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Speaker stays 19 MPs' status, courts to hear expulsion case

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

NATIONAL Assembly Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson has permitted the 19 Special Seats MPs expelled by their party's (Chadema) governing council, to continue with their work until the issue is settled in court.

The Speaker expressed strong sentiments on the decision to formally withdraw membership from the 19 MPs, saying the move was contrary to the spirit of the constitution, without citing specific articles.

Making her clarifications after the morning session to journalists on the issue, Speaker Ackson said that the House had no option but to wait for the high court decision based on Article 85 (1b) of

the constitution read together with Article 85 (2).

She talked of hearing on May 11, mid last week from social media that the governing council had overwhelmingly endorsed the central committee's decision to expel the 19, formerly leading members of the women's wing of the main opposition party.

The following day she received an email from the 19 MPs that claimed several shortfalls in the process leading to their formal expulsion, she stated, noting that the message said they have taken oath of parliamentary office without the party's knowledge. The MPs claimed the decision ignored their basic right of being heard before judgment is rendered on their cause, she

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) receives an introduction letter from the African Development Bank's Resident Representative to Tanzania, Dr Patricia Laverley, in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly before the signing of a 289.34bn/- soft loan agreement between the government and the bank on the implementation of Dodoma's water and sanitation project. Photo: Finance ministry



Z'bar to oversee seaweed farming

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

A COMPANY that will oversee the development of seaweed farming where the participants are 85 per cent women is being set up by the Zanzibar government.

Omar Said Shaaban (pictured), the minister for Trade and Industrial Development, said yesterday that the government has allocated 444m/- to facilitate the firm, projected to purchase

1,200 tonnes of the crop per year.

He made this announcement in the Zanzibar House of Representatives when tabling the ministry's fiscal year 2022/23 estimates, saying that the new firm shall work to solve challenges facing the rising sub-sector.

The firm is also tasked with seeking out for new markets for the crop, he stated, noting that the government wishes to go a step further than private dealers. Complaints were being heard among farmers in relation to price instability that discouraged many of the farmers.

"These are the main reasons for the government to establish a company that will directly oversee seaweed farming in Zanzibar," he said, along with conducting research on seaweed cultivation in the various districts.

Tackling challenges arising from climate change and combating various seaweed

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AfDB disburses 289.3bn/- for three districts' water project

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has issued a \$125m (289.34bn/-) soft loan to facilitate implementation of a major clean water and sanitation project in Dodoma Region.

The project is expected to benefit two million residents in Bahi, Chemba and Chamwino districts, easing the perennial shortage of water, where Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba signed on behalf of the government, and country manager Dr Patricia Laverley for AfDB.

The minister said the project will help solve water scarcity challenges in the area, hit by drought while experiencing population growth, partly arising from increased migration to the capital region.

Dodoma residents had for years waited for the project, and President Samia Suluhu Hassan put

up efforts to see the matter resolved. The project will bring great benefits to the people and access to safe water for home and industrial use, he stated.

The project will be implemented for five years, by construction of the 470-cubic meter Farkwa water dam and a water treatment plant, he said, referring to a request made to the bank to look at expanding the project to adjacent areas like Singida Region. Water supply is needed for irrigation, livestock watering, and fish farming, likely to put more youths in the area to work, the minister observed.

"As you begin the implementation of this great project look also at the surrounding areas; for example if you reach Bahi a little further away there is Manyoni in the east where there is a serious water crisis. Kongwa is also adjacent to Chemba and Chamwino and it has a serious

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Minister hands PO-RALG queries by CAG to PCCB

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

IN the wake of extensive queries by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) on local government authorities, the responsible minister has tasked the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to make in-depth fact finding on the misuse or misappropriation of public funds.

Innocent Bashungwa (pictured), Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), directed district council executive directors obtaining doubtful audit certificates to revisit their performance.

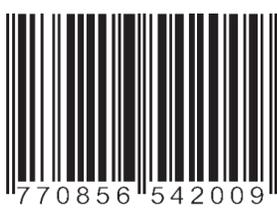


Addressing reporters here yesterday on the CAG's queries on local governments in the 2020/21 annual audit report, the minister said the permanent secretary will communicate with the PCCB director general for investigations on the matter. The ministry will also take appropriate steps on several audit queries raised showing clear instance of mismanaging public funds.

Council directors, for Bunda, Sengerema, Kisarawe, Longido, Mlele and Musoma, districts will be directly held liable for errors according to Section 36 of the Local Government Finance Act (Cap 290) and Directive No. 3191) of the 2009 Local Government Financial Memorandum, he stated.

These provisions say local council directors have the responsibility to ensure that final financial reports are correctly prepared, he stated, affirming that the council directors and the former city council director who received adverse and doubtful audit certificates "should

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Minister hands PO-RALG queries by CAG to PCCB

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assess themselves in regard to their performance according to the stated sections of the law.”

Disciplinary measures need to be taken in councils that received adverse and doubtful audit certificates, appropriate disciplinary action against the specific directors for laxity in performing their duties, contrary to Directive No 27(3) of the 2009 memorandum.

The ministry will prepare a task plan for policy and systemic issues beyond local council franchise, a new procedure ensuring continuity in following up audit queries from the CAG, he further noted, insisting that the permanent secretary request explanations from council directors with audit queries showing signs of non-accountability, “including the loss

of councils funds.”

Regional commissioners need to make sure that district councils prepare reports of responses to all queries raised by CAG and submit to auditors, the minister demanded.

“They should identify all officials who did not perform their duties as required and those who were involved in embezzling funds,” he said, demanding that disciplinary measures or legal proceedings be instituted against them.

District council directors must make full use of internal auditors in assessing internal control systems and take appropriate steps accordingly, he further demanded.

District audit committees should be facilitated in their duties, being enabled to satisfy themselves that they are formed in accordance to existing guidelines, he added.

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elaborated.

Reiterating that the courts are best placed to solve the dispute, the Speaker affirmed that the National Assembly will not interfere with the courts and shall have to wait until a final ruling is delivered. “For now, I’m forced not to denounce them from being part of the legislature,” she declared.

The 19 MPs argued that the decision was illegitimate and contrary to provisions of the country’s constitution and finally they were not given room to express themselves in the matter.

On May 12th the MPs filed an injunction at the High Court as miscellaneous cause no 16 of 2022 against the Chadema board of trustees and others, she stated.

The same day at 3.30pm an official of party headquarters named Meshack went to the National Assembly office in Dar es Salaam to submit a letter for attention of the Speaker. He was instructed to contact the Dodoma office and left without handing the letter after receiving a call from party offices.

A soft copy of the letter was received as an email bearing the letter, C/HQ/ADMIN/PAR/33/37 signed by John J Mnyika, the party secretary general, informing the Speaker of the governing council meeting held on May 11 and its decisions.

The council had discussed appeals of the 19 MPs who had appealed against the November 17, 2020 decision of the central committee to expel them from the party, specifying that “in

accordance with Article 7.12 (f) of the party’s constitution 2006, the national council had agreed with the decision made by the central committee.”

Therefore, the 19 MPs have lost membership criteria and qualities to continue sitting in the law making chamber,” the letter intimated, elaborating that on May 13 the same letter was submitted by dispatch by Chadema deputy secretary general Singo Kigaila, arriving at 12.53pm on DHL.

The 19 legislators had written to inform the Speaker that they were taking the matter to court for protection of their personal rights as members of the party, the country’s constitution and the National Election Act Cap343 which made them legislators.

If there will be questions on the matter the Speaker is the only one mandated to respond for the legislature, she affirmed.

Meanwhile the government estimates for the next fiscal year will be delivered in the House on Tuesday June 14th and not the usual delivery for Thursday, this year falling on June 16th.

The parliamentary administration committee met May 13 and was informed that the East African Community (EAC) partner states (except Kenya which delivered its budget earlier for reasons of its polls calendar) had agreed to table their principal estimates on that date.

MPs will start discussing the budget June 16th up to June 24 where MPs should be in the chamber for the voting exercise, she added.

AfDB disburses 289.3bn/- for three districts’ water project

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water crisis as well, so it is important to involve those areas in a wider project,” he elaborated.

He made reference to a directive from President Samia that water projects not only take care of domestic uses but also support other productive activities such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries to enhance social welfare by fostering the means to earn an income.

The Pan-African bank could also provide a concessional loan as part of mobilizing resources for the construction of the standard gauge

railway (SGR) extending to Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, thus stimulating trade.

He tasked the country director to oversee the issue, who in turn said the bank was ready to work with the government on the wider Dodoma water project and other development projects.

The \$125.2m concessional loan brings to \$2.5bn total funds AfDB has invested for implementation of 23 development projects in various sectors, she said, citing chiefly agriculture, nutrition, water and road building. As for the SGR loan, that application is being processed by the bank, he added.

Z’bar to oversee seaweed farming

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diseases will be among its priorities, he stated, highlighting that a seaweed processing plant to add value to the crop will be built at Chamanangwe in Pemba North Region.

Initial projections indicate that the firm is expected to earn 2.031bn/- from seaweed exports, the minister noted, elaborating that building the seaweed processing plant shall involve stakeholders in the private sector.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (2nd-L), who is in the United Arab Emirates, has an audience at Abu Dhabi’s St Joseph’s Cathedral yesterday with Abu Dhabi Archbishop Paul Hinder, the representative of Pope Francis in south Arab countries. Photo: VPO

Three countries have moved their consulates to national capital since the govt’s relocation

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THREE foreign countries have already moved their consulates in the capital city few years after the government relocated to Dodoma, the government designated capital.

Deputy Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Geoffrey Pinda (pictured) named the countries as China, Germany and England.

The minister revealed this in Parliament here yesterday when responding to Ussi Salum Pondeza (Chumbuni-CCM) who wanted to know the number of countries that have set their embassies in Dodoma since the government decision to relocate.

The deputy minister said the government is mobilizing other countries to set up their embassies in



Dodoma.

He further said that a number of

international organisations have set up their offices including the United

Nations (UN) organisations including UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO, UNFPA, FAO, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNCDF and UNIDO.

Moreover, he said, all embassies have been availed with plots so that they can construct in due time.

However, he said, the small number of embassies housed in Dodoma is due to a number of factors including transport and logistics.

“Majority of the countries have just completed construction of their state of art embassies in Dar es Salaam thus with the relocation, they have to revisit their budget,” said Pinda.

He was optimistic that the delay will be history as the embassies are looking at their coffers and ultimately accommodate construction of embassies budget for the relocation to Dodoma.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula signs a condolence book at the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Dar es Salaam yesterday following Friday’s death of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Jane Godia (L), Africa Director at the World Association of News Publishers' (WAN-IFRA) Women in News, presents to Beatrice Bandawe (R), managing editor of The Guardian's Kiswahili sister newspaper Nipashe, a book on digitisation in journalism. The former, whose agency partners with media organisations and individuals in striving to close the gender gap in the media, was on a familiarisation tour of The Guardian Ltd offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

'Girls over 14 years liable to cervical cancer vaccinations'

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Ministry of Health has said that from the 2022/23 fiscal year girls aged 14 years and above will be liable to get a single vaccination doze for cervical cancer which they are currently required to take twice.

Minister Ummu Mwalimu revealed the news yesterday when she tabled the budget estimates that covers 13 areas of priority the key one being strengthening health services for women, children and young girls.

"The ministry has learnt that most of young girls don't take the second round of the vaccinations due to different reasons such as relocating to other places and lack of education on the vaccines essence. To fight the future of women, we urge parents to make sure that teenagers get vaccinated," said Mwalimu.

According to her, the ministry will during 2022/23 fiscal year allocate 74.4bn/- for facilitating children vaccinations. On a special case, 23.36bn/- will be allocated for construction of a children's and maternity hospital and another 19bn/- for capacity building and training to health care givers as the key area of focus.

On other priorities, she said the ministry will also focus on improving health services quality that should go in line with infrastructure developments.

In the 2022/23 fiscal year, the ministry is asking parliamentarians to approve an estimated budget of 1.109trn/- for recurrent and development expenditure.

"We intend to strengthen the quality of services offered at public health facilities such as professional consultations, physical examinations, time spent by patients for treatments, supply of medicines and reliable supply of medical appliances," said Mwalimu.

According to her, other areas of great priority is providing vaccinations for children under the age of five years old, observing improvements in maternal health services, nutrition programmes for children under five, environmental health, ICT solutions and professional services.

Ummu said that as of March this year the ministry had collected 403bn/- equivalent to 79 percent of the targeted 507.2bn/-. The ministry had requested 1.34trn/- but until March this year had received 700bn/- equivalent to 63.7 percent. In the new fiscal year, the ministry targets at collecting 619bn/-.

In his observation to the ministry's implementation of the last budget lasting June 30 this year, Stanslaus Nyongo, Chairman of the Community Development Committee said that his committee noticed some shortfalls in the sector such as delay in disbursement of funds, shortage of staff and medical equipment.

Jesca Msambatavangu, Iringa Urban MP said that the region requires 466 health experts, but there are only 264 calling for the ministry to bridge the gap. She also commented on mental health which is becoming a critical problem in the community.

Karatu tourist hotels urged to employ trained workers

By Guardian Correspondent, Karatu

THE government has directed owners of 53 hotels that qualify to accommodate tourists in Karatu District, Arusha Region to employ experts with appropriate qualifications to better serve tourists and protect their property

The directive was given yesterday Karatu District Commissioner, Dadi

Kolimba when speaking about the coming of groups of tourists beginning June 1 this year from various countries.

He said beginning next month a big number of tourists will arrive in the district to visit the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority Area (NCAA) and so far all tourist hotels have been fully booked, hence owners therefore are called on to offer excellent service

to them.

Kolimba said for its part, the government will make sure it beefs up security in the hotels to ensure the safety of tourists so that when they return to their countries they should act as good ambassadors for our tourist attractions.

He added that the coming of these tourists will provide the opportunity to the residents of the district to sell their

traditional souvenirs and food to the hotels.

The DC also called on farmers to grow quality crops that can be sold to tourist hotels to be used by tourists.

The coming of the large number of tourists stems from good advertising of tourist attractions via the Royal Tour documentary that featured President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

African lawyers convene in Arusha to address continent's future investments

By Marc Nkwame

ALL roads will be leading to Arusha next month when at least 500 lawyers and other legal practitioners from all over the continent gather in Tanzania for their special event.

As it happens Tanzania is bracing to host the Annual Conference of the Pan-African Lawyers Union to be held in Arusha City next June. It will run for four days, between the 27th and 30th of June 2022.

Set to take place at the Mount Meru Hotel halls, the event to be attended by learned friends in the legal fraternity across the continent will be conducted in sync with PALU's Triennial General Assembly and is to run under the theme, 'The Africa We Want: From Aspirations to Reality!'

According to Donald Deya, the Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), there

will be more than 500 delegates making physical appearances at the event, but some 1,000 other participants will be attending the meetings virtually.

Among topics for discussions during the series of meetings include how to harmonise legal requirements of African countries with investments and trading activities in order to allow smooth flow of business activities in the continent.

Legal fraternity in Africa has apparently realized that the country is dragging behind in investment opportunities due to myriads of cumbersome and restrictive laws and regulations inhibiting trade development and constraining business ventures.

Frank Mwaisumbe, the Monduli District Commissioner, represented the Arusha Region Commissioner, John Mongella during the initial networking

cocktail meeting thresholding the PALU International conference.

"As government we will support each and every step of the process to organise the major event," DC Mwaisumbe assured.

Pan African Lawyers Union is an umbrella organisation overseeing all legal associations on the continent.

PALU was founded in 2002 by African Bar leaders and eminent lawyers, to reflect the aspirations and concerns of the African people and to promote and defend their shared interests.

Its membership comprises of five regional lawyers' associations in the continent, over 54 national lawyers' associations and over 1,000 individual lawyers spread across Africa and in the Diaspora, working together to advance the law and the legal profession, rule of law, good governance, human and peoples' rights and socio-economic development of the African continent.

Tanzania expects to receive over 700 tourists from Israel

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the "Tanzania Royal Tour" has started opening doors for the country as 796 tourists from Israel are expected to come soon.

PM Majaliwa (pictured) made the remarks yesterday when he launched the royal tour in Dodoma, saying the documentary is expected to attract more tourists to the country.

He called upon Tanzanians to support efforts by President Samia to promote Tanzania's tourist destinations, saying regional commissioners and other local government leaders should emulate what the head of State was doing.

He said the act of President Samia Suluhu Hassan to fly above Mount Kilimanjaro has been special and



attractive signifying the exact place where the mountain is found.

On the opportunities found in Dodoma, PM Majaliwa cited production of wine, construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and a place for preparation of freedom fighters for southern African countries. "The implementation of the projects

will give Dodoma residents places to rest; therefore I call upon investors to invest in Dodoma which is the country's capital.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Sports, Arts and Culture Dr Hassan Abbas said the film has been viewed by a large number of people globally saying there are expectations that more tourists will come into the country.

He said the Royal Tour was an opportunity to market Tanzania in which the president has met various investors and owners of big companies who have shown interests.

Earlier, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka said the regional bus stand which is built at a strategic position is set to become the country's tourism hub due to its historical background.



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Bunge committee tasks Mvomero land officers to give title deeds to Melela villagers in two weeks

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

PARLIAMENTARY standing committee on Administration and Local Government has tasked the land office in Mvomero District, Morogoro Region to ensure that it completes preparation of title deeds for Melela villagers and hand them over within two weeks.

The committee's chairman, Abdullah Chaurembo made the directive yesterday, when the panel's members inspected projects implanted by the Property and Business Formalisation Programme (MKURABITA) projects at Melela village. The committee said that the process by the land office has taken over five years which is too long.

"We are giving the land office two weeks as grace time to prepare the remaining land certificates for Melela residents so as to support them to access loans to improve their activities," he said.

"It doesn't make sense that the sixth phase government under Samia Suluhu Hassan allocated funds to MKURABITA but the district authority delays by failing to act on time. Our inspection tour was stimulated by the 5th National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) exhibition where MKURABITA was among programs scheduled for inspection," he revealed.

The visit also saw handing over of customary land titles to ten residents. Chaurembo however commended a good job done by MKURABITA in improving the lives of Melela villagers since 2012.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Martin Shigella ordered Mvomero land officers to immediately submit all documents in his office so as to sort out the problem.

"I promise to work on this because MKURABITA has sustainable programmes for solving peoples' challenges. As regional commissioner, I will schedule my timetable to discuss this but also on the issue of elephant invasion to farms and come up with solutions," he explained.

Mvomero district commissioner Halima Okash also said she will make a close follow-up on the issue saying

that the government has allocated over 10trn/- in water projects, 8.6bn/- in the education sector, and 2.2bn/- in health sector.

"Mvomero district council together with regional authorities will work hand in hand to solve this within a few days. I really appreciate Samia's regime because the budget for development projects has increased steadily," she said.

MKURABITA's programme coordinator, Dr Seraphia Mgembe congratulated the sixth phase government for allocating enough funds to complete the construction of land laboratory records, something which has failed for many years.

He said the programme has strengthened business registration services and licensing for the councils under one roof through the 'one stop centre' that had been built.

"I also congratulated village leaders for their support in the construction of office foundations, materials like blocks and labour service," she said.

Mikumi MP, Denis Londo called on the beneficiaries to utilise the titles well by seeking loans and capital; that will help improve their income generating projects.



Mvomero district council together with regional authorities will work hand in hand to solve this within a few days. I really appreciate Samia's regime because the budget for development projects has increased steadily



George Simbachawene (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), has a word with Patrobas Katambi, Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities), in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

SADC to issue USD6m for construction of standard gauge railway line, MPs told

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) is committed to issue US\$6million for the consultant service for construction of a standard gauge railway line from Mtwara-Mbamba bay-Liganga to Mchuchuma.

The Deputy Minister for Works and Transport, Atupele Mwakibete, said the government through the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) is done with the project feasibility study and designing of the project.

He told the National Assembly that they are going on with the process to get the SADC fund and it is expected that the deal will be done in 022/23 financial year. He said for the time being the government is going on with the process to get the project Transaction Advisor for the project write up, tender document preparations for the 1,000-kilometre railway line.

Mwakibete said the government is working on the project investor as they will run the construction through the public, private partnership.

Mwakibete gave the sentiments when responding to a question from Vita Kawawa (Namtumbo-CCM) who wanted to know when the construction of a railway line from Mtwara-Ruvuma and branches of Liganga and Mchuchuma will take off.

Recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said plans are afoot to build a new 1,000 kilometer railway line in the south of the country.

Feasibility studies and architectural designs for the construction of the railway line have been completed.

PM Majaliwa told a public rally in Mtwara region that construction of the railway line from Mtwara port to Mchuchuma and Liganga iron ore deposits will be part of implementation of the ruling party Chama Cha Mapinduzi election manifesto for 2020 to 2025.

He said the ruling party will continue directing the government to implement flagship infrastructure projects including railways, ports, marine and air transport aimed at transforming the country's economy.

MOI, MUHAS partner to improve anesthesia specialised training

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI) and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) have launched a programme to facilitate provision of specialised training of anesthesia care.

Under the programme funded by the US based philanthropy organisation GE Foundation, the two institutions targets increasing the number of experts in this field expertise.

Head of Anesthesia at MOI Dr Edwin Lugazia said the training which involves practical experiment on artificial humans will also minimise chances of mistakes among students as the exercises were conducted on patients a move that risks deaths in case of a mistake.

According to Dr Lugazia on average it is recommended that 25 anesthetists should serve 100,000 patients but in Tanzania there are only 75.

"Through this programme students will have a chance to correct mistakes through these artificial individuals which have a slight difference with real humans," he said.

He said the programme is aimed at building capacity to local experts and students before and after surgery adding that the two institutions are teaming up to ensure sensitize more students to join the specialty.

He said through the programme more specialists will be training as the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) will also start offering the

training using modern equipment.

The board chairperson for MOI Prof Charles Mkony said the availability of the new training laboratory will allow students to train practically before meeting real patients.

Acting VC for MUHAS, Pascal Rugaria said the training will go a long way into training students with actual reality hence reducing the risks associated with using intern medical professionals to patients.

He said the university is now preparing curricular for anesthesia care in the country to ensure that more institutions offer such training to increase the number of experts.

According to him, MUHAS registers 15 to 30 anesthesia students every year saying the trend was encouraging.



