four wickets in 20 overs once they went in to bat.

Both outfits' skippers, Royal Rhinos' Arshaan Jessani, and Twiga Titans' Abhik Patwa are presently playing for Aga Khan SC in Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) club tournaments, which means they are familiar with each other's game tactics.

Royal Rhinos were expected to put the same displays they showcased in the opening clash against Buffalo Blasters, which had the Rhinos hammering Blasters by nine wickets.

The expectations were brought about by the scintillating performance the side's openers put to show in the opening fixture.

They were however far fetched, given Twiga Titans' medium pacer, Salum Jumbe, got through the defense of Jessani and dismissed the latter.

Experienced cricketer Nasibu Kelvin, who was slotted in at number three, was trapped right in front of the wicket by Jumbe, giving way for Ali Mpeka to take the crease early.

Mpeka, along with Nandakishan Pottachira, moved on with the proceedings, with the latter looking dangerous as he was not compensating on any half volleys bowled to him.

Pottachira also sought to be aggressive at the time the opening batsman was batting against Twiga Titans' Raza Baloch in the latter's first over.

In the following over, Pottachira, again, tried doing the same but Baloch had expected the former will go for the approach. Baloch pulled the length a bit, which beat the batsman, and that was the former's victory over a batsman that is in good form.

Baloch did manage to keep the run rate down as he finished his spell of four overs with one wicket for 20 runs.

After that Arshaan's younger brother, Aahil, came in, the youthful cricketer got run out for two runs with the squad's score of 55 runs in the 10th over.

Royal Rhinos had recorded 73 runs for four wickets, with seven overs to go, at a time Baloch was bowling.

They started a counterattack, orchestrated by their assistant skipper Mpeka, the batting unit's remaining members opted to hit and make good runs between the wickets.

The batting onslaught comprised sixes and fours, which led them to more than a respectable score of 145 runs.

Mpeka scored a fabulous 67 runs not out to win the best player of the match prize.

Another significant contribution came from Zamoyoni Ramadhani that posted 45 runs not out.

In reply, Twiga Titans put spirited displays, the outfit though found the going tough and was skittled for 83 runs in 20 overs.

The way Rhinos played their opening two fixtures show their batting, bowling, and fielding is in the best shape and form.

With Royal Rhinos boasting of young skipper Jessani, along with vice-captain Mpeka, they know the team is always giving its best.

Tanzania to field six boxers in AIBA World Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will be represented by six boxers at the coming International Boxing Association (AIBA) World Championship for men slated for October 26-November 6 in Belgrade, Serbia.

Lukelo Wililo, Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT)'s Secretary-General, said the boxers are undergoing intensive preparations ahead of the coming event.

He said currently two boxers, Alex Isendi and Yusuf Changarawe, qualified for the Serbia Championship, and OBFT is looking at qualifying events for the other four boxers.

"The preparations for the coming World Boxing Championship are going on very well, the boxers are attending intensive training ahead of the event, the good thing is that two boxers have already qualified, so currently we are looking for qualifying events for our four boxers," he said.

In the past OBFT had failed to send boxers to international events due to financial constraints the federation faced.

Wililo said this time he is confident that the boxers will travel to the event as the government announced its commitment to promoting sports.

The official noted: "We thank the government for its commitment to see that sports development in the country and also its commitment that it will fund national teams' foreign assignments."

"We know we will benefit from this funding and the other good thing is that boxing is among the five sporting disciplines which will enjoy government support in its first phase of a sports development initiative," he said.

The last time the AIBA World Championship took place was in 2019 in Ekaterinburg, Russia, but Tanzania did not send boxers.

Selemani Kindunda is the last boxer to have represented the country at the AIBA World Boxing Championship, he competed at the 2013 showdown in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The Serbia event will be overseen by Serbia's President, Alexander Vucic, who heads the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

Omar Kremlev, AIBA president, is reported to have said the AIBA Men's World Boxing Championship will show determination to provide boxers around the world a platform to achieve their full potential.

"We are confident that the tournament will be conducted safely given the successful implementation of COVID-19 countermeasures throughout the year," he said.

Taifa Stars well-prepared for 2022 World Cup qualifiers, says coach



Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's senior national football team "Taifa Stars" head coach, Kim Poulsen, says he has prepared his charges well for tomorrow's Group J clash against the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in African qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

Taifa Stars jetted off to Lubumbashi yesterday with 23 players and Poulsen said he is confident of seeing to it his players notch good results.

After tomorrow's game, Taifa Stars will host Madagascar at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam at the end of this week.

"We have to be honest with ourselves, we are well prepared for the two encounters, yes we will be playing against continental giants in their backyard, but we are prepared," he said.

He added that his charges are prepared to cause an upset in DRC and thereafter record good results against Madagascar.

"If we get three points in the fixture, it will be satisfactory but we are going there to fight because, in football, you never know what will happen," he said.

Poulsen recently revealed despite his team's failure to get an international friendly game, he still believes that the preparations made are enough to make the team do well in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

Tanzania away is expected to play the 2022 World Cup qualifier against

DR Congo at the TP Mazembe Stadium in Lubumbashi on September 2.

The outfit is set to, seven days later, host Madagascar in the Group J of the qualifiers in Dar es Salaam.

The Danish tactician maintained that his team is in good condition but he needed to get a friendly game, efforts to have the tie has hit a snag.

Poulsen nevertheless insisted that they have the confidence to do well in the qualifiers.

The coach said players, Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, will enter Taifa Stars' camp this weekend.

The gaffer pointed out: "With just a few days left before we go to DR Congo for the World Cup qualifiers match, two international players, Simon Msuva and Mbwana Samatta, will join the squad this weekend."

"The condition of the squad is good and the players have continued with training, I wanted to have a friendly match this weekend before going to DR Congo but it has been difficult so we will continue to prepare at all times to ensure that we do well towards the game," Poulsen added.

Msuva was with Morocco football giants Wydad Casablanca Club finishing the pre-season in the Ahmed Antifit tournament against Raja, Wydad edged Raja 2-1.

Turkey-based Samatta was featuring for his club, Fenerbahce, which has qualified for the Europa League group stage with a 5-2 aggregate win against HJK Helsinki on Thursday.

The Taifa Stars' captain did not get a chance to play in the fixture.

Poulsen has left out of Egypt-based midfielder, Himid Mao, from the 28-man Taifa Stars' squad ahead of the September World Cup qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup.

The highly-rated midfielder is one of the long-serving players on Taifa Stars and joins Thomas Ulimwengu and Farid Musa among the experienced players out.

Poulsen has mentioned other experienced players like John Bocco, Erasto Nyoni, and Simon Msuva on the team that also includes several faces from the national U-23 football team, which clinched this season's CECAFA U-23 Challenge Cup.

"When you play a World Cup qualifier away, with opponents like DR Congo, a team with a lot of experienced players, you need to be very careful. That's why I included several experienced players too that can keep the fight on," Poulsen said.

Like Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi, Tanzania failed to qualify for the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations after featuring at the showpiece's 2019 edition in Egypt.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika 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