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National Pg 3
Fire destroys shops in Karagwe



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Tari urges modern farming practices



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Classrooms construction in Kalambo District



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Resolution of Symbion-TanESCO in sight



'TPA executives embezzling 30pc of revenue collections'

■ **PM suspends Finance Director, Principal Internal Auditor**

■ **Directs CAG to conduct keen audit of five key ports**

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed concern that despite increased revenue collections; certain estimates show that only 70 percent of the funds are deposited in government coffers, while nearly 30 percent of tax revenues collected by TPA end up in individuals' pockets.

The premier made this affirmation in Dar es Salaam yesterday when receiving a special audit report for Kigoma port by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) covering fiscal 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

The event was attended by top officials of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, TPA board members and management, as well as the Prevention and



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks with top officials of the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications, Tanzania Ports Authority board members and management, plus top officials of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: PMO

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Zanzibar: Govt moves to instill financial discipline

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has declared that he is taking various steps to instill discipline in government expenditure. Dr Mwinyi gave the remarks yesterday when opening the Noor Muhammad Mosque at Bumbwini in Unguja North region, an event at

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Hamad wants Stone Town buildings put to evaluation

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad has directed that top officials of Unguja Urban West Region start working together with the Stone Town Authority to closely examine all the buildings in the tourist zone to stem the danger of collapsing.

Hamad (pictured), made the remarks when visiting those injured following the collapse of the Stone Town historical building "Beit Al Ajaib" (House of Wonders) mid last week, killing two people and injuring four others.

He said many structures in the Stone Town area are old and dilapidated, not being refurbished for a long time.

Addressing the Regional Commissioner, he said it would be better for him to sit with officials of the authority to form an evaluation committee to examine the buildings and map out actions to be taken.

The evaluation should state if the build-



ings are safe for people to live in and if not, then the dwellers should be advised to shift, he stated, noting that the government wants to keep Stone Town dwellers out of danger

as human life is more important than anything else.

Hamad saluted personnel of security units including the police, the military (TPDF) for rescue efforts as the building collapsed, unearthing four people who were injured and are now being treated at the Mnazi Mmoja Hospital.

The government will continue working together with its security units by adequately empowering them with the relevant working tools, he said, praised the government of Oman for cooperation with the Zanzibar Government in refurbishing historical buildings.

Ali Abdallah, the commissioner for fire and rescue services, said the brigade's personnel continue with operations at the site, including removing the rubble, and with the current rains the brigade is working to get constructors to cover the struc-

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Stunting drops by 10 pc in five years

By Guardian Reporter

STUNTING has gone down from 42 per cent in 2010 to 32 per cent in 2018 while thinness dropped from 3.8 per cent in 2014 to 3.5 per cent in 2018, prevalence levels that are still well below the goals set by the World Health Organisation (WHO), official statistics indicate.

Dr Honest Kessy the Director of Food Security in the Ministry of Agriculture made this observation mid last week in Dodoma when officiating a meeting of the task force for nutrition issues in the sector.

He said that in addition to efforts by the ministry, there is need for stakeholders to work with the government in coordinating action to reduce malnutrition levels to lower stunting levels and thinness to five per cent as per WHO targets.

He said it is possible to reduce prevalence levels further, where it is vital to increase understanding of the problem and to extend education efforts on the community on how to change their dietary habits in particular, especially what kinds of food young children are fed with.

A Mid Term Review on Nutrition conduct-

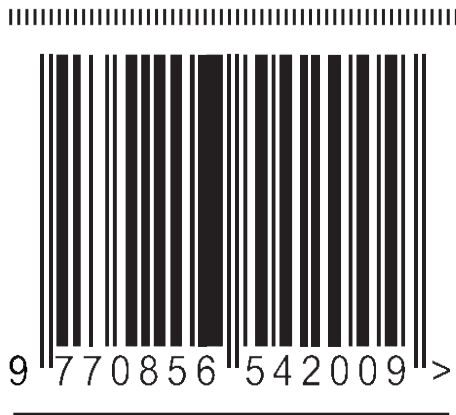
ed in 2019 showed that maize production had increased owing to a great push by the government, but production of other crops and poor eating habits led to poor results in stunting and thinness, he stated.

Regions leading in maize production have also scored highly in the prevalence of stunting, on account of the habit of equating maize meal with food, leaving other things to chance, hence stunting levels are high in Njombe (53.6); Rukwa (47.9); Iringa (47.1); Songwe (43.3); Ruvuma (41) and Kigoma (42.3), which are also highly rated in maize production.

Stunting has treatment, which is nutrition or balanced diets, so there is need to incorporate the efforts of various stakeholders to confront stunting, he elaborated.

The ministry is tasked with implementing the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan that was kicked off in 2016 and winds up next year, 2021.

Ministry officials must focus on meeting stakeholders to extend recommendations on implementing current five year plan goals to tackle malnutrition and stunting especially among children, he added.



Zanzibar: Govt moves to instill financial discipline

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tended by the Zanzibar Mufti, Sheikh Saleh Omar Kabih. In his remarks, the president said he does not intend to victimize anyone but he will ensure he treats everyone justly, stressing that goals set out for government money are geared to assist all Zanzibaris get basic social services, especially improved roads, education and health services. Government funds have to cater for uplifting those services and not be used by a handful of people, he stated, noting that without discipline, there would be no development as intended. He conveyed his appreciation for all those involved in building the mosque, and the area's residents for seeking his presence in flagging it off, using the occasion to express his feelings on the manner in which the people of Zanzibar had converged for the maintenance of peace.

Before the election process religious and political leaders were impressed upon to work for the maintenance of peace and they conducted themselves very well in that regard, the president underlined. He said the Government of National Unity (GNU) was instituted so as to generate brotherly sentiments among all Zanzibaris, to work together to attain the government set development goals. Dr Mwinyi said there are still people who are not ready to accept unity, emphasizing the need to educate such people on the importance of the unity accord. He said it was not right to see Zanzibaris discriminating one another on political, religious or regional grounds, and such things shouldn't exist in the first place. Great development strides will only be achieved if there is unity and peace in the country, the Isles leader added.

AfDB takes steps to accelerate the circular economy in Africa

By Special Correspondent

WITH an initiative funded by the Korea-Africa Economic Co-operation (KOAFEC) focused on waste management, the African Development Bank aims to accelerate the circular economy in Africa, a model which aims to minimize waste and maximize value from resources through the recovery and regeneration of products at the end of their typical service life.

The rationale for the initiative, entitled "Development of a Green Growth Investment Program in Africa focused on waste management and the circular economy," is that waste management constitutes one of the major developmental challenges for Africa. It has serious potential consequences in terms of environmental quality, public health, fisheries, agriculture, and sustainable development.

The expected outcome of the KOAFEC intervention is a stronger enabling environment for sustainable waste management and circular economy activities. This will be delivered through an enhanced policy and regulatory framework, capacity building and resource mobilization activities.

The initiative specifically unlocks opportunities for public, private and public-private investment projects in Algeria, Ethiopia and Rwanda, three countries which have already taken steps to advance sustainable waste management and the circular economy. The initiative will identify key opportunities for private and

public sector investment in the waste management and circular economy sectors.

In Ethiopia, the focus is on energy recovery from waste incineration. Algeria is promoting enhancing the value of waste through recycling, composting and remanufacturing. Rwanda has phased out plastic bag use to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

"For African countries, the circular economy model offers concrete means to deliver on their Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) commitments and the broader Africa Agenda 2063 through the scaling of green innovations with positive impact on job creation and resource optimization," said Prof. Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth at the AfDB.

"In this regard, the circular economy model strongly aligns with the Bank's High 5 agenda and brings forth innovations with the potential for new project pipelines for the Bank's operations."

The KOAFEC initiative will deliver 'gap analysis' reports for each country with a detailed list of priority areas and identification of viable investment opportunities for public, private and PPP interventions. Other outputs will include the preparation of three concept notes for investment projects or technical assistance interventions in each country, as well as the dissemination of success stories in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.



Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment) Prof. Kitila Mkumbo (2nd L) accompanied by Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency officials during his visit to inspect feeder roads at Kimara Mavurunza in Ubungu municipality in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Hamad wants Stone Town buildings put to evaluation

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ture with tarpaulins. Riffat Khalfan, a medical officer at the hospital's Orthopedic Ward, said they received the injured on Friday and promptly administered first aid, noting that out of the four, two were in intensive care unit (ICU) and two others in the wards.

Those in ICU are Haji Juma Mach-

ano (37), a Chumbuni resident and Dhamir Salum Dhamir (37), a resident of Kinuni whose condition, he said, was still not good, while Haji Chuma Khamis, a relative of Buruhani Ali Mavuno was killed in the building's collapse.

The commissioner said the force was greatly saddened by his death, noting that he is survived a wife and two children.

Lela Mohammed Mussa, the minister for Tourism and National Heritage, said the government was forming a team to probe the circumstances of the building's collapse.

The House of Wonders, built in 1883, is at present closed owing to dilapidation, with large sections of the verandah and roof collapsing in 2012 and 2015 respectively, threatening the structural integrity of the rest of

the building, he said.

The House of Wonders is the largest and tallest building in Stone Town and occupies a prominent place facing the Forodhani Gardens on the old town's seafront.

The construction materials of the building consisted of an original combination of coral rag, concrete slabs, mangrove shoots and steel beams, the minister indicated.



Kayanga residents in Karagwe District Kagera Region struggle to put out fire which gutted 5 shops on Saturday. The source of fire has not yet been established. Photo: Correspondent Eliud Rwechungura

'TPA executives embezzling 30pc of revenue collections'

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Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) director general Brigadier General John Mbungu and the Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Commissioner of Police (CP) Robert Boaz.

The premier directed the CAG to conduct an in-depth investigation of five key ports, while suspending two senior officials of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for suspicions of misusing public funds.

The ports of Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mtwara, Tanga and Kyela on Lake Tanganyika in Mbeya Region will be put to scrutiny, he said, directing the

formal suspension of TPA Finance Director Nuru Mhando and the Principal Internal Auditor, Witness Mahela. They will stay out of office to pave the way for investigations, the premier specified.

"The country's economy largely depends on the good performance of our ports. The TPA board should properly supervise port operations and take stringent measures against corrupt officials," the premier said, cautioning against favoritism.

Referring to misdirection of port revenue collections, he said the situation was unacceptable, citing observations of the CAG report that TPA

officials approved 8.2bn/- for settlement of various bills at the Kigoma port which were unlawfully deposited into some individuals' bank accounts.

The latter include a Kigoma-based businessman named Eliya Mtikanyo who was paid 900m/-, while payments to the revenue authorities at Kigoma port only reached 7.4bn/-.

"These payments were made while there are no supporting documents. The trader who is said to be selling construction materials never provided any service to the authority and is not even a bidder," he asserted, from the

CAG's observations.

He further noted that despite the loss of funds, the port's accountant Madaraka Madaraka canceled debts of various debtors amounting to more than 1bn/- contrary to procedure, occasioning loss to the government of billions of shillings.

The CAG report had found ghost and illegal payments exceeding 2bn/- at the Kigoma port with accountants also failing to provide clear answers on the matter, he stated.

The report indicates that there were 150 checks already signed but not written anything, implying that anyone in the right position

could write any amount of money to be paid, he pointed out, underlining that this sharply violates government rules and regulations.

"We can't operate this way; it is a shame for a huge authority like TPA to continue entertaining fraud and embezzlement. These funds would have been directed to development projects like construction of dispensaries, health centres and rural roads," he pointed out.

He instructed the DCI to find and arrest businessman Mtinyako and accountant Madaraka, as well as investigating the suspended officials, making sure all those with a case

to answer are duly brought to court.

The premier directed the PCCB Director-General to investigate a businessman named Kalibilo who has reportedly received a lot of funds from TPA without concrete information accompanying the payments.

Back in August this year, Kalibilo was paid 55m/-, in September 53m/-, October 37m/- and November 19m/- . "This person should be hunted and arrested so that he clarifies on these funds," the head of government business intoned.

He also blasted TPA officials for negligence and illegal

approval of tax relief of up to 2bn/- to the Mbeya base cement factory, where the suspended officials approved the reduction in the amount of tax despite its being rejected by the committee responsible for tax exemptions.

Majaliwa reminded the TPA board to ensure that the Kagunga strategic port commences operations early next month, as one of the country's strategic terminals on Lake Tanganyika located in Kagunga ward in the vicinity of Kigoma town as it attracts traders from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Its construction was completed in 2017.



Mbulu District Commissioner Dr Chelestino Mofuga (L) receives mattresses and bed sheets from NMB Mbulu branch manager in Manyara Region Adamu Mwaissomo worth 5m/- for Dongobesh hospital. The event took place over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fire destroys five shops in Karagwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

A fire broke out on Boxing Day destroys five shops, a salon and restaurant in Kayanga ward in Karagwe District, Kagera Region.

The regions' head of the Fire and Rescue Force, Hamis Dawa confirmed the incident, saying it happened during midnight on December 26 when one of the shops caught fire which later spread to nearby shops.

"Our firefighters reached at the scene on time and immediately started to extinguish the fire," said Dawa, noting that he was informed of the incident by Good Samaritans, but he also received a phone call from Karagwe District Commissioner Godfrey Mheluka.

Dawa added: "We are yet to establish the source of the fire as well as the total cost of the destroyed items."

The incident came barely three

months, when a fire killed ten pupils at Byamungu Islamic English Medium Primary School in Kyerwa District, Kagera Region

Kagera Regional Commissioner Marco Gaguti was quoted as saying that the fire broke out on Sunday at around 11pm, destroying a dormitory which accommodated about 74 pupils at Itera village in Kyerwa District. The school is for boys only.

RC Gaguti said the 10 victims were burnt beyond recognition and three of the seven injured pupils were in critical condition.

He said the deceased, aged between six and 12 years, were critically injured and had inhaled smoke after the children were overpowered by the flames.

"We've appointed a probe team, also involving police and fire department officials to conduct thorough investigations into the incident," he said.

Meat plant appeals for govt to review levies

By Guardian Reporter, Longido

THE director of Eliya Food Overseas, meat processing factory based in Arusha Region, Shabbir Virjee has called on the government to look into the possibility of reviewing and reducing taxes and other levies on livestock to enable them compete well in the world market including the countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda whose levies are lower.

Virjee issued the appeal to the Deputy Livestock and Fisheries Minister Pauline Gekul during her visit at the factory in Namanga Mpakani village, in Longido District, Arusha Region last week.

Virjee said as for now they pay not less than five different taxers before exporting livestock products, the situation, he said was an obstacle for them to compete in the foreign markets.

"Our main challenge facing us is tax, we pay 50/- per kg to the Ministry of Agriculture, one per cent to Tanzania Meat Board, we pay BAKWATA, (Tanzania Muslim Council) in respect of 'Halal' permits, we pay 0.1 per cent tax in regard to x-ray services, in fact we pay tax to various authorities at virtually every stage in the production chain," he said.

He said another challenge they face was the non-availability of animals as raw material for the factory and appealed to the government's

assistance in procuring adequate raw materials.

"Many herders prefer to sell their animals in Kenya due to better prices, we appeal for assistance to be certain of raw material's availability, here we slaughter 2,000 goats and 400 cattle per day, hence you can see our demand is huge and reliable every day," he said.

Virjee said if the situation remains as it is, the factory's operations will not sustain the market because "we shall fail to compete in the foreign markets, while at the same we provide employment to over 1509 Tanzanians."

For her part, deputy minister Gekul praised the investor for their efforts in making sure the country attains the industrial status and assured that she has taken up the challenges and would work on them.

"I direct you, Prof. Elisante Ole Gabriel (the Ministry's Permanent Secretary) to form a team to address all challenges, especially on why herders prefer to sell their animals in Kenya," the deputy minister said.

She also instructed the PS to look into how NARCO can assist in solving the issue of the factory's supply of raw materials.

Since the factory started operating two months ago, it has slaughtered more than 7,000 goats and have started gaining markets in foreign countries including Oman, Saudi Arabia and others.



Rukwa Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo, participates in stone collection together with residents for construction of classrooms at Matai secondary school. He also handed over 30 bags of cement to address challenges of classrooms facing the school. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

More children benefit from TASAF projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

TANZANIA Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Babati District, Manyara Region has increased children's attendance at clinics in 2019/2020.

The report on the increase was given at the weekend by the district's TASAF coordinator Regina Mlinga as she spoke with this paper.

Regina said the TASAF project has assisted by 98 per cent the increase of children's attendance at clinics in the district.

She said mothers have been buying clothes when they go to clinics as opposed to what was the case in the past before the project when some mothers were shy to go to clinics without appropriate clothing.

She said the money they receive from TASAF helps to get essential needs including clothing to enable them attend clinics.

"Even the issue of nutrition is being improved as when we pass through various households, we find them keeping chickens to produce eggs for the children," she added.

Regina said in 2019/2020 2,330 children were able to attend clinics and added that TASAF has increased the households' incomes, with many of them building houses and others joining VICOBA groups.

An Endasago villager, Edwin Sanka, told this paper that he is not a TASAF beneficiary but he has seen remarkable improvement of the lives of those who had benefited, adding that many of them were now assured of meals and schools uniforms for their children.

He advised the government to improve TASAF operations to cover many more poor households.

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RFQ Number	07-21-0002
Requested Quotation	Consumables and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
Issuing office and Address	Abt Associates Inc., VectorLink Project, Tanzania Capri Point, Station Road, Plot No. 73, Nyamagana, P.O. Box 1212, Mwanza, Tanzania
RFQ Issuance Date	28 th December 2020
RFQ closing Date	08 th January 2021
Mode of Submission	Tender box located at the below address : Abt Associates Inc, PMI Vector Link Project-Tanzania ZAMEP Building, Mwanakwerekwe P.O. Box 407 Zanzibar
Anticipated Type of Award:	Firm Fixed Price Purchase Orders (FFPO)
Basis of Award:	See "Evaluation Criteria" section
Funding Agency	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
USAID Prime Contract Number	AID-OAA-I-17-00008
USAID Source / Nationality (Geo) Code:	935

Background
The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) VectorLink Project, Tanzania is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Project is implemented by Abt Associates in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania and has the overall goal of reducing the burden of Malaria. The VectorLink project is implemented in Kagera, Mwanza, Geita, and Kigoma regions, and Zanzibar.

Abt Associates Inc. is hereby inviting interested bidders to submit quotations in an open tender procedure for the above-mentioned supply of Consumables and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE's) in Zanzibar as listed in the table below.