Through this programme students will have a chance to correct mistakes through these artificial individuals which have a slight difference with real humans



Tanzania Red Cross Society secretary general Felician Mtahengerwa launches a drought relief project in Longido District, Arusha Region, implemented with funding from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Some 200 households in Ildonyo, Ranch and Lesing'ita villages are among the beneficiaries thus far. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

THE government is currently assessing the state of infrastructure in all old primary schools, particularly those that were built before independence with an aim of carrying out renovation.

Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) David Silinde spoke of the plan to improve the infrastructure of the old primary schools when responding to the question asked by Mchinga legislator (CCM) Salma Kikwete.

In her main question, Kikwete

Government: We're studying state of infrastructure in old primary schools

sought explanation from the government on its plan and timeframe for improving the dilapidated infrastructure for some of the old primary schools including Kingurungundwa primary school.

According to the deputy minister, by the time Tanzania attained independence in 1961 there were already 2,147 primary schools, necessitating the government to assess their infrastructure.

The deputy minister said preliminary assessment shows the condition of infrastructure of some old schools in the country is indeed bad while others are in rather good condition.

"The ministry has started carrying out an assessment of all old primary schools through the BOOST project to determine the state of their infrastructure, including deciding on whether the schools need new facilities," the deputy minister said.

The minister said the assessment started last month and will be completed in July 2022, adding that the results of the undertaking will help the government to come up with a special five-year programme focusing on rehabilitating them.

He, however, assured MPs and the general public that the government will continue rehabilitating old primary schools' infrastructure deepening on the availability of funds.



Treasury Registrar Mgonya Benedicto pictured in Arusha city yesterday speaking at the opening of the risk-based audit training for internal auditors from government agencies and public institutions. The thrust of the training is on ways to help the participants to work more efficiently and effectively. Photo courtesy of Treasury Registrar's Office

Public institutions urged to abide by internal auditors' recommendations

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TREASURY Registrar, Mgonya Benedicto has called upon top officials of government institutions, public corporations and other government agencies to implement recommendations given by internal auditors as early as possible so as to control any signs of risks that can affect the performance of their institutions.

Benedicto made the remarks here yesterday at the opening of training seminar on risk based Audit to 474 internal auditors from 237 government institutions, public corporations and other

government agencies under the auspices of the Treasury Registrar.

He said if the managements listen to the recommendations, they will be able to have better internal control that will prevent violations of laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines.

He also called on internal auditors whom he said are the "eyes" in regard to assimilation of the training being given to enable them assist the institutions they audit by advising them on how to strengthen their duties in internal auditing.

"It is my hope that this training will assist internal auditors by

empowering them in making follow ups and implement various audit procedures with great achievement and advise accounting officers accordingly," he added.

He said his office has the responsibility to oversee government operations and investment in government institutions, public corporations and other state agencies as well as firms in which the government is partner planned the training following recommendations from auditors during the last training during FY 2020/21.

The Treasury Registrar also called on internal auditors to educate the

managements in regard to effects in case Risk Based Auditing is not adhered to and controlled.

He also praised experts from the office of the Treasury Registrar in collaboration with the Chief Internal Auditor from the Finance and Planning ministry for preparing the training seminar.

He also thanked development partners who are sponsoring Public Finance Management Reforms Programme (PFMRP) by providing funds to ensure the training takes place.

For his part, the Chief Internal Officer Magdalene Kirumba, while welcoming the Treasury Registrar thanked him for organising the training which she said was important for instilling the understanding especially in regard to public corporations auditing.

By Correspondent Valentine

Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in its Morogoro-based Dakawa centre plans to generate rice seed varieties with preferable market qualities and resilient to impacts of climate change for Tanzanian smallholder farmers.

The robust research, which foresees improving performance of the rice sector in the country, is currently at vital preliminary stages, Dr Jerome Mghase, TARI Dakawa centres manager told The Guardian.

"There's an ongoing research done in collaboration between TARI Dakawa centre and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which is breeding programme focused to address challenges facing local smallholder rice growers, especially on availability of good quality seeds of improved varieties that fetch market demands and tolerant to drought, sanitary, submergence (flooding) and diseases," Dr Jerome Mghase expressed.

He unveiled that recently, the delegates from IRRI, the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and University of Copenhagen, Denmark had visited the Dakawa centre - which also hosts the IRRI satellite station in Tanzania - to observe the performance of the trials set on-station based on the market segments.

Detailing over the concept of market segments as related to

TARI, IRRI set to produce marketable, climate change resilient rice varieties

ongoing breeding programme, Dr Rosemary Muriro, the IRRI Tanzania and Kenya Plant Breeding Scientist said that the trials are set on rain-fed and irrigated ecologies taking into account market demands divided into two segments namely the direct-seeded, early duration, long slender soft grain rice for rain-fed areas market segment, and the transplanted medium duration, long slender, soft grain type for irrigated areas, respectively.

"The former aims to generate high yielding rice varieties drought tolerant in rain-fed conditions, early maturing and with other market qualities whilst the latter intends to produce high yielding varieties with medium maturity period that fetch

markets grown under irrigation," she explained.

On his side, Barnabas Sitta, the TARI Dakawa Plant Breeder, expressed that upon completion of the envisaged initiative, rice varieties with tolerances to drought, salinity and rice diseases particularly rice blast and rice yellow mottle virus, will be produced.

"We're expecting that smallholder farmers will have access to the seeds. The varieties are expected to be with high merits that suppress SUPA, TDX306 and other popular landraces. The target here is to come up with marketable rice varieties, resilient to climate change effects available to Tanzanian smallholder farmers," Sitta expressed.

When inquired as to whether benefited from research, Nassibu Katoto Omari and Muganga Makunja, the progressive rice farmers, who have long-time close interactions with TARI Dakawa and IRRI, and carry out their rice farming in the Dakawa Irrigation Scheme, Mvomero District, Morogoro, appreciated the outstanding endeavor done by research as its outputs that reached them highly improved their livelihoods.

They attribute their success to the use of a popular SARO 5 (TXD306) (an improved rice seed) and the adoption of recommended agronomic packages, and are expressing openness to up-taking technologies from research beneficial to them in the future.

Mbeya faces challenge of many street children

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE City of Mbeya is faced with the challenge of street children due to various reasons, including death of parents, fleeing from their families and persistent families' quarrels.

The city's community development officer, Eva John made the remarks here at the weekend during a crackdown on street children with police help that saw the arrest of 39 children in various areas of the city including Sido Market.

She said the number of street children in the city was huge and they have frequently been rounded up to send them back to their families, but some of them flee again and return to the streets.

She added that some of the children have been involved in criminal activities including theft.

"What we do after rounding them up is to send them back to their families, but in brief

the challenge is very big," Eva added.

In the circumstances she said her office is initiating efforts in educating the community on how to live with their children harassing them and make them run away.

She said some of the children flee their families due to house chores, but some also because they do not want to go to school.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the raided various areas of the City and arrested the children who were found to be living in hazardous surroundings.

He said they found some of them living in abandoned houses, market areas - Sido, Mwanjelwa and Mafati market areas and that some of them were plain criminals who had once been prosecuted for various crimes.

He said some of them were aged between 10 and 16 years and no more hence he called upon parents to commit themselves in the children's upbringing.

Call to Ruvuma Region youth: Establish development groups

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

YOUTH in Ruvuma Region are required to ensure they form groups for development activities so as to make easy for them to receive assistance as directed by the government to spur economic development.

The call was made at the weekend by Linus Katonto, the Director of Restless Development, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) during his visit to youth groups in Nkongo Ward, Namtumbo District that are being sponsored by the NGO and engages in farming, and entrepreneurship.

Katonto said it is essential to collect the youth in groups to empower, as it is difficult to reach them individually, hence, he added, education should be provided in order to have many more development groups.

He also praised the Mwinuko development group in Nkongo ward for displaying efforts in sunflower cultivation and processing

thereof.

For his part, Mwinuko Group Secretary in Nkongo ward, Marko Mwingira, on behalf of the group's chairman, thanked restless development for its efforts to ensure the youth engage themselves in economic development activities through their "Inuka na Kilimo" project implemented in Namtumbo District.

Mwingira explained that their group has benefitted significantly from the training sponsored by Restless Development that has enabled them implement their farming activities including the processing of sunflower oil.

He also called on the NGO to continue sponsoring many more youth who are loitering in the streets.

He also hailed Namtumbo District Council for extending zero interest loans that enabled them purchase sunflower processing plant.



International Commercial Bank (Tanzania) Limited.

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Write about eminent leaders but not just retired presidents, Uongozi Institute challenged

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DEPUTY Minister of State, President Office's-Public Services Management and Good governance Deogratius Ndejemi has challenged the Uongozi Institute to start writing books depicting the autobiography of other famous leaders apart from retired presidents.

Uongozi Institute, has so far, published the books depicting the autobiography of the former presidents, Benjamin Mkapa and Alhaj Ally Hassan Mwinyi.

The Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance (PO-PSMGG), Deogratius Ndejemi said that over the weekend when conferring certificates to 117 leaders at the 5th leadership graduation ceremony of Uongozi Institute in Dar es Salaam.

Both certificates and Post graduate Diploma courses were conducted by Uongozi Institute in collaboration with Aalto University Executive Education (Aalto EE) of Finland.

Ndejemi was representing the minister in charge of the docket (Mhagama) who did not attend due to other official duties assignments.

He said that it was time to consider going down by writing the autobiography of famous leaders who served others posts in the government apart from former presidents.

He commended the institute for the good job of writing books depicting the life of former presidents the late Benjamin Mkapa and Alhaj Ally Hassan Mwinyi.

He insisted that the institute must also accomplish writing autobiography for the former presidents Dr Jakaya Kikwete and the late Dr John Magufuli.

"So far, I would like to commend the institute for the good job in writing the books depicting the life history of our former presidents. Indeed, their autobiography give us a lesson in

leadership and therefore, all students who are yet to read the books should do so," he said.

He also directed leaders at the ministries, departments and public institutions and private to set aside fund to develop their staffs to sharpen their carrier.

"In order to make the course more sustainable, leaders at the ministries, departments and public institutions should start allocating funds to support their staffs," he said.

Ambassador Ombeni Sefue, chairperson of Uongozi Institute's board of directors said a good leader is tested during challenging times.

Sefue reminded them that they must always choose to be exceptional leaders and not otherwise saying good leaders were the ones who can make a difference in the community.

"Good leaders must presuppose desire of long-learning, Uongozi Institute proves a perfect a vehicle to graduate after learning. Make a commitment to make learning party of you," he said.

According to him, the truth about leadership was influencing, motivating and reflection adding that it was about to be the best at the surrounding community.

Uongozi institute, CEO, Kadari Singo said that a total of 117 leaders graduated this year where 76 were in postgraduate diploma in leadership and remaining 41 being certificates in leadership.

CEO expressed high cost to run the course as one among challenges the institute was facing and called upon the government to think of supporting it.

Dr Pekka Mattila, prof Practice Aalto University School of Business in Finland said that the event marks the beginning of new journey of serving the community. "Use the knowledge you have acquired here to bring impact to the nation economy, we depend on you," he said.



Paul Myovela (R), EnviBright and Iringa Tees (iTrees) programme chairman, briefs former Iringa district commissioner Richard Kasesela (2nd-R) at an Iringa Innovation Week exhibition pavilion late last week. The programme brings together creative designers of conservation and environmental protection initiatives in Iringa municipality. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

Be cautious when buying traditional medicines, chief govt chemist warns

By Correspondent James Kandoya

CHIEF Government Chemist, Dr Fidelice Mafumiko has cautioned the public to be very cautious when buying medicines they are not sure of its manufacturing procedures.

Dr Mafumiko said this yesterday after visited small traditional medicine's dealers at the ongoing 5th Fund and Empowerment Programme Exhibition held in Morogoro region.

He said untested and unapproved medicines can cause harm to health of users if distributor or sellers did not

follow regulation governing traditional medicine preparation.

"I call on the community not to buy traditional medicines available in the streets that they are not sure of without self-satisfaction that they are approved for human consumption," he said.

According to him, his office is mandated to test whether they are not fit for human consumption while registration was done by their traditional medicine council.

He called on small and large entrepreneurs to abide by all regulation governing the entire chain of medicine

preparations.

Furthermore, they must also follow all advice from the experts to get complete mixers to avoid harmfulness that might be caused by the manufacturer's negligence.

Msafiri Mjema, traditional medicine dealer, thanked the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) for reducing sampling testing cost.

She called on fellow's dealers to take samples of their medicines to the GCLA to attract the national and international market. GCLA was established under Government Chemist Laboratory

Authority Act No. 8 of 2016.

In addition to other functions, the GCLA Act establishes the authority as the supreme and referral laboratory on all matters related to forensic science and DNA services, product quality and chemicals management.

It has gone through several transformations from being a department in the ministry, an agency between 1999 - 2017 and an authority from April, 2017 to date.

Historically, it started as a centre for conducting research in tropical diseases to a National Laboratory in 1895 during the German colony.

In the early time of its establishment, the laboratory was within the Chief Secretary office, and thereafter transferred to the Ministry of Health after the First World War in 1947.



Ally Mbwego, an elder from Songe in Kilindi District, airs his grievances at an open meeting held at the village at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

Abandon traditional farming practices, smallholder farmers in Ruvuma urged

By Guardian Correspondent, Nantumbo

FARMERS in Ruvuma Region have been called upon to abandon traditional farming practices regarding only one crop - maize, instead they are advised to grow other crops that will assist in increasing their incomes as well as increase the country's production of crops.

The call was made here at the weekend by John Julius, Director of Termnar Company Ltd, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) during the occasion to mark International Farmers Day marked in Nantumbo District, Ruvuma Region

and attended by representatives of farmers from demonstration farming groups who had the opportunity to exchange experience on farming.

Julius explained that the NGO with headquarters in Masasi District, Mtwara Region deals in value adding to the sunflower crop through processing and that as for now it is engaged in the provision of training in promoting the cultivation of sunflower.

He said for now the NGO operates in four districts only - Masasi, Nanyumbu, Tunduru and Nantumbo and has been able to reach more than 200 farming groups with the aim of providing them with training in sunflower cultivation

to raise their incomes through more than 30 demonstration farms in the four districts.

The farmers are now being advised to cultivate by adhering to guidelines governing the effects of climate change, insuring their farms against natural disasters including floods, fire and others.

Speaking to this paper, some of the participants expressed their pleasure in meeting with sunflower farming stakeholders under the auspices of Termnar Company Ltd and appealed to the government to see the importance in incorporating other development partners to bring farmers together for

training on various issues regarding the cultivation of the crop.

At the gathering, the sunflower farmers also called on the government to make sure they are regularly visited by extension officers to assist them in better sunflower farming practices to increase its production.

For his part, the chief representative from Nantumbo District, Alquen Ndimbo praised the NGO for recognising the importance in bringing together sunflower growers from Masasi, Nanyumbu, Tunduru and Nantumbo districts.

Ndimbo added that many farmers in the country still engage in traditional farming practices as inherited from their grandparents, saying the practices were now outdated and should change by growing various other crops including sunflower for more income.

Government to bolster research in hospitals while training more medical staff about challenges of lupus

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is working to strengthen research in hospitals and train more medical personnel to understand lupus, so as to improve diagnosis of the problem for instant treatment.

Speaking at an occasion to mark the World Lupus Day in Dar es Salaam during the weekend, director of curative services at the Ministry of Health Dr Pius Gerald said not many people, including health officers; understand about the disease, which has been affecting people without knowing it.

He said the ministry is now working to facilitate cross-cutting and operational research in hospitals so as to ensure that clinicians have broader knowledge to diagnose new diseases and their treatment.

According to the World Health Organizations (WHO), lupus is a disease that occurs when your body's immune system attacks your own tissues and organs (autoimmune disease). It affects your joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs.

Common symptoms include fever, joint pain, skin rashes, mouth ulcers and fatigue - symptoms that are shared by many other illnesses, making lupus very hard to diagnose.

"But as technology changes, modern tools are produced to diagnose diseases, the government is committed to strengthen infrastructures, tools and personnel so as to reduce the burden of disease," he said.

He said diagnosis and treatment services are currently available at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) and other zonal hospitals including Bugando.

Dr Pius said the government has invested heavily in health infrastructures and was currently working to ensure that the facilities provide quality health services.

He reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to continue investing more in quality equipment and awareness programs so as to facilitate regular checkups and treatment to patients with lupus.

MUHAS Vice Chancellor, Prof Andrea Pembe said that more coordinated efforts were needed to equip experts with skills that will help timely diagnosis of diseases.

He said MUHAS will continue to be a reliable national hub for research output, supporting policies and guidelines development.

"We will continue investing in research so as to provide permanent solutions to various health challenges facing the public," he said.

Burton Mballa, one of the parents of a child with lupus called on the government to come up with national treatment guidelines so as to improve access to care and treatment for lupus and related diseases.

He said having guidelines is critical because they will clarify the suggested treatment alternatives, thereby improving patient conditions throughout the country.

"I have struggled for two years since 2019 to find out that my daughter has lupus, I have spent more than 40m/- visiting several hospitals and clinics to treat my child of an unknown diseases, because wherever I was going, the disease wasn't diagnosed until I came to the MNH, that's where my baby was found having lupus, this is because most of our hospitals and personnel are not equipped to diagnose these new diseases," he said.

He called on the government to incorporate drugs used by lupus patients in the national insurance packages as the medicines are too expensive to afford.

The World Lupus day is celebrated on May 10 with an aim to raise awareness and make lupus known in the community.

RC hands over 178 customary title deeds to villagers in Iringa Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga has handed over 178 out of the 374 customary title deeds to several residents in the region urging the owners to make good use of the tools for their economic benefits.

Speaking during the handover event held at the Iringa Regional Land Office premises, Sendiga said the documents will help reduce land disputes, strengthen land security as well as change their living and economic conditions, hence reduce poverty.

She urged the fortunate family members who have obtained the documents to use them properly to acquire capital and loans from banks and other financial institutions and thus improve their income generating projects.

She said that many residents are aware of the importance of having such documents urging them not to put the documents in the cupboards but rather use them to improve their businesses.

"The documents are very vital, as through them, the owners (residents) can access loans as well as do the basics, but before going to borrow make sure you sit down, evaluate and plan on how to properly spend the funds for development," she said.

She noted that the existence of proper planning, policies, management and implementation will enable more citizens to have their land surveyed, get title deeds and use those certificates in enhancing land security as well as changing their living and economic conditions.

Iringa municipal council Director, Gerald Mwamuhamila said that the planning department is facing a shortage of 48 staff as there are 19 staff, while the demand is having 67 staff.

He said the shortage of staff and equipment was one of the challenges slowing down service delivery in the area.

Mwamuhamila however said the department continues to implement the targets set by the government for the financial year 2021/22 by preparing the land titles.

"Iringa Municipal Council targeted to collect revenues amounting to 2bn/-

in the 2021/22 fiscal year but has so far collected 1.02bn / - equivalent to 51.2 percent of goal," he said.

Iringa regional assistant land commissioner Wenslaus Mtui said that in the financial year 2021/2022 the office has implemented various goals set by the ministry including revenue collection.

He said that they targeted to collect more than 4.2bn/- in the current fiscal year and until May 2022 they have been able to collect more than 2.3bn/-.

Mtui added that the Iringa Regional Land Office has managed and coordinated a total of three formalisation projects with approximately 1,081 plots, implemented in the local councils of the region.

He explained that in addition to the successes in the implementation of visible work, there are various challenges that hinder the effectiveness of the implementation of sector activities.

He said that there has been poor response from the people in contributing to the costs of planning and measuring their areas and the reluctance of the people in paying ownership invoices, so that they can get their certificates.

Mtui called on local government officials to educate villagers so as to facilitate smooth land planning, surveying and timely ownership.

He wanted the leaders to tell the citizens that by formalizing their lands will enable them to strengthen their land security as well as economically empowered by using land resources as a source of capital.



Iringa Municipal Council targeted to collect revenues amounting to 2bn/- in the 2021/22 fiscal year but has so far collected 1.02bn / - equivalent to 51.2 percent of goal



Iringa regional commissioner Queen Sendiga presents a land title deed to Godfrey Mtwewe of Iringa late last week. Scores of residents of the municipality similarly benefited. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

KOICA trains MNH specialists, nurses on modern eye surgery

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is training nurses and specialists at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) on Phacoemulsification - a modern cataract surgery for eyes.

The technology is a method in which the eye's internal lens is emulsified with an ultrasonic hand piece and aspirated from the eye.

Speaking at the launching ceremony yesterday MNH Head of Surgical Services Dr Suphian Baruani said the new technology will help in saving time and resources as it only takes one to two days for a patient to recover.

"In the past we had few specialists and this process could take up to weeks but the new technology takes a few days and also minimizes pain to the patient," he said.

The training is being implemented

by Vision Care Medical Eye Centre which is training experts on the new technology.

One of the trainers from Vision Care Kim Jaeyun said the initiative started in Ethiopia some 10 years ago saying the newly trained specialists will be teaching others and the aim is to reach out to 10-percent of full eye doctors in the country.

"We want to train trainers who will transfer knowledge to others to scale

up the technology to others," he said.

Dr Paul Nyaluke head of Ophthalmology department at MNH said there are various causes of cataract in eyes saying few among many was age, injury while others are birth defects.

According to Dr Nyaluke globally cataract causes about 40 to 50-percent of blindness saying the reality is seen in local data where the same percentages of patients who go for eye clinic at MNH have cataract problems.

A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of the eye that leads to a decrease in vision. Cataracts often develop slowly and can affect one or both eyes. Symptoms may include faded colors and blurry.

Seek verified information before publishing, police ask journalists

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

MEDIA practitioners have been challenged to seek verified information from authorities to avoid causing unnecessary tension and shock in the society.

Head of the police finance commission and logistics, Hamad Khamis Hamad made the call here over the weekend when speaking in a virtual meeting organised by the Organisation of Journalists Against Drugs Abuse and Crimes in Tanzania (OJADACT), in collaboration with Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) and police force to discuss media and crime reporting.

He said that the force will continue working closely with media practitioners to help fighting crimes in the country.

He wanted journalists to ensure that they adhere to their professional ethics when reporting crime cases for the wider interest of the country's stability, people and development.

CP Hamad appealed to the journalists to always seek for verified information and statistics from the police force when reporting about crimes, instead of relying on unverified information which may cause tension and worries among the community.

"Don't pick everything trending in social media, as some are fake news to create restlessness and worries. Just encourage people to report to the police whenever they notice crime events," said CP Hamad.

Some of the journalists said sometimes the police are not quick to respond to their inquiries, which may take a long time and thus be outdated, but when police need journalists to cover a crime event, the process goes fast.

Senior assistant commissioner of the police (SACP) and spokesperson, David Misime, wanted journalists to stop rushing to get information of any

crime event as the move can disrupt police investigation.

He however, urged media practitioners to turn into reporting for the aim of prohibiting a crime from happening or when there is a crime attempt, instead of reporting after a crime has been committed.

"You should ensure your reporting doesn't promote crimes, by making criminals feel proud, but write to see a society free of crimes. Any crime information should be collected, processed and disseminated professionally, and with great care," he added.

Onesmo Olungurumwa, THRDC national coordinator, urged the police and the media to work together in strengthening human rights, saying the ongoing crime events by youth dubbed as 'panya road' is against human rights.

OJADACT chairperson, Edwin Soko said the media should educate the society to take precautions against illegal practices, effects, and discouraging any idea of crime attempting.

He appealed to the police force and human rights organisations to continue supporting courses and workshops to journalists to promote integrity and professionalism when covering crime events.



Don't pick everything trending in social media, as some are fake news to create restlessness and worries. Just encourage people to report to the police whenever they notice crime events



Residents of Mvungwe and Masagalu villages in Kilindi District clear an area earmarked for the building of a badly needed 15-km road, amid reports that they have experienced crippling communication problems for decades. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

By Correspondent Abdallah Bakari,

Mtwara

A TOTAL of 197,000 children under the age of five in Mtwara Region are set to be reached with polio vaccination in a campaign scheduled from May 18 to 21 this year.

This is part of the national campaign where more than nine million under-five children will be reached with the vaccination in 31 regions.

Mtwara Regional Medical Officer Dr Ahmadi Nyembea told journalists yesterday that the vaccine is vital to protect the children from the deadly disease and especially after neighbouring Malawi reported a polio case a few months ago.

He said the region has received 227,000 vaccines ready to vaccinate the children by visiting them house by house or in special centres near the

197,000 children in Mtwara Region to be reached via polio vaccination campaign

residential areas.

"The new Polio case reported in neighbouring Malawi poses high risk to us, Mtwara and Malawi border is very closer and yet there are integration of its people, this is likely to say the disease is out of the door, with this we need to vaccinate all target groups to secure them from the disease" he said.

He urged parents and caregivers to ensure that they prepare their children for the immunization so as to protect them from the disease.

"The community should understand the importance of this exercise, the immunisation is safe and it is given by mouth drops not by shots. So, I urge parents to cooperate with service

providers to ensure no one is left behind, children should be vaccinated thrice to complete a full doze, by completing the doze it guarantees the safety of them," he explained.

Mtwara Region vaccination coordinator Serveus Kamala said: "All preparations are in place...the vaccine will be issued from May 18-21 this year, our service providers will walk from one house to another, and those close to centres have to pay a visit and will be supplied with the vaccine."

He emphasized that the vaccine is safe and that communities should not worry about it.

"What we want here is to secure the nation from the epidemic disease and the only possible way is through

vaccination, in previous years Polio erupted in our country and only vaccines kept us free," he added.

He noted that, the threat on new case reported in Malawi puts the region in high tension and asked the parents to ensure all targeted children are vaccinated.

Statistics show that Tanzania reported the last case of polio in 1996, but there have been recurrent outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus in Afghanistan and Pakistani and recently neighbouring Malawi registered the polio case.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has put Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia on high alert following the outbreak in Malawi.

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Experts must sharpen insights on investment opportunities, uptake

SIMPLE answers to complex questions appear to have been dominant at a meeting where efforts by CRDB Bank Plc to sensitise and educate the public on investments were praised for having increased public awareness on the numerous investment opportunities.

Participating experts said these efforts were boosting turnout by local investors and stimulating economic growth with, notably and understandably, the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) leading in paying the tribute.

The meeting was an event not to be ignored, what with its having attended by up to 5,000 participants from various public institutions, among them all manner of entrepreneurs, picturing the 'state of investments' in the country as it currently stands.

What was especially visible at the event was a general idea of investment opportunities and how individuals could gainfully take them up.

To this is tied a wide-ranging body of knowledge usually handed out by other experts on the best methods of setting up businesses for startups or small entrepreneurs.

It takes time to monitor how the tone changes from time to time, but it is possible that at times there is no way out, so a literal monologue on taking up investment opportunities is relayed.

The fact that thousands of such efforts fail each year even as controversially based small traders are rounded up and ejected out of the streets epitomises such imagined opportunities.

There are single-produce enterprises for specific perishable fruits and vegetables which have tremendous problems surviving.

And while milk sub-sector regulators say that only three per cent of milk produced is processed and sold in a formal market manner, it is hard to say for sure that anyone feels the gap.

Even the portion that is produced doesn't have a huge awaiting market, so processors from outside bring milk to a narrow upmarket urban section of society, and much of the protection cry stems from there.

In truth, it doesn't really relate to the basic inability of a broad part of the urban population not being able to buy processed milk regularly.

It is definitely true that, almost without exception, banks and various other financial institutions are doing a good deal of work showing consumers the products they market, including loans for things like the small scale industry.

There are provisions for credit facilities for the youth and women at the grassroots level, though it is only in savings and credit societies that the loan facility is broader and somewhat neutral.

But these units have substantial repayment interest that keeps haunting applicants, while even more so are loans based on mobile phone loan facilities. There is thus hardly any really user-friendly facility in the market.

To say that the limitation to investment in the country is knowledge is to say the least faulty, as virtually anyone living in urban areas knows the importance of being involved in one productive or gainful venture or another.

Even in rural areas people invest in new products like horticulture, both within the margin of the law and otherwise, for instance the penchant for cannabis farming - which is destructive.

Therefore, experts would be well-advised to focus more on how to create a large national market of 60 million real consumers as in Europe and the Far East, starting with ownership of land and citizenship, as those with money take it outside, and industry is stymied.



What it takes to sustain independent media globally

By Jennifer Dorroh

INDEPENDENT news outlets hold the powerful to account and provide critical information to their communities, but many struggle financially and risk going out of business.

While there are success stories and models for building viable news businesses, "there is no one-size-fits-all recipe", for news outlets to follow.

This is according to Patricia Torres-Burd, managing director of Media Advisory Services at Media Development Investment Fund (MDIF). Her team supports media sustainability by providing technical and venture support for the Fund's global portfolio.

She stands fully convinced that any news organisation that aims to sustain its work financially must develop its own business plan, tailored to its audience.

That is in part precisely why the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ) launched Elevate, which takes journalists leading independent news ventures to the next level.

Through this global exchange, coaching and grant programme, leaders of news organisations develop the business skills needed to grow and sustain their small- and medium-sized news outlets so that they can keep producing independent, accurate news.

Now that the first cohort of participants have been chosen, Torres-Burd is interviewing each of them for a needs assessment and to suggest mentors. To help choose the cohort, Elevate called on James Breiner, an expert on global news media sustainability.

After conducting 50 interviews in total with Elevate applicants, Breiner and Torres-Burd shared their reflections on global news sustainability with ICFJ.

ICFJ: What did you notice about the newsroom leaders you interviewed?

Breiner: They have a tremendous sense of community service. That's their priority. They want to give voice to people who may be overlooked or abused by the powerful. And they want to provide information that they feel is necessary but unavailable anywhere else.

Torres-Burd: Very good work is being executed by the Elevate applicants. They provide critical information and/or tools to better inform that is vital to any community. Most of the Elevate participants are doing a lot with very little money and staff.



ICFJ: What did the experience of talking with these participants and applicants tell you about the needs of independent media and the challenges they face?

Torres-Burd: As with most media (globally), the ability to find and/or create a sustainable model is a challenge. Journalism, by definition, is quite challenging to monetise, and some of the Elevate applicants work in challenging socio-political and economic environments.

All applicants search for the models they can implement or adjust to their organisations, markets, and regions to serve their audience and grow their impact and reach.

Some, not all, also have a large dependency on grants which makes a pivot towards new revenue verticals that much more challenging. It is not impossible but it requires a very different approach, and this is where Elevate will certainly make great strides.

Breiner: Of course, the big issue is financial. Many of these publications are living on the edge financially, hoping for the next grant to come in, and that makes them very vulnerable.

But the other issue is training. Many of these small organisations lack any experience in the basics of running a business, and nonprofits are businesses too in the sense that they have to generate enough revenue to pay their staff and keep their websites running. They need some training in bookkeeping, accounting, financial management, administration, personnel management, as well as effective use of technology, both in the tools for maintaining their content

as well as for improving distribution through the channels used by their target communities.

They need someone on their staff whose sole responsibility is revenue generation, marketing, sales. But even those who have some skill in these areas could accelerate their growth and impact with more specialised training, like the kind Elevate will offer.

ICFJ: Did anything surprise you? If so, how and why?

Torres-Burd: One of the areas that surprised me was news outlets not clearly understanding who their loyal audience was. The media tend to focus too much on the top of the funnel in terms of total visits and views rather than work on serving the loyal readers who return to consume content over and over. Without a clear understanding of who those consumers are - it is almost impossible to properly serve them, fill their needs for information and content and, most importantly, offer other verticals that could, when executed properly, be monetised or supported by reader revenue.

Breiner: What is most surprising is how similar the problems are everywhere in the world. The concerns are about public health, the environment, human rights, social justice, fair elections, freedom of expression, and equality.

Also, because so many of the founders and directors have never learned basic financial controls, they have a hard time telling you whether they made money or lost money in the previous month or quarter. They could use training on evaluating the cost of their activities. Is this project

over here costing us more money than it is generating? Is this new project suggested by a funder going to siphon the time and energy of our team away from our core mission while producing little financial benefit? This kind of cost-benefit analysis is an everyday activity in any business, and digital media entrepreneurs would benefit from training in the area.

ICFJ: Are there any other thoughts you would like to share as you reflect on the process or on independent news media in general?

Torres-Burd: In order to remain independent, the media have no choice but to find ways in which to financially support their journalism. There is no one-size-fits-all recipe. It cannot be copied from someone else and does not always include a simple option such as implementing sales. Each market capacity, digital advertising rates, value and cost of doing business varies widely, and these considerations must be taken into account when providing suggestions, recommendations and support to help the media pivot and/or find ways to survive in order to continue serving their communities.

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International Day of Light: Why light can't be taken for granted

IT isn't easy at all to hear people talking about light or its importance unless, of course, there is a blackout.

Yet light as a phenomenon and especially as a scientific and economic issue is much wider than having reliable supply of electricity assured day and night.

That aspect is, if you will, but the tip of the iceberg behind which innumerable activities that constitute the very fabric of modern society are conducted, in which case innovation experts thought up the need to have the International Day of Light (May 16). It is a global initiative that provides a platform for appreciation of light, the role it plays in science, culture and arts, education and sustainable development, summarily.

Light is crucial to what goes on in fields as diverse as medicine, communications and energy, such that the broad theme of light allows many different voices in global platforms, formally or virtually to participate in activities that demonstrate how science, technology, art and culture can help achieve worldwide goals of education, equality and peace.

That is basically the vocation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and it spearheaded the designation of this Day as such.

The International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015, paraphrased as the International Year of Light 2015, was a United Nations observance that sought to raise awareness of the achievements of light science and its applications, and its importance to human society.

Activities tied to light-based sciences and technologies saw more than 13,000 registered performance instances in 147 countries, thus enabling the UNESCO executive board at its 200th session to establish the Day on each May 16. The UN agency's 39th general conference approved this decision, and hence the subsequent proclamation of the Day.

There is another aspect of light which does not fall under these activities, though, and this has to do with the wider meaning of light in culture, and even in faith-related issues.

It is the sort that was targeted by our country in lighting a torch and placing it on top of Mount Kilimanjaro on Independence Day.

This is a notion of light which affirms that humanity basically needs precisely the same things, but suspicions hinder the proper pursuit of what humans need everywhere.

The horrors of the likes of war and famine in Africa and elsewhere illustrate the fact that light is more than political freedom - as, without economic success, peace will be dismantled by impatience.

That is why, even this belatedly, it isn't too late to say "let there be light", and expect that our leaders to appreciate the need to learn from whoever may be more advanced than us economically and various other ways.

In truth, no society will really know true or lasting peace while the majority sees no light in their lives. Relativity guru Albert Einstein aptly argued that each living state has motion in it and, if one is excessively accelerated into despair, there is every reason to beware what comes next!

Scientists identify high chance of reinfection with Omicron subvariants for unvaccinated

By Estelle Ellis

RESearchers at the African Health Research Institute have shown in laboratory testing of blood plasma that there is a good chance that people who were infected with the original Omicron variant in December 2021 or January 2022 can get it again this time round.

The Omicron variant first identified in December 2021 is known by scientists as BA.1. Since that variant was first identified South African scientists also identified two other subvariants, BA.4 and BA.5. The rise of these two subvariants has caused a considerable increase in new infections, that some argue might be the start of the country's fifth wave, with daily positivity rates of more than 20% on normal business days.

Dr Richard Lessels, one of the leading scientists looking for new variants and studying the mutations on the Omicron variant, explained last week that BA.4 and BA.5 are grouped together because they have the same spike protein.

He said they are now thinking of Omicron as a family of different subvariants. BA.4 and BA.5 are most closely related to BA.2, another variant that caused a small bump in infections after schools resumed in January. The two subvariants have some mutations that are known to scientists and thought to be responsible for enhanced transmissibility and escaping the body's immune system.

Not all of their other mutations are understood yet.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) monitors hospital admissions and Dr Waasila Jassat, who leads the monitoring and the surveillance teams, has reported an increase in hospital admissions in the past few weeks. Since the fourth wave in SA, however, there has been a decoupling between the rise in cases and the rise in people hospitalised and dying from severe disease.

BA.1 caused a very large outbreak of coronavirus infections in December 2021 and January 2022 in South Africa. At the time it was established that some of the mutations on the BA.1 variant allowed for it to escape immunity built up from prior infections with other SARS-CoV2 variants and vaccines or a combination of the two.

Prof Alex Sigal and Khadija Khan from the Africa Health Research Institute set out to test whether



Vaccinations still work for new Covid-19 variants. (Photo: iStock)

BA.4 and BA.5 will also reinfect people who have already had Covid-19. The institute has been on the forefront of gathering information about the SARS-CoV2 virus and, among other things, grew Omicron for the first time. A preprint of their paper, which has not been peer reviewed yet, was published last week.

For this work they used plasma, which is the component of blood that contains antibodies, from 24 unvaccinated and 15 vaccinated people. They found that neutralising antibodies were much less effective in fighting off BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants in the blood plasma of people who had prior infection than in those who had prior infections but were also vaccinated.

"The results also show that both the Pfizer and J&J vaccines

enhance protection against the Omicron subvariants in people who were vaccinated and had a previous Omicron BA.1 infection," a statement on the outcomes of their research read.

Sigal explained that the ability of the antibodies in the plasma to eliminate the viruses was compared in the different sets of people whose blood was tested.

They found that there is a 7.6-fold (BA.4) and 7.5-fold (BA.5) decrease in the ability of antibodies from a previous Omicron infection in unvaccinated people to neutralise the subvariants. Those who were vaccinated fared better: there was a 3.2-fold (BA.4) and 2.6-fold (BA.5) decrease, respectively. Ultimately, neutralisation levels were about five times higher for those who were vaccinated, compared with the unvaccinated group.

"BA.4/BA.5 escape, while not as dramatic as Omicron escape

from vaccine or Delta immunity, is enough to lead to a new infection wave driven by the subvariants," Sigal said. "This is consistent with current surveillance data coming out of South Africa. However, based on our results, it seems unlikely that these subvariants will cause much more severe disease than the previous wave. Our study again shows the protection offered by Covid-19 vaccines in maintaining levels of immunity that at the very least are effective at preventing severe disease."

The NICD this week started releasing data on possible reinfections. On Wednesday, 4 May, there were 950 reinfections. On Tuesday, a day following a public holiday with a lower number of people testing, there were 553. On Monday, there were 45.

DM168

Russia rescued the rouble – what does that say about the rand?

By Tim Cohen

BUT for supporters of Ukraine, there is an uncomfortable truth; Russian finances are holding and, with enormous skill and creativity, the Russians have dealt with what could easily have been a financial implosion. Or have they?

Ostensibly, the measure for these things is the exchange rate. As South Africans know all too well, the exchange rate embodies three things: trade, political confidence and economic robustness. The rouble had been trading between €85 and €95 for some time. At the start of the war, it suddenly leapt to €144, in what can only be described as a rand-like gyration.

Not only this, but Europe and America have snookered Russia's best-laid plans by freezing all the Russian-held dollars and euros outside Russia that have been carefully boosted precisely to support the rouble.

Nobody knew you could do this, least of all the Russians, who now have \$600-billion that they can't use. Not entirely unfairly, Russia describes this as "theft", but as they say, all is fair in love and war.

Then, of course, a funny thing happened. Notwithstanding a host of articles in the western press cheering the success of all this financial manoeuvring, the rouble bounced back. It's now stronger than it was before the war began!

A lot of the credit for this goes to Russian central bank governor Elvira Nabiullina, who instinctively knew what to do. It's worth noting that Russia did not have exchange controls, a little financial gizmo rejected, one assumes, by the oligarch class who didn't want pesky law-like things interfering with their ability to buy yachts and football clubs.

The funnelling of wealth out of Russia for years now has been extraordinary, so much so that, by some calculations, Russia could overtake SA as the most financially unequal country on earth if you count in the foreign holdings of the oligarchs.

Anyway, the first thing Nabiullina did was to double interest rates to 20% from 10%. Talk about aggression. She then intervened in the rouble market, spending around \$1-billion to defend the currency. Then the Russians demanded that foreigners pay roubles for any gas purchases, some of whom did and some of whom did not. And a whole range of new exchange controls were put in place.

Reserve Bank smoked out Gup-tas' money laundering Bank of Baroda before State Capture findings

Russian companies have to convert a minimum of 80% of their foreign earnings into roubles. The Kremlin has also issued a decree prohibiting Russian brokers from selling foreign-owned securities, which has the effect of freezing the stock market. Russian individuals are not allowed to exchange more than \$10,000 per month into foreign currency – doesn't that sound familiar.

There is another thing that South Africans know; sanctions just don't really work.

It takes a while, but banning the purchase of gas from Russia doesn't change the underlying need for gas. So an elaborate intermediary system pops up in no time, and Europeans will be getting their gas and Russians will be getting paid for it, and both will keep quiet about how that's happening. And you can see this in the Russian current account surplus, which has just exploded as gas prices have increased. It is, how should we say, a gas, gas, gas. So chalk one up for the Rus-



sians; arguably these measures have worked too well, and the rouble is actually a bit overweight. But the big question is, how long does all this last?

High interest rates protect the currency, but really thump the economy. They are now down

to 14%, but still, imagine trying to start a business with that hurdle of a rate? It's like operating in, well, South Africa.

Charles-Henry Monchau, Chief Investment Officer of Swiss boutique bank Banque Syz, makes the point in a note to clients that

you have to bear in mind there is a smoke-and-mirrors aspect to this. The fact is, nobody really wants to hold roubles anymore. It's not a free trade currency; it's effectively a managed exchange rate.

What has happened in Russia

demonstrates two things: first, exchange rates just don't tell you everything about the political and economic state of a country because they are pretty easily manipulated. It took all of two weeks for Russia to stabilise its financial markets.

And second, you just don't want to be there. SA has maintained the remnants of its apartheid-era exchange controls for too long. We should dump them, lest we be bracketed in with the financial troglodytes of the world.

BM/DM

No climate transition without securing land rights

BERLIN

THE landmark land tenure decision by parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in 2019 offers a blueprint for upcoming climate negotiations in Sharm El Sheikh in November.

The ongoing UNCCD COP15 conference in Abidjan (May 9-20) is taking necessary next steps to guide countries on how to embed land rights within national implementation processes.

As the first of the three Rio Conventions (addressing climate, biodiversity and desertification respectively) to explicitly refer to land tenure as a critical enabler for the transition to more sustainable pathways, this meeting could advance the landmark land tenure decision by proposing guidelines to safeguard legitimate land rights, argues Berlin-based think tank TMG Research.

According to the UNCCD's recently published Global Land Outlook, roughly \$44 trillion of economic output (more than half of global GDP) is moderately or highly reliant on natural capital.

Yet this natural resource base is under intense pressure from changing land use patterns and the accelerated impacts of climate change. This already has huge consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable communities, who depend on natural resources for their survival, and even more people will be affected as natural capital dwindles.

Current land restoration efforts, such as the global goal of restoring 1 billion hectares of degraded land or achieving 'land degradation neutrality' by 2030, are seen as offering new opportunities to tackle the impacts of climate change while addressing food security needs, creating livelihood opportunities, especially in rural areas, and countering growing land-based conflicts and migration.

But such initiatives need to account for all existing legitimate tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples, smallholder farmers and pastoralists, women and youth, and other vulnerable groups.

Otherwise, restoration efforts and especially large-scale investments will lead to new conflicts, violating the rights of people and risking the success of the planned measure.

The UNCCD is the first of the three 'Rio Conventions' to explicitly recognize the importance of safeguarding all forms of legitimate land tenure - especially for women, youth, Indigenous communities, and smallholder farmers and pastoralists - as a prerequisite for the sustainable management of land



and other natural resources.

But with land governance enacted at the national and sub-national levels, how can this progressive decision at the global level translate into a governance environment that promotes good land stewardship by strengthening the land rights of vulnerable groups at the local level?

As noted by the Global Land Outlook, "land is the operative link between biodiversity loss and climate change," but to deliver on global aspirations, restoration must take place "in the right places and at the right scales."

We therefore welcome the decision to devote a ministerial roundtable at COP15 to the theme of "Rights, Rewards and Responsibilities - the future of land stewardship" and invite TMG to deliver the keynote address.

The relationship between a decision on principles of good governance at global level and action on the ground must acknowledge that "all land stewardship is local." This means that "localizing" the global land tenure decision requires analyzing the concrete situation on the ground, respecting people's rights and

strengthening the ability of local communities to protect their rights and become actively involved in restoration processes.

This approach is particularly critical for the implementation of global efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and afforestation for carbon offsetting purposes.