Bidding Instructions:

All responses must include:

- The owner's name / business name, physical address and phone number;
- Copy of company's business License, TIN Certificate and/or VRN Number;
- A written statement indicating that the service will be delivered prior to payment.
- Financial offer must clearly indicate the Price and VAT quoted separately for each lot in Tanzania Shillings
- All submissions must be stamped or presented in company letter head.
- Interested local professional supply companies or individuals are requested to submit their responses in tender box which is located at the following address below:

Abt Associates Inc, PMI Vector Link Project-Tanzania
ZAMEP Building, Mwanakwerekwe
P.O. Box 407
Zanzibar

General RFQ Information:

- All interested bidders are advised to carefully read the details in the table before quoting.
- Abt Associates Inc. shall make payment to the vendor within 30 days of receiving, in good condition, all goods and services specified in the Purchase Order and a full and complete vendor invoice.
- Abt Associates general terms and conditions as well as USAID Prime Contract flow downs are applicable and a copy of each is available for pick-up at one of the below Abt Associates offices.
- Respondents may elect to provide pricing for one Lot, several, or all of the Lot listed in the Financial Offer section; however, only those vendors who are able to meet the selection criteria will be considered.
- Indicate the shipping/offloading cost to our warehouse at Unguja, Zanzibar
- This RFQ shall not be misconstrued to be a commitment on the part of Abt Associates to award any form of contract to any respondent nor shall it entitle any organization or individual to be reimbursed for the costs preparing or delivering their response to Abt Associates.

List of Items:

Quoted items must be compliant with manufacturer recommendation and warranty terms and conditions. Vendors bears full responsibility for non-compliance.

Description of items	Specifications	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Total	Price
Lot 1 -Equipment of the sites and store and consumables					
1	Barrel for liquid waste 100ltrs	Plastic calibrated measuring any color	Each	45	
2	Plastic Apron	Pvc and reusable yellow/white in colour.	Each	3	
3	Electronic thermometer	Mercury high temperature thermometer 100 degree Celsius	Each	6	
4	Emergency solar lights for IRS sight	Rechargeable	Each	1	
5	Torches for Spray Operators, Team Leader and Security Guards	Metalic/Plastic	Each	220	
6	Color coded vest yellow	Cotton materials with nylon reflector line	Each	1	
7	Color coded vest orange	Cotton materials with nylon reflector line	Each	4	
8	Washing brush	Plastic hard treated fibers brush for cloth/household washing	Each	2	
9	Batteries for watchmen and team leaders and Spray Operators	(powerful and hardness free)	Each	3220	
10	Alladite Glue	17mls-High performance-5Min Rapid/fast setting epoxy -adhesive	Each	26	
11	Toilet Paper	White -soft and large size	Each	450	
12	Lubricant oil (1L bottles)	Engine oil SAE 40- Packed in Plastic bottle	Each	29	
13	Powder soap	Foma brand with pack of 15 (Tbs authorized)	Each	20	
14	Sanitary napkins/pads	HQ or FC (Human Femi care Pads Aerobic Lavender Series- free size for female Spray Operators	Each	400	
15	Surgical gloves	Pk/100 single use gloves	Each	378	
16	Wipes for Spray operators	Ant-bacterial wipes with 75%-80% pack	Packet	460	
Lot 2 Environmental compliance, migration devices and other equipment for spray operators					
1	Locks (Padlocks)	WCHU Top safe lock, lock premium quality size 60mm	Each	8	
2	Handkerchiefs (for sieving water)	100% cotton (white standard size)	Each	591	
3	Rain coat		Each	567	
4	Socks	Long, 100% cotton - black in color	Each	548	
5	Small towel	Small towel, 100% cotton (no color preference)	Each	557	
6	Plastic cup (0.5L)	0.5 L plastic cup	Each	110	
7	Bags for packing IRS materials (sandulus)	3-4 Ft. Width	Each	150	
8	Hand washing soap (5L)	5L bottle (Tbs authorized)	Each	15	
9	Hand washing bucket 100L		Each	15	
10	Bar soap (Bars)	Bar of 6 pieces	Each	190	
11	First aid water for face wash	1L bottle	Each	90	
12	Vitamin E Jelly	Petroleum Jelly vitamin E, 50 ml	Each	49	
13	Rakes	Full size and complete models garden rake	Each	2	
Lot 3 Stationeries for M & E and Sites uses					
1	Stationery - Box Files for Data Management Unit and sites	Standard box file eggs	Each	30	
2	Stationery -Document folders	Heavy transparent- any color	Each	251	
3	Stationery - Notebook for training & M&E	Normal 5" X 8", 60 Gsm, 70 sheets	Each	686	
4	Stationery - Store Ledger Book	Standard Ledger book- pre printed	Each	37	
5	Stationery - Marker Pens for sites and SOP	Permanent markers- which are water resistant (Xylene & Toluene free)	Each	1300	
6	Heavy duty tape	Heavy duty tape 50mm x 50m, black	Each	20	
7	Stationery - Stapler Pins	Size 24/6 (box of 20 packets)	Each	23	
8	Rubber band	Yellow 3.8cm/1.5" diameter standard rubber	Pc	40	
9	Ruler for Data Centre	30cm plastic ruler	Each	Pc	
10	Chalk (Pkt of 100)	White-Soft and dust free	Each	7300	
11	Pens	Obama blue and black	Each	690	
12	Red pens for SKs and recruitment	Obama red	Each	38	
13	Flip chart	A1 flip chart-80 gsm	Each	15	
14	Masking tape for training and site uses	Standard size roll	Each	100	
15	Calculator	Citthen New CT-512N	Each	20	
16	Paper punch	Kangaroo paper punch- DP-600	Each	4	
17	Glue stick	8g glue stick	Each	15	
Lot 4 Other Equipment for operators and PPE Equipment					
1	Overall for spray operators (XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL	17mls-High performance-5Min Rapid/fast setting epoxy -adhesive	Each	79	
2	Gumboots size 8-12	Black in color, chemical resistant, temperature resistance up to 120 cel degrees	Each	79	
3	Skirts for Pemba	Wrap skirt 100% skirts	Each	134	
4	Googles Safety glasses	Durable and easy to clean with side shields	Each	18	
5	Yellow Hazard Bags	14"X15" Biological hazard	Each	30	
6	Sisal rope - cylinder roll, 80m length, 2mm diameter	Cylinder roll, 80 m length, 2 mm diameter (Kamba za Kudu)	Each	35	
7	Water Tank	PVC/Plastic water storage tank 1000L (black color)	Each	Pc	
8	Barrel for solid waste (210 litre)	Pvc/Plastic tank 210L(black color with lid)	Each	2	
9	Water for Drinking	1.5 lts	Bottle	8088	

Evaluation Criteria:

Award will be made to the most advantageous offer, the following factors considered:

- Compliance to technical specifications and RFQ instructions
- Price and Price related factors.
- Lead time.
- Quality of samples submitted including production standard.
- Payment terms

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(Name of the Authorized Person)

Date

Signature

Company stamp/seal

Adhere to modern farming practices, TARI director tells Njombe farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE Uyole Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) for southern zone (TARI-Uyole) has called on farmers to adhere to modern farming practices including the use of seeds that have been researched on.

TARI-Uyole director, Dr Tulole Bucheyeki issued the appeal at the weekend

when he visited various farms at Ilunda village in Njombe District, Njombe Region. He praised the farmers after being educated on the use of quality researched seeds.

"Here at Ilunda I am very much pleased, but there are still some farmers who do not abide by the technologies which we teach them," he added. Nickson Mbogela, a farmer of maize potatoes,

and other crops at Ilunda village said the knowledge on maize and potato cultivation attained through the research centre has assisted him reap crops that had financially benefited him and his family.

Milton Myava an avocado farmer at the village told Dr Bucheyeki that the Centre's study farms have been of great help to him as he now

reaps high better yields of the crop compared in the past.

Ilunda Village agricultural officer Disbord Ntila said they have been training farmers to abide by professional farming, the training that had been of great help in their lives despite several challenges including the cost of farming inputs and lack of adequate capital.



Momba constituency MP Condester Sicalwe explains infrastructure challenges facing voters of Ndalambo ward in Songwe Region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Thobias Mwanakatwe

Land boundary disputes deny people to get access to customary title deeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE increase of land boundary disputes between villages in Meru District Council, Arusha Region has been cited as among the major challenges thwarting availability of customary title deeds to the majority of its residents.

This was revealed here during the weekend at a meeting that brought together village, wards, district leaders, and stakeholders to discuss and share ideas towards improving issuance of customary land title deeds among rural residents.

Maruango village chairman Samwelo Simon acknowledged that the disputes do not only affect land ownership but also production activities in the areas.

The meeting was organized by the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA) under its project dubbed "Promoting Women's Access to Land and Property Rights" which is funded by the Foundation for Civil Society.

"There is much to be done in ensuring that a lot of women among the Meru communities have access to land ownership because there is still a majority of them who lacks access to own land," Simon said.

He urged that more education should be provided to leaders at the village level which includes en-

suring that those villages have legal land certificates showing ownership of their lands, a move which could also facilitate access to customary title deeds.

TAWLA Legal officer Clara Chuwa said that the project seeks to enhance community awareness promoting women's access to land and property rights especially in the male-dominant communities located on the foothills of Mt Meru.

She said a recent study conducted by the women lawyers established that the existence of land boundary disputes between villages in the Meru community has been affecting processes to access customary deeds.

"In the study, we wanted to find out on what was affecting the issuance of customary title deeds among residents in the Meru District Council, we found that majority of villages here do not have land certificates," she said.

"In order to enable land ownership at the individual level it requires the village itself to have a legal land certificate showing its boundaries, so this is one of the areas which needs more serious efforts," Chuwa added.

Hellen Mosses, Ngabobo ward executive officer said that if the existing boundary disputes between villages will be resolved, would en-

able villages also to access land certificates.

"Customary title deeds are important in the community because they help women in accessing loans and other financial support. We still have a big role here especially in the area of providing more education to the villagers," she said.

Earlier, Meru community development officer Lily Albert said that more education on land ownership should also be directed to young children including students in secondary schools so as to enable the group recognize the value of women in their areas.

In Tanzania, as in much of Africa, customary practices often require women to access land through their fathers, brothers, husbands, or other men who control the land.

This makes women vulnerable and decreases agricultural productivity. When women lose their connection to this male relative, either through death, divorce, or migration, they can lose their land, home, and means of supporting themselves and their families.

The Tanzanian constitution upholds equal rights to the property for men and women but does not clarify whether the law or custom takes precedence when there is a conflict.

Govt calls on herders to vaccinate animals against pests and diseases

By Guardian Reporter

Livestock and Fisheries ministry has instructed all herders country-wide to ensure they vaccinate their animals against diseases.

The instruction was given at the weekend by Minister, Mashimba Ndaki after his inspection of Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) centre in Kibaha District, Coast Region

Ndaki said Tanzania has adequate livestock vaccines, hence there was no need for negligence by herders by exposing their animals to dis-

eases.

He said adhering to livestock vaccination will assist in having quality livestock products that would meet foreign markets' demand.

Ndaki said it was important for herders to ensure to have better livestock they can sell and get good prices for their own economic advancement.

During the visit, Ndaki praised the stage reached in the construction of a vaccine factory in the district saying when it starts production it would increase the availability of animals' vaccines in the country.

"And abundance vaccines in the country will assist for timely control of livestock diseases, as the remedies would be available and at affordable prices," he added.

He also said the existence of meat processing factories in the country helps in boosting the country's livestock trade as well as increasing the markets.

Evarist Ndikilo, the Coast Regional Commissioner said as for now conflicts pitting farmers and herders in the region have dropped substantially and that they will continue to address challenges facing them.



Vodacom Tanzania promotion winner of Shangwe Shangwena, Regina Kashmir Moshono a resident of Arusha Region opens the car's door after the hand over at the weekend. Left is Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongosi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent Correspondent Miraji

Rukwa RC calls for classrooms construction in Kalambo District

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Rukwa

RUKWA Regional Commissioner, Joachim Wangabo has expressed dismay with the slow pace of classroom constructions in Kalambo District calling upon authorities to speed up the work to ensure the structures are completed by January.

He was concerned that construction of classrooms is going on at snails' pace, the thing that may result in some selected Form One students failing to join secondary schools in 2021.

"Other districts are doing well, the construction has reached 90 percent, but here in Kalambo the construction has only reached 40 percent," said the RC when speaking during a tour at Matai Secondary School on Saturday.

He however urged the authorities to ensure value for money in all the projects, insisting to assign experts to investigate funds expenditures.

Kalambo District has a shortage of 18 classrooms, but it expects to accommodate 3,759 Form One students for the 2021/2022 academic year. Among those selected to join secondary school

education, 1,891 are boys and 1,868 girls.

Wangabo gave the officials two weeks to complete the pending projects insisting all the students must be in school by the end of February 2021.

He also inspected the classroom construction at Kalambo, Matai, Msanzi, Mwazy and Mambwe secondary schools as well as the construction of pit latrines at Sopa primary school.

The government has provided 66m/- for construction of classrooms and pit latrines at Sopa primary school. So far, the school management has spent more than 43.8m /- of the total funds.

Wangabo handed over a total of 30 bags of cement to Kalambo District Commissioner Carolus Misungwi to address the shortage of five classrooms.

DC Misungwi promised the Regional Commissioner that the classroom projects will be completed on time.

According to the District Commissioner, there are 15 government secondary schools in Kalambo with a total of 64 classrooms for Form One. The actual demand of classrooms for the 2021 academic year is 75,

he said.

Misungwi said the district will complete construction of 18 rooms before end of February 2021. The classrooms are constructed in Kanyezi, Mbuluma, Mkali, Mnamba, Samazi, Mpombwe, Kilesha, Sundu and Lyowa wards.

Last week, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed regional and district authorities to reinforce efforts and make sure that all classroom construction projects are completed by February 28, next year so as to accommodate form one students who missed vacancies in the first selection.

Majaliwa wanted the leaders to fast track the completion of the classrooms and thus facilitate learning to the students.

The Premier admitted that thousands of children in various regions have missed the chance to join form one in January due to shortage of classrooms.

He also assured children who have missed out on the first selection that the government was working hard to make sure the construction of classrooms is completed on time for them to join secondary education in February (second intake).

RMO pushes for more efforts to reduce maternal deaths

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MWANZA regional medical officer Dr Thomas Rutachunzibwa has called on key stakeholders in the health sector to chip in and reduce maternal deaths particularly those caused by epilepsy and hemorrhage.

Dr Rutachunzibwa made the call here over the weekend when speaking at the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), saying despite the fact that maternal deaths are going down, "but these few cases of pregnant mothers dying during and after delivering needs collective efforts to be addressed once and for all."

"It the responsibility of all leaders from grassroots levels to join hands and play a key role in ensuring that pregnant mothers are secured during delivery," he said, suggesting the needs for local government leaders to ensure that blood is available all the time in health facilities by encouraging people to regularly donate blood for the betterment of expectant mothers.

"It is also the responsibility of everyone to make close follow-ups to expectant mothers during clinics and encourage people to donate blood."

He however cited limited number of health practitioners, funds, medical facilities as among the key challenges thwarting Maternal and child

health (MCH) care services.

"There is a need for people to have a monthly discussion on maternal deaths and come up with measures to address the challenge at the health facility level...this will reduce maternal deaths," regional chief physician suggested. On nutrition, the RMO said that more efforts needed for local government authorities to allocate enough funds to address the vice.

Ilemela MP, Dr Angeline Mabula recommended the need for people to ensure that expectant mothers deliver in health facilities as contrary to the current situation whereby some people deliver at home.

Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongela once quot-

ed as saying his office was working hard to reduce maternal and child deaths to two digits in the next three years as part of efforts to meet the global target of reducing the mortality to fewer than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.

The move is also in line with ongoing countrywide campaigns to cut maternal and infant mortality from the current 556 to 292 per 100,000 women and infant mortality from the current 25 to 16 per 1,000 by 2020.

Statistics show that in 2017 maternal deaths in Mwanza Region stood at 195 and last year dropped to 151 deaths, while from April to September this year, recorded maternal deaths were 78.



Inviolate Dominick a nutrition researcher from World Vegetables Centre shows some of the fruits produce by the centre to nutrition seminar participants. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Buy minerals from legal markets, Shirema chairman calls on dealers

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

CHAIRMAN of the Kahama Regional Artisanal Miners Association (SHIREMA) Joseph Nalemi, has warned the behaviour of some traders who have been persuading and purchasing minerals from small-scale miners illegally instead of buying them at the special markets allocated by the government.

Recently, a group of 11 miners from Dar es Salaam arrived at the Kabera Gold Mine and lured miners to sell their minerals to them illegally and later smuggled the precious stones through illegal routes.

Addressing journalists at the Mwime Ilingi mineral market, Nalemi said that they will not stay there leaving the dishonest traders to continue conducting the illegal business because the behavior also affects the miners and government's collections.

He said that the government has put a conducive environment for the miners to operate and benefit from their activities, so entertaining the smugglers will affect the sector.

"Previously, we, small scale miners were not benefiting from the business, whatever we got from the mines, had to stay with it (mineral stone) in pressure because we were worrying if we could sell them at a fair price or not, but the government has resolved the fear by establishing official markets," he added.

Nalemi wanted all artisanal traders at the Kabera Gold Mine to avoid engaging in illegal businesses and whoever caught violating rules and regulations, stern measures will be taken.

James Chanya, one of the artisanal miners from Kabera Gold Mine said that everyone has a role to play so as to fight the illegal business.

Last week, Mineral Minister Dotto Biteko revoked licenses of two mineral traders at Mwime Ilingi mining market in Kahama Town Council, Shinyanga Region for allegedly engaging in mineral smuggling.

He also suspended the market's mineral officer, Isaya Roki, and Chairman Samwel Malimi for their irresponsibility in supervising the

business well.

Speaking during his impromptu visit at the market, Biteko said there has emerged a group of traders from Dar es Salaam who have been going to the small-scale miners' areas and purchase minerals in unfair prices and later smuggle them to sell in other markets.

Biteko claimed that the actual amount of minerals sold at the Mwime market were reaching 1.95kg per day but the market's leaders reported selling 147gram per day.

He urged miners and traders to stop engaging in the dirty business of smuggling the minerals as the government has created a conducive environment for small-scale miners to operate.

Reports cite Tanzania as Africa's fourth-biggest gold producer after South Africa, Ghana and Mali and gold exports are a key source of foreign exchange.

The mining sector contributes around 4.8 percent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP), according to the government.

The Guardian Nipashe

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CRDB Bank's deliberate efforts to advance financial inclusion in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

WITH only about 20 percent of adult Tanzanians having a bank account, the government has set itself an ambitious project to ensure that over 50 percent of the population has one by 2022.

Bank of Tanzania launched its second National Financial Inclusion Framework (NFIF 2018-2022) in December 2017 which among other things, stipulates that "Financial products and services meet the needs of individuals and businesses consistent with supporting livelihood, household resilience, and creation of jobs."

According to the second NFIF, it targets to raise formal financial inclusion to 75 percent in 2022 from 65 percent in 2017. According to the Framework, financial institutions are vehicles that the government hopes to use to advance financial inclusion through investment in infrastructure such as digital platforms.

One such major financial institution which the government has tasked to drive financial inclusion is CRDB Bank Plc, which is the largest in the market by network infrastructure. The bank has already undertaken many activities to ensure that it delivers on the government's directive as per NFIF 2018/22.

According to CRDB Group's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela, the bank has undertaken several initiatives to make sure that it serves the majority of Tanzania especially the disenfranchised based in rural areas.

In the bank's results for the year ending December 2019, Nsekela said investment in digitization has allowed more transactions to be conducted outside its branches hence covering more people and freeing space for both customers and the bank while also enhancing financial inclusion.