Our work with national partners in four African countries points to how the link between legitimate tenure rights and restoration can be made. National governments must incorporate land rights as a starting point in developing restoration agendas, including their UNCCD targets to achieve land degradation neutrality.

We welcome the strong statements made by many countries at the session and the commitment of multilateral agencies to support countries in more explicitly linking land governance and policies to reverse land degradation, desertification and drought. At its heart, this calls for "changing mindsets towards land tenure," as FAO's Maria Helena Semedo noted.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) were designed

to do exactly this. Adopted exactly 10 years ago by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the VGVT are "true connectors" of work across the three Rio Conventions, in the words of CFS Vice Chair Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio.

The UNCCD/FAO Technical Guide on implementing the land tenure decision in the context of the VGVT, which TMG helped develop, explains how to reinforce actions at the sub-national and local levels by building on efforts by communities and civil society organizations.

Our ongoing partnership with four African governments shows how responsible land governance can be meaningfully realized from the ground up.

Explore the Human Rights & Land Navigator, launched at UNCCD's COP15, on May 12th in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. This tool was developed by TMG Research, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Malawi Human Rights Commission, with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Combined impact of COVID-19, Ukraine crisis to further constrain Africa recovery - experts

ADDIS ABABA

THE combined impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis are likely to further constrain Africa's recovery, experts have warned.

This came during a high-level discussion that was held to offer African countries a platform for dialogue, exchange of ideas and experiences on the actual and potential impacts of the Russia-Ukraine crisis on African economies, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) said in a statement

issued on Sunday.

Eunice Kamwendo, director of UNECA's Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA), noted that African countries are most affected by the pandemic, and the combined impact of COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis are likely to further aggravate liquidity issues constraining the continent's recovery. She emphasized that the African continent faces a high risk of food insecurity because Russia and Ukraine are major global suppliers of agricultural commodities such as maize, wheat, oils and fertilizers.

"The two countries, com-

bined, provide 30 percent of the world's wheat and barley needs; supply nearly one-fifth of maize globally, and account for over half of the global market share in sunflower oil, among other commodities," the UNECA statement quoted Kamwendo as saying.

She noted that the economy of southern Africa, as a region, contracted the most out of all the sub-regions in Africa due to COVID-19.

Kamwendo cited a recent estimate by the African Development Bank (AfDB), which indicated that the southern Africa region's gross domestic product

(GDP) contracted by as much as 6.3 percent in 2020, compared to a 2.1 percent drop for the rest of Africa. Angola's Minister of Economy and Planning Mario Caetano Joao told the meeting that to counter shocks, Angola has engaged in deep reforms and changed its business model by prioritizing local production and diversifying from focus on oil production to heavy investments in agri-business, fisheries, and transport to give the country a comparative advantage.

"Ten years ago, Angola's oil dependence was 43 percent and now oil dependency is only

20 percent, showing that the investments are bearing fruit and the country's economy has stabilized despite the crisis," the Angolan minister said.

Amos Lugolobi, Uganda's minister of state for finance, planning and economic development, on his part encouraged countries to increase local food production to prevent the dependency on imports. Lugolobi noted that Uganda is a net producer of its food supplies and export to neighboring countries.

The country has also embarked on increasing the production of sunflower oil to

counter rising prices and be self-sufficient and able to face shocks. According to the UNECA, the meeting aimed to stimulate reflection on the impact of the crisis on the sustainable development of African economies, share experiences and perspectives on how to mobilize resources to counter the shocks of COVID-19 and the Ukraine crisis.

The event was co-hosted by the UNECA's Sub-Regional Office for Southern (SRO-SA), in collaboration with its partners, on the margins of the ongoing 54th session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance,

Planning and Economic Development, which started on May 11 and will last through May 17, in Dakar, the capital of Senegal.



She noted that the economy of southern Africa, as a region, contracted the most out of all the sub-regions in Africa due to COVID-19

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

Persistent drought result of climate change in Horn of Africa, experts say

By Special Correspondent

DROUGHT is not new to the Horn of Africa, but experts say the record one killing crops and cattle across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia has underscored the increasing frequency of drought due to climate change.

In Ethiopia, the UN's World Food Program is not just feeding those affected but also working to help drought-proof communities for the longer term.

Hawo Abdi Wole has lived through many droughts in her 70 years of life. But until now, she said she had never seen four consecutive rainy seasons fail. Wole said she has seen a big difference. In early years, she said, people used to see more rains and animals produced more milk. There is a big, big difference now.

The World Food Program is helping her village not only survive the crisis but rebuild for the long term.

The group is digging meter-wide, semi-circular holes in the barren soil to capture runoff water when rains return so that grass can grow more effectively and people feed their surviving livestock.

Forward-looking interventions are desperately needed. Scientists say climate change is the culprit for these more frequent, severe conditions.

"The climate in this region is driven by what is happening in the neighboring ocean," said Abubakr Salih Babiker, who is with World Meteorological Organization in Ethiopia. "There are studies that indicated that this is the world's fastest warming part of the tropical ocean system. So, it is warming rapidly during the past 100 years. And this warming, as I said...it was... it is associated with the dryness of the March-June season."



The most severe drought in decades has struck parts of Ethiopia, exacerbated by a particularly strong El Niño effect (file photo).

It also results in flooding when the rain does return. These events aren't just examples of climate change, but inequality, said

Habtamu Adam, a climate policy expert in Addis Ababa.

"When you compare from the emission

level from our contribution to the climate change, it is very incomparable because most of the emissions are emitted from de-

veloped countries," he said.

The World Meteorological Organization estimates that sub-Saharan Africa will need up to \$50 billion annually to adapt to climate change. Without it, the number of people displaced and in need of aid will only continue to rise, said Ali Hussein, who is with the World Food Program in the Somali region.

"We need to build the community resistance to these shocks and in that line, we want to put more emphasis on these regreening activities, such as half-moons, to regenerate this dry desert area to become a green land in the future, which can be more useful to both communities and as well as livestock," he said.

These projects around the Somali region are showing success and could be replicated to help more people.

Ibrahim Kurbad Farah is an elder of a village that saw its land restored with the construction of a channel that is effectively diverting streams and rainwater. He said they have experienced numerous advantages. They're now able to farm and use the grass for livestock, as well as thatches for their houses. He said they also use the water for drinking, especially for the livestock.

While adaptation is crucial to communities' health and survival, climate scientists warn reducing emissions remains a priority in preventing even worse conditions in the future.

Nipe Fagio urges govt to sign the global methane pledge to curb climate change

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been urged to join more than 110 countries to sign for the Global Methane Pledge in a move to tackle climate change.

According to the statement by Nipe Fagio, the global methane pledge is a joint agreement by the European Union and the United States to cut global methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

Nipe Fagio is a Tanzanian

NGO collecting data to support decision-makers on developing restrictive policy on plastic production and an implementer of Zero Waste systems in Tanzania, to enable systemic change

Ana Le Rocha Nipe Fagio, Executive Director said the global methane pledge is a crucial step in tackling climate change and getting the world closer to the goals of the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise to below 2°C. "This pledge is a huge step which will help cut global

methane emissions by 30 per cent by 2030," Ana said, adding: "We, therefore, urge our government to join the 110 countries in support of the agreement towards tackling the climate change crisis in the country."

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas tens of times more powerful than carbon dioxide in warming the atmosphere. It is a short-lived climate pollutant with an atmospheric lifetime of roughly a decade.

Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) research shows that methane is responsible for at least a quarter of today's global warming and reducing human-caused methane, which accounts for more than half of all methane emissions, is one of the most effective ways of combatting climate change.

Methane from human activity falls into three main sectors: agriculture (40 per cent), energy (35 per cent) and waste (20 per cent). Livestock farming is a key

cause of methane in the agricultural sector. In the energy sector, oil and gas extraction, processing and distribution account for 23 per cent, and coal mining accounts for 12 per cent of emissions.

"With the recently new report released jointly by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), Changing Markets Foundation, and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), it is easy and possible for our government to re-

duce methane emissions," she noted.

She reiterated that the report highlights that by tackling the waste sector, governments will get fast results using some of the easiest and most affordable methane reduction strategies available. Waste prevention, source-separation of organic discards, and other methods can reduce solid waste methane emissions by as much as 95% by 2030.

"This report shows that as

an implementer of zero waste systems in Tanzania, we're on the right track as it highlights that the most actionable steps we can take to reduce methane emissions include waste segregation at source and with our Zero Waste community-based model, waste separation is being done at source before being taken to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). This helps reduce solid waste methane emissions by large percentages," she concluded.

TARI in campaign to revamp coconut farming in Tanzania

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Mikocheni centre has embarked on a campaign to revamp coconut crop in Coastal regions of Tanga, Lindi, Mtwara and Coastal.

This follows declined production and productivity of the crop in recent years caused by aging of the old coconut trees coupled with increasing diseases such as Coconut lethal yellowing. All these factors have caused some farmers to abandon farming of the crop with others opting to grow other productive crops.

It is well known that Coconut is an important crop that supports the livelihoods of the majority of the Coastal people, contributing to daily diet particularly edible oil, industrial materials and environmental sustainability. In Dar es salaam and other urban areas for example, Coconut employs hundreds of petty traders who sell juice from young nuts.

The TARI Mikocheni centre is now distributing improved seedlings known as East Africa's Tall (EAT), the variety that is high yielding, adapted to moderate drought and tolerant to pests and diseases.

The centre has bred enough EAT seedlings at Chambezi sub station in Bagamoyo district, and Mkuranga substation in Mkuranga district for distribution to the district council and the farmers along the coastal regions. The centre is also planning to distribute more than five hundred thousand high yielding seedlings and the exercise that will go all the way across the country.

At Mkuranga district council in Coastal region, TARI Mikocheni has handed over more than 250 EAT variety of Coconut improved seedlings worth about 625,000 shillings.

Director general of Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said TARI's mission is to generate and promote application of knowledge, innovation and agricultural technologies as catalyst of change in achieving agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and economic growth involving stakeholders in the country.

He said TARI's goal is to contribute to increased agricultural productivity through development and deployment of improved agricultural knowledge and technologies by adopting innovation systems approach.

He said the Coconut farmers were facing low productivity due to the old Coconut trees which were planted long time ago. This prompted TARI to start disseminating the high yielding EAT coconut seedlings because they are also tolerant to diseases.

"As we are speaking now, many people in streets are talking about shortage of edible oil in the country. They are talking about skyrocketing of edible oil prices. Therefore, improving productivity will help Tanzanians and Coastal residents in particular use coconut for edible oil," he said.

He urged farmers to use improved seedlings from researchers saying by doing so will maintain the quality of seedlings that are being distributed from TARI-Mikocheni.



TARI directors, from right director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamillo, Dr Joseph Ndunguru and Coordinator Dr Fred Tairo handover EAT high-yielding coconut variety to the representative of Mkuranga District Council Julita Bulali (C), in an effort by the research institute to revamp the Coconut crop.

"If the farmers use other local seedlings which are not well researched, they will never transform coconut farming, instead their production and productivity will keep on going down because the quality of their seeds are questionable" he said.

He said besides contributing to availability of edible oil, Coconut sub-sector I well known for having several traditional and health benefits as well as nutritional advantage.

"I urge Mkuranga district council to set aside adequate funds for demo plot and for the development of the crop so that the farmers can learn and transform farming of the crop. The demo plots will also support farmers access the seedlings," he said.

TARI Mikocheni centre director Dr. Joseph Ndunguru said the aim of putting more efforts to high yielding EAT Coconut variety is to transform farming of the crop. When you transform agriculture the na-

tion gets enough food and raw materials for trade and industries.

He said Coconut crop is very well known for edible oil production for local consumption especially along the coastal regions and Zanzibar. Some people who produce in large scale exports and gets money. Coconut tree also produce construction materials for making furniture. It is an important crop. It therefore, provides income, drink, shelter and job opportunities to millions of

people in Tanzania.

"In collaboration with Local Government Authorities, we want to revive this crop so that even in areas where production had declined due to shortage of planting materials, farmers can now revamp it using high yielding planting materials," he said.

We have started this campaign in Pangani district, Tanga region, Mkuranga district in Coastal region and at Mtama district council in Lindi region. In collaboration with district councils and the farmers we will start nurseries to bring closer the improved planting materials to the farmers," He added.

He urged women and youth to venture into agribusiness by mobilizing themselves into small groups and access seedlings saying they can be selling them and get income.

Receiving the coconut seedlings, representative of the district council's Executive director, Julita Bulali commended the good research work being done by TARI Mikocheni saying the seedlings have come at the right time.

She said the crop had started disappearing in some parts of the district due to drought and increasing diseases, but with the coming of the new improved varieties, farmers especially women and the youth will be happy to plant again for edible oil and for commercials.

Some Coconut trees have become too old to produce more fruits such that some farmers have had started cutting them down, to replace them with other crops.

"Because we are approaching the end of the rain season, we will start distributing to farmers in areas that have enough water," she said.

She called on farmers particularly women and the youth to venture into coconut crop and it value chain to make money. "Some can grow them, some can sell the seedlings and some can sell coconut juice. All these are business that can bring money," she said.

TARI-Mikocheni is one of the 17 research centres under TARI. It was established as a measure to sustain and institutionalize coconut research and development activities with the aim of promoting coconut production and utilization in the country. Its research activities covers the whole of Tanzania with particular emphasis on the whole coastal belt of Tanzania and the Island of Zanzibar.

TARI-Mikocheni has two mandates, namely conduct and promote research for the development of the coconut sub-sector and promote research and utilization of agricultural biotechnology for socio-economic development in the country. It has two sub-stations, namely Chambezi and Mkuranga, where most of the research activities are conducted.

China speeds up green, low-carbon transformation of centres for data

BY HAN XIN

THE rapid proliferation of green data centers in China may be attributed to the rapid development of the country's digital economy, which is driving a wave of green transformation among traditional data centers and resulting in the continual expansion of newly developed ones.

GDS Services Ltd. (GDS), a Chinese data center operator and service provider, exemplifies the green development of Chinese data centers.

A green data center of the company, located in Shunyi district of Beijing, covers more than 15,000 square meters and houses over 2,000 equipment cabinets. It ensures smooth video streaming on the smart phones of users from thousands of miles away thanks to its real-time scheduling for computing power

The data center's power usage effectiveness (PUE) ratio has been drastically reduced to 1.22 by far, said Yang Tao, vice president of GDS. According to him, the green data center, when running at full capacity, can save about 10 million kWh of electricity a year.

What brought down the PUE ratio for the GDS data center were the company's efforts to increase efficiency in both the supply and con-

sumption of electricity.

So far, 34 percent of GDS data centers across China are using green electricity, according to Yang. Besides, the company is also able to make optimal decisions and optimize the use of equipment through dynamic monitoring of key indicators, such as server load changes, indoor and outdoor temperature and humidity, as well as the starting frequency of heating and ventilation equipment.

The number of data centers, known as the cornerstone of digital economy, has increased exponentially in China in recent years. However, their escalating energy consumption is causing growing worry, despite their impressive computer capacity.

China believes that to promote green development of data centers is not only beneficial to the sustainable development of digital economy, but also critical to energy conservation of new infrastructure. Therefore, it has ramped up efforts to advance the green and low-carbon transformation of data centers.

According to data released by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and other authorities, 153 national-level green data centers have been built in three batches across the country.

Besides, the country has selected and promoted five batches of 157



GDS Services Limited's data centre located in Changshu city, east China's Jiangsu province.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 285 00--

<p>3 letters: AGE, NOT, RAY, WEB, LEU, AGO, LEV, LAD</p> <p>4 letters: DUMA, ADAM, OPEN, MOVE, DOOM, MERE, METE, HIRE, LAME,</p> <p>5 letters: OPRAH, ORIEL, DIRAM, UPPER, SABER, REDID</p> <p>6 letters: READER, DELAYS, DENIER, NIAMEY,</p> <p>7 letters: MEETING, SMEARER,</p> <p>9 letters: DANGEROUS,</p>									
<p>WORD-FIT</p> <p>D E N S I T I E S L U S A K A S</p> <p>I D E A T E O V E R M I N E</p> <p>N E W Y E A R O U S T I A</p> <p>E N T E R T A I N L A H A R K E T</p> <p>O A R T S W A M I P E T</p> <p>U N I T E L R E S U M E H</p> <p>R F E E D E R S A N O S A R E</p> <p>A I D E A T E C A N O E S M</p> <p>N L E V C O V E R T I M E</p> <p>E S I T U R O S Y E N O</p> <p>S P R E A D R E H E R N I E</p>					<p>CROSSWORD</p> <p>1. house in Kiswahili</p> <p>5. the tough central parts of various fruits</p> <p>9. a dramatic work in one or more acts that is set to music for singers and instrumentalists</p> <p>11. walled villages of Hong Kong</p> <p>12. was the world's first global empire</p> <p>13. the final part of something</p> <p>14. consolation in time of distress</p> <p>16. rabbit</p> <p>18. sugar created in the body by processing starch</p> <p>21. professions</p> <p>23. former President of Tanzania in 1995</p> <p>24. wet and soft</p> <p>26. one more than nine</p> <p>27. in addition</p> <p>28. a strong wish</p>				

advanced technologies to accelerate its pace to lead the green and low-carbon development of data centers.

"Data centers are major power consumers. Their expansion inevitably causes a substantial rise in energy consumption," pointed out Chen Ying, secretary general of the Chinese Institute of Electronics.

It's estimated that data centers in China accounted for 1.5 percent to 1.9 percent of the total electricity consumption in the country in 2020, according to Chen.

Besides, a new generation of information technology is significantly driving the demands for data storage, computing, and application, Chen said, adding it is also urgent to standardize the recycling and disposal of obsolete equipment from data centers to avoid environmental pollution.

By 2025, the computing power of data centers in China will rise to 3.3 times that of 2020, said a plan for the development of China's information and communication sector during the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) period.

"Speeding up the construction of green data centers has become a basic requirement to ensure the sustainability of resources and environment. Besides, it is helpful for increasing the utilization efficiency of energy resources and achieving the carbon peak and neutrality goals," said an official with the department of energy conservation and integrated use of the MIIT.

At present, quite a number of companies are actively developing new technologies for the green transformation of data centers.

In November 2020, an integrated energy station built by the Ningbo branch of the State Grid Corporation of China in east China's Zhejiang province was put into op-

eration. The data center of the energy station became the first of its kind in Zhejiang to use container-type equipment room with a liquid cooling system, which can save more than 430,000 kWh of electricity a year.

Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing division of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, has made available to companies its self-developed immersion liquid cooling technology. By immersing servers in a special insulating coolant to enable heat generated by servers to be quickly carried away to external circulation by the coolant, the technology can reduce energy consumption by over 70 percent.

Not long ago, China has approved a project to build eight national integrated computing hubs with 10 data center clusters across the country, completing the overall layout for the country's national integrated big-data center system while indicating that its strategy to channel more computing resources from the eastern regions to its less developed yet resource-rich western regions is in full swing.

The east-to-west computing resource transfer project is expected to guide the development of data center industry in western China, which will effectively increase the utilization of renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and water, in the country's western regions and eventually achieve an effective balance between industrial supply and energy consumption.

By the end of 2023, the PUE ratio of newly built large and super large data centers in China will be reduced to less than 1.3, according to a three-year action plan on the development of large data centers between 2021 and 2023 released by the MIIT last July.

Such rigid targets and timetable are believed to further speed up the green transformation of data centers across the country. **People's Daily**

RATIBA YA IPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One



Tusiime's sweet story of baking cakes and turning family, friends into clients

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Dollar's strength pushes world economy deeper into slowdown

Page 14



Tanzania firm to empower females in starting digital businesses

Page 15

Fall in share prices sees value of market for bonds surpass equity market

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the first time in the history of capital markets in Tanzania, the value of bonds market has surpassed the value of equity market, which indicates investors' concentration on risk free government debt instruments and increased appetite for funds by the government.

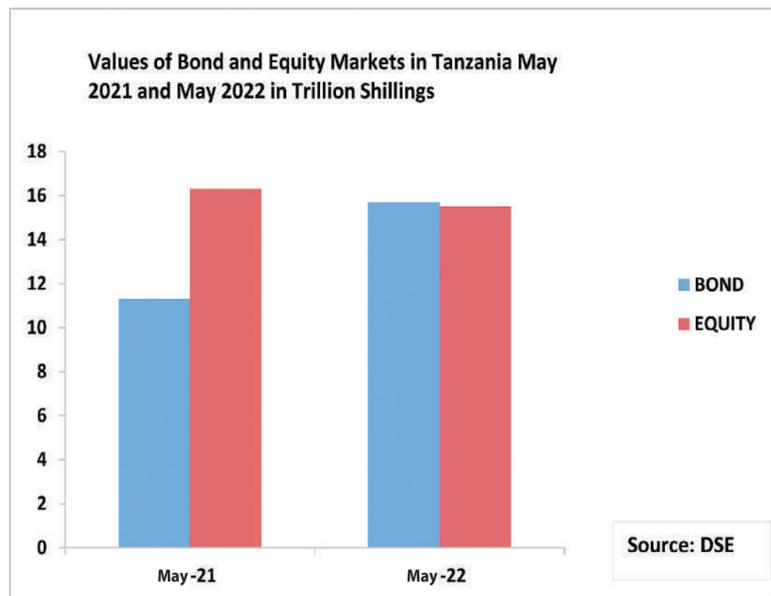
The market reports have shown that the outstanding value of bond market, both government and corporate, reached 15.79 trillion/- at the end of last week, compared with value of the equity market amounting 15.56 trillion/-.

Tanzania bonds market currently contributing 7 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), lower than an average of global level of 140 percent, which indicates unexploited opportunities for both government and private sector.

One year ago, Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) reports show that the value of equity market was 16.3 trillion/- against 11.3 trillion/- of the bond market (11.2 trillion/- government bonds and 142bn/- corporate bond).

The shrink of the value of equities market was a result of decrease of share prices among cross listed companies, while the value of domestic listed companies recorded an increased trend during the reviewed period.

The reports show the outstanding domestic equity market capitalization increased to 10.3trn/- by the end of last week from 9.5trn/- recorded during the end of May last year, which indicates resilience against economic shocks.



The impact of Covid-19 pandemic to the financial sector affected mostly the equity market in Tanzania, through cross listed Kenyan companies, while bond market remained strong throughout the pandemic era.