Through its slogan, 'UlipiTupo' which literary translates into being available at the convenience of clients, Nsekela said his management envisages to leverage technological use in advancing its services and products in the market. "Our focus is to invest heavily in digital technology as a bank of choice for the future," he said while promising customers of improved services

at affordable rates. Late last year, the bank unveiled the 'Jiwezeshe' loan scheme targeting petty traders popularly known as 'machingas' who get services through their mobile handsets.

"These loans will be issued through the borrowers' mobile phones without any hassles and collateral," Nsekela said when launching the 'Jiwezeshe' loans in the Kigamboni municipality of Dar es Salaam. The loan amounts range between 10,000/- and 500,000/- with no interest rate charged but an administrative fee of between 500/- and 2,000/- upon repayment.

In addition to having identity cards issued by President John Magufuli, borrowers only need to register their mobile phone numbers with CRDB's SimAccount to qualify for the digital loans. CRDB's 2018/22 strategy, has aligned itself with the NFIF 2018/22 with steady movement towards digitization.

To further advance its financial inclusion strategy, the bank has since November this year kick-started a campaign christened, 'TupoMtaaniKwako' aimed at mobilizing Tanzanians countrywide to open bank accounts and access formal banking services.

By last week, the campaign has managed to register over 100,000 new accounts including prospects, a major feat towards advancing financial inclusion as envisaged by the government. According to CRDB's Head of Agency Banking Ericky Willy, the campaign which has already covered 160 districts in 27 regions of the country is a remarkable success.

"Our 'TupoMtaaniKwako' campaign has also involved over 1,000 villages mostly in remote areas where no bank branch is available except mobile phones," Willy said while adding that CRDB is committed to ensuring that the majority of Tanzanian adults have access to formal banking services by 2022. He pointed out that to reach the majority of the unbanked who are mostly in rural areas, CRDB has deployed mobile branches, utility vehicles, and hundreds of its staff who were backed by thousands of agents located throughout the country. "As our slogan says, 'Ulipi Tupo', we through the campaign want to reach everyone wherever they are in the country," he added.

Apart from mobilizing people to open bank accounts as a



CRDB Bank in Kasulu



CRDB Bank in Kyerwa

means of financial inclusion, the campaign also introduced to the public to financial literacy basics but also opportunities which CRDB account holders have such as loan access and expert counseling on business handling.

"The campaign was mainly implemented by CRDB bank staff who are experts in finance and

management hence counselled the public on financial discipline," Willy said while stressing that since November, thousands of people have been thronging to where the bank's deployed teams were holding road-shows. The campaign also mobilized customers to use CRDB's alternative banking channels such as

CRDB Wakalas, SimBanking, Internet Banking, TemboCard, and SimAccount, among many other innovative platforms. "The bank has invested heavily in digital banking to enable our customers to conduct transactions anywhere at any time using their handsets and other electronic gadgets," Willy noted saying CRDB remains

one of the largest banks in the market with a network of physical branches, agents and ATM outlets. The Dar es Salaam-based lender has more than 260 physical branches, 17,000 agents, and over 700 ATMs countrywide which serves its three million-plus customers but also other members of the public.



CRDB Bank in Morogoro





CRDB Bank in Mwanza



CRDB Bank in Mtwara



CRDB Bank in Nguruka District



CRDB Bank in Kibaha



CRDB Bank in Goba- Dar es Salaam



CRDB Bank in Tegeta Dar es Salaam



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MONDAY 28 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
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President Magufuli's appeal should not fall on deaf ears

WHILE the year 2020 has been one of darkness and gloom all over the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic, relief is being felt and hope is on the horizon as many countries start mass vaccination programmes. It is in this context that the public in Tanzania, and even a few outside who shall come across a solemn appeal by President Dr John Magufuli on Christmas Day, will evaluate what he said, in its faith parameter and then in view of the vaccination drives. Is prayer irrelevant as vaccines now exist?

During remarks aired in church towards the end of a service to mark the birth of Christ, the president said that it is vital for the world to prioritize prayers in the fight against COVID-19, a position that isn't new with JPM. But it was the first time that the president has moved to offer advice to other leaders around the world as to taking up prayer as an important aspect of the problem as a whole, a view of the pandemic which presumes that divinity isn't indifferent on the matter. Divinity doesn't act fortuitously, passively.

Churches all over the country paid particular gratitude to the president for his steadfast position to allow congregations to conduct prayers, even during the time of a partial state of emergency on account of the pandemic. The president himself has continued to thank the Lord God for having lifted the pandemic out of the country, never crediting the scant infections rate in the country from actions of the government as a whole. He has always

strongly expressed the view that it is prayer which was answered and divinity put a lid on the spread of the pandemic inside the country, a view that isn't exactly available in most countries.

When the president started taking these positions his views were met with something close to ridicule in East African reactions, and some opposition spokespersons gleamed with scorn, asking the president to leave prayers to the priests, and focus on the science. 'The science' as is the case everywhere is sanitizers, masks and lockdowns, and one major political party, convinced that mass deaths are coming, took the frontline to ask its legislators to lockdown themselves and not attend Parliament, another gesture of boycott disguised as COVID-19 precautions. The MPs largely refused and the party expelled them.

World leaders should emulate Dr Magufuli and tell their people pointedly that 'no corona virus can live on the body of Jesus,' which is what the president said in refusing lockdowns and asking all Tanzanians to pray. The fact that vaccines are being administered doesn't mean that divinity is irrelevant in the matter, as new strains are coming up which may not defy the vaccines but weaken the ability of the body to build resilient antibodies. This effort at being scientific and not wishing to hear about divinity can be harmful for the world, as it hinges on a scientific conscience which believes it is superior to everything. So faith may also be in question in the manner in which the world responds to the coronavirus pandemic.

There is need for an intensified global focus on preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases

Non-communicable diseases now make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death, according to WHO's 2019 Global Health Estimates, published recently. This is an increase from 4 of the 10 leading causes in 2000. The new data cover the period from 2000 to 2019 inclusive. The estimates reveal trends over the last 2 decades in mortality and morbidity caused by diseases and injuries. They clearly highlight the need for an intensified global focus on preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, as well as tackling injuries, in all regions of the world, as set out in the agenda for the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

"These new estimates are another reminder that we need to rapidly step up prevention, diagnosis and treatment of non-communicable diseases," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO. "They highlight the urgency of drastically improving primary health care equitably and holistically. Strong primary health care is clearly the foundation on which everything rests, from combatting non-communicable diseases to managing a global pandemic. A Report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that non-communicable diseases such as heart, respiratory and lung diseases, and cancers were the leading causes of death in 2019 globally.

However, according to the report people in low-income countries are still more likely to die of a communicable or infectious disease such as malaria, HIV/Aids or diarrhoea diseases than a non-communicable disease (NCD). According to the WHO this is because of delays in adopting preventative measures like improvement of environmental

conditions where the pathogens related to these diseases thrive. However, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/Aids are killing fewer people. For example, HIV/Aids, caused 59 per cent fewer deaths in 2019 than in 2000. Last year at least 161,000 people died of HIV compared with 395,000 in 2000 according to WHO's The top 10 causes of death in 2019 report released recently. Deaths from HIV/Aids have fallen by 51 percent during the past 20 years, moving from the world's eighth leading cause of death in 2000 to the 19th in 2019.

Diarrhoeal diseases like cholera and dysentery are more significant as a cause of death in low-income countries ranking in the top five causes of death. Nonetheless, diarrhoeal diseases are decreasing in low-income countries, with global deaths falling from 2.6 million people in 2000 to 1.5 million people in 2019. In low-income countries, neonatal conditions remained the biggest killers in 2019, even though these reduced marginally around the globe. According to WHO data at least 2.4 million newborns (under 28 days) died in 2019, due to preterm birth complications, birth asphyxia, pneumonia, congenital anomalies, diarrhoea and malaria, compared with 3.2 million in 2000.

In lower middle-income countries, diabetes is a rising cause of death, having moved from the 15th in 2000 to ninth leading cause of death last year, claiming 1.3 million lives in 2019 compared with 700,000 in 2000.

WHO says the routine collection and analysis of high-quality data on deaths and their causes, as well as data on disability, disaggregated by age, sex and geographical location, is essential for improving health and reducing deaths and disability across the world.

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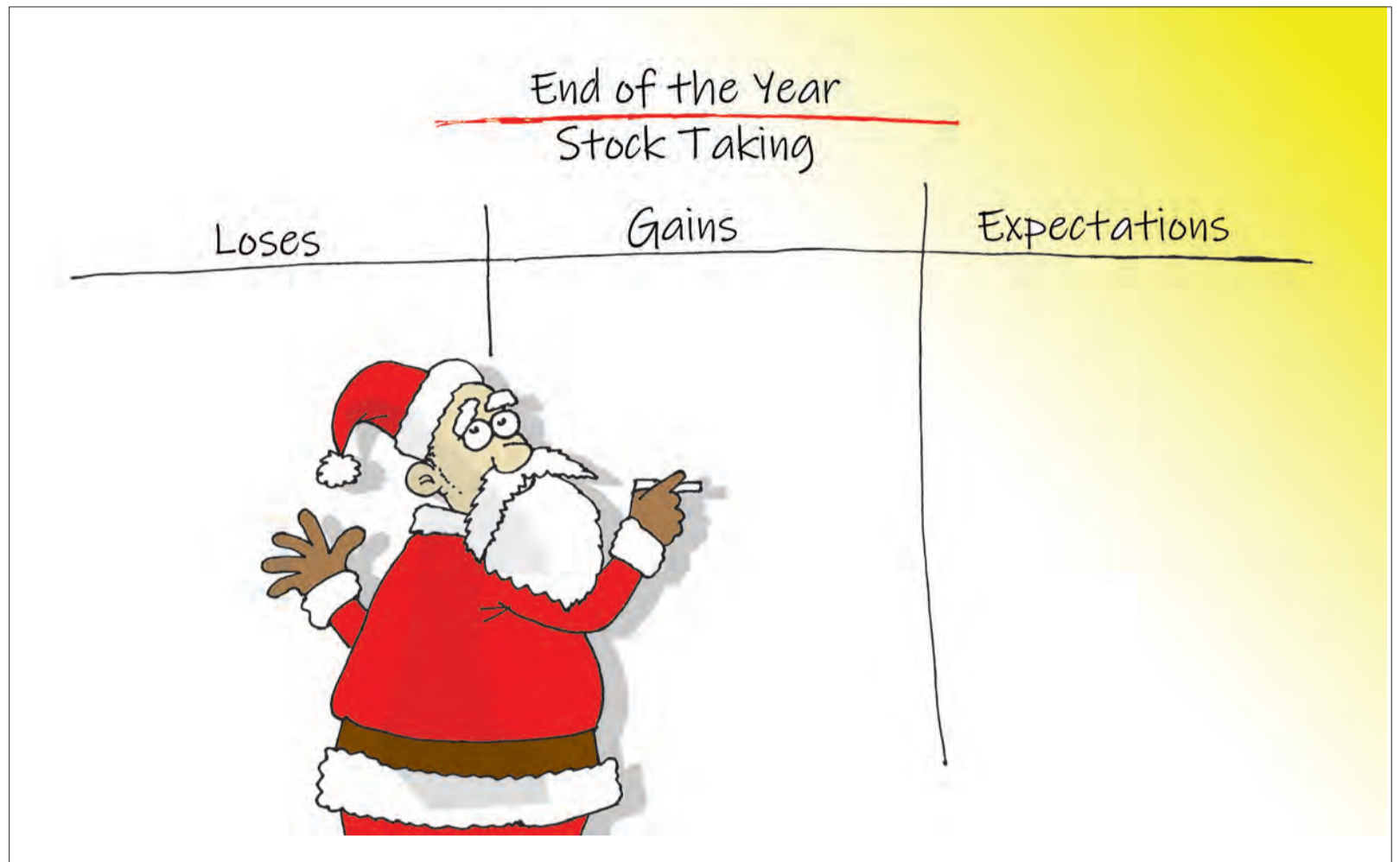
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Denouncing secrecy culture will help combat mental illness in Africa

By Jenitha Jacob

IT always beats me when thinking how some of our traditions and culture as Africans are shrouded in secrecy.

The secretive way of dealing with issues is deeply rooted in our societies that when one goes against it is considered a foe; non conformity leads to being ostracized. One of such cultures is a culture of perseverance while living in a milieu of poverty, hardship, corruption and other socioeconomic vices.

This culture cut across borders. And do not misread me. Under normal circumstances, perseverance is a needed trait for an individual or community longing for success but people should not endure immoralities, decadences and other social and economic adversities.

The impact of persevering undesirable and adverse situations in Africa has largely been an undiagnosed amount of mental illness in societies. It is unfortunate that those who have been diagnosed cannot attain proper treatment because it goes against the aforementioned culture of perseverance—a kind of vicious circle that if left unchecked will potentially reverse progress that is being made in this lovely continent.

Extreme cases of mental illness without proper attention or diagnosis often leads to poverty as ostracizing people for mental illnesses prevents them from participating in economic life and thus attaining personal wealth or development.

The problem is huge but often not paid much attention to.

Writing for the African Renewal in an article titled Mental illness: Invisible but devastating, Lansana Bberie pointed out how superstition is often blamed for acute mental health disease in Africa.

Statistics shows that huge work has to be done to reverse the trend of mental ill health in Africa where fifteen African countries are among the top globally for suicide per 100,000 people.

By estimate, Africa has nearly 1.4 mental health workers per 100,000 people. This is far below the 9.0 global average.

When it comes to Tanzania, it is estimated that 2.5 million people in the country are suffering from mental illness with only 20 percent of them having access to mental



In tackling mental health issues, the rest of Africa and the world can learn a lot from initiatives such as the Friendship Bench in Zimbabwe. Credit: Friendship Bench Project-Zimbabwe.

health services.

A lot of factors cause mental health stigma in Africa. Poverty being one of them, leads to depression and, finally, a state of anxiousness. In various instances, patients suffering from depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems acquire less equal entree to appropriate health care.

In their work: Public beliefs about and attitudes towards people with mental illness: a review of population studies, authors, Anger Meyer M and Dietrich S explains that sufferings worsens through mental attitudes, people's bias attitude, and community stigmatizing sufferings.

On their part, author Egbe C and colleagues who did a study on psychiatric stigma and discrimination in South Africa notes the two categories of stigma as either public or self-stigma. Whereas public stigma explains how the population thinks about mentally ill people and potential consequences; self-stigma explains ways in which mental illness affects individuals. Both public and self-stigma are associated with the outcome held by the general population.

Researchers, Louis K and Roberts P who did a study on public attitudes towards mental illness in Africa and North America note that poorness leads to depression, anxiousness, psychological suffering, and self-annihilation. In Africa, poverty has mentally affected individual's households, nations, and local communities leading to high-level stress in a family in terms of food provision, living standards, and financial gain, among others.

Author Sichel A and others in their article: Mental health stigma update: A review of consequences argues that increased hazard of mental health problems and drug abuse in parents is caused by stressors, which eventually lead to child maltreatment and neglect.

In turn, poverty causes negative mental health impacts among children due to their stressed parents. Then again, high blood pressure and high cortisol levels as a result of poverty lead to physiological responses at a personal level.

In their research paper titled: Racial and ethnic disparities in mental illness stigma, researchers Rao D and colleagues explains that pro-

longed poverty exposure to brain functioning interruptions, leads to both long-run physical and mental health upshot of response result.

The symbiotic relationship of poverty and mental illness in the African continent cannot be overemphasized as the high level of poverty that already exists in the continent is a contributing factor to people spiraling into mental illness.

Mental illness and poverty must therefore be addressed with proper mental health education, counseling, therapy, and stringent policies to target poverty.

While poverty and a low standard of living is not the sole contributing factor to mental illness, it is generally regarded to be the largest contributing factor in Africa. Hence, proper and timely intervention is required as well as an erosion of the devil in disguise-like notion of perseverance in spite of suffering.

The author is an Oxford alumni and a young diplomat, currently pursuing her PhD in the international University in Geneva and Plymouth University in the UK

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2020: Yet more devastating year closes with at least some signs of hope

ROME

Despite its grim record of multiple natural disasters and a deepening climate crisis, one could be forgiven for looking back on 2019 with a degree of nostalgia. There is no disguising the extent of the calamity wrought this year by COVID-19, yet as we approach the end of 2020 we may also draw strength from positive developments emerging.

No review of 2020, as seen through the eyes of IPS reporters and contributors around the world, could begin without paying our respects to the nearly 1.5 million people who have died from the coronavirus, many of them care workers trying to save the lives of others.

But the pandemic, declared as such by the World Health Organization on March 11, has inflicted much wider damage in exposing the frailties of governments, societies, economies and health systems, particularly in those countries that chose to ignore the warnings and advice of the WHO and played down the crisis.

The US administration in particular sought to hide its shortcomings by attacking and ultimately withdrawing from the WHO, while in contrast Rwanda, for example, had set up a COVID-19 joint task force even before the pandemic was declared.

But coming on top of the climate emergency, conflict and economic decline, COVID-19 has brought at least seven countries to the brink of famine, leading the UN to earmark emergency funding for Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. But with international solidarity fraying at the seams, the UN is facing a massive funding shortfall for the estimated 250 million people needing humanitarian aid around the world.

Any hopes that the pandemic might persuade warring parties to cease fire have been dashed as well. New conflicts have broken out and old ones have resumed. Thousands are believed to have died in fighting in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. The Horn of Africa is being destabilised again as Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, winner of the 2019 Nobel peace prize for making peace with Eritrea, launches an offensive against the region of Tigray, driving refugees into Sudan where the World Food Program, the 2020 Nobel peace laureate, is struggling to cope.

This year, the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, was to have been a landmark moment for gender equality, but the coronavirus pandemic has instead widened inequalities for girls and women across every sphere. While men are more likely to die from COVID-19, women are facing the full blow of the socio-economic fallout as well as seeing a reversal in equality gains made over the last two decades, according to an all-women panel of international thought leaders, meeting virtually for an IPS Webinar.

Susan Papp, Women Deliver's managing director for Policy and Advocacy, told IPS: "To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and have a strong response and recovery to COVID-19, we must apply a gender lens in order to address the unique needs of girls and women, and leverage their unique expertise."

Instead, violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, rose sharply in many countries.

Racism too was back on the



UN Secretary-General António Guterres briefs the media on the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. File photo

front pages with a vengeance, driven by police killings in the US of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor which sparked a wave of mostly peaceful but sometimes violent demonstrations across the world, fuelling the Black Lives Matter movement and demands for an end to racial injustice.

Prompted by the killing on May 25 of George Floyd in Minneapolis, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres made an impassioned speech, saying the values of reason, tolerance and mutual respect were being challenged by nationalism, irrationality, populism, xenophobia, racism, white supremacism and different forms of Neo-Nazism.

With communities under such stress, large economies shrinking and freedom of movement restricted, a fall in harmful global warming emissions was one dividend to be hoped for under lockdown. Alas, not much at all. The World Meteorological Organization, releasing its annual greenhouse gas bulletin in November, said accumulated CO2 levels in the atmosphere had clearly increased despite a cut in emissions of between 4.2% and 7.5%. "The lockdown-related fall in emissions is just a tiny blip on the long-term graph," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

Against such a dire backdrop, and with hopes of a reprieve dashed by a second wave of COVID cases and the new variant in the final months of 2020, IPS reporters continued to chronicle the valiant efforts of aid workers, activists, scientists and politicians, many

well away from the COVID limelight.

With Africa acutely aware of the need to establish food sustainability and security for its rapidly growing population, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) pressed on with its Enhancing Capacity to Apply Research Evidence (CARE) project, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), enabling 80 young African scholars to develop workable policies to expand agribusiness and youth involvement.

Improving nutrition is vital to tackling the Non-communicable diseases which have been critical in driving the death toll from the coronavirus. The need to address nutritional challenges through food systems has never been so critical, enhancing the importance of the UN 2021 Food Systems Summit, supported by the Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition which has ranked 67 countries in The Food Sustainability Index developed with the Economist Intelligence Unit.

The battle against communicable diseases goes on too, even tackling persistent and now relatively rare relics such as leprosy. While falling worldwide, cases have increased in Brazil in recent years however, and Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, insists he will keep working for a world where people affected by leprosy and all those suffering from various forms of social discrimination all have a place in inclusive

societies.

This too should have been the year of COP26, the critical climate crisis conference which thanks to COVID-19 will be staged in 2021 instead, in Glasgow. Some governments have hesitated to step up their Paris Agreement commitments to cut emissions but the Dominican Republic's President Luis Abinader arrived at his inauguration in August in an electrically driven car as a symbolic gesture of his intentions, working with the support of The Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), an initiative of the NDC Partnership.

Devastating wild fires in Australia which continued into 2020 and the summer eruption of vast blazes from California to Washington state were a stark reminder that whatever happens with the pandemic, the world is still failing to act coherently in tackling the climate emergency.

Which takes us to those year-end signs of hope. Having defeated Donald Trump in the US elections, president-elect Joe Biden appointed former secretary of state John Kerry as climate envoy for when the new Democratic administration takes office in January. Four years ago, on behalf of the US, Kerry signed the Paris climate agreement, which Trump left and Biden has promised to rejoin, along with US membership of WHO. Kamala Harris, a California senator, will become the first female vice president of the US. Biden's victory and the news that COVID-19 vaccines by Pfizer are now being being

distributed in a number of countries have shown high rates of efficacy leading us to hope that the pandemic will be in retreat within months - though a tough northern winter still lies ahead - and the US will once again soon play a leadership role on the international stage.

High levels of global cooperation are required, not just in ensuring that vaccines are distributed all over the world, but also in preparing for the next pandemic which could prove even worse.

Coverage of Covid-19 naturally dominated the news in 2020 but lockdowns around the world did little to slow the killings of reporters in the most dangerous of countries, with Mexico remaining among the worst. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 40 journalists and media workers were killed around the world in the first 11 months of 2020, compared with 51 in all of 2019.

Globally 274 journalists were jailed in 2020.

The toxic polarisation of US politics, as witnessed by the unedifying spectacle of Trump's refusal to concede while making unsubstantiated accusations of electoral fraud, may outlive the pandemic, however. Populist-driven politicians like Trump and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro have also corrupted public faith in scientists and expertise in general, at the risk of undermining a broad take-up of vaccines once approved by regulatory authorities.

This disastrous decline in respect of evidence-based truth came to the boil in 2020, fuelled by a rampant and mostly uncontrolled social media (even if Trump's tweets did have health warnings attached).

Cynical manipulations of public opinion - be they for political or financial gains - make it even more vitally important that IPS Inter Press Service continues to give a voice to the voiceless and fosters evidence-based reporting of development news with a strong sense of social responsibility. In this IPS plays a unique role among news outlets.

While thanking our network of dedicated reporters around the world and our editors for their work in 2020, special mentions go to IPS correspondent Neena Bhandari who won the NSW Premier's Multicultural Communication Award for the Best Print Report for a two-part series for our reports on Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/05/modern-slavery-asia-pacific-fuelled-widespread-poverty-migration-weak-governance-part-1/>

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2020/05/forced-marriage-organ-trafficking-rife-asia-pacific-part-2/>

And to Ghana correspondent Albert Oppong Anash for winning the Ghana Journalists Association Science Award for his report on dangerously high levels of aflatoxins in crops:

<https://www.ipsnews.net/2019/10/ghanas-grains-groundnuts-face-increasing-contamination-amid-increasing-temperatures/>

And finally to our correspondent Jewel Fraser who has produced a number of podcasts for IPS and credits our support for her win of this bursary for emerging producers: <https://www.wcsfpc.com/entries/emerging-producers>

As we stumble into 2021 preparing to rebuild and relaunch, the UN Secretary General has clearly defined the mission that lies ahead and the science and tools to help us.

"Our planet is broken," Guterres warned in his State of the Planet speech on December 2, defining the "central objective" of the UN in 2021 to fight the climate and biodiversity crises which will involve building a global coalition to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

All nations are called upon to end fossil fuel finance and subsidies, shift the tax burden from tax payers to polluters, integrate the goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal policies, and help those who are already facing the impact of climate change.

The 2021 agenda has to be ambitious and radical. As Guterres said: "The science is clear... We face a moment of truth."

Entertainment in 2020 - Wow, what a year!

By Melody Chironda

Cape Town – The year is almost over, and aren't we all glad! 2020 made us want to hide under the covers and never come back out. It was a year full of surprises and thrills when it came to the world of entertainment, arts, and culture.

The coronavirus pandemic challenged the industry like never before. The entertainment industry was heavily affected as lockdowns and physical distancing were enforced. This resulted in concerts, live performances, and festivals being postponed, or canceled. Cinemas went dark and empty, and nightclubs were closed. The misery was universal. Everything fell apart.

But, through it all, it didn't completely kill the industry as creativity and resilience spirit kept the industry alive. It actually opened up a world of new possibilities as everything had to be done in the comfort of your own homes. All you needed was a good quality camera and internet. Over the past months, we witnessed live gigs by musicians and DJs to their fans via platforms like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube. At least music was one of the biggest escapes to help lift our spirits during the pandemic.

On a sad note, we grieved the deaths of Cameroonian jazz singer Manu Dibango, South African musicians Joseph Shabalala, Mshoza, and legendary actress Mary Twala. As well as the sudden passing of flamboyant Zimbabwean socialite Gimimbi and legendary South African radio personality Bob Mabena.

Here are some of allAfrica's coverage that had people talk-



ing.

The self-acclaimed African giant Burna Boy is without a doubt one of the biggest stars in Africa. He continues to reign on the music scene and shows his musical prowess to the world. He released his fifth album, *Twice as Tall*, and the album has already fetched him a second consecutive Grammy nomination. Again, he scooped the Best International Act at the 2020 BET awards. He became the first African to win the award for two years in a row.

The prestigious magazine, *British GQ*, listed Burna Boy's *Twice As Tall* and Wizkid's *Made In Lagos* as part of the 24 albums that made the year 2020 more tolerable. The Nigerian singers are the only Africans on the list and they were spotted on numbers 16 and 17.

Master KG dominating the

world

South African DJ had a stellar year with his hit song, *Jerusalema* featuring Nomcebo Zikode. It gained international success and topped global charts. It also became the most searched song in the world. Since its release, *Jerusalema* has become a global phenomenon, even inspiring its own dance challenge. The hit song has brought in countless awards.

D'Banj and the rape accusation

Nigerian singer, Oladapo Daniel Oyebanjo, popularly known as D'Banj, was accused of rape by a woman known as Seyitan Babatayo. In a strange twist of events, the victim was then arrested for accusing D'Banj of rape. The woman claimed that she was subsequently targeted by police, sparking outrage amid rising activism in Nigeria against

endemic sexual abuse. It grabbed headlines for weeks, with many social media users calling out the artist.

Diamond Platnumz and his many dramas

Diamond Platnumz became the hot topic of discussion. For anyone that was routing for Diamond's relationships, the disappointments kept on coming. The popular Tanzanian singer was never short of drama. He is well-known for his many relationships that always doesn't end well. Diamond's love life is complicated. He has addressed the Zari affair, the breakup with Tanasha Donna, and the exchange of words with Hamisa Mobetto. His success on the music scene, however, keeps growing. He has kept his fans entertained with hit-after-hit.

Future or Fantasy? Senegal

Questions 'Akon City'

The popular Senegalese-American singer is still moving on with his plan to build a futuristic city in his birth country even though local villagers don't know what to think. The proposed city will be located outside Dakar. Akon described it as a "real-life *Wakanda*," comparing it to the technologically advanced fictional African city portrayed in the blockbuster film *Black Panther*.

What Really Happened to Yvonne Chaka Chaka in Uganda?

The popular South African music legend dismissed reports that she was deported from Uganda, where she was scheduled to perform at a New Year's Eve concert. According to authorities, the singer was sent home due to visa issues but Chaka Chaka took to social media, explaining that she left of her own accord.

Momentum Builds for African Artefacts to Return Home

French authorities have said it will return 26 artworks looted from Benin during the colonial era. The pieces are at the Quai Branly museum in Paris.

Adele Rolling in the 'Deep' After Africa Sex Tourism Skit

British singer Adele came under fire for a skit, with Saturday Night Live cast members Kate McKinnon and Heidi Gardner, that intended to "mock" sex tourism. In the skit, they encouraged visitors - particularly women of a certain age - to come to Africa, to see African men. The trio used cringe-worthy sexual innuendo that had critics blasting the production for the stereotypes, accusing them of "fetishizing" black men. The skit was branded offensive by viewers.

AGENCIES

China, U.S. can have better future by focusing on cooperation

BEIJING

After the U.S. election, China-U.S. relations once again stand at a crossroads fraught with risks and challenges as well as new opportunities. Whether bilateral relations can get back on track is the focus of the world. As President Xi Jinping emphasized, promoting the healthy and stable development of China-U.S. relations not only conforms to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but is also the common expectation of the international community.

Examining China-U.S. relations requires a comprehensive observation of history and realities. The coming year marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Henry Kissinger's secret trip to China. Half a century since China and the United States resumed engagement, bilateral relations have developed rapidly. The trade volume had grown from almost zero to more than 500 billion U.S. dollars in 2019, and a total of 72,500 U.S. companies have invested and run business in China. The assets of American companies in China exceeded 700 billion dollars and their annual sales in the country came in at about 700 billion dollars. Last month, 197 American companies participated in the third China International Import Expo (CIIE), ranking first among all countries in terms of the number of exhibits and the total exhibition area. China-U.S. cooperation has produced remarkable results that benefit both sides and the world. These were exemplified by the handling of international and regional hotspot issues, counter-terrorism and non-proliferation, as well as the response to the international financial crisis and the prevention and control of major infectious diseases.

Over the past several years, China-U.S. relations have undergone the most difficult period since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Some ex-

treme anti-China forces in the United States, out of ideological prejudice and personal political gains, took regressive steps and provoked disputes. They deliberately negated the history of bilateral relations, maliciously attacked the Communist Party of China (CPC) and China's political system, took provocative actions against the country's core interests, and grossly interfered in China's internal affairs. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they passed the blame to China, trying to obstruct exchanges between the two countries in all fields and undermine bilateral cooperation. They also incited the "decoupling" of the two nations, coercing other countries into containing and confronting China in an attempt to create "parallel worlds" or "two systems" to push the world into division and turmoil. These actions went against the trend and the will of the people, and were opposed by the far-sighted personages in the United States and rejected by the world's people. Such attempts were doomed to fail.

Facts have again proven that cooperation and dialogue between China and the United States beat friction and confrontation. Sound cooperation between the two countries would be the bedrock of world peace and the booster of global development. On the contrary, friction would bring about disasters on both sides and the world at large. "Both China and the United States stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation. Thus, cooperation is the best choice for both sides." That is essential to dealing with China-U.S. relations, and both countries should bear that in mind.

The top priority for the two countries now is to sit down, have a comprehensive, candid and in-depth dialogue, clarify the strategic intentions of both sides, and rebuild mutual trust.

Dr. Kissinger made the trip to China about 50 years ago to have in-depth talks with Chinese leaders. Now, we once again call for such spirit and actions.

The two sides should stick to a fundamental principle. China and the United States follow different social systems. These are choices made by the people of the two countries and they deserve mutual respect. China has no intention of changing the United States or replacing it. Likewise, the United States should not stick to its wishful thinking of changing China. It is impossible for the United States to block China's historical progress toward modernization. It behooves the two sides to develop bilateral relations following the fundamental principle of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

The two sides should keep an essential bottom line in mind. The CPC is the ruling party of China, and it enjoys a high approval rate of 95 percent among the Chinese people. It is a force leading and driving China-U.S. relations forward. Since the two countries established diplomatic relations, the United States has been dealing with the CPC. Accepting and respecting the CPC constitute the prerequisite for developing China-U.S. relations. Dismissing the CPC amounts to dismissing the foundation of China-U.S. exchanges.

The two sides should agree on a cooperation framework through negotiations. There are indeed differences between China and the United States, but this doesn't mean that the two sides cannot cooperate. In the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences, the two sides should take an accommodating attitude to each other's demands and concerns, explore new paths to dialogue and cooperation, and find a way of promoting peaceful co-

existence and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The framework cannot be agreed on overnight. While showing patience, the two sides should take it as an urgent task. Making a long-term plan while taking immediate action can be the right choice. As the world's two biggest economies, the largest developing country and the largest developed nation, China and the United States need to cooperate with each other. And there are many fields in which they can work together and reinforce and supplement each other. A wise and feasible option for reaching such a framework is to get down to the business at hand, as specified in the "three lists" respectively on dialogue, cooperation and managing differences properly, as proposed by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Jointly fighting COVID-19. This is the most pressing issue globally, and also a common concern of the international community. In the past, China and the United States had successful experience in jointly combating epidemics such as SARS and Ebola. The health sectors of the two countries formed a sound relationship of cooperation. The two sides should enhance exchanges and cooperation in areas such as quarantine and tracing measures, medication and vaccines. If the United States returns to the World Health Organization and joins the COVAX, China and the United States can cooperate in global vaccine distribution and epidemic prevention through multilateral frameworks, joining hands to help countries with weak health-care systems, which would be good news for the whole world.

Jointly stabilizing economic and trade relations. This is a prominent area of mutual benefit and win-win results, and there is an urgent need to break new ground for cooperation. President Xi Jinping said at the

opening ceremony of the third CIIE that "our aim is to turn the China market into a market for the world, a market shared by all, and a market accessible to all." Apparently, China, with stable development and consistent opening-up, would bring opportunities to the world as well as to the United States. "Decoupling" with China is nothing but giving up on future development opportunities. The two sides should initiate economic policy coordination that connects China's new development paradigm with the U.S. post-pandemic economic recovery. The two sides should strengthen cooperation in fields such as information and communication, artificial intelligence, online education and telemedicine, jointly stabilize the markets, secure growth and safeguard people's wellbeing. The two sides should also ensure the smooth operation of the global industrial and supply chains, thus leading the recovery and development of the world economy.

Jointly tackling climate change. The Chinese and U.S. governments had cooperated to realize the adoption of the Paris Agreement, jointly leading other countries to slow down and adapt to climate change. At the general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September, President Xi Jinping put forth China's pledge to attain the CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. China and the United States have opportunities to strengthen cooperation and deepen exchanges in climate change. Promoting bilateral cooperation in this field will greatly benefit generations to come.

Jointly resuming people-to-people exchanges. Earlier, China and the United States saw an average of 14,000 visits a day, with one flight taking off or landing between the two coun-

tries every 17 minutes. A total of 50 pairs of sister provinces/states and 231 pairs of sister cities were forged between the two sides. More than 400,000 Chinese students once studied in the United States. These exchanges brought people closer and helped promote friendship. In the past few years, however, people-to-people exchanges have suffered grave disruption, with the number of U.S. visas for Chinese students falling 99 percent year on year from April to September this year. The two sides should resume normal people-to-people exchanges as soon as possible, and make new exchange plans involving think tanks, civil aviation and students, to consolidate the foundation of people-to-people bond in bilateral relations.

As China and the United States already had good cooperation on matters like non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the Iranian nuclear issue, the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, anti-terrorism and disaster relief, both sides may resume dialogue and cooperation on these important areas.

"Delicious soup is made by combining different ingredients. Good relationship of people of various positions features mutual learning and complementarity." In the post-pandemic era, both China and the United States need a pragmatic approach to roll up sleeves and get to work, as well as innovative thinking to recognize, pursue and adapt to changes. It is wise for both sides and expected by the international community that China and the United States actively seek common interests and resume exchanges and cooperation in various fields so as to create favorable exterior conditions for both countries to accomplish their respective important domestic agendas.

Xinhua



Liparamba Game Reserve, the unknown tourism glory in southern Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

RUVUMA is rich in tourism attractions that some suffer from the fate of going unnoticed.

One such destination is Liparamba Game Reserve, located on the southern part of Tanzania with Ruvuma River as its border, and was established in 2000 in Mbinga, Songea and Nyasa districts in Ruvuma Region.

Diversity in vegetation provides suitable habitat to many wildlife species that drink water from Ruvuma River.

The reserve which is within the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC) is a home to a wide range of wildlife—elephants, eland, hippo, honey badger, mongoose, Nile crocodile, pangolin, aardvark and many bird species including ground hornbill, hammerkop, bustard and cormorant.

Game Reserve Tourism officer, Maajabu Mbogo said the tourist attraction which was launched in 2000 is blessed with a variety of animals—big five such as elephants, lions and a wide-range of small animals.

He said in March a huge herd of elephants from Mozambique flock into the game reserve and start returning in July and September hence a few animals remain in the forest.

“When poaching activities intensified in Mozambique, elephants remain in the forest for more than two years because they feel safe as there is tight security here,” he said.

He revealed that at one time a white lion was spotted in the forest, but pointed out that this was not a surprise because the forest has some unique animals, which are not found in

most places.

He named other attractions in the forests as snakes such as black Mambas and Cobra as well as waterfalls at Nakatuka at Ruvuma River which is a natural attraction that pulls tourists. According to the officer, the game reserve has attractions that are suitable for mountain climbing tourism because it has huge stones that facilitate such tourism.

At Mkuyu inside Liparamba Game Reserve there is an attraction which attracts many where water flows at the area have designed a map similar to

that of Africa.

“The waters have created a map similar to that of the African continent which is a very interesting thing and very attractive,” he said.

For his part, assistant conservation officer for the forest Paul Protas named other attractions at the forest as the presence of koribustard birds which is used as a national symbol as it is to Giraffe. “This is a big bird and has the ability to grow up to 16 kilogramme, is 1330 cm long it is a national treasure and can be killed by permission from the Head of State,” he said.

A resolution of Symbion-TanESCO may be in sight

By Guardian Reporter

INDEPENDENT Power Producer Symbion Power has reaffirmed its commitment to Tanzania despite what it describes as “difficult years” after the company found itself in a major legal dispute with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TanESCO).