Bond market is seen by investors, both local and foreigners, as more risk-free than those of the equity market, which mostly depend on

the performance of listed firms.

The decrease was recorded by cross listed companies market capitalization which decreased to 5.2trn/- from 6.8trn/- respectively.

The major shrink of the value was recorded by East African Breweries Limited (EABL), which its market capitalization decreased to 2.2trn/- by the end of last week from 3.0trn/-

during the last week of May in 2021.

The fall of EABL market capitalization was a result of decreased share price as report shows it went down to 2,820/- per share last week from 3,700/- during the last week of May last year.

EABL is therefore the second largest listed company at the DSE behind TBL which has a market capitalization of 3.2trillion/-.

Another slowdown of the value recorded on KCB Bank Plc which its market capitalization shrunk by 500bn/- during the period to 2.1trn/- from 2.6trn/- respectively.

The Kenyan largest bank share price also went down to 710/- per share during the end of last week from 890/- per share during the last week of May, last year. KCB Bank is currently the third largest listed company at DSE.

Other cross listed companies experienced the decrease of its value during the reviewed period was Jubilee Holdings Limited (JHL), which its market capitalization shrunk to 380bn/- from 438bn/- respectively.

JHL share price decreased to 5,250/- from 5,950/- respectively.

But, the market price for Nation Media Group (NMG) increased during the period to 6.8bn/- from 7.6bn/- respectively as a result of increased share price to 405/- from 365/- respectively.

But, the market capitalisation for other cross listings including Kenya Airways

(KA) and Uchumi Supermarkets Limited (USL) remained flat during the period reviewed at 454bn/- and 1.8bn/- respectively.

The DSE reports shows the value of traded government bonds during the second quarter of this year ending June has so far reached 390bn/- against 19.2bn/- of the equity market, while there are no corporate bond traded.

DSE says, Tanzania is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa whose bonds market is underdeveloped; this has been and is still being the case despite the strong need for long term funding to feed into businesses, infrastructure projects, housing projects and other programs that should be implemented to improve people's social and economic welfare.

"Despite such a low level of bonds market development, our existing bonds market is also skewed towards Government bonds issued by the Central Government, there are few bonds issued by corporates and there are no bonds issued by municipalities and local governments," DSE says.

According to its annual report 2021, DSE says in 2022 will continue the overall delivery of the 2018 - 2022 Strategic Plan II which is embedded in the overall DSE objective of "providing a responsive securities exchange that promotes economic development through offering a range of attractive and cost-effective products and services."

Banks' lending rates rise amid government, borrowers' outcries

By Maku Mbani

BANKS' lending rates rose during the first quarter of this year, when compared with similar quarter of last year, amid the borrowers' outcry over the rising costs of funds.

Rising lending rates has remained the major barrier limiting Tanzanians from applying loans from banks and financial institutions, specifically Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Data from banks and Bank of Tanzania (BOT) have shown despite slight decrease of overall lending rates during the reviewed period, short term lending rates (up to one year) and negotiated lending rates went up.

According to BOT, overall lending rates slightly decreased to 16.28 percent during the first quarter of this year, from 16.63 percent recorded during similar quarter of last year and 16.81 percent in Q1, 2020.

Reports by BOT have shown the record low overall lending rate of 7.53 percent in Tanzania dated way back in March 2004.

The main drivers of lending rates among Tanzanian banks and financial institutions include operating costs, non-performing loans; and costs of funds (deposits interest rates), according to the BOP working paper on determinants of lending rates.

However, despite of decreased overall lending rate, short term lending rate



Bank of Tanzania headquarters in Dar es Salaam. Debate on reduction of lending rates had been heightened since last year PHOTO/FILE

(up to one year) increased to 16.66 percent from 15.87 percent respectively and 15.72 percent during similar quarter of 2020.

Negotiated lending rates also increased to 13.82 percent during the first three months of this year from 13.80 percent recorded during the first quarter of last year.

During the first quarter of 2020, the rate was 13.26 percent.

This has also increased the margin between one year lending and deposit rates to 8.45 percent in Q1, 2022 from 7.07 percent recorded during similar quarter of last year.

This is being recorded when banks have reduced interbank

cash market rate, which they use to lend each other.

BOT report says overnight Inter-Bank Cash Market (IBCM) interest rate declined to an average of 3.15 percent from 3.84 percent in the preceding quarter.

Overall IBCM rate eased to 4.42 percent from 4.49 percent in the

previous quarter while, 2-7 days' rate remained broadly the same at an average of 4.5 percent, according to BOT.

Total market transactions amounted to 5.3trn/- in the quarter ending March 2022, higher than TZS 4.9trn/- traded in the preceding quarter.

High interest rate spreads signal banking sector inefficiency and, when that occurs, it hampers not only financial development, but also economic growth as credit to productive use is constrained due to high lending rates which are a cost to investors, according to BOT working paper.

Lending interest rate to charge also matters to a commercial bank since profit banks earn—the interest income—makes a significant component of their revenues.

In its monetary policy statement for February this year, BOT noted that will continue to work with stakeholders in banking sector to ensure reduced lending rates through pol-

icy measures and lenders willingness.

Furthermore, BOT say in the statement that will strengthen liquidity forecasting and monitoring to ensure stability in liquidity and interest rates.

"In order to safeguard the market-based interest rate determination, measures will be instituted to increase transparency and improve efficiency in the markets, including ways to improve price discovery and service delivery, as well as adhering to the code of conduct and market norms," BOT said in its policy statement.

In addition, the Bank of Tanzania said will keep engaging stakeholders to address 40 factors hindering the transmission of monetary policy, thus improving the responsiveness of interest rates on loans to changes in monetary policy conditions, policy measures and reforms in the financial sector.

These interventions will form a critical input to a strategic shift towards interest rate-based monetary policy framework with a view to improving the effectiveness of monetary policy in future, the central bank adds.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan once also spoke on exorbitant lending rates, calling for banks to reduce to the level of which will ensure affordability to most of Tanzanians.

Giving his remarks during the 20th Conference of Financial Institutions (COFI) in November last year, the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA) chairman, Mr Abdulmajid Nsekela, said lending interest rates would soon start going down, saying a number of issues were being deliberated between lenders and the BoT.

Debate on reduction of lending rates had been heightened last year, after BoT introduced in July some policy measures that were meant to lay a solid framework to increase liquidity and reduce the cost of lending to the private sector.

During similar event, BOT Governor, Prof Florens Luoga was also quoted saying, to ensure sustainable economic growth, the banking sub-sector's regulator has implemented a number of policies that aim to reduce loan interest rates, increase liquidity in banks and increase loans in the agriculture sector

US firm to assist artists, craftsmen in marketing their products

By Beatrice Philemon

THE US-based firm TUMZO has said will assist Tanzanian artists and craftsmen and women to secure markets for their artistic products in different countries in the world.

Tanzania Federation of Crafts and Arts (TAFCA)'s President Adrian Nyangamale revealed this last week during the arts Exhibition held in Dar es Salaam that this was made possible during Dubai Export which was held in Dubai on March 26th this year.

Nyangamale who was recently in Dubai as part of Tanzanian dele-

gation team told the Smart Money that Dubai export proved fruitful, as Americans were very impressed with sculptures, drawing products including Tinga-Tinga painting designed and made by local artists.

He said while in Dubai, they met different people, businessmen and TUMZO management with whom they discussed the market issue and how they can access Tanzanian products.

"We are very glad for this fair because Tanzania's initiatives to promote our products has achieved positive responses after TUMZO promised to promote artistic products across the world," he said



Sculptures at work. Lack of reliable market remains a major challenge for Tanzanian craftsmen

According to him, TUMZO is an app that connects travelers and tourists with producers of souvenirs. He said TUMZO discover the culture, arts and traditions of the place by interacting with true masters of their craft as well as meet the artisans in person or arrange for the purchase to be delivered to clients.

In a bid to help Tanzanian artists benefit from what they produce, TUMZO's Chief Executive Officer were in Tanzania last week to meet with TAFCA's management, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) and Kiswahili Council (BAKITA) to see how they can collaborate in promot-

ing Tanzanian artistic products through digital channels.

"Right now we are sensitizing artists including artisans and craftsmen in all areas where they are to be ready to utilize this opportunity," he said

Also they advise them to make high quality products that will attract more buyers around the world to purchase it.

According to him, Tanzanian artists have high quality products, but the main challenge is lack of market where they can sell their products. He called on the government to assist them to build the National Art Gallery or designate a special

area where artists will be displaying their products, which is reachable by tourists or travelers.

The main goal is to help them benefit from their work as currently they sell to speculators who purchase them at low prices.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan also said that India will continue to collaborate with Tanzanian artists and TAFCA to market artistic products in India.

He said, they plan to have a similar Art Exhibition in the coming month whereby Tanzania artists will promote their talents and products.

Tusiime's sweet story of baking cakes and turning family, friends into clients

KAMPALA

IN 2019, Violet Tusiime met and connected with fellow worshippers at a church in a city suburb who were undertaking baking lessons. In addition to spiritual nourishing, she learnt how to bake. And as the saying goes, the rest is history.

To some people, the end of a relationship means bitterness and not much to write home about, but it is a different tale for Violet Tusiime.

She has her ex-boyfriend to thank for not only a happy ending but also some productive engagements.

In the many conversations they had, was an idea to start a baking company. The opportunity came when she was prepared because her friends had introduced her to informal training in baking.

Prior to that, she was a singer and dancer in a local troupe, and with the lockdown after the outbreak of Covid-19, she needed a source of livelihood and baking seemed to be the obvious entrepreneurial undertaking.

Like many, she was not about to waste the crisis the pandemic had brought.

"I no longer had gigs as a source of livelihood so I started baking at home and I would supply them to family and friends. The feedback was good which encouraged me to keep going," she recalls.

She made cupcakes and standard cakes of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, carrot, banana and red velvet flavours. The most popular ones are chocolate tutti fruity, vanilla, black forest.

For now, Tusiime works alone. Her bakery is still small which she says helps her keep her operational costs low. She knows many of her clients personally.

With time, her friends and family have referred her to their friends as customers. The prices of cakes differ depending on size and details a client might require. The lowest costs Shs70, 000. She continues to research about baking, designs and applies the knowledge during the baking process.

For every penny she earns, she saves a considerable percentage. She reads up on the machines and other items she needed to invest in. That made it easier for her to align her aspirations because with every item identified, she went to Katwe and inquired about the price and durability.

Her first investment was in an oven. It cost her Shs3m. She went on to buy pans,



ingredients and others. When she set out, it was about baking cakes in order to have money in her pocket.

"Initially my focus was not as strong as it is today. At some point, I was not sure if I was going to do baking on a long-term basis. The interest and love grew and here I am. The encouragement from my ex-boyfriend got me to focus better," the proprietor of Candy Cakes 256 explains.

Her financial discipline has also improved. She is also able to handle her finances better than when she started out. Today, she knows that if she bakes a cake and sells it at Shs70, 000, she will save between 20 and 30 percent of the gross payment.

The 70 percent will be ploughed back into the expenditures of buying ingredients as well as catering to the bills since the oven and mixture machines use electricity.

Tusiime is a Senior Two (S.2) dropout from Kyebambe Girls Secondary School. "I had joined Senior Two when my paternal grandfather who was catering for my tuition passed on. My parents were unable to look after me because they had me when they were still young," she says.

When she could not continue with education, music was her way out. She started singing in choir in Fort Portal before joining a music group called 'Home of Talent' in which she sang and

danced.

The founder of the group, Roger Ayesiga, knew her family. They performed at events such as introductions and weddings and be paid.

"He gave me accommodation until I met my ex-boyfriend and moved in with him. At that time he was a music coach in Fort Portal but later we moved to Kampala," she says.

In 2019, she met and connected with fellow worshippers at a church in a city suburb who were undertaking baking lessons. She joined them and learnt how to bake. And like the saying goes, the rest is history.

Her boyfriend surprised her with a gift of Shs3m which she was wise to use as start-up capital to buy an oven.

He also advised her to search and get a place where she would stay and also have enough space to run her cottage baking business.

"The finishing on the first cakes I made was terrible, but I kept on researching and improving on my designs. Pinterest has been a good learning platform. To publicise and market my business, my boyfriend started taking pictures and paying for Facebook adverts. My friends came through to support my hustle by also recommending it to their friends. To keep the clients, I have celebrated with them and rewarded them with gifts such as t-shirts, vacuum flasks and umbrellas," Tusiime adds.

Education can bolster financial inclusion of women

By Hosea Kili, NAIROBI

AS we celebrated International Women's Day, I could not help pondering how women in today's hyper-connected world still face financial exclusion. Appallingly, estimates indicate that 2.3 billion working-age women do not have an account at a formal financial institution.

It is also high on the policy agenda, with a wide range of supply-side initiatives designed to improve access, and increasing recognition of the importance of tackling demand-side barriers to financial inclusion.

In particular, there has been a significant appreciation of the role of financial education in improving levels of financial inclusion around the world.

It is widely accepted that better and relevant financial inclusion initiatives can foster reduced gender inequalities.

Women who have access to bank accounts, savings mechanisms, and other financial services may be better able to control their earnings and undertake personal and productive expenditures.

Numerous studies posit that improved access to financial services for women could also prove to be the key to unlocking the potential for women-owned and women-managed micro and small enterprises to grow.

Financial inclusion for women also helps in reducing the exposure of poor and rural households to income shocks, improving growth, and promoting more sustainable and equitable development.



The creation of a vibrant and globally competitive economic sector hinges on financial inclusion. It is through this that Kenya anticipates creating jobs, promoting a culture of savings and financing its investment needs.

Rated highly on mobile penetration, Kenya has the opportunity to enhance not only access and utilisation, but also build the capability of the consumers for enhanced protection and sound financial behaviour.

Reaching individuals and groups that are historically underserved remains the biggest challenge.

A large number of women and youth have low levels of education and skills with many still facing cultural obstacles that hinder them from accessing finance.

Working closely with the Women in Business Network, we at CPF believe that we have the opportunity to make a strong contribution to communities in our country by promoting financial literacy among women engaged in the enterprise, strengthening financial and operational growth for women-led groups as well as the provision of financial enterprise skills training.

One of the central levers in our strategy is focused on ensuring women have more access to and use of digital financial services, such as mobile bank accounts and digital payment systems, so that they can make their own decisions about spending, saving, taking financial risks, and building their financial futures.

Explicitly, the core objective of this work is to close the persistent gender gap in financial inclusion, with a focus on low-income women.

World Bank Global data confirms that while account ownership has increased overall, gender gaps are not narrowing and remain unchanged over the past six years.

Although we have seen good progress in financial inclusion, women remain less likely than men to have an account.

In developing economies, such as ours, the gender gap is nine percentage points on average, which has remained virtually unchanged since 2011. This doesn't mean that women aren't making gains. We have seen progress in the absolute number of banked women.

I believe that mobile money can reduce gender inequality in financial inclusion. We've seen that where there is high mobile ownership, such as in sub-Saharan African economies, the gender differences are narrower.

For example, in Kenya, men are 18 percentage points more likely than women to have a traditional bank account – but more women than men have only a mobile money account.

While more deliberate efforts are needed to close the gender gap and realise the potential gains of financial inclusion, educating women actively engaged in enterprise on how they can formalise their business remains crucial to narrowing the gender gap.

As a first pathway to accelerating the closure of the gender gap, we see promise in digitising social safety net programmes to increase the value of digital financial services for women – especially poor women – and to encourage more women into adopting and using digital financial services.



How mobile money can boost universal health coverage

By Dan Bui

TROPICAL Cyclone Emnati made landfall in Madagascar on Feb. 23, the second cyclone in a month to hit the island nation.

These successive cyclones, along with a pair of tropical storms that hit the northeastern coast, have resulted in tens of thousands being displaced to temporary shelters, entire communities being cut off from transport links, and the destruction of homes, schools, and health care facilities.

Emnati and its predecessor Batsirai crashed into vulnerable communities that had already been suffering from the worst drought in 40 years, which has left more than 1.1 million people affected by severe acute food insecurity.

The World Food Programme's deputy country director in Madagascar, Arduino Mangoni, has claimed this to potentially be "the first climate change famine on earth."

Madagascar's experience may serve as a harbinger of the devastation climate change could reap on health care systems in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. Cyclones, droughts, and other natural disasters hamper health care delivery, exacerbating crises where the population is most at risk of disease and malnutrition.

They also exacerbate existing financial barriers to health care as many patients in Africa are forced to pay out of pocket for health services, despite more than 1 in 3 Africans experiencing extreme poverty. Families that lack the financial resources needed to access essential, sometimes life-saving, care are vulnerable to medical impoverishment and some avoid seeking health care altogether.

Multiple initiatives have responded to humanitarian crises across Africa with programs that deliver emergency funds for health. Many use "mobile money," a mobile phone-based payment technology ubiquitous across sub-Saharan Africa, which enables digital savings, transfers, and payments as an alternative to formal banking.

These are critical in places such as Madagascar, where only 10% of the population has a formal bank account at a financial institution. In southern Madagascar, a partnership of public and private health system stakeholders mitigated the effects of COVID-19 and drought by digitally distributing restricted, unconditional cash transfers, subsidizing patients' treatment and increasing access to health care services.

Yet while cash transfers are well placed to respond to immediate health needs during an emergency, they do not eliminate out-of-pocket expenses, meaning there remains a serious barrier to widespread access to health care. Additionally, they are often reliant on funding from external partners, which cannot be guaranteed in the long term.

As sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to experience more severe climate change-related disasters, which will hit health systems and income security, a more sustainable health financing solution is urgently necessary.

Achieving universal health coverage, an integral part of the United

Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, is critical to ensuring that communities have equitable access to quality health care without risking financial hardship. Comprehensive health coverage schemes reduce the burden of health expenses on those experiencing the highest levels of poverty in society.

Digital health financing tools, adapted to local contexts, help the drive toward universal health coverage by facilitating a move away from inefficient paper-based processes and contributing to a more transparent and sustainably financed health system.

M-TIBA, predominantly used in Kenya, allows users to save funds via a mobile health wallet and pay for their health care using mobile money. It has been used to enroll over 2.5 million Kenyans in a pilot of a universal health coverage scheme.

Similarly, mTOMADY provides users in Madagascar with a mobile wallet to digitally enroll in insurance schemes, pay premiums, and save for health care costs. The platform allows insurance claims to be filed offline, before they are automatically scanned for fraud and reimbursed, speeding up the process and reducing the administrative burden for health care providers.

Such technologies often suffer from "pilotitis" and data from 2014 shows that fewer than 1% of digital health pilots have gone on to scale or achieve institutionalization. To be successful, they must directly respond to the needs of the national health system and be integrated into existing national platforms.

Government support and adoption of these tools is key, and the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the political will to accelerate digital health technologies, with some countries now aiming to fully digitalize their social protection programs.

Technologies can move toward institutionalization and scale up with the partnership of governments and international organizations. For example, mTOMADY is working with the Malagasy Ministry of Health, which has secured funding from the World Bank to distribute digital health care vouchers to pregnant people and children under 5.

The push toward universal health coverage is essential if the world is to achieve equitable health systems that do not put people at risk of poverty – and digital health financing tools may help achieve this.

Madagascar's recent experience with devastating natural disasters demonstrates the precarity of health systems, which, all over sub-Saharan Africa, will be ever more frequently affected by the effects of climate change. To respond, it is imperative to draw on the potential of digital technologies to create a more sustainable and resilient social security net, now.

Dan Bui is a Berlin-based digital healthcare policy researcher. He is currently studying for his bachelor's degree in Modern Languages at the University of Cambridge, with research interests in digital health financing and public participation in sub-Saharan Africa.

Local firm to empower females in establishing digital businesses

By Beatrice Philemon

YOUNG women in rural and urban areas have a reason to smile after Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)-Tanzania announced that will embark on a new programme to train them on digital skills to become software developer and set up a digital businesses.

DOT Tanzania, Communications and Partnerships Manager, Ndimbumi Msongole said recently at the just-ended one day workshop on Gender and Digital Skills Working Group Co-Creation.

She said DOT Tanzania has decided to embark on this programme after discovering that the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry is still largely dominated by males.

"As DOT Tanzania we want to encourage more young women in Tanzania to take jobs in the sector to generate income, help them to become social innovators, reduce the gender digital gap through digital skills capacity building, reduce device and connectivity costs and changing policies that keep women offline," she said.

The Ministry of information and information communication technology assistant director Cybersecurity, Eng. Stephen Wangwe said in a bid to help young women benefit from the programme, the government was doing quite a lot in the direction.

"Currently, there is a need to conduct assessment to identify challenges and opinions of diversified groups in Tanzania with respect to ICT access and use," he said.

The diversified groups include women, youth, and people with disabilities, elderly and entrepreneurs.

This assessment exercise is scheduled to be completed within this financial year ending 30th June, 2022.

The output of the assessment will be used to ensure diversity inclusion in all ongoing ICT projects that the Government is deploying starting with Digital Tanzania Programme under World Bank, Digital 4 Tanzania under the EU and others.



The government has promised to continue creating condition to foster ICT investments across all sectors and community diversities. PHOTO/FILE

Also the ministry is finalizing the regulations for establishing a regulatory sandbox framework that will provide unique opportunity to the youths and entrepreneurship community, mainly the innovation category.

The Government with its stakeholders will continue developing conducive environment to foster ICT investments and adoption across all sectors and community diversities.

"I am aware that DOT Tanzania has entered into a new Five years Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ICT Commission which is our implementing agency with respect to development and promotion of ICT skills, research, innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities all in the pursuit of developing national economic growth," he said.

The key components within this MOU being Digital Ecosystem and Digital Enabling Environment for Youth; Digital Platforms and e-Services; and Tanzania Youth Digital Summit.

"The Government is open to receive your proposals and how you think the Government can intervene in pushing this agenda forward," he said.

According to him, the Government appreciates the Digital Opportunity Trust's vision to include all underserved and disadvantaged young women and men in the realization of potentials

of the digital economy.

"I am encouraged by DOT's intervention in mobilizing and inspiring all underserved and disadvantaged young people with digital literacy, 21st-century skills and the self-confidence that will enable them to thrive in an inclusive digital economy," he said.

Furthermore, I am told that DOT Tanzania has joined the Edison Alliance and its 1 Billion Lives Challenge - a commitment to empower 1 million people by 2025 and lead them into an inclusive digital economy. The Ministry in collaboration with stakeholders joins the pledge for bridging the Digital Divide.