“In fact, the future looks bright for both of us—Symbion and TanESCO—I am confident that negotiations going on at the international levels/instruments will end up successfully,” said Symbion Chief Executive Officer, Paul Hinks as he responds to media questions about Symbion staff who have recently been retrenched and other related issues. “Whilst the two arbitrations we started at the International Chamber of Commerce

(ICC) in Paris and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) at the World Bank in Washington DC are still ongoing, our team has been engaged in lengthy settlement discussions with the Tanzania government,” Paul said, expressing hope that the matter will be settled amicably.

What transpired in the course of discussions and negotiations between the two sides (Symbion and TANESCO) is yet to be revealed, but the respective parties are optimistic that the matter will be settled peacefully, a move which stakeholders in the energy sector says “would help revert the two sides to mutual understanding and friendship.

However, Symbion chief executive officer declined to com-



Symbion CEO, Paul Hinks (left), Former US President Barack Obama (centre), Jay Ireland, Former CEO of General Electric-Africa, getting out of Symbion's Ubungu Power Plant during Obama's visit to Tanzania in 2013. File Photo.

ment on the inner-part of the talks, noting that “I am not at liberty to disclose any details from the negotiations but I can confirm that both sides are keen to reach an amicable agreement. It is no secret that we have been deprived of a huge amount of money that was owed for power we already delivered, so it should

come as no surprise to anyone that there have been some problems since Symbion was forced to terminate the Power Purchase Agreement and start dispute resolution in 2016,” according to noted Symbion CEO.

“There is no doubt that we have experienced a few difficult years in Tanzania, but I have had

a relationship with the country for over 38 years and it is still my favorite place on the African continent. I regret that these disputes have also affected our former and current staff and some other creditors,” noted top boss of Symbion Power—a giant US-based power firm with considerable and world-class experience in energy projects, which has operations in different African countries and across the globe.

As regards to Symbion creditors and staff who have recently been retrenched, Hinks says staff and creditors with valid claims should remain calm, noting that “they can be assured that we will be resolving any legitimate and valid outstanding matters once the arbitrations are over, or we have settled with the government; whichever comes first.”

He arrayed public fears saying that Symbion Power Plant assets in Tanzania “are not at any risk as they are held under a debenture by a bank,” describing recent reports to the contrary as “erroneous and distortion of reality.”

Pakistan's trade with Africa reaches US \$ 4.18 billion in 2019-20

ISLAMABAD

ADVISED to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Sunday said Pakistan's trade with African countries touched US \$ 4.18 billion in 2019-20, which was increased by seven percent as compared to the previous year (2018-19).

As a result of Pakistan's new engagement with African countries through “Look Africa Campaign” started by government of Pakistan, despite Covid-19 pandemic, exports to Africa increased by seven percent in 2019-20 from US \$ 1.38 billion in 2018-19 to US \$ 1.48 billion in 2019-20, the Advi-

sor told APP. The Advisor said total trade with Africa has increased from US \$ 3.19 billion in 2016-17 to US \$ 4.18 billion in 2019-20.

Replying to a query on the surge in trade with African countries, he said Pakistan's trade with Africa remained stagnant at US \$ three billion per year for last few years but because of government's trade policies with Africa, now multi-lateral trade with African region crossed the mark of US \$ four billion.

He added that main reason of the low trade volume was low level of engagement of Pakistan with Africa.

Razak Dawood said traditionally, rice has been our top export to Kenya and other African countries.

However, “we are planning to enhance exports of Pharmaceuticals, Surgical goods and Light Engineering and Electronic products including Tractors and Agricultural implements, two and three wheelers, Commercial and Domestic Fans, Water pumps and Electrical Machinery and equipment etc”.

He said there was a lot of potential of these products to connect with the untapped African Market. Replying to a question,

he said under the “Look Africa Policy” of Ministry of Commerce, “We are taking different initiatives including six new Commercial Sections have been opened in Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania, in addition to four existing Commercial Sections in Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria and South Africa, to cover top ten economies of Africa”.

He informed that ‘Look Africa Trade Forums’ have been organized in all major cities of Pakistan to create awareness among business community of Pakistan about potential of African markets.

He added that establishment of bilateral linkages with major African countries was underway.

Razak Dawood said Joint Working Group with Egypt and Joint Trade Committee with Kenya have been established while Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) has been shared with multiple African countries.

He said that the government also prioritized to increase more participation in Trade exhibitions in Africa in future to enhance the economic and trade integration with these countries.

He informed that for the first time, Pakistan

was expected to participate in International Khartoum Fair in January 2021.

He said Ministry of Commerce has also organized Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference in Nairobi, Kenya on 30th and 31st January 2020. President of Kenya inaugurated the Conference; in which 246 African delegates from 26 African countries participated.

The advisor said 115 delegates including 85 companies from Pakistan also participated in the Conference and 883 B2B meetings were held during the Conference between Pakistani and

COVID-19: Unravelling the science in a crisis

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

SINCE COVID-19 became a pandemic in March, the world has been in a state of emergency, with the role of science communication during a crisis being brought into sharp focus.

In Africa, as elsewhere in the world, the novel coronavirus has led to the dominance of science news and analysis in the media.

But what lessons is the pandemic giving to science communication in Africa? How will this shape the future of science messaging in the continent?

These were some of the key questions that a webinar sought to answer. Panelists and others in attendance agreed that the outbreak of COVID-19 is challenging the way we communicate science in Africa.

“It was not easy to communicate COVID-19 as we were all learning about a new virus,” said Mercy Korir, a medical doctor who is now working as full-time health journalist for Kenya's Standard Media Group.

According to Aisha Karim, a science journalist with South Africa-based Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism, many journalists had little knowledge on how to unravel and communicate the science about the virus in an effective manner.

“Journalists were grappling with something complex with little training on how to unpack information for the general public,” Karim said.

She added that the tendency to simplify information on the pandemic led to the risk of missing key health issues that were important to the public and policymakers. Convincing the public that they faced a dynamic situation that even scientists were still learning about was a challenge in itself. The panelists heaped praise on scientists in Africa for taking to social media as well as mainstream media, especially radio and television stations, to demystify issues to the public and share knowledge on continuing research.

According to the UN Secretary-General's initiative on big data and artificial intelligence, Global Pulse, online Coronavirus information has been shared and viewed 270 billion times in the 47 WHO Africa region countries between February and November this year.

Benjamin Gyampoh, a lecturer at Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, told participants that social media has played a key role as a science communication channel but what is shared is insufficient and not an adequate representation of COVID-19 research across Africa. Kogje Naidoo, head of treatment research in HIV and TB at the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa, said that communicating scientific research findings during a crisis is important, especially for policymakers and the general public.

But even more important is that science journalists covering a pandemic need to ensure responsible reporting through a rigorous fact-finding mission, she added.

Despite concerted efforts to communicate science during the pandemic, the politicisation of science, where politicians give updates even on technical matters while scientists play second fiddle, is unsettling to me. This, in my view, impedes effective science communication during the pandemic. Also, uncertainty in science has been a challenge in communication during the pandemic, particularly at the initial stages. Earlier this year, some scientists were divided on whether the use of face masks by the public was advisable as a measure to curb the spread of the virus.

I could not agree more with Gyampoh, the founding editor-in-chief of the Scientific African journal of the Next Einstein Forum, that a strong relationship between the media, scientists and government officials is critical to effective science communication during a crisis.

With the world now anticipating mass COVID-19 vaccinations, accurate information about vaccines is crucial to boost acceptability and uptake to help conquer the virus.

However, science communicating should be sustained in Africa beyond the pandemic. This is a wake-up call for increased investment in science communicators by institutions such as higher education, governments and media groups across the region.

African business people.

While question on the Pakistan plan to utilize the potential markets of Kenya and Tanzania, he said exports to Kenya increased from US \$ 265.1 million in 2018-19 to US \$ 289.3 million in 2019-20, recording an increase of nine percent despite Covid-19 pandemic.

He said our decision to organize Look Africa Trade Development Conference in Kenya and the inauguration of the Conference by the president of Kenya signifies the strength of bilateral trade relations between the two countries.

He informed that Pakistan total trade with

Tanzania has reached US \$ 194.58 million in 2019-20, as compared to US \$ 136.52 million in 2018-19, which made Tanzania an important trade partner.

Ministry of Commerce has recently opened a new Trade and Investment in Dar-es-Salaam, which was expected to be operational soon, he said.

Razak Dawood said a month ago in November, a four-member business delegation from Tanzania visited Pakistan after decades.

The delegation was led by the President Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

A year without precedent - WHO's Covid-19 response

GENEVA

Taking stock of all that's been achieved - and the partnerships working to end the pandemic.

It was the scenario the public health community had feared for decades. A dangerous virus emerges. It spreads rapidly around the world.

COVID-19 infects people when they come together, but coming together is also how we will beat it. 2020 saw the world unite against the virus, from small personal gestures to protect others, to international collaboration on research and innovation. The year ends with COVID-19 vaccines rolling out - an extraordinary feat.

Science, solutions and solidarity have been WHO's tools for addressing the biggest health threat of the past century - this is the story of the response we built with them.

Guidance, coordination and leadership

This isn't the first time WHO has responded to a pandemic, and it won't be the last - but COVID-19 is the most challenging crisis we have ever faced.

On 30 January 2020, WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The declaration is WHO's highest level of alarm - a rallying call to all countries to immediately take notice, and take action.

Countries looked to WHO for guidance on how to confront an unknown virus and WHO answered the call. Within two weeks of first learning of this new disease, WHO published its first set of advice to countries on how to test for the virus, treat patients, keep the public informed and prepare for more cases.

View Our Interactive Timeline for a Day-to-Day Account of WHO's Actions

WHO also leveraged well-established scientific relationships and connections to facilitate the rapid development of vaccines, treatments, diagnostics and other tools. The first lab test for COVID-19 was developed just days after scientists shared the genetic sequence, and the first test kits were shipped out to labs around the world within weeks.

Delivering knowledge and supplies

In 2020, WHO sent lifesaving supplies and equipment around the world and reached billions of people with critical information about the evolving nature of the virus, and how to protect themselves.

The COVID-19 Partners' Platform heralded a new model of health crisis engagement, by enabling over 150 countries, UN entities and 900 partners to coordinate actions and



resources together in real time.

Ensuring access to vital resources

Protecting health workers who risked their lives to fight the pandemic was one of WHO's biggest priorities. The pandemic caused an acute shortage of essential supplies, so a COVID-19 Supply Chain System was established to fill gaps, ensure quality and help countries navigate supply chains.

Travel restrictions and reduced flights put immense pressure on global supply chains in 2020. Logistics teams worked around the clock to get response supplies to those who needed them most.

While the need for masks is well known, a less publicized but equally vital resource is medical oxygen, which helps severely ill patients breathe and potentially avoid intubation.

The production and delivery of medical oxygen was a challenge worldwide even before the pandemic, as it is often left out of hospital budgets because demand can be difficult to predict.

In responding to COVID-19, WHO has procured and distributed oxygen supplies for vulnerable countries. By December 2020, WHO had sent more than 16 500 oxygen concentrators and 40 000 pulse oximeters and oxygen monitors to 121 countries. These devices will bring broader health benefits, for example to children with severe pneumonia, people undergoing surgery, and pregnant women.

WHO is also working with countries such as Papua New Guinea, Ukraine, Somalia and South Sudan on a more sustainable solution to the rising demand: oxygen generation plants.

Getting the message out

Around the world, people were hungry for clear, accurate and use-

ful information. Starting with our first Disease Outbreak News at the beginning of January, WHO has met the demand, releasing over 200 daily situation reports, followed by nearly 40 weekly epidemiological and operational updates. WHO updates its COVID-19 dashboard daily to provide a real-time snapshot of the pandemic.

Committed to helping frontline responders safely take on the pandemic, we provided free online training courses through our OpenWHO platform.

WHO hosted 38 Member State information sessions, during which a total of 79 countries - including health ministers and other leaders - shared their experiences with COVID-19 in the spirit of solidarity.

The media have also been a key audience and partner. WHO shared the latest developments on COVID-19 during over 130 briefings for journalists. WHO leadership also participated in other public forums, including over 50 weekly #AskWHO Q&A sessions on social media, and 19 podcasts and videos in our Science in 5 series explaining the science related to COVID-19 to the public.

WHO is also engaging new audiences with key partners including the Wikimedia Foundation, companies like Facebook (Instagram, Messenger and WhatsApp), Google, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter and Viber. We've also linked up with the creative talents behind beloved characters, including the Minions and Peppa Pig.

Increased outreach was especially vital given the infodemic - the flood of information on the COVID-19 pandemic. Not all of it was reliable, with harmful rumours and misinformation about the virus.

Helping countries directly

In early February, WHO launched its Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, which outlined key public health measures, to guide the efforts of national and international partners.

Through our 150 country offices and six regional offices, WHO has worked hand in hand with politicians, health workers, hospital directors, communicators, logisticians, lab technicians and more. We sent virtual and in-person missions of experts at the request of countries around the globe.

The heat of a response is the best time to judge performance and course correct. Over 30 countries invited WHO to do just that, in a process called intra-action reviews: determine what went well, then figure out what to fix now and how to better prepare for next time.

WHO also supported the deployment of 70 Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to countries, while 840 national teams were mobilized using the EMT methodology.

But health workers remain the backbone of the COVID-19 response around the world. In some places they had to temporarily shift their focus from responding to other diseases, such as polio. Over 30 000 polio personnel in countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and South Sudan tracked potential COVID-19 cases, traced contacts and shared information with communities. In Pakistan, polio data management systems enabled better case detection and were used to help fight COVID-19 misinformation.

WHO provided technical support, virtual training, equipment and supplies to boost testing capacity around the world. For example, when COVID-19 first emerged, Somalia did not have molecular testing capacity - but by the end of 2020, six labs in Somalia could do this kind of testing.

Leaving no one behind

WHO leads a COVID-19 crisis management team that works with 23 UN partners. WHO has also collaborated closely with the wider UN family on the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, to address needs in over 60 countries contending with humanitarian crises exacerbated by the pandemic.

WHO has helped drive the agendas of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

In the most challenging settings, WHO works hard to keep essential health services running. Throughout the pandemic, we have worked with countries to keep hospitals and clinics open to patients suffering from other diseases. WHO has also supported countries to keep routine childhood immunization going and help mothers give birth safely.

We've also stepped in when other emergencies strike. A day after an explosion devastated the port in Lebanon's capital of Beirut, a plane carrying 20 tonnes of WHO health supplies landed in the country. WHO also set up an appeal and collaborated with partners to provide follow-up care for the injured and mental health support for health workers, as well as expanding COVID-19 testing and treatment.

Putting science and research at the heart of the pandemic response

In 2020, the WHO R&D Blueprint created the go-to platform for international scientific collaboration between scientists, developers, regulators and funders to accelerate critical research on the pandemic, covering tests, vaccines, treatments and more.

Early on, over 130 scientists, funders and manufacturers from across the globe committed to working with WHO to speed the development of a vaccine against COVID-19.

WHO has arranged for the world's best scientific minds to analyze data - even before they are published - to rapidly understand this virus, how disease develops, the immune responses needed to control it and the tools required to evaluate would-be vaccines.

In February 2020, WHO hosted an agenda-setting Global Research and Innovation Forum on this new virus, attended by nearly 900 experts and funders from more than 40 countries, who took stock of what was known so far and set the agenda going forward.

The Forum catalyzed research into the spread of the virus, how to control it, its severity and who is most susceptible. Priorities were set: assessing approaches to care, making optimum use of PPE and identifying animal hosts to prevent spill-over.

On testing, the Forum established the use of rapid tests at a community level as a key area for follow-up. On treatments and vaccines, the evaluation of investigational therapeutics and vaccines was to be accelerated using 'core protocols' and platform trials.

The Forum also set the stage for: mobilizing funders; integrating the social sciences into the outbreak response; and sharing virus materials, clinical samples and data across borders.

On vaccines, WHO set the bar for success. We identified the key attributes vaccines would need, using them to promote clinical trial designs for generating the efficacy and safety data vital to making the best decisions about policies, regulation and deployment.

WHO has provided the world with a reliable and authoritative guide to candidate vaccines, tracking each one as they progress through the preclinical and clinical phases.

On treatments, in June, WHO welcomed clinical results from the UK that showed dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, could be lifesaving for patients critically ill with COVID-19.

WHO's international collaborative efforts led the world in implementing a global trial for rapidly finding the right therapeutics.

Launched in March, WHO's Solidarity trial became one of the largest clinical trials for COVID-19 therapeutics in the world and the largest looking at remdesivir and interferon beta 1a as potential treatments.

At its peak, the trial has involved more than 30 countries, over 12 000 patients and 500 hospitals. An independent group of experts is reviewing potential drugs - including monoclonal antibodies - for the next stage of the trial, after an initial four drugs were found to have little or no effect on: mortality, the need for ventilation, or duration of hospital stay.

The ACT-Accelerator

Since the start of the pandemic, WHO has worked with partners to facilitate timely, fair and affordable access to the tools needed to beat COVID-19.

Launched in April 2020 by WHO and partners, the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator partnership has led the fastest and most coordinated global effort in history to develop tools to fight a disease.

The ACT-Accelerator aims to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostic tests, therapeutics and vaccines, underpinned by a commitment to strengthening health systems.

Diagnostics:

- Reserved 120 million rapid antigen tests for low- and middle-income countries
- Procured over 27 million molecular tests and 12 million rapid antigen tests for low- and middle-income countries
- Provided training for over 23 000 people in over 190 countries
- 2021 aim: 500 million tests by mid-year
- Therapeutics:
- Procured 2.9 million doses of dexamethasone - the only WHO-approved treatment for COVID-19
- Supported 15 clinical trials, investigating 21 therapies in 47 countries, with 85 000 patients enrolled
- 2021 aim: 245 million courses of treatment throughout the year
- Vaccines:
- 190 countries signed up to the COVAX Facility
- US\$ 2.4 billion raised for the Advance Market Commitment: more funds needed
- 2021 aim: 2 billion safe and effective doses aimed for by the end of the year

A deep dive on vaccines

One of the ACT-Accelerator's key goals is to speed up the safe development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, and to guarantee fair and equitable access for every country in the world. The COVAX facility plays a vital role in achieving that goal.

WHO partners with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in managing COVAX.

At the end of 2020, economies representing 90% of the global population are eligible to receive vaccines through COVAX. US\$ 2.4 billion had been raised for the Advance Market Commitment (AMC), the innovative financial mechanism that will secure access to COVID-19 vaccines for the world's poorest countries. Yet despite this success, US\$ 4.6 billion is still needed for the AMC in 2021 alone.

Rising to the challenges of 2021

WHO's COVID-19 response built on lessons learned from previous outbreaks.

Our early guidance on COVID-19 was adapted from documents on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). Reforms pursued since the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa - such as ways to help countries prepare for emergencies and accelerate research when new diseases emerge - underpinned the speed, flexibility and effectiveness of the COVID-19 response.

But there is much more to do in 2021. The pandemic still rages in large parts of the world. There are massive funding gaps.