"As the ministry we appreciate the great work that has been done in this agenda, hearing what the Canadian High Commission is doing, the UN Women and many other relevant organizations," he said

Currently the government is striving to achieve global targets including the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the national goals set out in the National Vision 2025.

"As nation, we believe that it is only through availability of affordable, convenient and reliable access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) across the whole community. This is why the Government developed the National ICT Policy of 2016," he said.

Macao's old food stores seek new development

MACAO

SELLING a number of delicacies ranging from staple food and snacks to dairy and tea, the many famous stores located at different spots of the old town area of the Macao Peninsula have become the name card for traditional food and unique souvenirs in the Macao special administrative region (SAR).

Tam Soi Wing is the third-generation inheritor of Pastelaria Chui Heong, a pastry shop known for its hand-made char-grilled almond cookies on the narrow yet bustling Rua do Gamboa street.

"At the beginning, my grandfather made the cookies and my grandmother carried a load around to sell them. In the 1970s, my mother and uncle took over and bought a shop. In 2020, sponsored by the SAR government, I bought this new shop and the old one was turned into a factory," she told Xinhua.

Labeled as a typical old shop in Macao, Chui Heong has carried on the tradition of experienced master workers by mixing raw materials, molding them, and grilling them on char fire, all with hands.

A tourist surnamed Su from Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province in the mainland, said she came to Chui Heong particularly for the hand-made pastries. "It took me a long time to find the store," she said. "I like pastries made in the traditional way."

Not far from Chui Heong sits Lok Kei Noodles, a Michelin guide restaurant for 12 years. The inconspicuous restaurant by look is famous among the locals and tourists alike, offering its brand bamboo-pressed noodles and crab congee.

Lei Man Lung is the third-generation inheritor of Lok Kei. Sitting on a giant bamboo rod, Lei jumps up and down for nearly an hour to make the bamboo rod flatten a flour dough with nearly 10,000 times of repeated pressing.

"Making bamboo-pressing noodles requires great efforts," Lei said. "But it

helps make the noodles smoother, more elastic, and therefore more tasty."

Also in the area, Lan Heong Kuok, a typical Cantonese tea house, is crowded with customers during peak time, who come specially for the traditional dim sum at attractive prices.

"My father founded the restaurant 59 years ago," said Chan Zi Wai. "In the old days, customers liked reading newspapers here. Now they like checking on their mobile phones. Most other things remain unchanged."

Shortly before the Dragon Boat Festival, which falls on June 3 this year, the restaurant has been busy selling zongzi, a festive food made of glutinous rice stuffed with different fillings and wrapped with bamboo or reed leaves.

Each year by this time, the first floor of the three-story building is turned into a workshop. Employees make zongzi on site with fillings of pork, beans and salted egg yolk, and hang their products on iron racks for display.

"We sell tens of thousands of zongzi for each Dragon Boat Festival," said Chan. The glutinous "giants", each weighing over 500 grams on average, are priced from 16 patacas (about 1.98 U.S. dollars) to 100 patacas.

With decades or even centuries of history, these old food stores are now faced with new challenges, especially with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak in early 2020, the number of tourists to Macao has fallen sharply, dealing a blow to small and micro businesses. Official data showed visitor arrivals in Macao totaled over 7.7 million in 2021, an increase of 30.7 percent year on year and yet a decline of over 80 percent compared to 2019.

"There were long queues in front of our store at the best times," said Tam, whose pastry products are mostly bought by tourists as souvenirs. "Now, due to the pandemic, we have fewer customers."

Trying to be more innovative, Chui Heong now offers small packages of pastries aiming to attract young customers. "We are also thinking about selling online to mainland customers," Tam said.

To Lei, the solution is to make traditional foods more tailored to the tastes of modern customers. The Michelin guide restaurant has invented new dishes by adding dried shrimps, cured pork and dried citrus peels into fish paste, making the mixing into ball shapes, and frying them. "Many tourists from Guangdong really like coming to us," Lei



With decades or even centuries of history, these old food stores are now faced with new challenges, especially with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. PHOTO/XINHUA

said. However, Lei now faces another challenge, inheritance, as making bamboo-pressed noodles not only requires great physical strength, but is also difficult to be adept at.

According to the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Macao SAR, only a few restaurants in Macao currently make bamboo-pressed noodles. In 2020, the bureau listed the skill as intangible cultural heritage of the SAR.

"My grandfather did the business to make a living," Lei said. "To my generation, it's about keeping the family reputation and inheriting the skill." Chan, now 65, runs Lan Heong Kuok together with his two elder sisters. "Our children don't want to take over," he said. "They think this is too much hard work."

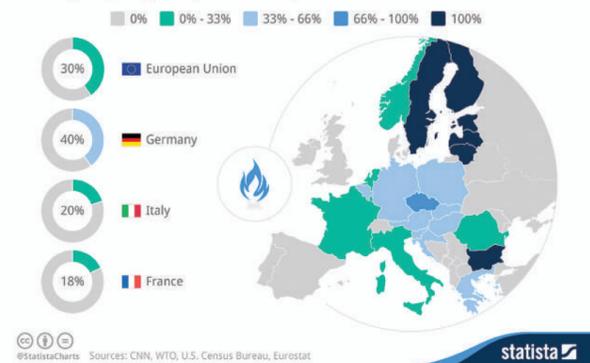
Since the pandemic, business in Lan Heong Kuok dropped 30 to 40 percent. "I'm grateful already that Macao has done a good job controlling the epidemic and stimulating the economy," said Chan. "We can only do our best, and hope for the best."

As of Monday, Macao has reported no new locally transmitted COVID-19 cases for about seven months consecutively.

The Macao SAR government has also adopted a series of policies to stimulate the economy, including the wealth partaking scheme, under which each permanent and non-permanent resident is entitled to receiving 10,000 patacas and 6,000 patacas respectively, and a plan for consumption benefits through electronic payment methods, under which each resident is entitled to 8,000 patacas. (1 pataca equals 0.1241 U.S. dollar)

Europe is Highly Dependent on Russian Gas

Percentage of gas supplied by Russia to European countries



EU drafts plan for buying Russian gas amid sanctions

BRUSSELS

THE European Union is set to offer its gas importers a solution to avoid a breach of sanctions when buying fuel from Russia and still effectively satisfy President Vladimir Putin's demands over payment in rubles.

In new guidance on gas payments, the European Commission plans to say that companies should make a clear statement that they consider their obligations fulfilled once they pay in euros or dollars, in line with existing contracts, according to people familiar with the matter.

The EU's executive arm told the governments that the guidance does not prevent companies from opening an account at Gazprombank and will allow them to purchase gas in accordance with EU sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the people added.

European companies have been scrambling for weeks to figure out how they can meet Moscow's demand and keep the crucial gas flowing without violating sanctions on Russia's central bank. Putin said on March 31 that if payments aren't made in rubles, gas exports would be halted. Europe depends heavily on the Russian fuel to heat homes and power industry.

Initially, the EU had assessed that the payment mechanism demanded by Putin handed Moscow total control of the process, breached contracts and -- crucially -- violated the bloc's sanctions.

On Friday, the commission told

member states in a closed-door meeting that the updated guidance will clarify that companies can open an account in euros or dollars at Gazprombank as ordered by the Kremlin, according to the people, who asked not to be identified because the meeting was private.

But the EU's executive arm stopped short of saying whether also having an account in rubles -- a step included in the Russian decree -- was in line with EU regulations. Previously, officials had indicated, though never in writing, that opening such an account would breach sanctions. The updated guidance, as presented to member states, fails to address this specific point, the people said.

Another key point in the guidance is that once European companies make a payment in euros or dollars and declare their obligation complete, no further action should be required of them from the Russian side in regard to the payment.

The clock is ticking because many firms have payment deadlines falling due later this month -- and if they don't pay, gas flows could be cut off. Poland and Bulgaria already saw their supplies cut after failing to comply with Russia's requests.

Putin's demands to pay in rubles have divided EU member states, highlighting the dependence of some nations on Russian imports. Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi said earlier this week European companies will be able to pay for gas in rubles without breaching sanctions.

NMB Bank Plc allocates 100bn/- for loans to tourism stakeholders

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

NMB Bank has set aside 100bn/- that will be provided as loans to tourism sector stakeholders as part of its efforts to support revamping the sector that was hard-hit by the covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking during a tourism stakeholder's conference organized by NMB, the NMB Chief Internal Auditor Benedicto Baragomwa said NMB bank realizes the contribution of the tourism sector in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) adding that the bank will continue supporting various efforts to enhance growth of the sector.

The conference aimed at sensitizing tourism sector stakeholders on how to capitalize on the tourism business especially after the Covid-19 epidemic that severely affected the tourism industry in the country.

"We have met with tourism stakeholders to brainstorm on how we can uplift the tourism sector especially after the covid-19 pandemic that hit the sector so hard,"

He noted that the bank will continue supporting growth of the sector by offering financial services like foreign exchange services adding that the bank has already finalized plans to take financial services to tourism hot spot including Nungwi and Paje.

Baragomwa added that the bank has installed automated teller machines capable of exchanging foreign currency at key locations such as Abeid Amani Karum Airport and Customs.

On his part the Alex Mgeni, the NMB Business Unit Head said his bank being the largest Tanzanian bank at the moment will continue supporting growth of the sector by providing the required capital and support the growth of the tourism industry.

"We have set aside a total 100bn/- for lending. We have started with loans for fishing boats and passengers. We will continue holding regular meetings like this to get ideas from you on what project we can do together to enhance growth of the tourism sector."

Earlier, the Zanzibar Minister of Tourism and Heritage, Simai Mohamed Said was impressed by NMB Bank's contribution in creating opportunities to support the blue economy agenda through the tourism industry.

He said, the tourism industry in Zanzibar has a big value chain adding that NMB bank has done a commendable job of supporting the Zanzibar Government blue economy drive and challenged the bank to advertise the island's tourist attractions.

"Thank you very much NMB for allocating 100bn/- to lend to tourism stakeholders, you are definitely showing the way and most of all you are close to the people," said Simai.

He added, "There is need for you to engage with tourism stakeholders and come up with tailor-made products that suit their needs. When you engage them, you will realize that they have so much to advise"

The Chairman of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, Rahim Bhaloo said apart from the loans that will be availed to tourism stakeholders in Zanzibar, there is a need training of tourism stakeholders on how to tap and embrace the available opportunities.

WORLD

'Copycat' mass shootings in US becoming deadlier, experts warn

LOS ANGELES

AN 18-year-old white man suspected of fatally shooting 10 people in a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, appears to be the latest in a line of "copycat" gunmen carrying out deadlier mass shootings inspired by previous attackers, experts warned on Sunday.

Payton Gendron, who surrendered to police on Saturday after the attack, apparently publicized a racist manifesto on the internet and broadcast the attack in real time on social media platform Twitch, a live video service owned by Amazon.com. Authorities called the mass killing an act of "racially motivated violent extremism."

Experts say the trend of mostly young white men being inspired by previous racist gun massacres is on the rise, citing recent mass shootings, including the 2015 attack at a Black church in Charleston, South Carolina, a 2018 shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburgh and a 2019 attack at a Walmart in an Hispanic neighborhood of El Paso.

Adam Lankford, a criminology professor at the University of Alabama, has studied trends in mass shootings over time. His 2020 study analyzing victim data showed that the "deadliest" shootings - where more than eight people are killed - had doubled in number since 2010, compared to the previous 40 years.

"It's clearly not just random. They are not people dreaming this up on their own. They are learning it from each other," Lankford said.

He added: "They want to be like the previous attacker, who is a role model."

Lankford's study found that the "deadliest" shootings comprised 25 percent of mass public shootings from 1966 to 2009, but from 2010 to 2019 had increased to 50 percent of mass public shootings, in which there was "direct evidence that perpetrator was influenced by another specific attacker or attackers."

Lankford said the rise in these copycat mass killings have a specific trend: the gunmen find their inspiration from the personal life details of previous mass shooters. "It's not repeating the incident that inspires them. It's the intimate details of their lives that promote the influence," he said.

Lankford said one way to try and combat the rise in such hate crimes is for the media to avoid publishing details of the shooters' personal lives.

Red Flags

Hate-motivated mass shootings and fame-seeking perpetrators have rapidly increased since 2015, according to an analysis by The Violence Project, which tracks mass shootings in the United States.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate and extremist groups, told Reuters on Sunday the Buffalo gunman "had a substantial online history in niche, toxic online communities."

"From what he wrote online, by his own account he was radicalized through participation in these forums," Susan Corke, director of SPLC's Intelligence Project, said in an emailed statement.

The SPLC said that even though it had not seen any evidence yet of the



A Buffalo police officer talks to children at the scene of Saturday's shooting at a supermarket, on Sunday, in Buffalo, New York. AP

gunman's affiliation to a specific far right or racist group, there were red flags.

"He discussed building up a weapons cache and asked detailed questions about body armor on a Discord channel dedicated to gun culture. He also posted about allegedly killing a cat and dismembering it. He appears to have posted detailed plans for an attack as early as two weeks ago and posted frequently after that about his planning," Corke added.

The SPLC said it had obtained a transcript of the suspect's Discord chat log, adding they have "high confidence" when asked about its authenticity. Reuters could not independently authenticate the postings.

Social media and streaming platforms like Twitch, which said it removed the stream of Saturday's shooting after less than two minutes, have grappled with controlling violent and extremist content for years.

The live-nature of the broadcasts makes it particularly difficult to moderate as streaming platforms do not have time-delays like television broadcasts. Facebook has sought to address the livestream violence issue in 2019 after allowing 17 minutes of a livestream of a mass shooting in Christchurch, New Zealand, before taking it down. It now has a one-strike policy which temporarily restricts users after breaking a rule.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said on Sunday the stream should have been taken down faster and that she would take the mat-

ter up with social media platforms.

Democratic US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also urged social media companies to address and track down extremism on their platforms.

California church shooting

On Sunday, a gunman opened fire in a Southern California church during a lunch banquet, killing one person and wounding five, before churchgoers detained the suspect and hog-tied his legs with an electrical cord, authorities said.

Police responded to the incident that unfolded at about 1:30 pm local time (2039 GMT) at the Geneva Presbyterian Church in Laguna Woods and arrested an unidentified suspect in his 60s. Orange County Undersheriff Jeff Hallock told a news conference.

"That group of churchgoers displayed ... exceptional heroism and bravery in intervening to stop the suspect. They undoubtedly prevented additional injuries and fatalities," he said.

One person died at the scene while four other victims were critically wounded. Another person suffered minor injuries, he said. All of the injured were taken to hospitals.

About 30 to 40 people were in the church when the shooting occurred, Hallock said.

Two handguns were found at the scene. It was at least the second mass shooting of the weekend in the United States. **Agencies**

Chinese scientists develop mosaic vaccine against COVID variants

BEIJING

CHINESE scientists have developed a mosaic nanoparticle candidate COVID-19 vaccine that can protect against the infections of COVID-19 variants.

Scientists from Sun Yat-sen University, the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou Medical University, and the Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention designed the quadrivalent mosaic nanoparticle vaccine comprising spike proteins from the SARS-CoV-2 prototype and three major variants including Alpha, Beta, and Gamma variants.

The virus spike protein is

known to play a critical role in viral attachment and fusion with the host cell, and therefore, the majority of antibodies that neutralize viral infection target the spike protein.

However, mutations from the virus variants located on the spike protein extensively lead to broad antibody resistance and immune escape from vaccine-elicited sera, bringing additional uncertainty surrounding the efficacy of existing vaccines.

The nanoparticle is shown to have elicited equivalent or superior neutralizing antibodies against variant strains in mice and non-human primates with only a small reduction in neutralization



A medical worker prepares a dose of COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination site in Beijing, China, Dec 9, 2021. File photo

titers against the ancestral strain, according to the study published recently in the journal Nature Communications.

They also tested the vaccine against Omicron and Lambda variants of the coronavirus. The two variants only slightly reduced the neutralization potency of sera induced by the vaccine, suggesting that the induced sera could elicit broadly protective antibody responses to circulating variants, according to the study.

The results provide a proof of principle for the development of multivalent vaccines against pandemic and potential pre-emergent SARS-CoV-2 variants, the researchers said. **Xinhua**

Ukraine's admission to NATO might result in Russia-alliance territorial dispute - Kremlin

MOSCOW

UKRAINE'S hypothetical admission to NATO might produce a situation of a territorial dispute between Russia and one of the alliance's member-states, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"We have no territorial disputes either with Finland or with Sweden, while Ukraine's hypothetical admission to the alliance might produce a situation of a territorial dispute between Russia and one of the alliance's member-states," Peskov said.



Asked about Finland's and Sweden's admission to NATO, Peskov said that it would by no means strengthen the architecture of security in Europe. Moscow keeps a close watch on this issue.

"There are reasons for the most profound analysis of the likely effects. We do not think, we are not certain that Finland's and Sweden's admission to NATO might strengthen or improve the architecture of security on our continent," Peskov said.

"This is a fundamental issue. We find it worrisome. We will keep a close watch on the effects Finland's and Swe-

den's admission to NATO would entail in practical terms to our security, which must be guaranteed absolutely unconditionally," Peskov said.

He stressed that Moscow was thoroughly monitoring the Swedish authorities' statements their country had no intention of hosting foreign military bases or weapon systems after its admission to the alliance. "We keep a close watch on this situation and analyze it with respect to the maintaining our country's security," he added.

Agencies

China strives to improve business environment for higher vitality of market entities

CHINA'S continuous efforts to deepen its reforms to streamline administration, delegate power, improve regulation and upgrade services for building a world-class business environment have greatly vitalized market entities and made important contributions to promoting high-quality economic and social development.

So far, the number of market entities across the country has exceeded 150 million, with an average annual increase of more than 12 percent. The number of private enterprises in the country increased fourfold in the past decade.

As of the end of 2020, the time needed for starting a company in China had

been reduced to less than four workdays, down from 22.9 since the country kicked off its national business system reform in 2014.

"It used to take six months for us to get a business license, but now we can get it in just one workday the soonest possible," said Phyllis Cheung, CEO of McDonald's China.

Cheung explained that in the past, her company had to apply for a series of certificates when opening a new restaurant, such as business license, food business license, organization code certificate, tax registration certificate, social insurance registration certificate, and pollutants discharge license.

According to Cheung, some of the certificates have merged into one today and some have been canceled, which significantly saves time for enterprises.

While streamlining approvals, China is also working to improve its management. It launched the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System in 2017, which strengthens supervision on delegated matters when they are being handled and after they have been handled.

As of March this year, more than 700 entities had been listed as enterprises with serious illegal and dishonest acts by market regulation authorities across the country, and their information has been

disclosed on the system.

Besides, China is constantly enhancing its services for enterprises by optimizing business procedures. In the past, if an enterprise made a mistake when filling an application form, then it had to go to the department in charge again and refill the form. Today, thanks to e-government services, enterprises can apply for certificates online.

So far, 31 provincial-level regions in China have electronic business registration procedures since the country piloted a national electronic registration program in 2016.

According to Zhou Hui, who runs a private vocational school in Changzhou,

east China's Jiangsu province, it took him about one and a half months to apply for a permit for running private vocational schools in the past, but the same application only takes a day nowadays.

"The survival and development of market entities rely on business environment. Great environment makes great enterprises. Relevant departments across China, upholding the vision that business environment means productivity, have constantly optimized business environment with multifaceted measures, which has continuously stimulated the passion of market entities for investment," said Liu Quanhong, director of the International Economics Re-

search Institute of the Chinese Academy of Macroeconomic Research.

To cope with the impacts of COVID-19 on some market entities, a new version of the new regulation on market entity registration unveiled last year allows market entities with management difficulty to register for suspension, which has provided a "buffer zone" for these entities.

"The business suspension rule is quite considerate and helps enterprises lower cost. It is lending a hand to us," said Wu Jieping, owner of a tech firm based in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province.

People's Daily

Global Coalition to defeat ISIS to renew efforts to fight extremist groups in Africa

MARRAKESH

THE Global coalition to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has vowed to pursue their fight against jihadist groups in Africa and in the Middle East.

The meeting brought together over 60 partners and was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, recently at the invitation of Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken.

In their joint communiqué, the ministers welcomed the first Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS meeting to be convened in Africa and reaffirmed their shared determination to continue the fight against the terrorist group through both military and civilian-led efforts contributing to the enduring defeat of the terrorist group.

Together the Ministers emphasized the protection of civilians as a priority and affirmed that international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as well as relevant UN Security Council resolutions, must be upheld under all circumstances.

They affirmed that ensuring the enduring defeat of Daesh/ISIS in Iraq and Syria remains the number one priority for the Defeat Daesh/ISIS Coalition, stressing that despite significant setbacks suffered by group's leadership over the recent past, the terrorist group continues to conduct attacks in Iraq and Syria and represents an ongoing threat, as shown by the large-scale attack against the Al-Sinai detention facility in northeast Syria in January 2022.

The Ministers reiterated the importance of allocating adequate resources to sustain Coalition and legitimate partner forces' efforts.

Civilian-led efforts, including prevention, stabilization, countering terrorist financing, counter narratives and foreign terrorist fighter prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration are increasingly necessary to achieve the lasting defeat of Daesh/ISIS.

The Ministers emphasized the need to enhance civilian-led counterterrorism capabilities in Iraq. They also stressed the need to ensure sustainable long-term solutions for Daesh/ISIS fighters and family members in northeast Syria, including appropriate legal procedures to ensure those guilty of crimes are held accountable.

In Syria, the Coalition stands with the Syrian people in support of a lasting political settlement in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254. The Coalition continues to support inclusive local recovery and stabilization in areas liberated from Daesh/ISIS and reconciliation and reintegration efforts to foster conditions conducive to a Syria-wide political resolution to the conflict under the parameters of UN Security Council Resolution 2254.

They also recognized the need to meet the evolving threat of Daesh/ISIS in Africa and welcomed the first three Africa Focus Group meetings, which took place in Brussels, Rome, and Marrakesh.

Under the auspices of the Global Coalition to Defeat Daesh/ISIS, the Africa Focus Group will bolster the civilian-led counterterrorism capabilities of African members of the group by drawing upon the Coalition's experiences in Iraq and Syria, and leveraging lessons learned, as appropriate, from the Defeat Daesh/ISIS campaign there to the African continent.