There is a real risk of vaccine nationalism, and the best tools against COVID-19 not being shared fairly among countries. Many health systems will struggle to roll out COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments while managing all other areas of health.

Overcoming these challenges to ensure COVID-19 releases its grip on our lives in 2021 will require us all to come together with humility, humanity and generosity.

AGENCIES

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 161 00--

SOLUTIONS

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

CROSSWORD

3 LETTERS: ORE, CRY, ICE
 4 LETTERS: LOAD, SOME, AIDE, GOLD, MALL, ODDS, RACE
 5 LETTERS: DODGE, ADAPT, SEMEN, ACRES, CHEER
 6 LETTERS: ASSIST, EMPIRE, AGENDA, ENDURE, MAIDEN
 7 LETTERS: MANDELA
 8 LETTERS: CLIMATES
 10 LETTERS: SUGARCANES

WORD-FIT

1 Young nation in Africa
 2 female reproductive cells
 3 a church decree
 4 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas
 5 a donkey
 6 to choose, to pick
 7 a chemical substance soluble in water, sour in taste, that reddens litmus paper
 8 a literary composition expressing personal observation
 9 Judges in sports
 10 thought
 11 something forming a border

CLUES: Across

1 a thick soup
 2 a strong wish
 3 freehold tenure based on uninterrupted possession to awake
 4 the exchange of goods for money
 5 the middle
 6 responded to something
 7 lake Victoria in Kenya
 8 fear, horror
 9 a soft lustre on a surface
 10 one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest
 11 money charged for something

Down:

1 a thick soup
 2 a strong wish
 3 freehold tenure based on uninterrupted possession to awake
 4 the exchange of goods for money
 5 the middle
 6 responded to something
 7 lake Victoria in Kenya
 8 fear, horror
 9 a soft lustre on a surface
 10 one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest
 11 money charged for something

BUSINESS

RELIEF

Kenyan firms create 1.8m jobs as economy reopens

NAIROBI

More than 1.8 million jobs were created in the three months to September, buoyed by more firms resuming operations after the easing of some restrictions imposed to stem the spread of Covid-19.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) showed Tuesday that the number of people in employment had increased to 17.67 million in September, up from 15.87 million in the quarter to March when Kenya imposed restriction to curb the spread of the virus. This suggests that layoffs have eased and some firms are back to hiring and recalling workers placed on leave despite a rise in coronavirus infections.

Kenya, which has 94,768 confirmed cases of the Covid-19, up from 38,713 on October 2 and 1,647 fatalities so far, started the gradual re-opening its economy in July. The number of people in employment has surpassed those in end March, just days after the pandemic shut down much of business activity throughout the country.

The increased corporate activity has been buoyed by more firms resuming operations and others increasing factory floor activity after the easing of some restrictions imposed to stem the spread of Covid-19. About 1.72 million workers lost jobs in the three months to June when Kenya imposed coronavirus-induced lockdowns that led to layoffs and pay cuts as firms battled falling sales and losses.

The resumption in hiring is a major boost to jobseekers, especially the close to one million young people who graduate from various educational institutions every year.

"Rising output and order book volumes led companies to raise their staffing levels at the start of the fourth quarter, ending a seven-month sequence of job cuts. The rate of job creation was the strongest in 11 months," analysts at Stanbic Bank and UK's Markit wrote in the PMI report. Activity in the private sector has gathered momentum since Kenya started gradual re-opening of the economy, a turnaround from a steady contraction in the first six months of the year.

Companies were already struggling with flagging sales even before the Covid-induced travel and trade curbs were

imposed in late March, exacerbating job losses from April. Nearly 600,000 jobs were lost between December and March, a pointer that Kenya's economy was struggling before the local coronavirus outbreak. Kenya's economy contracted for the first time in almost 12 years in the second quarter as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic battered key sectors.

Gross domestic product fell 5.7 percent, compared with a growth of 4.9 percent in the three months through March and expansion of 5.3 percent in the similar period a year earlier. Kenya confirmed its first Covid-19 infection in mid-March and later imposed a partial shutdown.

Key foreign-income earners including tourism and exports, such as tea, flowers, fruits and vegetables bore the brunt of these measures due to lockdowns in key markets and global travel restrictions. Industries and other businesses cut down on their activities in response to the infectious disease.

"Business confidence has been on the rise over the last couple of months, courtesy of easing domestic containment measures which has boosted demand, albeit from a low base from April/May," Stanbic Bank head of Africa research Jibrán Qureshi said earlier. Young people were the biggest beneficiary of the employment market recovery compared to their counterparts aged above 35 years, accounting for slightly more than half of the reinstated jobs.

About 15,547 workers of aged between 55 and 59 years lost jobs in the three months through September when firms hired 29,196 persons aged 50 and 54 and 14,073 workers above the retirement age of 60. The Treasury has lowered this year's economic growth projection because the first half turned out worse than expected, but growth is expected to rebound in 2021.

The economy is expected to grow 0.6 percent this year, Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani said on November 24, lowering the previous forecast of more than two percent. Growth is expected to rebound to 6.4 percent in 2021, said Mr Yatani. "Economic activity has started to show recovery," the CS told a meeting to begin preparations for the government's budget for the next financial year.



Jobseekers in Nairobi.

ECO-FRIENDLY

France team up with UN and World Bank to convene biodiversity summit

By Francis Kajubi

FRANCE in collaboration with the United Nations and World Bank is organizing a webinar summit aiming at discussing and bring solutions to fight against erosion of biodiversity and preservation of nature globally.

Dubbed as 'One Planet Summit for Biodiversity,' the virtual gathering which is scheduled for January of 2021, will bring together heads of state and governments; leaders of international organizations, multilateral financial institutions and non-governmental organizations to make commitments and to launch transformational initiatives for the benefit of nature.

According to a statement released over the weekend by French Embassy in Tanzania, the summit will serve as an opportunity to scale up the international community's ambition relating to protecting nature, while responding to new questions posed by current crises.

"The One Planet Summit will aim to help build momentum for political mobilization at international events leading up to COP15. The summit will focus on four thematic areas that will shade insights and way forward on protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, the promotion of agro-ecology, mobilization of funding for biodiversity and provide link between deforestation, species and human health," the statement noted. "Biodiversity is our life insurance, but it is under threat. The coronavirus outbreak



French ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier.

has dramatically changed our lifestyles and it has also brought to the forefront the crucial need to better preserve biodiversity. Our lives and economies rely on nature," reads part of the statement.

French President, Emmanuel Macron has already decided in consultation with the United Nations and World Bank, to hold a One Planet Summit for Biodiversity also in January. The summit has initially scheduled for June 2020 as part of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress but was

postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"This Summit will be held in France, in person or remotely, depending on the health situation," the statement explained adding that around one million animal and plant species are in danger of extinction in the coming decades thus threatening biodiversity conservation in the history of mankind.

It states that more than 40 percent of amphibian species and more than a third of all marine mammals are endangered while up to 70 percent of coral reefs have already disappeared or

have been greatly damaged. The unprecedented destruction of ecosystems and natural habitat accelerates climate change and increases the risks of transmission of zoonoses, such as the Covid-19.

"Reversing this trend will be a major challenge in the decades ahead hence we need to rethink our entire relationship with nature. This is a major social and economic challenge that requires a huge transformation of value chains, trade models and consumption patterns but also end our production models which destroy biodiversity," the statement warned.

IMPROVEMENT

Nzega residents excited with arrival of Airtel's 4G network

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Nzega District in Tabora Region are excited with the upgrading of communication network to fourth generation status (4G) by Airtel Tanzania Plc saying the move will help speed up development in the area.

Nzega Town Western Ward Councillor Godfrey Malema said while launching an Airtel Money Branch in the district over the weekend that residents of the area should now upgrade their mobile phones to 4G status to enjoy the new service.

"Nzega residents are very happy and commend Airtel Tanzania for upgrading their network to 4G status which allows us to experience efficient and stable communication in the whole district," Malema while noting that the 4G network also enables residents to have access to communications wherever they are.

"We all understand how the communication industry is important to our country's economy hence we residents of Nzega have various economic activities which need such an efficient network," he added. He stated that with the upgraded network, the residents



Airtel Tanzania agent Kulwa Marwa (L) explains some of the services offered by the company to a Nzega resident, Amina Juma during a fourth generation network launch in the district on Friday. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

as well as the district's economic activities such as mining and cotton farming will be boosted as markets will easily be reached

online. "With improved Airtel network infrastructure we are sure more income will be earned by both residents and our district,"

he pointed out.

Nzega Officer Commanding District, Constantine Mbogambi applauded Airtel for bringing the much sought after service closer to customers in the area. "In the past, when one lost a SimCard, they had to travel to regional headquarters to have it replaced but with this Airtel Money Branch opened, the challenge has been overcome," OCD Mbogambi said. He called upon Nzega residents to come forward and get services and products at the shop saying all services are now available at one stop shop within the town council.

Airtel Tanzania's Nzega Sales Officer, Job Mwaishumo said the telco is in process of network upgrading and infrastructure improvement in other parts of Tabora Region to give residents freedom of communication and improve their economic activities.

"We are happy to have this opportunity of bringing closer 4G services to our dear customers and for that reason, here in Nzega we upgraded to Airtel 4G network," Mwaishumo said while adding that 4G towers have been deployed across the district.

CONCERN

High cost of imported packaging, certification hurting local SMEs

KIGALI

High cost of imported packaging materials and the complex process to get standards certification is hurting small and medium enterprises in production of different products mainly food, beverages and cosmetics.

The challenges were expressed by the enterprises currently exhibiting their products at the ongoing Rwanda International Trade Fair taking place at Gikondo Expo Grounds. The trade fair started on December 11 running up to December 31, 2020 bringing together SMEs and established players

in the country. The challenges, they say, affects their efforts to expand production and reach international markets.

"We face difficulties in accessing international markets in Europe, Asia and the USA as startup companies. The process to get standards certification is very expensive. It requires a lot of financial investment. We request the Trade Ministry and the Rwanda Standards Bureau to help us financially to cope with the challenges," said Nadege Uwamahoro, the Managing Director of BRAIMPIRE Company which produces coffee.

Furaha Utamura, the distribution manager of Green Treasure Ltd which processes chili in Kimisagara Sector, Nyarugenge District added that the high cost of imported packaging materials is another hindrance to SMEs in food production. "It is not easy to get quality bottles for packaging our finished products," she said. The enterprise produces 8,400 bottles of 60 grams of Chili every month.

"We started processing pepper three years ago and we used to import quality bottles from Kenya. Things have become worse due to the Covid-19 pandemic since it is not easy

to import bottles from Kenya. We hope that they can be locally produced," she said.

Call for local packaging production factories

The enterprises are requesting the government to facilitate the establishment of local factories to manufacture needed packaging materials for locally processed food and beverages. "This could help to reduce imports," she noted. Alphonse Nshimiyimana, The Managing Director of BINA Group that produces nutritious flour from locally grown cereals said they have not yet obtained

Standardization certificate (S-Mark).

"We are in process to get it. We were put in Zamukanubuziranenge-a project to help us get standards certificate. However we are still facing challenges in getting quality packaging materials due to financial constraints which lead us to fail to comply with standards guidelines. Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) promised to give us certificates of production while we wait for the S-Mark," the manager said.

"We produce three tonnes per month but are yet to afford standard machines, adequate production skills

and modern infrastructure to increase production, he added. SMEs in hygiene materials and cosmetics production are also expressing that the high cost of imported raw materials, packaging and long journey to get a standard certificate are affecting them.

"We have been producing liquid soaps, toilet soaps, shampoos, liquid hand soaps and others. Some reject our products because we have not yet obtained S-MARK. We really need support," added Marie Laurence Umuremyi working for NOLIVER Hygienic Company in Kicukiro District.

GENEROSITY

Mbulu DC urges public to utilise well NMB donated materials

By Guardian Reporter, Mbulu

THE public should make better use of donated medical materials aimed at improving health services which are given by well wishers such as NMB Bank Plc.

Mbulu District Commissioner, Dr Chelestino Mofuga said on Friday after receiving a consignment of medical materials which included beds and their sheets for a new Dongobesh Hospital that NB and other likeminded companies which back government development efforts need public support.

Dr Mofuga said, "I have been hearing NMB donating various things to public institutions in the district since being appointed here but today, I am receiving the donation myself. This is a bank that needs public support because it also invests in community services," he said.

The Mbulu DC paid tribute to the bank's management and staff for investing part of its profits annually in improving social services such as education and health hence benefitting many low income Tanzanians.

"I also congratulate NMB for providing banking services to the majority of Tanzanians who live in rural areas," he added while stressing that the government will continue



Mbulu District Commissioner, Dr Chelestino Mofuga (L) admiring bed-sheets donated by NMB Bank Plc after receiving them from Mbulu branch manager, Adamu Mwaibusumo (R) for the district's hospital during a ceremony held on Friday. Photo courtesy of NMB.

to work in partnership with financial institutions that advance financial inclusion. He urged Mbulu residents to make use of NMB facilities by utilising banking services and products available to customers.

NMB's Mbulu Branch Manager, Adamu Mwaibusumo

told Dr Mofuga that the donation which comprised of 25 bed sheets and eight mattresses and beds worth 5m/- is aimed at improving services at Mbulu District Hospital.

Mwaibusumo said the donation is part of NMB's profits made

last year. "We allocate one percent of profits made annually to finance various community projects in education, health and relief aid against disasters," he said.

He said the bank has also donated educational materials in the district this year to

support public schools with desks, chairs, tables, corrugate iron sheets and bricks among others. "As a local bank which gets its profit from the public, we have an obligation to support government efforts to improve social services," Mwaibusumo said.



Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Professor Joyce Ndalichako (R) speaking to National Bank of Commerce's Dodoma branch manager, Happiness Kizigira (L) when she visited the bank's pavilion during last week annual general meeting of Tanzania Heads of Secondary Schools Association held in the capital. The bank was one of the main sponsors of the three days event. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

FOCUS

Next MCC Compact will cover agriculture, rural transportation

MAPUTO

Agriculture and rural transport will be the key areas covered by the next package of development projects financed by the US Government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), according to a press release from the US embassy in Maputo.

Back in December 2019, the MCC selected Mozambique for a second package of development support (known as a "compact"). MCC compacts are for five years, and, according to the MCC Board, they are intended, "to reduce poverty through targeted investments that increase economic growth." The first MCC compact was signed in 2007 and ran for five years. It was a grant of 506.9 million dollars, of which only 447.9 million (88 per cent) was spent.

According to the embassy release, after "more than six months of interviews with hundreds of Mozambique-based stakeholders, intense economic analysis by MCC and its Mozambican partners, and a substantive review by an expert panel appointed by the Government of Mozambique, MCC and the Government jointly identified these two sectors (agriculture and rural transport) as the key constraints to more inclusive economic growth in the country." The next stage, the embassy says, will be "to analyse and identify the causes



MCC Compact National Coordinator, Higinio de Marrule.

of Mozambique's relatively poor performance in the agriculture sector and the high cost of rural transport."

Based on these findings, the Government's compact development team led by National Coordinator, and former Minister of Agriculture, Higinio de Marrule will draw up specific proposals that could be included in the new MCC compact.

Cited in the release, the US Ambassador, Dennis Hearne said, "This forthcoming MCC compact is an opportunity to make lasting investments in Mozambique's agricultural sector, which plays a critical role in the development of the entire country."

According to MCC Country Director, Kenneth Miller, "factors such as the low use of fertilizer and substandard seeds may contribute to the poor performance of Mozambique's agricultural sector, while gaps in the rural road network raises costs for farmers and limits opportunities for export."

The largest component of the first compact was a water and sanitation project budgeted at 203.6 million dollars intended to improve access to safe, reliable water supplies and sanitation services. According to the MCC's own summary of the first compact, project teams constructed more than 614 rural water points (boreholes with hand pumps), upgraded and expanded two municipal drainage systems, and upgraded and expanded two urban water supply systems.

But although the median household year-round trip time to the primary water source fell by 62 minutes and dry-season roundtrip time fell by 129 minutes, the MCC admits that this project

had "no statistically significant impact" on health-related outcomes, household income or the poverty rate.

Road building and rehabilitation was to have taken 176.3 million dollars of the compact (although only 136.8 million dollars was actually spent). The target was to rehabilitate 491 kilometres on key stretches of the main north-south highway (EN1), but this target was eventually cut back to 253 kilometres. The work was not completed until December 2014, well after the end of the compact. 39 million dollars was earmarked for a land tenure services project and 17.4 million dollars to a farmer income support project.

The key aim of the latter project was to improve the productivity of coconut farmers in the central province of Zambezia by removing palm trees affected by lethal yellowing disease. MCC claims that more than 780,000 disease-resistant seedlings were planted and more than 15,000 farmers were trained in coconut pest and disease surveillance and control. In the areas worst hit by the disease, the project "had a measurable and significant impact on households' adoption of alternative crops," but MCC admits that "the magnitude of the increase was small and did not result in an impact on household income."

PANIC

SA tour operators despair at Britain's flight ban

JOHANNESBURG

A British ban on flights from South Africa over a new variant of the coronavirus in the country has punctured hopes of a rebound in the South African tourism industry in the new year, according to frustrated travel operators.

UK officials ordered flights and arrivals from South Africa to be halted on Wednesday after the potentially more infectious variant was found to have reached Britain, which itself is battling to contain another fast-spreading variant.

Tourism is a crucial sector for South Africa, accounting for nearly 9% of its economic output. Britain is the biggest source of tourism to the country, and the decision to halt flights could dent a much-needed recovery, operators said. "We realised a massive pent-up demand was unfolding for January. But this travel ban is a major setback now," said Michael Tollman, Group CEO of Cullinan Holdings Ltd.

The ban stigmatises South Africa and hits the industry hard, said Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa, CEO of Tourism Business Council of South Africa. The council is meeting the tourism minister on Monday to ask the government to raise the issue diplomatically.

South African health authorities say the new variant of the virus, identified last week, is likely behind a surge in Covid-19 infections in the country. The rate of Covid-19 infections will soon surpass the peak hit in the first wave earlier in the year, they warn.

Elaine Zhou and Claudia Pilz, 27-year-old friends who live in London and are in Cape Town on holiday, said they were worried about how they were going to get home following the suspension of flights.

"It's worrying because there's no communication about when it will open or when it will change," said Pilz, an accountant. "It just says your flight has been cancelled, book again, so you are just literally pressing random days and it's like 'no flight, no flight, no flight.'"

DIVERSITY

Zambia's Pensions Authority invests in MTN

LUSAKA

Zambia's National Pensions Scheme Authority (NAPSA) has acquired 8% shares (valued at ZMK287-million) in MTN Zambia.

In a media statement released by NAPSA, the Authority's director general Yollard Kachinda said his organisation attaches importance to the development of telecommunications and that the extension of mobile network coverage to remote areas enhances financial inclusion by supporting widespread mobile money usage. Kachinda said the mobile phone is no longer just a tool for communication, but an important component in trade and commerce.