"This effort includes sharing assessments on the threat of Daesh/ISIS and other terrorist organizations on the African continent and coordinating and collaborating on the most effective and efficient methods to address these issues, including through proactive information sharing and border management, as well as stabilization, prevention and deradicalization projects," they said in statement.

They stressed the need for the Africa Focus Group to foster synergies with other existing international, sub-regional and regional counterterrorism efforts and initiatives on the African continent, suggesting the need to address the underlying causes to insecurity in Africa, while reiterating that any lasting solution to halting the spread of Daesh/ISIS on the continent will rely primarily on national authorities, as well as sub-regional and regional efforts and initiatives that acknowledge and address the political and economic drivers of conflict. **Agencies**



The meeting brought together over 60 partners and was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, recently at the invitation of Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita and US



Document on restoring Iran nuke deal is at high readiness – Deputy Foreign Minister

MOSCOW

THE document for returning to full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for the settlement around the Iran nuclear program is at a high level of readiness, the remaining problems are of political nature, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters yesterday.

“Now the document is at a high degree of readiness for adoption. There are some political problems, which are not related to the finalization of the text. Everything that is required in terms of finalizing the document itself can be done literally within a few days,” Ryabkov said.

“As it has been repeatedly noted, Russia has worked for the result, and in terms of our interests, including in the context of peaceful nuclear cooperation with Iran, the text is quite satisfactory [for us], in our opinion, there is nothing to ‘fine-tune,’” he added.

In this regard, Ryabkov said that if representatives of the US administration say that the agreement is “out of reach,” it means that they “broadcast the results of their internal discussions.” According to him, Moscow takes these statements into account.

“On the other hand, according to Iranian sources and the signals that came in, including in light of the recent stay in Tehran by the European External Action Service’s Deputy Secretary-General Enrique Mora, I can’t say that anything has changed,” the diplomat continued, “We are what they call on edge, and it could happen very quickly if the political decisions in the capitals are in favor of it. We would welcome that.”

On the extension of the JCPOA

The JCPOA was signed with Iran in 2015 by the five permanent member powers of the UN Security Council and Germany to address the crisis over Tehran’s nuclear developments.

In 2018, US President Donald Trump announced Washington’s withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. The current head of the US administration, Joe Biden, has repeatedly signaled his readiness to return the US to the deal.

On March 11, 2022, a break was taken in Vienna after eight rounds of talks to restore the JCPOA to its original form and bring the US back into the agreement due to external factors.

Prior to that, the Vienna talks had reached the finish line and were expected to be completed by the end of February.

The text of the agreements was agreed upon and is about 20 pages long, outlining further steps to return to the nuclear agreement in its original form.

Agencies

Palestinians demonstrate in Gaza, West Bank to mark 74th anniversary of Nakba

GAZA/RAMALLAH

THOUSANDS of Palestinians demonstrated on Sunday in the West Bank city of Ramallah, marking the 74th anniversary of Nakba Day, or “Day of the Catastrophe,” the day after Israel declared its independence in 1948.

The Ramallah-based Palestinians took part in a demonstration invited by the Supreme National Committee to commemorate the Nakba of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), while mourning whistles sounded for 74 seconds, referring to the number of years of displacement of Palestinians.

The demonstration started from the tomb of the late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Ramallah to the Manara square in the center of the city, with the participation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh and a number of senior leaders of the Fatah Party led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

Ishtayeh told reporters that the United Nations was called upon to implement its resolutions on the Palestinian issue. He stressed that there is a need to preserve the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) as it constitutes the cumulative memory of the Palestinian people.

“There are more than 5 million Palestinian refugees waiting for the right of return,” he said. For his part, Ahmed Abu Houli, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and head of its Refugee Affairs Department, said that “it is enough of 74 years of injustice and slander.”

Abu Houli stressed the refugees’ refusal in all their places of residence to accept resettlement and the homeland as an alternative and partial solution, calling for ending the internal Palestinian division and restoring national unity as the shortest way to build a Palestinian state.

Meanwhile, in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, the Palestinian factions organized demonstrations in front of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), while protestors raised Palestinian flags and banners emphasizing the right of return.

Balloons were launched into the air bearing the names of villages and cities from which they were displaced. “The Palestinian people and their resistance are still clinging to the right of return,” Louay al-Qaroui, a senior official at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said during the demonstrations.

He called on all the Palestinian factions to unify their efforts to achieve Palestinian reconciliation based on true partnership. According to a report issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on the occasion of the anniversary, the number of refugees reached 6.4 million by the end of 2020. *Xinhua*



UN warns of worsening drought in Horn of Africa in 4 decades

NAIROBI

THE United Nations’ top relief official has warned of the worsening drought in the Horn of Africa region which has already affected more than 18 million people across Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya.

Martin Griffiths, under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator who concluded a two-day visit to Kenya on Friday where he saw first-hand the devastating impact of a fourth consecutive failed rainy season in the Horn of Africa called for urgent solutions to save lives and communities amid the severe drought.

“We have been ringing the alarm on this crisis, and urging whomever is able to contribute, for many months,” Griffiths said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

He said during his visit, he met with people in the village of Lomopus in Turkana County, northwest Kenya, and spoke with displaced people in Doolow, Somalia, as well as Kerehey zone in the Somali Region of Ethiopia.

“Each of the people I spoke with were clear: this crisis is threatening both their lives, and their way of life. They need the world’s attention and action.



A child walks by as women sit in the camp for internally displaced people of Farburo 2 in the village of Adiale, near the city of Gode, Ethiopia, on April 6, 2022. The worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa for 40 years is pushing 20 million people towards starvation, according to the UN. File photo

Now!” Griffiths said.

The UN said the drought in the Horn of Africa region has already affected more than 18 million people across Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, including at least 16.7 million people who are waking hungry each day and do not know where their next meal will come from.

These numbers, the UN said, are expected to rise in the weeks ahead, as the current rainy season - which ordinarily lasts from March to May - has been below average, making this the longest drought in the Horn of Africa in at least

four decades.

The UN official lauded the donors for their pledges and commitments to help respond to the drought in the Horn of Africa.

“But the reality is that we are out of time: if we don’t immediately receive new funding to scale up humanitarian operations, we are faced with the prospect of significant loss of life in the period ahead,” Griffiths said.

In the village of Lomopus, community members told Griffiths that this is the worst drought they have endured

in living memory, noting that many families have lost their livestock and are struggling to survive.

“Those who manage to buy food are sharing their meager supplies with their neighbors, while many only have palm fruit to eat. Children in the village depend on the government’s school feeding program to have one meal a day, as there is often no food at home,” he said.

During his visit, the humanitarian chief also met with Kenyan government officials, with whom he discussed the government’s response to the drought, as well as the vital need for life-saving action today, accompanied by support for drought-affected communities to adapt and thrive into the future.

“If I have one message to the world, it is to not forget the people of Lomopus and others across the region who desperately need our support. These people are the human face of the global climate crisis, which they have done nothing to create. We must step up and stand in solidarity with them before it is too late,” Griffiths said.

China charts route to urbanisation with focus on county towns

THE General Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council recently released guidelines on advancing urbanization with a focus on county towns, setting out clear targets and specific tasks for the construction of urbanization.

County towns are an important component of China’s urban system. Official data indicated that by the end of 2021, the county towns of 1,472 counties in China had a combined permanent resident population of around 160 million and the urban areas of 394 county-level cities had approximately 90 million permanent residents, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the resident population in China’s urban areas when combined.

Meanwhile, the number of counties and county-level cities made up about 65 percent of the country’s county-level administrative regions.

“Promoting the construction of county towns can help accommodate rural migrants as local residents in cities and towns and improve the spatial layout of urbanization for coordinated development of cities of different sizes and small towns,” said an official with China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

There are a vast number of county towns in China, each of which has various forms and development paths. The development of many county towns is still confronted with certain constraints. Such problems as unsophisticated industrial platforms, incomplete supporting facilities and ageing public facilities have reduced county towns’ carrying capacity and attractiveness.

According to the guidelines, China will clarify functions of county towns across the country, divide them into five categories according to their characteristics, and determine different development paths for them.

The guidelines stated that efforts will be made to speed up the development of county towns surrounding large cities, actively cultivate county towns featuring professional functions, help county towns in main producing areas of agricultural products enjoy rational development, develop county towns in key ecological function areas in an orderly manner, and guide transformation and development of county towns that are losing population.

The document also set out 25 tasks concerning five aspects of the development of county towns, including cultivating characteristic industries, improving municipal facility system, strengthening the supply of public services, raising the quality of living



A host promotes fishing rods via livestreaming platform at an e-commerce supplies base in Suning county, north China’s Hebei province, June 6, 2020. File photo

environment, and promoting the connection and complementarity among functions of county towns, townships, and villages.

Industries serve as the foundation for the construction and development of county towns. China is going to enhance county towns’ capacity to support the development of industries, nurture characteristics, and achieve staggered development, pointed out the guidelines.

The country will focus on developing industries with significant comparative advantages and a large capacity for driving the development of agriculture and rural areas as well as for employment in county towns, and coordinate the cultivation of local industries and receiving industrial relocation, according to the guidelines.

Meanwhile, county towns should also improve the functions of industrial platforms and guide the cluster development of local industries; improve commercial distribution networks, develop logistics centers and specialized markets, and build distribution and transfer centers for industrial and agricultural products; and improve consumption-related infrastructure, enhance vocational skills training, and help migrant workers from rural areas, especially those facing difficulties, elevate their skills, quality, and ability to maintain stable employment, the document stressed.

Efforts will also be made to raise county towns’ carrying capacity and attractiveness, including upgrading municipal

facilities, improving public transportation facilities, smoothening channels for better connection and communication with other regions, and advancing digital transformation, according to the document.

The guidelines also demanded deepening institutional innovation to provide a policy guarantee for the construction of county towns. For example, county towns are asked to remove all limits on household registration and establish diversified and sustainable investment and financing mechanisms.

They should formulate reasonable investment and financing plans according to the nature and benefits of projects, noted the document.

Local governments can increase investment in public welfare projects and provide support for eligible projects with the central government budget and their special-purpose bonds, said the document.

The document also encouraged increasing medium and long-term loans and expressed support for the issuance of special corporate bonds by qualified enterprises for new urbanization in county towns.

According to the guidelines, China will achieve important progress in urbanization with a focus on county towns by 2025; and, through a period of efforts after that, it will basically build modern county towns with distinctive characteristics, vitality, livable environment, and sound employment conditions across the country. *People’s Daily*

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud elected as Somali president

MOGADISHU

THE Somali parliament on Sunday chose Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the country’s new president in a third-round runoff in an election that has been delayed for over a year.

The 67-year-old Mohamud, former Somali president in 2012-2017, won 214 votes from lawmakers, defeating incumbent President Mohamed Farmajo, who garnered 110 votes. Mohamud was immediately sworn in after the vote.

Born in Hiran region in central Somalia, Mohamud graduated from the Somali National University in 1981 and obtained a master’s degree from Bhopal University in India. As an academic as well as a civic activist, he worked for several national and international organizations.

Farmajo, who was seeking a third term in office, has conceded his defeat.

A total of 328 lawmakers, including 274 legislators from the Lower House and 54 Senators, cast a ballot, putting an end to the long-overdue electoral process in the country.

The presidential election was held 15 months behind schedule as the COVID-19 epidemic, severe drought, insecurity and differences among Somali leaders postponed the parliamentary elections to April.

Sunday’s vote was held at a heavily guarded airport hangar in the capital Mogadishu, amid threats from the al-Shabab terrorist group. Police had imposed a curfew and a no-fly zone in the city to prevent attacks by a militant group which has been fighting to overthrow the government.



Hassan Sheikh Mohamud speaks after his election win at the Halane military camp in Mogadishu, Somalia on Sunday. AP

Mali withdraws from G5 Sahel

BAMAKO

THE Malian government said Sunday that it is withdrawing from all organs and bodies of the G5 Sahel, “including the joint force” fighting terrorism.

According to a statement signed by Abdoulaye Maiga, spokesman for the Malian government, the organization’s leaders had decided to hold the 8th ordinary session in February 2022 in Bamako; the session should mark the start of the Malian presidency of the group.

However, the session has still not been held, which constitutes “a

violation of a decision taken by the institution and the basic texts of the G5 Sahel,” said the government.

Mali has been facing security, political and economic crises since 2012, with insurgencies, jihadist incursions and inter-community violence killing thousands and displacing hundreds of thousands of others in the West African country.

Formed in 2014 by Niger, Mali, Chad, Mauritania and Burkina Faso, the G5 Sahel is an institutional framework for regional cooperation on development policies and security matters in West Africa.

Xinhua

SPORT

Is Morrison baggage worth the unexpected, inconsistent moments of brilliance?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

WHEN Simba SC signed midfielder Bernard Morrison there was high hope they would tame him, but the sight of this gifted but unfulfilled talent boarding a plane to return to Ghana suggests the goodwill has, after all, finally been exhausted.

Last Friday, Simba SC confirmed in a signed statement the club has granted the Ghanaian an unusual leave and wished him well in his next move.

"Simba SC has given Bernard Morrison a leave until the end of the season. Simba SC decided after both sides agreed to allow Morrison to rest and take care of his personal affairs," the statement revealed.

It is not premature to conclude that Morrison's stay at Simba has ended as he will be out of contract in July and Simba went on to wish him well for the time he will be locked out of their activities and in future endeavors.

The statement concluded: "With this contribution and success the club thanks the fans' darling for his dedication to fighting for the club. Simba SC wishes all the best to Bernard Morrison during his leave and on his next football."

However, Morrison claims he has family issues that will affect his output so he has to step back from the club and get it solved. He posted on his Twitter handle.

He stated: "It is with a heavy heart to announce that I will be out for the remainder of the season due to family issues that are beyond my control and might affect my performance for the team if I represent the club."

Morrison said: "A lot needs to be said about it but I can only wish the club the best of luck."

It has been a tumultuous two years. It feels like a thousand years since a beaming Morrison could not hide the way he felt inside in front of thousands of Simba SC fans who attended the club's annual pre-season celebration and announced: "Simba is the university of football in Tanzania."

Morrison clinched the Premier League title last season, the Azam Sports Federation Cup, and Mapinduzi Cup.

He helped the team reach the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League and the CAF Confederation Cup.

In just two and half years here, he has managed to play for both Dar es Salaam giants, Simba and Yanga.

He has his issues and is very unpredictable both on and off the field.

He may very well upset the dynamic of the dressing room or the balance of the team. He may well get sent off and not put a shift in.

Morrison tends to sulk, switch off and become redundant in a game. He has been accused of deliberately choosing when to play because he seems to need to be 'in the mood' and puts his own needs ahead of those of the team.

At both Simba and Yanga, he missed many games. It is alleged he can miss training sessions or go AWOL (absent without official leave) without justification.

In all, Morrison has played from start to finish in less than 10 games for Simba.

Early this year, he was suspended by Simba for breaching camp rules.

The club stated he would only be allowed back to the squad after formally writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez.

With Simba facing difficult CAF Confederation Cup group stage games, Morrison was reinstated to the team.

On the other side, we all know what a devastatingly dangerous footballer Morrison can be on his day.

His dribbling is such an effective weapon, instilling fear in defenders, he gives you hope he can create something out of nothing anytime.

For all his very frustrating discipline issues he is also one of the most potent attacking midfielders to ever set foot in Tanzanian football.

He is strong and fast, he has got everything in his locker to become one of the best.

Though the consensus is that he is a good player, let us not forget there is a reason he is in Tanzania despite his talent.

There is the not so little matter of Morrison being clubless before Yanga plucked him out of a certain Ghanaian village where he is reported to have gone hiding after falling out with South Africa's Orlando Pirates and DR Congo's AS Vita.

The biggest issue with Morrison is his almost deliberate infuriating inconsistency. His good days are few and far between.

For Simba, he was anonymous in the



league either missing a big chunk of the games through indiscipline issues or playing meaningless cameos.

In the true sense of Morrison's conundrum, he was the difference in Simba's continental campaign. He delivered when it mattered.

Simba would not have gotten to the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinal without his goal contributions.

He single-handedly destroyed Zambia's Red Arrows at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium with two goals and one assist to give Simba an almost unassailable first-leg advantage.

He put in one of the best performances soccer fanatics have seen in the CAF Confederation Cup playoff.

He danced through a village of Red Arrows defenders before setting Meddie Kagere for the simplest of all tap-ins

He scored a brilliant free-kick goal before nutmegging the goalkeeper for the third goal.

He was directly involved in all three goals in addition to missing a penalty kick in the same game.

The controversial midfielder joined Yanga in January 2020 but fell out with the club barely four months after getting into the country.

At Yanga he would be remembered for a brilliant goal scored from a free-kick that led them to an unforgettable 1-0 derby victory over Simba in front of the late President John Magufuli.

He unceremoniously fell out with Yanga over a contract extension then made a shock move to their Msimbazi Street rivals at the start of the 2020-21 season.

The move irked Yanga who insisted Morrison still had a two-year contract with them and filed a case with Tanzania Football Federation's Legal, Ethics, and Players' Status Committee.

The Legal, Ethics, and Players' Status Committee ruled that Morrison was a free agent and cleared the player to join Simba. Unsatisfied with the move, Yanga then proceeded to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In November last year, the Court of Arbitration for Sport under Judge Patrick Stewart from England dismissed an appeal that was filed by Yanga.

Fast forward to May, Morrison is almost certain to be looking for another home away from home when the transfer window reopens.

The nature of his transfer from Yanga to Simba already meant a fallout with his Msimbazi Street side's bosses was a possibility from the outset.

The reality is, that both Simba and Yanga knew Morrison comes with a lot of baggage.

Even if you put a good conduct clause in his contract to ensure that if he goes out of the line, there will be financial penalty fees, Morrison will still be the same on and off the pitch.

He is untamed, unmanageable, and a supremely talented player who is never going to stay focused during training and matches.

Is the Morrison baggage worth the unexpected, inconsistent moments of brilliance?

SPORTS

Viewing 'The Royal Tour', its superstar pros and cons, perils

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

TOURISM sector stakeholders, especially those based in the public sector, are visibly upbeat about the global showing and likely impact of 'The Royal Tour,' a travel documentary featuring President Samia Suluhu Hassan driving in the bush with a film director.

It was an attempt to bring to the sitting rooms of potential travelers in the United States and around the world, as the film premiered first in New York in the presence of the President, and then in Los Angeles. There was no doubt about its publicity outreach.

What was exciting to stakeholders especially in wildlife agencies and diplomatic missions abroad was how a big dividend is expected from this documentary, which is by and large warranted, but it has hidden implications as well.

Ordinarily, a celebrity appearing on an advert or promotional feature of one kind or another becomes a brand that is pasted on another brand that is being promoted, which may work as intended, or differently.

It may also promote that alternative brand featuring along with the other.

The basic thinking on seeking celebrity participation in a documentary or promotional short video is that celebrities naturally command attention, making them endorsing a product something more attractive and potentially convincing for buyers.

There is all the same a psychological grey area as to celebrity branding or celebrity endorsement, where the usual formula may work or fail, given the fact that branding featuring celebrities in advertising can grab attention immediately and enhance a brand.

In most cases, based on an online write-up, is a high-impact marketing tool for the product or brand endorsed by a celebrity.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan

Still, the write-up underlines that a celebrity can overshadow a brand and detract from it, such that it is the inverse of intention which comes up, namely advertising or promoting the celebrity, instead of the other way round.

That is precisely what some observers feel will be the case with 'The Royal Tour,' as providing some vital conversation time with President Samia while walking or driving leisurely in the wild, as well as in Zanzibar homely scenarios.

It is an open-ended issue psychologically as to who merits being advertised at this time between the President and the northern circuit travel paradise or Stone Town.

The write-up notes pointedly that sometimes a brand will rely too heavily on a celebrity endorsement, explaining that when that happens, the celebrity can outshine the product such that viewers get the impression that the real interest is in the celebrity, not overly interested in the brand being promoted.

There is also a problem with celebrity endorsement which isn't very much at issue in this aspect, whether the celebrity is genuinely interested in the product or brand, as that impression can make a brand seem inauthentic.

In other words, celebrity endorsement is a two-way street, not just a straightforward win.

There is no problem regarding 'The Royal Tour' if consumers are convinced that the celebrity in the documentary is sincere about this endorsement, and thus there is a positive relationship between the celebrity and the brand.

What can negatively impact the brand is that this is no ordinary celebrity who can be identified with a specific brand without her personality interfering with the brand, as is the case.

'The Royal Tour' is as much an advertisement or promotion of President Samia's leadership, outlook on things, and what is dear to her sentiments, as it is about the wildlife they go about to explore.

There is an auxiliary problem that can also come up here that it can take a long time to influence consumers through a celebrity

endorsement, which means that it is one thing for viewers to appreciate the role of President Samia in the film, her approach to the environment and the quality of her observations.

It is another issue for them to wish to visit those places and stand in her place, taking photos of themselves in Samia's footsteps.

Rapidly it can be said that local tourism especially by women, maybe so enchanted.

A more daunting observation in the write-up says that a celebrity endorsement from a star that is not well matched to the brand will not influence consumers at all, which brings up the question as to whether the President was a match for what was being shown.

That is the case as one is talking about a country, and who is better placed to showcase that brand than its first lady President, and who was in office for close to one year by the time the documentary was being shot?

Yet it is also possible to distinguish Tanzania as a country that the President showcased, and its tourism aspect per se.

She might have highlighted the culture, like the jumping dancers or the Taarab troupe, while the wildlife was an integral image to that wide picture of Tanzania, scarcely a brand the film could extensively cultivate.

Athletics Tanzania information officer resigns



Female athletes battle it out in a recent National Athletics Championship which took place in Arusha.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) information officer Rogath Stephen has resigned from his position with immediate effect.

In an interview, Stephen, who is also secretary-general for Arusha Regional Athletics Association, said he informed AT leadership of his resignation on Thursday last week.

He cited a lack of communication with the leadership as the main reason for his resignation.

"I'm bowing out, I have done this as there is no communication between me and the leaders of the association, there is completely no communication," Stephen stated.

"My job is to inform the public on what is happening at AT but I'm failing as the leaders are not ready and willing to share information with me," he said.

He said he will now concentrate on his post at Arusha Regional Athletics Association.

Stephen said he did not have any discussions with AT leadership before his resignation, saying the problem of communication has been there for a long time.

"I'm failing to execute my duties well, all the top leaders of AT are not ready to share any information with me, how can I continue operating in such a situation, the best way is to bow out of my post," he said.

Jackson Ndaweka, AT secretary-general, last weekend could not be reached on his mobile phone while Silas Isangi, the president of the association, said he does not have any information on the issue.

"I'm on the farm harvesting rice, there is a network problem here, please talk to our secretary-general, he is in Dar es Salaam now," he said.

Stephen becomes the second AT official to resign during the current leadership, the first was John who was the association's vice-president, he resigned late last year.

Xavi: Barca 'working against clock' to catch Real

BARCELONA

XAVI Hernandez says Barcelona are working against the clock to be able to compete with Real Madrid next season after securing second place in LaLiga on Sunday.

A goalless draw at Getafe was enough to seal second for Barca and a place in next season's Spanish Supercopa, which will pocket them around €8 million.

However, the season has been disappointing overall. They are 12 points behind champions Madrid with one game to go and will end the campaign trophyless for the second time in three years.

"This week we will start to plan," Barca coach Xavi Hernandez said in his postgame news conference, as he acknowledged the need to strengthen over the summer. "We don't have much time. We're against the clock to make decisions. I know what we need to compete. The club know, [sporting director] Mateu Alemany knows and [sporting advisor] Jordi Cruyff knows [what I think]."

"What we can do depends on our financial situation. If it's good, I am optimistic we will compete because next season we have to be fighting for trophies."

ESPN has previously revealed that Chelsea defender Andreas Christensen and AC Milan midfielder Franck Kessie will join Barca on free transfers when their respective contracts expire at the end of June.

Sources have also confirmed Barca have an interest in signing Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski, who confirmed this weekend his desire to leave the German club for a new challenge.

To be as active as they want to be in the market, though, Barca may have to sell.

Midfielder Frenkie de Jong has been earmarked as one player who could bring in a big fee, with Xavi keen to keep him, but realistic about Barca's financial needs.

Barca's second-placed finish represents a marked improvement from the position they were in when Xavi replaced Ronald Koeman as coach at Camp Nou in November.

At the time, Barca were ninth in the table, but while qualification for the Champions League and a second-placed finish demonstrates an improvement, Xavi says the standards must be higher next term.

"It's not enough for Barca [to finish second and trophyless] and we know next season we have to demand more," he added. "But given how things were in November, [we would have] signed for it."

"Now we have to assess things. We need to strengthen. Next season we must fight for trophies. We have to prepare well and be competitive."

Sunday's draw at Getafe was a game of few chances as both teams wrapped up their objectives, with Barca clinching second place ahead of Atletico Madrid and Getafe securing survival in the top flight.

"We always want to win, but the draw served us," Xavi said. "The minimum demand at Barcelona is to be in the Supercopa. Now we can reflect on how things have gone since we took over the team."

"We have turned things around. I wanted to win a trophy, which we haven't managed. But we stopped the rot. We played some great games. Now it's about working on next season, but we also want to show that we can beat Villarreal in the final game next week."

(Agencies)

Frankfurt ready to rock Rangers in Seville under Borre's influence

EINTRACHT Frankfurt are ready to "rock" Wednesday's Europa League final as the "Bestia Blanca" (White Beast) when they take on Rangers in Seville spearheaded by the Spanish-speaking Colombia striker Rafael Borre.

Frankfurt want to face the Scottish giants in their alternative white strip, now regarded as a lucky charm after being worn in impressive wins at Barcelona and West Ham during their European campaign.

"We must play in white. We rocked Europe in white," insists Axel Hellmann, spokesman for the Eintracht board. "We're the Bestia Blanca".

Hellmann anticipates around 50,000 Frankfurt fans will descend upon Seville - "which the city has never seen before" - and predicts a "unique final, a unique encounter". "Glasgow is mythical for us. Playing against Rangers was always a dream at our club," he added.

Eintracht beat Rangers 6-1 and 6-3 in the semi-finals of the 1960 European Cup, but lost 7-3 to Real Madrid in the final held in Glasgow. Frankfurt's first European final since winning the UEFA Cup in 1980 will have a Spanish-speaking element in Seville.

"Personally, it's been an unbelievable year, I never expected to experience so much with this club," Borre told Eintracht's website in Spanish.

"I am really happy to be part of such success."

The 26-year-old arrived from Argentinian club River Plate to replace Andre Silva, who hit 28 Bundesliga goals last season before leaving to join RB Leipzig.

Yet after initially struggling to establish himself in the Bundesliga, Borre has scored two of the most important goals in the club's history.

- Dream goal at Camp Nou -

A superb long-range effort with his right foot from 25 metres at Camp Nou flew in off the underside of the crossbar to help Frank-

furt win 3-2 at Barcelona for a 4-3 aggregate win in the quarter-finals.

"The goal against Barcelona helped me personally, as well as the team," added Borre.

"It was a real blow to Barcelona.

"It put the wind in my sails for the rest of the game. I am very grateful for it."

He then broke the deadlock to seal a nervy 1-0 home semi-final victory against West Ham and the 3-1 aggregate win fired Frankfurt into their first European final for 42 years. "I will never forget the fans' support," he said, referring to the electric atmosphere for the home semi-final.

"The stadium was at fever pitch.

"I spoke to a few team-mates about it and we agreed that we needed it."

"The support pulls you through in weaker moments."

"The final is going to be awesome, Frankfurt and Ranger have fought hard to be there and we have to enjoy it," Borre added.

The Colombian has developed a good understanding with Frankfurt forwards Ansgar Knauff and Filip Kostic.

Borre's cross at London's Olympic Park saw Knauff head Eintracht into the lead less than a minute into the first semi-final at West Ham. Knauff returned the favour with a cross which Borre converted to hit the winner in the return.

"We understand each other better with each game," said Borre.

"Ansgar fitted into the team very quickly and the whole team has a good harmony on the pitch."

Borre has impressed Eintracht coach Oliver Glasner, who is also in his first season in Frankfurt.

"He is very important for our game, because he has a fantastic mentality, he works so hard for the team," said Glasner. "He's having a great season."

AFP

PSG star Mbappe wins league's best player award for 3rd time

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe won the French league's best player award for the third time in his career on Sunday, then diplomatically swerved a question about his future.

Mbappe is out of contract at PSG next month and touted to join Karim Benzema at Real Madrid in what would be a formidable attack force. Mbappe said he didn't want to announce his decision during the ceremony but added "Yes, pretty much" when asked if he's made his mind up over whether to stay or go.

Mbappe is the league's top scorer with 25 goals for the French champion and has netted 36 in all competitions.

The awards are given annually by the National Union of Professional Football Players

(UNFP) to players in France's top two divisions.

The 23-year-old France star won the award last year - when Mbappe netted a career-high 42 goals overall - and in 2019.

"It's always an honor to be here. Winning for a third time in a row is incredible," Mbappe said. "I've felt the recognition this season more than ever." The trophy was not awarded in 2020 after the coronavirus pandemic ended the season 10 games early.

Although PSG comfortably won the league title - which it surprisingly lost to Lille last season - Mbappe's goals and assists masked glaring shortcomings which were ruthlessly exposed by Madrid in the round of 16 in the Champions League. PSG led 2-0 on aggregate thanks to Mbappe's goals, but then allowed three goals in under 20 minutes as Benzema tore the defense apart with a brilliant hat-trick.

Orlando Pirates reach CAF Cup final despite shock home defeat

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African club Orlando Pirates reached the CAF Confederation Cup final on Sunday despite a shock 1-0 loss to Libyan visitors Al Ahly Tripoli in a semi-final second leg.

Pirates built a 2-0 first-leg lead in Benghazi last Sunday and qualified 2-1 on aggregate for a second final appearance in the second-tier African competition.

Seemingly in a hopeless position after the home defeat, Ahly were the better team in the return match, especially in the opening half on a cold, damp night in Soweto on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

But with the match heading for a goalless stalemate, Libyan substitute Ali Abu Arqoub scored on 89 minutes to set up a tense finish, which included four minutes of added time.

A second Ahly goal would have taken the semi-final to a penalty shootout, but the tired visitors never threatened to score a second time at Orlando Stadium.

- Penalty decision reversed -

Ahly dominated the early exchanges and were awarded a penalty midway through the half when Pirates' gaffe-prone captain and centre-back Happy Jele handled.

The Gambian referee pointed to the spot, but later changed his mind after reviewing the incident on the touchline VAR monitor.

While replays confirmed the ball came off the boot of Jele and touched his right hand, the match official presumably considered it a ball-to-hand situation rather than vice versa.

Ghana-born Richard Ofori of Pirates was the much busier goalkeeper, repeatedly thwarting Tripoli with acrobatic saves and parries, while



Al Ahly Tripoli defender Ahmed el Trbi (L) blocks a shot by Orlando Pirates midfielder Bandile Shandu (R) during the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final second leg at Orlando Stadium in Soweto on May 15, 2022. (AFP)

opposite number Muhammad Nashnouch was a virtual spectator.

The only time Pirates threatened to score in the opening 45 minutes was off a free-kick which eluded the Ahly defence, but unmarked Jele failed to connect with the ball.

Pirates improved in the second half, helped by a string of substitutions, while an Ahly side used to performing at sea level gradually faded as they battled the 1,632-metre (5,354 feet) altitude.

Arqoub had barely come off the bench when he scored, latching on to a loose ball outside the box and unleashing a shot that took a slight deflection off Goodman Mosele before landing in the net.

Meanwhile, Moroccan club Renaissance Berkane scored three goals from the 79th minute to defeat Democratic Republic of Congo visitors TP Mazembe 4-1 on Sunday and qualify for the CAF Confedera-

tion Cup final.

Bakr el Helali gave Berkane a 10th-minute lead that lasted just 60 seconds before Philippe Kinzumbi equalised in northeastern Morocco.

Mazembe were reduced to 10 men midway through the second half when Tandi Mwape was sent off and the late goal rush began when captain Larbi Naji put Renaissance in front a second time.

Youssef el Fahli converted an 88th-minute penalty to edge Berkane in front on goal aggregate and he put the outcome beyond doubt with another goal six minutes into added time.

Beaten 1-0 in the first leg last Sunday after conceding an added-time goal, Berkane triumphed 4-2 on aggregate and face Orlando Pirates from South Africa this Friday in the title decider in Uyo, Nigeria.

An hour before the match in

Berkane kicked off, Pirates suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat by Al Ahly Tripoli from Libya, but advanced 2-1 on aggregate.

Berkane were runners-up in the 2019 Confederation Cup, won the competition the following season and are now appearing in a third final in four years.

Pirates came closest to winning the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League in 2015 when they finishing runners-up to Etoile Sahel from Tunisia. - \$1.25 million up for grabs -

Apart from pocketing \$1.25 million dollars (1.2 mn euros), Confederation Cup winners qualify for a CAF Super Cup match against the CAF Champions League winners.

The Super Cup clash could be an all-Moroccan affair as Wydad Casablanca from the northwest African kingdom have qualified to meet Al Ahly of Egypt in the May 30 Champions League decider. Berkane will be favourites against Pirates while the Champions League final will, controversially, be staged in Morocco.

El Helali half-volleyed a cross past goalkeeper Siadi Baggio to send a capacity crowd in the 10,000-seat Stade Municipal into a frenzy.

The celebrations were continuing when Mazembe levelled as Kinzumbi punished a poor first touch by Issoufou Dayo to race forward and slam a rising shot past goalkeeper Hamza Hamiani Akbi.

It took several minutes before angry Mwape left the field after 66 minutes, having flung his shirt on the pitch, and 11-time CAF title winners Mazembe collapsed in the closing stages.

Naji soared at the far post to nod a free-kick into the net, El Fahli calmly placed his penalty into the corner and then scored perhaps the easiest goal of his career with a tap into an unguarded net.

Man City slip but show character to keep title in their own hands

LONDON

ON a day when West Ham seemed determined to breathe new life into the Premier League title race, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City team did just enough to ensure the trophy is still theirs to lose.

Two goals down by half-time at the London Stadium on Sunday, City mounted a second-half fightback to score two themselves, only for Riyad Mahrez to miss a late penalty when he had a chance to all but seal the trophy.

Now four points clear, with Liverpool having a game in hand, the point earned from the 2-2 draw means that if City can beat Steven Gerrard's Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium on the final day of the season, they will be champions. Though for a while here it looked like they were set to give Liverpool a helping hand in their quest for a quadruple.

Jurgen Klopp's side play Southampton on Tuesday, but their inferior goal difference (seven goals) means they will have to finish with more points than their rivals next weekend. Still, the party on the bus back from London to Liverpool following their FA Cup triumph against Chelsea on Saturday would have been in full swing when Jarrod Bowen, outstanding all afternoon, scored twice for West Ham in the first half.

Yet just when City were being asked more questions about their character, they came up with an answer as Jack Grealish volleyed home just after the break and Vladimir Coufal's own goal drew them level. On 52 previous occasions when they have trailed by two or more goals at half-time in the Premier League era, they had only managed to draw once. What a time to make it two.

"Now there are no debates about goal difference or anything; we need to win our game to be champion," said Guardiola afterward. "If we don't win, Liverpool [who play Wolves] will be champions. I can assure you something: In one week, our stadium will be sold out and we will give them all of our lives over 95 minutes and they will give us their



Manchester City's Riyad Mahrez takes a penalty during the English Premier League soccer match between West Ham United and Manchester City at London stadium in London, Sunday, May 15, 2022. (AP Photo)

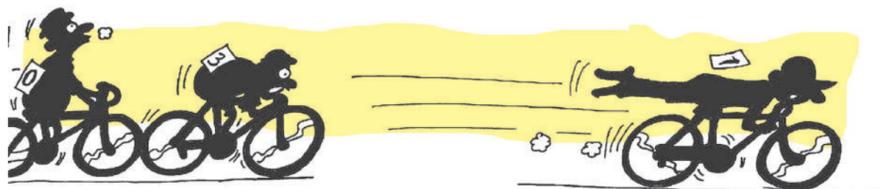
lives.

"It is an incredible privilege to have the chance with our people at home to win one game to be champion. I'm looking forward to it. We are going to rest for one or two days, mentally disconnect, and then train three or four days to prepare the game against Aston Villa."

Guardiola moaned last week that "everyone" is supporting Liverpool in their bid to win the quadruple, and here his team defended like they are too.

Amyeric Laporte and Fernando were passed fit after both being forced off against Wolves in midweek, but City might have been better off if Guardiola had followed through on his joke to pick forward Phil Foden in the centre of defence.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Orlando Pirates reach CAF Cup final despite shock home defeat

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Yanga striker not worried by goal drought

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA striker Fiston Mayele has insisted he is not overly concerned by his recent lack of goals, saying that this is the kind of run forwards experience in a marathon campaign.

Congolese international Mayele has been one of the most influential players in the NBC Premier League since completing a move from DR Congo's AS Vita in July 2021.

He has scored 12 league goals and assisted three in his 24 appearances this season. He has been leading the scoring charts for most of the season. However, he now faces a serious threat in the form of Geita Gold FC striker George Mpolo - who bagged his 12th goal of the season last week to go level.

Namungo FC's Reliants Lusajo also remains just about in the hunt with 10 goals and three assists.

The Yanga forward started against Dodoma Jiji FC on Sunday afternoon but failed to score, extending his scoring drought to four matches - his longest stretch without a goal for his club since his transfer from AS Vita last year.

He had a chance to provide the second goal for Yanga in the 17th minute but skied his header.

Before Sunday, Mayele had not scored against Simba SC, Ruwu Shooting, and Prisons.

His previous longest streak without a Premier League goal this season was two games.

Mayele insisted post-match that his golden boot charge is alive but he is not concerned about his goal tally but rather the success of the team. The attacker stated: "We had played three games without victory, as Yanga we can't go four or five games winless if we are to win the league title, I am glad we won."

Mayele added: "The goals will come. The golden boot charge is still on, the goals I prioritize team success over individual targets."

"As a player, I have set targets, team's success comes first then personal goals. We have won, it gives us the confidence to push on in the remaining six games."

He believes defenders are no longer giving him as much space as he enjoyed earlier in the campaign.

Mayele disclosed: "I come up under heavy defensive scrutiny in all games. Defenders are motivated to stop me from celebrating. This is only fuelling up my desire to help my team win. The important thing is helping the team."

The Congolese striker will look to bounce back when Yanga faces relegation-threatened Mbeya Kwanza FC in Dar es Salaam on Saturday before making the trip to Musoma to play Biashara United next week.



Yanga's attacker, Fiston Mayele (R), seeks to get the better of Dodoma Jiji FC midfielder, Rajab Seif, when the sides met in a 2021/22 NBC Premier League duel played in Dodoma on Sunday. Yanga won 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

5 EATV TUESDAY

TO NIGHT @ 9:00

MJADALA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
11:55 MPYA
12:00 Mperampera
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 5SPORTS (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Mperampera
16:00 Zote Kuntu
16:30 #HASHITAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Bongo Hits
19:00 EATV SAA 1
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 MJADALA
21:30 Zote Kuntu
23:00 Kurasa
23:05 EATV SAA 1 (r)

MJADALA is a program that brings together stakeholders and the executive elite to discuss timely, national development issues.

The program targets an audience that is aware of current developmental challenges and opportunities and is keen to share, engage and participate in the shapping process.

east africa RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planei Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise



India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (2nd R), looks at an artwork created by one of the Tanzanian artists to celebrate Mother's Day at an event that took place at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

India High Commission to Tanzania organizes art exhibition in Dar

By Beatrice Philemon

A total of 36 young artists from Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Arusha are in Dar es Salaam for four days to participate in art exhibitions to celebrate Mother's Day.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, made the remarks last week while inaugurating an art exhibition themed 'Bi. Mdashi Beyond Herself' at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC).

The artists include college students and others in the creative industry.

Pradhan called on Dar es Salaam residents to visit SVCC to see different aspects of motherhood that artists have imagined and created to respect and honour a mother for her contribution to the family including taking care of the family and building the character of the family.

The envoy said the residents will, during the visit, see a collection of paintings, sculptures, drawings, crafts, poetry, photographs, digital artworks, and cartoon installation arts that explain motherhood.

"I'm very happy that Tanzania's artists have come forward and they have associated themselves with India's High Commission to organize this event," he said.

He said they plan to have a similar event in the coming month with artists from Tanzania in collaboration with India's High Commission to Tanzania to assist them to promote what they offer in the arts sector as well as showing their talent.

The exhibition has been organized by India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, and SVCC in collaboration with artists Safina Kimbokota, and Neviindie Godrich and will run from May 13-17 at SVCC.

The SVCC's Director, Santhosh G Raja, noted: "This exhibition is an effort to explore feelings, priorities, and potentiality of the women particularly the mother of modern times, so, we thought Mother's Day is the best time to hold this exhibition."

Indian culture and value system give very high respect to women and motherhood. One can find striking similarities in Tanzanian culture.

According to Raja, art is the best way to communicate feelings, emotions, and thoughts to others and society.

He disclosed that Dar es Salaam residents who will get a chance to visit can witness the sentiment in the exhibition.

He expressed regard to Safina and Neviindie who worked hard to select the artworks and organize them in a meaningful format.

Raja noted: "I also like to express my gratitude to the Tanzania Federation of Crafts and Arts (TAFCA) for supporting this exhibition."

"When we announced the exhibition and made a call for artists to submit their artworks, the response surpassed our expectations. Artists from cities other than Dar es Salaam also submitted their artworks... we also received many art pieces from international artists, few of them are on display," he said.

"Students from the University of Dar es Salaam's Department of Creative Arts also spent their time arranging the exhibition, I welcome them with the assurance of support from our cultural center on their further collective plans to exhibit their creative artworks."

Meanwhile, Artist in Residence from the University of Dar es Salaam, Department of Creative Arts, Safina, lauded SVCC and India's High Commissioner to Tanzania for supporting the art exhibition that in turn has helped them showcase what they have been doing in their localities, school and promote what they offer to Tanzanians and foreigners.

Safina revealed this is as well the best platform that supports artists to showcase the arts and talents they have, she will continue to work with SVCC and India's High Commissioner to Tanzania to support Tanzanian arts.

"We have decided to organize this event because we want to express respect, honour, and love towards mothers for their contribution to many people's lives," she said.

Coach Nabi calls for Yanga to maintain focus in final push



Yanga midfielder, Dickson Ambundo (R), dribbles past Dodoma Jiji FC midfielder, Salmin Hoza, during the 2021/22 NBC Premier League match that took place in Dodoma on Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YANGA head coach Nasreddine Nabi has hailed his side's character in their 2-0 victory over Dodoma Jiji FC in an NBC Premier League clash that took place at the Jamhuri Stadium in Dodoma on Sunday.

The Tunisian gaffer as well outlined what his side needs to do to lift the Premier League title and the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

Nabi urged his players to give one last push for the league run-in and Azam Sports Federation Cup success.

Competing on two fronts, Nabi's side is 11 points clear at the top of the Premier League with six games to go and has reached the Federation Cup semi-final.

Speaking in his post-match press conference on Sunday, Nabi said: "It was a good game, we knew we were up against a decent team. We also knew the challenges posed by the pitch quality so our team selection was based on players who could cope with the situation."

The coach disclosed: "We have to congratulate our opponents for their good game but we deserve all the three points we fought for and could have scored more

goals today."

Nabi was quizzed about how long he believes his side will have the drive that has seen them be on the brink of lifting their first Premier League title in five seasons.

The tactician disclosed: "We are not yet champions, we need to remain humble and concentrate on finishing the job. We have seen in the last few games that pressure can change things, the attitude shown today is what is needed."

"Players need to keep concentration level high to ensure we fight for the league title and the Federation Cup until the end."

With 11 points from 18 needed from their final games of the campaign to win the league title, Nabi

and his side will be looking to maintain a fine run of form when they host relegation-threatened Mbeya Kwanza FC in Dar es Salaam on Saturday before they make the trip to Musoma to face Biashara United next week.

The Green and Yellow have well and truly recovered from a disappointing CAF Champions League preliminary round exit to Nigeria's Rivers United early in the campaign to be on the verge of winning the league unbeaten.

They will face Simba SC in the Federation Cup semi-final in Mwanza. The Green and Yellow previously won the Federation Cup in 2016 and had last made it to the final in 2021 where they lost to their age-old rivals in Kigoma.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