He added: "For us at NAPSA, telecommunications technology has not only helped us to drastically improve service delivery to our members through the introduction of mobile-based services, but has also enhanced efficiency in the overall management of the scheme, leading to increased customer satisfaction. The technology has greatly helped us in extending social security coverage to the informal sector by simplifying on-boarding and payment processes. It is for this reason that we have put telecommunication as a key growth sector in our investment strategy."

MTN Zambia CEO Bart Hofker said the company's alliance with NAPSA reflects a shared vision with government to make MTN a truly Zambian-owned company and to continue to contribute to the local economy.

Hofker said: "As part of our undertaking to the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority (ZICTA), 8% of our shares are now held by NAPSA and this was done by private placement process. As MTN Zambia, we are always looking for innovative ways of giving back to our citizens because we realise that, in this highly competitive industry, Zambian citizens are more than key and they are simply the reasons for our success as MTN Zambia. ZICTA regulation compels all foreign-owned telecom companies to have 10% of shares held by Zambians, and MTN was the only foreign-owned operator in the country that had not complied.

BREAKTHROUGH

UK, EU set to announce Brexit trade deal after fish compromise

BRUSSELS

The UK and the European Union are on the verge of unveiling a historic post-Brexit trade accord as negotiators work through the night to put the finishing touches to a compromise on fishing rights.

The agreement, which will formally complete Britain's separation from the bloc 4 1/2 years after the 2016 referendum, will comprise a deal for tariff and quota-free trade in goods and cooperation in areas from security to aviation.

While the outline of a deal was agreed on Wednesday, an announcement is now expected Thursday morning as chief negotiators in the European Commission's headquarters in Brussels haggle over the exact wording of the final treaty.

People familiar with the situation said they didn't expect it to derail the accord. Prime Minister Boris Johnson is planning a press conference on Christmas Eve after he's touched base with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

The UK cabinet held a conference call on the state of the negotiations late on Wednesday while European governments were briefed by officials from Brussels. The final document would still need to be approved by Johnson and EU governments, as well as parliaments on both sides.

Johnson and von der Leyen intervened personally in recent days, holding several phone conversations, in a last-ditch bid to reach an agreement before the UK leaves the single market at the end of the month.

One EU diplomat said the UK had made concessions on fisheries in recent hours that had unlocked the deal. According to two people familiar with the matter, Johnson has accepted that the bloc's share of the catch in UK waters should fall by 25% over a period of five-and-a-half years. Britain had initially sought an 80% reduction over just three years, but in recent days had offered a cut of 30%.

The bloc had refused to accept a reduction of more than 25% in the value of fish caught, saying



Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

even that was hard for countries like France and Denmark to accept, according to officials with knowledge of the discussions. This

would be phased in over five and a half years. The UK previously offered three years while the EU were pushing for 10.

Sterling Surge
The British pound rose 1% to \$1.3498, the biggest jump in almost seven weeks. If the two

sides can finalise the deal off, it would draw a line under almost five years of often tempestuous negotiations since the UK voted to withdraw from the EU in 2016 and lay the foundations for Britain to trade and collaborate with the bloc going forward.

As the Brexit endgame was drawing to a close, the emergence of a new strain of the coronavirus forced large parts of England into lockdown. Hundreds of trucks backed up around the southern English port of Dover in a sobering reminder of the potential consequences of ending Britain's transition period on December 31 without a deal.

Both sides have made an agreement on fishing a precondition for any wider deal over their future relationship, even if the 650 million euros (\$790 million) of fish European boats catch in UK waters each year is a fraction of the 512 billion euros of goods traded annually between Britain and the EU.

The EU also wants to be able to impose tariffs on the UK if, after the fisheries transition period, the government restricts access to its waters. In its latest compromise offer, the UK said it would accept tariffs on fisheries but not in other areas, such as on energy, as demanded by the bloc.

APPRECIATION

Gold gains on weaker dollar as historic Brexit trade deal awaits

NEW YORK

The UK and the European Union are on the verge of unveiling an historic agreement, with negotiators putting the finishing touches to a compromise on fishing rights and an announcement is expected Thursday morning. The accord will formally complete Britain's separation from the bloc more than four years after the 2016 referendum.

"Gold prices are benefiting from a Brexit trade deal breakthrough that paved the way for a weaker dollar," said Oanda Corp. senior market analyst Edward Moya. The metal could see further gains if the US stimulus impasse is resolved, and investors are also watching the Georgia senate races, where a blue wave could still happen and "do wonders" for gold prices, he said.

Investors are looking past President Donald Trump's demand for changes to US pandemic relief, expecting that stimulus spending will come sooner or later. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi seized on

Trump's call for larger individual checks and said the House would try to pass this additional measure during a pro forma session on Thursday. A gauge of the dollar retreated 0.1% after a 0.4% decline on Wednesday.

On the virus front, the UK reported nearly 40,000 new cases on Wednesday, the most since the pandemic began, and the government sent more areas of the country into its toughest level of restrictions. A vaccine developed by Chinese pharmaceutical firm Sinovac Biotech Ltd. was found to be more than 50% effective in a trial, though researchers delayed releasing more information at the request of the company.

Spot gold advanced 0.3% to \$1,877.71 an ounce at 10:03 a.m. in Singapore, up 24% this year to head for the biggest annual gain in a decade. Silver climbed 1.2%, while platinum rose 0.5% and palladium was little changed.

RELIEF

Swiss to resume flights for stranded Britons and South Africans to go home

GENEVA

Switzerland will allow flights to Britain and South Africa to resume from Thursday, enabling visitors from the two countries where a new strain of coronavirus has emerged to return home for Christmas.

The flight connections, which were suspended at midnight on Sunday December 20, can temporarily resume from Thursday, December 24, the government said on Wednesday. The flights can also be used for Swiss people stranded in Britain and South Africa to return home, it added.

Special protective measures will be applied to people who are still in quarantine to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. The government also said it would work with regional governments to coordinate a special transfer service. Because of fears people returning to Switzerland may bring the new variant of coronavirus, airlines flying from Britain and South Africa have to apply for a temporary exemption from the flight ban.

Switzerland, which started rolling out a Covid-19 vaccine on Wednesday, was among several

countries which banned travel from South Africa and Britain because of fears over the new strain which is more infectious than previous variants.

Switzerland has also ordered South African and British visitors who arrived after December 14 to go into a 10-day quarantine. The Federal Office of Public Health (BAG) has been tracing the mobile phones of British and South African visitors and has sent them text messages.

"Please help us to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus variant and render yourself into a mandatory 10 day quarantine counted from the date of arrival. Do not leave your room or residence and avoid all contacts," BAG said in a tweet, asking people to call its hotline or visit its website <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/empfehlungen-fuer-reisende/quarantaene-einreisende.html>. In cases of non-compliance, a penalty of up to 10,000 Swiss francs (\$11,240) can be imposed, BAG has warned.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

SUNDAY 20 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 S/Prog: Karate Championship Live
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: Kizaizai
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

MONDAY 21 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto wetu
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera News
12:30 Mtego rpt
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi
18:45 Kesho leo
19:45 Afa ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Dakika 45
22:00 Kipindi Maalum: TADB
22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

TUESDAY 22 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto wetu rpt
10:30 Jungu kuu rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afa ya Jamii
13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum rpt

13:45 Shika Bamba rpt
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

WEDNESDAY 23 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30 Tanzania yetu
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

THURSDAY 24 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto Wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30 Tanzania yetu
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

FRIDAY 25 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
10:00 Watoto Wetu
10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
11:00 The Base rpt
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue sheria rpt
13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt
13:30 Tanzania yetu
14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

SATURDAY 26 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Shika Bamba 5
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

SUNDAY 27 Dec

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
12:00 Movie rpt: Kizaizai
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:30 Mwangaza
16:30 ITV Top 10
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko
21:05 Mizengwe
21:30 Mjue Zaidi
22:14 Bongo Movie: Hiari Yangu
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin

CAPITAL

Mon 21 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Décor rpt
19:30 Shamba lulu
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 22 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Innovation
19:30 Jagina rpt
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30 Capital Prime
22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
22:30 Eco@Africa
23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 23 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Culinary delight rpt
17:00 Innovation rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:30 Sports Gazette
19:30 Chetu ni chetu
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Dakika 45:
22:45 The Décor
23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 24 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 Business edition rpt
17:00 In good shape
17:30 Meza huru
19:30 Turning the spotlight
19:30 Tanzania yetu
20:00 Series: Itohan
20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30 Capital Prime News

Frid 25 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Movie: I think I love My Wife
10:30 Movie: Forget About It
12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Movie: Marines
15:30 Out&About rpt
16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
17:30 Movie: Behind Enemy Life
19:00 Rev
19:30 Eco@Africa
20:00 Aibu Yako
21:30 Local Pgm: Business Edition
20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt
00:00 Al Jazeera

Sat 26 Dec

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Rev rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n' about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
13:00 Business edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slave hunter
14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Décor
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: Deadly Plea
23:00 Series rpt: Itohan
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 27 Dec

08:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The Slave hunter
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 In good shape rpt
13:30 Series rpt: Itohan
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Rev rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Décor rpt
17:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:00 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Trump refuses to budge over aid bill, imperiling jobless benefits for millions

PALM BEACH, FLA/WASHINGTON

MILLIONS of Americans are about to see their jobless benefits expire on Saturday as President Donald Trump has so far refused to sign into law a \$2.3 trillion pandemic aid and spending package, insisting that it did not do enough to help everyday people.

Trump (pictured) stunned Republicans and Democrats alike when he said this week he was unhappy with the massive bill, which provides \$892 billion in badly needed coronavirus relief, including extending emergency unemployment benefits that expire at the close of Dec. 26, and \$1.4 trillion for normal government spending.

Without Trump's signature, about 14 million people could lose those extra benefits, according to Labor Department data.

A partial government shutdown will begin on Tuesday, putting millions of government workers' incomes at risk, unless Congress can agree a stop-gap government funding bill before then.

After months of wrangling, Republicans and Democrats agreed to the package last weekend, with the support of the White House. Trump, who hands

over power to Democratic President-elect Joe Biden on Jan. 20, did not object to the terms of the deal before Congress voted it through on Monday night.

But since then he has complained that the bill gives too much money to special interests, cultural projects and foreign aid, while the provision of \$600 stimulus checks to millions of struggling Americans was too small. He has demanded that be raised to \$2,000.

"I simply want to get our great people \$2,000, rather than the measly \$600 that is now in the bill," the president tweeted on Saturday.

His refusal to sign prompted a sharp rebuke from Biden, who called on the outgoing Republican president to act immediately.

"This abdication of responsibility has devastating consequences. ... This bill is critical. It needs to be signed into law now," Biden, who is spending the holiday in his home state of Delaware, said in a statement. The president-elect was scheduled to meet with his transition advisers on Sunday.

Americans are living through an unprecedented holiday season amid a pandemic that has killed nearly 330,000



people in the United States, with a daily death toll now repeatedly well over 3,000 people, the highest since the pandemic began.

Many economists agree the bill's aid is too low but say the immediate support is still urgently needed.

'EXTRAORDINARILY HARD'

A source familiar with the situation said Trump's objection to the bill caught many White House officials by surprise. His criticism of the bill in tweets dashed hopes that he would sign the bill over the weekend.

Trump spent much of Thursday and Christmas Day golfing at his club in West Palm Beach, Florida. The bill has been sent to Mar-a-Lago, his Florida residence, where Trump spent Saturday with members of his family, including senior advisers Jared Kushner, his son-in-law, and daughter Ivanka Trump.

According to his daily schedule, Trump was involved in "many meetings and calls," although the White House did not provide details. He had no events scheduled for Sunday.

The president also found time to reiterate in several tweets his baseless claims of election fraud and accuse his fellow Republicans of abandoning him in his bid to overturn the election result, already shot down multiple times by U.S. courts. He has yet to acknowledge Biden's Nov. 3 victory.

"Time for Republican Senators to step up and fight for the Presidency," he tweeted on Saturday evening.

Trump appeared to be in an isolated position on the aid bill as well, with few Republican lawmakers voicing support for his position. The White House had no updates as to whether Trump would sign the bill by Monday, an official said.

Representative French Hill of Arkansas, a Republican who sits on the House Financial Services Committee, told Fox on Saturday he hoped Trump would sign the bill at once because it would provide immediate relief to Americans.

"I wish he had made that pitch for \$2,000 as vociferously over the last three weeks as after the bill was passed. It might have given us more leverage to get a slightly higher payment," Hill said. At this point, he added, "It's going to be extraordinarily hard to get that payment through the Senate and the House."

The U.S. Congress, which normally is adjourned the last week of December, is preparing to return to work. The Democratic-controlled House plans to vote on legislation providing one-time \$2,000 checks to individuals. **Agencies**

Niger heads to polls in search of first democratic transition

NIAMEY



NIGER votes in an election yesterday that is expected to lead to the first transfer of power between two democratically elected presidents in a country reeling from Islamist violence.

Former interior minister Mohamed Bazoum, the ruling party's candidate, is the overwhelming favourite to succeed President Mahamadou Issoufou, who is stepping down after two five-year terms leading the largely desert country of 23 million.

Bazoum, 60, (pictured) has promised continuity with Issoufou's policies, while also vowing to clean up pervasive corruption.

"If I am lucky enough to win this election, you will have chosen someone who is ready from day one," he said in a campaign video.

Niger faces twin security crises. It has suffered repeated attacks near its western borders with Mali and Burkina Faso from militants linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State. Near its southeastern border with Nigeria it faces attacks from Boko Haram. Hundreds of soldiers and civilians have been killed in the last year alone.

The economic situation is also critical. More than 40 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty, and the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed growth to a crawl, compounding the effects of climate change and low prices for top export uranium.

Bazoum faces 29 other candidates, who will hope to force a second round by denying him an outright majority of the vote.

Hama Amadou, who finished runner-up in the last election, was barred from running because of a criminal conviction, leaving the opposition without an obvious figurehead.

But last week, Amadou's party called on its supporters to turn out for Mahamane Ousmane, who was president from 1993-1996.

"After my candidate was disqualified, I didn't have the motivation to come out and vote," said Ali Hamma, an Amadou supporter. "But with the new instructions, I am going to vote."

A peaceful transfer of power would be a milestone for Niger, which has experienced four coups since gaining independence from France in 1960.

It would also stand in stark contrast to Ivory Coast and Guinea, whose presidents this year used constitutional changes to extend their tenures to three terms, raising fears of a democratic backslide in West Africa.

New Yemeni power-sharing govt sworn in in Saudi Arabia

ADEN

YEMEN'S new power-sharing government was sworn in before the country's internationally-recognized President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi on Saturday, a government official told Xinhua.

Twenty-three of the 24 appointed ministers attended the swearing ceremony and took oath before Hadi in his temporary presidential office in Saudi Arabia's capital of Riyadh, the government official said on condition of anonymity.

Yemen's Prime Minister Maen Abdulmalik attended the swearing ceremony and held a meeting with Hadi, the source said. Hadi "urged the new power-sharing government to find urgent solutions to the country's economic situation and alleviate the suffering of citizens in the government-controlled provinces," he added.

All members of the new power-sharing government, along with the prime minister, will return to Yemeni southern port city of Aden in the upcoming days, according to the official.

Last week, Hadi issued a decree to form a new power-sharing government led by Maen Abdulmalik in Yemen, a move that received regional and international welcome.

The new government consisted of 24 ministerial portfolios, divided equally between the northern and southern provinces in Yemen, the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and other political parties. The new Yemeni government was established in accordance with the terms of the Riyadh Peace Agreement jointly signed in November last year between the Yemeni government and the STC's leaders.

In 2019, Saudi Arabia persuaded the STC and the Yemeni government to hold reconciliation talks, which succeeded in reaching a deal to form a new technocratic cabinet of no more than 24 ministers.

But numerous obstacles have stood in the way of implementing the deal, which excluded the Houthis militia who are still controlling the capital Sanaa and other northern provinces of the war-torn Arab country.

Xinhua

Christmas Eve Brexit deal is second-worst outcome

LONDON

BORIS Johnson's "oven-ready" Brexit is almost cooked in time for Christmas.

A year after the British prime minister won a landslide by promising to complete the country's departure from the European Union - and just seven days before the end of the transition period - the two sides finalised a trade deal.

Though the compromise avoids painful tariffs and a dangerous rupture in relations, it's a much harder form of Brexit than Johnson and others envisaged during the referendum of 2016. The costs are about to be-

come clear.

The last-gasp agreement, unwrapped hours before Europe shut down for the Christmas holiday, is a big achievement.

If ratified, it will provide a framework for future relations between Britain and the EU covering trade in goods and services, as well as agriculture, energy and fish.

The full document, the text of which had not yet been published on Thursday afternoon, spells out standards for workers' rights, environmental protection and state subsidies. And it sets up a mechanism for resolving future disputes.

Nevertheless, the deal can-



not prevent the erection of barriers to commerce that currently do not exist. Leaving the EU's single market and its customs union - an unprecedented act for a developed economy - will introduce new

frictions to trade. Exporters will face new forms and customs checks.

UK-based banks will no longer be able to offer their services across the EU. Trade in stocks and derivatives will depend on the whim of regulatory equivalence granted by Brussels.

British citizens will face new restrictions on their ability to work and study in the bloc. Even with a deal, the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility estimates this will lower UK GDP by about 4%.

The hope for both sides will be that the deal removes some of the political tension from the relationship. In Brit-

ain, however, the debate over Brexit will continue. Though Johnson can claim to have delivered on his promise to "Get Brexit Done", he has barely acknowledged the costs.

The government will have to weigh future decisions to relax standards against the risk of EU retaliation, which could mean tariffs. That threat in itself will deter investment.

Four and a half years after the referendum, the benefits to Britain of leaving the EU remain fuzzy. Leaving without a trade deal would have been far worse. But this outcome is only marginally better.

Agencies

Central African Republic votes under threat of violence

BANGUI

VOTERS in Central African Republic go to the polls on Sunday for presidential and legislative elections being held under a cloud of violence as the government tries to hold off a rebel advance.

Militias hostile to President Faustin-Archange Touadera, who is seeking a second term, have stepped up attacks since the constitutional court rejected several candidacies, including that of former President Francois Bozize, earlier this month.

The crisis has left many in the diamond and gold-rich nation of 4.7 million exhausted while stirring fears of a return to the worst violence of its recent past, which includes five coups and nu-

merous rebellions since independence from France in 1960.

"For the last three days, I have been keeping my children close by my side," said Israel Malongou, an entrepreneur in the capital Bangui. "I want the elections to be over, whoever wins, so that we can get back to our lives."

Touadera was first elected in 2016 following a rebellion three years earlier that ousted Bozize. He has struggled to wrest control of vast swathes of the country from armed militias.

Successive waves of violence since 2013 have killed thousands and forced over a million from their homes.

Touadera is considered the favourite in the field of 17 candidates. His main



Egyptian commandos of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic patrol on the outskirts of Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, on Friday. (AFP)

challenger is Anicet Georges Dologuele, a former prime minister who finished runner-up in 2016 and is supported by Bozize. The election will go to a second round if no candidate receives over 50 percent of the vote.

On the campaign trail,

Touadera has touted advances rebuilding state institutions and rejected opposition calls to delay the election.

"There is no institutional crisis. We must simply go on with the election," he said last week.

Touadera and the United Nations, which has over 12,800

uniformed peacekeepers in CAR, have accused Bozize of being behind the rebel offensive, which briefly seized the country's fourth largest city last week and has led to a wave of desertions from the army.

Bozize's candidacy was rejected because he faces an arrest warrant and UN sanctions for allegedly ordering assassinations and torture while president.

Bozize has denied those charges and his party has said he has nothing to do with the latest rebel offensive.

Touadera's international security partners have responded to the latest violence by sending additional troops and equipment, including 300 Russian military instructors and 300 Rwandan peacekeepers.

Agencies

Fundamentals sustaining China's long-term economic growth remain unchanged

CHINA'S catering industry achieved the first year-on-year positive revenue growth of this year in October, with the revenue rising by 0.8 percent from the same period last year to 437.2 billion yuan (about \$66.9 billion), according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

The continuously recovering catering industry and consumption market have revealed the strong resilience and enormous vitality of the Chinese economy and mirrored the basic trend of steady economic growth with a sound momentum in the long term.

As its 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020) is coming to an end

and the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) is about to be launched, China is going to enter a new stage for development.

At the new stage, the economic fundamentals sustaining China's sound economic development will remain unchanged, which are believed to serve as a solid foundation for the country's economic transformation and upgrading, as well as high-quality development, and help the country defeat various risks and challenges on its way forward.

One of the greatest advantages of big countries like China is sufficient room for maneuver so as to pull through troubles and dangers.

Chinese economy is faced with

impacts of intertwined cyclical and structural factors, short-term and long-term problems, as well as external pressure and the COVID-19 epidemic.

At this very moment, it is more important than ever to view China's development from a comprehensive, dialectical and long-term perspective.

Chinese economy has withstood the severe test of the pandemic, and become the first major economy to resume growth since the outbreak of the COVID-19.

Whether in terms of virus control or economic recovery, China has led the way in the world, showing its strong ability of recovery and ex-

traordinary vibrancy, as well as its ample potential, strong resilience, large room for maneuver.

China features the world's largest and most promising market, which serves as a pillar for the country to drive economic growth and prevent external risks.

After over 70 years' progress, especially its advances since the reform and opening-up, China has become the world's second largest economy.

It is also the second largest country in terms of consumption of goods and foreign capital inflow, as well as the largest manufacturer and trader in goods. The country also boasts the largest foreign ex-

change reserves.

The size of China's economy and its diversified and fully-fledged manufacturing system have determined that external impact will not shake its solid foundation for long-term and steady development easily. China is still moving along an upward curve and has strong endogenous power for development.

The country is simultaneously boosting new industrialization, informatization, urbanization, and agricultural modernization.

With a market of more than 1.4 billion consumers, China will certainly witness comprehensive, enormous, and long-lasting demands while satisfying people's ever-growing needs

for a better life and tackling problems caused by unbalanced and inadequate development.

Such huge potential for consumption, innovation and entrepreneurship will infuse strong impetus into sustained economic growth.

Looking back through history, it's clear that China's economy has always grown stronger after weathering storms and meeting challenges.

As long as China maintains its focus, stores up confidence and forges ahead based on the current favorable conditions, its economy will continue to surge forward with enormous vitality in the new stage of its development.

People's Daily

Herdsman in Sanjiangyuan area protect environment, benefit from ecological conservation

NORBU Samdrup, a ranger in the Sanjiangyuan National Park, northwest China's Qinghai province, was excited to see once again the familiar grassland in his hometown of Tanggulashan town in the province.

Sixteen years ago, Norbu and his family left Tanggulashan town, Haixi Mongolian and Tibetan autonomous prefecture in Qinghai province and migrated to Changjiangyuan village, also an ecological relocation site, in the southern suburbs of Golmud city in the prefecture.

It was when the Sanjiangyuan National Park, where his hometown was located, began trial operation that the herdsman Norbu started to protect his hometown as a ranger.

The Sanjiangyuan National Park has been built to protect the Sanjiangyuan area, known as China's "water tower" because it houses the headwaters of three great rivers of the country: the Yangtze, the Yellow and the Lancang rivers.

Since the trial operation, the park has always respected the principal position of herdsman in ecological conservation, actively set up public welfare jobs of rangers, and formulated regulations on the management of rangers and detailed rules for evaluating their performances.

"It is our herdsman's unshirkable responsibility to protect the grassland in Tanggulashan town," said Norbu. When he learned that the national park was recruiting rangers, the herdsman, who had been away from his hometown for more than ten years, and now lives in a bright house in Changjiangyuan village and owns an off-road vehicle, signed up without hesitation.

Recruits like Norbu have to receive training first. The park has cultivated a team of coaches who can speak both Tibetan and Putonghua to train all rangers and improve their abilities in ecological monitoring.

Norbu has been trained to identify rare wild animals and use infrared cameras, among many other skills. The qualified ranger now returns to the Tanggula's grassland once every month and patrols in his designated areas for about a week each time.

Specifically, he monitors grassland carrying capacity and balance between grass and livestock, prevents actions that damage the environment, estimates wild-life populations, and publicizes laws, regulations and relevant policies.

"The environment of the grassland is improving, and we have to make greater efforts to protect it from damage," Norbu said.

In recent years, China has heightened the ecological protection and construction of the Sanjiangyuan area, constantly improving the grassland environment.

Since 2005, it has launched phase I and II of the Sanjiangyuan ecological protection project and comprehensively implemented programs such as combating sandification, returning grazing land to grassland, and ecological relocation.

After five years of efforts, the trend of grassland degeneration was effectively contained in the Sanjiangyuan area.

The annual average water conservation volume grew by over 6 percent, and the grassland coverage and grass yield also rose by over 11 percent and 30 percent respectively from a decade ago. **People's Daily**



Photo taken on Sept. 25, 2016, shows Tibetan wild donkeys in the Sanjiangyuan National Park, northwest China's Qinghai province. (File Photo)

Libya, Turkey discuss security cooperation

TRIPOLI

TURKISH Defense Minister Hulusi Akar on Saturday met with Minister of Defense of the UN-backed Libyan government, Salahaddin Namroush, in Libyan capital Tripoli and discussed security cooperation between the two countries.

"We discussed continuation of the signed agreement by intensifying training programs for our forces and developing the military system to international levels," Namroush told reports following the meeting.

Namroush also said that he aims to "reorganize the Libyan army and introduce new blood based on the military belief of defending the Libyan people and protecting the civil state."

Moreover, the Turkish minister met with Fat'hi Bashagha, Minister of Interior of Libya's UN-backed government, and expressed Turkey's willingness to provide training for the ministry's personnel.

"Turkey wishes to establish national unity (in Libya). This cannot be achieved without a national reconciliation that brings all the Libyans together," Akar said during the meeting with Bashagha.

"We have the will to work with you according to constants that are based on mutual respect and common interest for both friendly countries. We will foil all conspiracies by which many attempt to strike the national fabric and stability in Libya," Bashagha told Akar.

In 2019, Ankara and Libya's UN-backed government signed two memorandums of understanding on military cooperation and maritime boundaries in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey extended its troop deployment permission in Libya for another 18 months, according to its official gazette published on Thursday.

Xinhua

Xi's 'cloud diplomacy' helps world emerge from pandemic with enhanced solidarity

BEIJING

IN a year shadowed by the onslaught of coronavirus outbreak, the world witnessed glimmers of hope in China's unremitting efforts on rallying global consensus on COVID-19 response and charting the course for future development.

In the face of an unprecedented global crisis, Chinese President Xi Jinping engaged in intensive head of state diplomacy, sharing thoughts with world leaders on addressing the fundamental questions of the times, and offering China's proposals to the resolution of global challenges.

Throughout the year, Xi had 80 phone calls with foreign leaders and heads of international organizations and attended 22 important diplomatic events in the form of "cloud diplomacy" through the innovative virtual platform.

The president's diplomatic engagements have helped build global consensus on COVID-19 and pointed out the way forward for China's foreign policy, said China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

RALLYING CONSENSUS

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to wreak havoc across the world. As of Saturday, the virus has infected more than 79 million people and claimed over 1.7 million lives worldwide, with cases continuing to surge.

At this crucial time when the world urgently needed its leading players to rise up to challenges and act with swiftness, Xi proposed his solutions in the form of solidarity and cooperation -- the most powerful weapon for defeating the virus.

At various international platforms, including the World Health Assembly, the UN high-level meetings and the G20 Leaders' Summit, Xi called on countries concerned to step up exchanges on epidemic monitoring, scientific research, and disease control and treatment while opposing attempts to politicize the



Chinese President Xi Jinping

pandemic.

With a strong sense of responsibility, China proposed building a community of health for all and launched the largest global humanitarian campaign since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, China has provided assistance to over 150 countries and 10 international organizations, sent 36 medical teams to 34 countries in need since the outbreak, and offered other countries more than 200 billion masks, 2 billion protective suits and 800 million testing kits.

China has joined COVAX, a global initiative backed by the World Health Organization (WHO), and promised to make the country's COVID-19 vaccines, once available, a "global public good" in a bid to ensure vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

In the face of the invisible virus, no one is safe until everyone is safe, said Ruan Zongze, executive vice president of the China Institute of International Studies, adding that Xi pointed out the right antidote to uprooting the virus and shed light on the future direction for international anti-pandemic efforts.

Banning Russian officials from attending sports competitions is unacceptable - Lavrov

MOSCOW

BANNING Russian officials from attending international sporting events is unacceptable, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Match TV channel.

"I think the provision concerning banning state leaders from attending sports events is unclear and unacceptable," he said, commenting on the latest decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) regarding Russian athletes.

The court's decision was expended for a period of two years, with WADA initially requiring four years. "Two is less than four," Lavrov added. "If I understand correctly, permission to have national symbols on sports uniforms is also a relaxation compared to what was at the 2018 Olympics.

Regulating the behavior of spectators and the opportunity for them to have national symbols - this also distinguishes, as I understand it, this decision from the previous one," he noted.

CAS ruled on the night of December 17 to keep in force a number of sanctions against Russia for the period of up to two years.

The decision of the Swiss-based court was made within the frames of a legal spat between RUSADA (the Russian Anti-Doping Agency) and WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency).

According to CAS decision, Russian athletes were deprived of their right to participate in all World Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games under the national flag of Russia for the two-year period.

The national anthem of Russia was also ruled out to be played at international sport tournaments in the course of the next two years, including at the upcoming Olympic Games in Japan next year.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said earlier that Russia had been always standing for the development of international sports cooperation as well as for the honest and just sports, which "will be beyond all types of politicized matters."

Russia will draw the right conclusions after the decision of CAS, Lavrov said. "I think that after the decision of the CAS, we will all draw the right conclusions.

The most important thing in this decision is that there is no collective responsibility, and pure athletes, unlike during the previous Winter Olympic Games, will no longer have to apply for some special invitation from the International Olympic Committee," he said.

"If you are clean, you have no doping history or your disqualification has already expired - that is it, you don't need any invitations, you have every right in accordance with the decision of your federation to get into the national team to participate in the Olympic Games, as I understand it," the Minister added.

Lavrov stressed that he opposes doping in general, which, among other things, destroys athletes' health.

"There are also things that, I believe, need to be eliminated in the international movement for the purity of sports. We have been working with the World Anti-Doping

Agency for a long time, although at some stage we underestimated the need to work within this structure.

"It's good that the crisis with the Russian Anti-Doping Agency is finally over," Lavrov pointed out.

WADA-RUSADA case

The WADA Executive Committee (ExCo) approved on December 9, 2019, recommendations of its Compliance Review Committee to revoke the compliance status of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency and to strip Russia of the right to participate in major international sports tournaments, including the Olympics, Paralympics and world championships, for a period of four years.

The WADA ExCo also ruled that Russia must not host, or bid for or be granted the right to host any major international sports tournament in this four-year period.

Russian state officials, as well as the officials of the Russian Olympic Committee and the Russian Paralympic Committee, were banned from attending all major international sports tournaments for this four-year period.

The RUSADA Supervisory Board recommended on December 19, 2019 the agency's Founder Board to disagree with WADA's sanctions against Russian sports and to take this case to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Switzerland's Lausanne.

On December 27, RUSADA sent an official notification of its disagreement to WADA and the global anti-doping body turned this case over to the Swiss-based court.

CAS held hearings on a legal debate between RUSADA and WADA in the period between November 2 and 5, 2020. Appointed judges in the CAS case between RUSADA and WADA were Mark Williams (Australia), Luigi Fumagalli (Italy) and Hamid Gharavi (France).

Agencies

US instigating ideological confrontation sounds alarm

THE White House recently released new visa rules that limit the duration of travel visas for members of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and their immediate families.

It is peremptory political oppression against China out of the strong ideological prejudices and deep-rooted Cold War mentality of the American extreme anti-China forces, as well as another example of the White House's ignorance to the basic norms governing international relations, violation of the spirit of the three Joint Communiqués, and attempt to abduct China-U.S. relations.

Scholars analyzed that the new rules have sent a clear political signal to start ideological confrontation between China and the U.S., and to break the consensus for cooperation that has been established by the two countries on the basis of their common interests since the "ice-breaking" visit to China by former U.S. President Richard Nixon.

When the U.S. established diplomatic ties with China, it totally understood that China is a socialist country led by the CPC, and the China-U.S. ties were established on the basis that the two sides recognize and respect each other's social system.

Over the past 40 years, the relationship between China and the U.S. achieved remarkable progress and brought huge benefit to the people in the two countries under the joint efforts of the two countries and their people. It also made huge contribution coping with global challenges and safeguarding world peace, stability and development.

Both history and present prove that the two countries have every reason to cooperate with each other for a win-win future. Their bilateral ties shall never be trapped by the so-called "decoupling" and "new Cold War."

Equality and mutual respect are basic

principles of international relations. China never interferes with U.S. domestic affairs, exports its development mode or provokes ideological confrontation. The U.S. shall also obey the basic norms governing international relations, stop meddling in China's internal affairs, and cease its efforts to infringe upon the right of the Chinese people to pursue a better life.

The leadership of the CPC constitutes the most essential attribute of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

The CPC, growing from a political party with only around 50 members when it was just founded to the world's largest with 92 million members, has always relied on the people, serve the people and laid its roots in the people. It shares a close and inseparable bond with the people.

Those U.S. politicians trying to slander the CPC and suppress CPC members are indeed turning against the 1.4 billion Chinese

people.

At present, some U.S. politicians are trying to decouple the U.S. from China, a country that accounts for 1/5 of the world's total population.

This is nothing different from decoupling from the world and the future, and goes against the trend of history and the common aspiration of the people of the two countries. It will finally hurt the interests of the U.S.

China-U.S. ties are currently at a critical stage of the history. To make the ties healthy and stable conforms not only to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, but also the common expectation of the international society. The visionary in both countries understand that the extreme anti-China forces in the U.S. shall never be allowed to politicize or weaponize ideology, or make mistakes on developing China-U.S. relations.

People's Daily

Ghana's opposition party to challenge election results

ACCRA

A SENIOR official of Ghana's opposition party, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) told local media on Saturday that the party will challenge the presidential and some parliamentary elections results.

Rockson-Nelson Dafeamekpor, a member of the opposition party's legal team and legislator, said the NDC is putting its documents together and will file a case at various courts by Dec. 30.

"We are putting our documents together and by Wednesday, you should hear of our filing," he told local media. Ghanaians went to the polls on Dec. 7 after which the incumbent President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo was declared the winner by Ghana's Electoral Commission.

Akufo-Addo polled 51.59 percent of the valid votes as against his main contender and former president John Dramani Mahama, who obtained 47.36 percent of the votes.

The governing New Patriotic Party (NPP), as well as the NDC secured 137 parliamentary seats each with one independent candidate in the 275-member parliament.

The NDC described the election as flawed and resorted to violent protests across the country since the declaration of results on December 9.

The country's law allows aggrieved individuals 21 days after the courts of results to file a case at the courts.

Xinhua

Still The King: James wins AP Male Athlete of Year award

BY TIM REYNOLDS

LeBron James told the world in 2020 that Black Lives Matter. He helped convince many who had never voted to finally head to the polls. He found more ways to continue elevating the lives of people in his hometown.

If that weren't enough, he won another NBA championship.

James' on-court performance this year was spectacular again. A fourth NBA title and fourth NBA Finals MVP trophy were his, as he lifted the Los Angeles Lakers back atop the basketball world. And after a year where he was brilliant, on the court and off, James was announced Saturday as the winner of The Associated Press' Male Athlete of the Year award for a record-tying fourth time.

"I still know what I do on the floor and obviously, I give everything to the game," James told AP. "But I can make a greater impact off the floor right now, more than I can on the floor. And I want to continue to inspire people with the way I play the game of basketball. But there's so many more things that I can do off the floor to help cultivate people, inspire people, bring people together, empower them."

The AP award was first given out in 1931. James' fourth win matched Lance Armstrong and Tiger Woods for the most by men. Three women have won the AP award at least four times: Babe Didrikson was a six-time winner, Serena Williams has won five and Chris Evert four.

The AP's Female Athlete of the Year will be announced Sunday.

No NBA player scored more points or had more assists in 2020 than James. The only other player in his lifetime to lead the league in points and assists in the same calendar year? Himself, in 2018.

James also became the first player to be NBA Finals MVP for three franchises. He moved past Kobe Bryant for No. 3 on the all-time scoring list, doing so one day before Bryant died last January in a helicopter crash; the last tweet Bryant sent was a congratulatory message to James.

"He's the greatest player the basketball universe has ever seen," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said of James in October. "And if you think you know, you don't know until you're around him every day, you're coaching him, you're seeing his mind, you're seeing his adjustments, seeing the way he leads the group. You think you know. You don't know."

James finished with 78 points in voting by a panel of 35 AP customers and editors. Kansas City quarterback and reigning Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes was a narrow second with 71 points. Formula One seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton was a distant third with 14 points.

James – also the AP's male athlete of this past decade – also won the yearly AP award in 2013, 2016 and 2018. Michael Jordan, a three-time winner, is the only other basketball player to win the AP award more than once.

"He's one of the greatest leaders in sports,"

Lakers guard Kyle Kuzma said of James. That applies on and off the court.

James' More Than A Vote organization drew more than 42,000 volunteers to work at polling stations for the November election, helped some earn back their voting rights and pushed for turnout among Black and young voters.

Black voters made up 11% of the national electorate, and 9 in 10 of them supported President-elect Joe Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide. When compared to Hillary Clinton in 2016, Biden drew more voters in critical areas with large Black populations – such as NBA cities like Detroit, Milwaukee and Atlanta. That proved massive.

"The tragic death of George Floyd, everyone getting a chance to see that, and also hearing the story of Breonna Taylor, her tragic story, and Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia ... my people have had enough and I have had enough," James said. "That's why I called for action and with my platform, I believed I could get people to join me."

He also focused, as always, on his hometown of Akron, Ohio.

The I PROMISE School he opened in 2018 now has over 450 students in third through sixth grades. When the pandemic shut down then school, James and his team ensured students got hot meals delivered to their homes – even complete Thanksgiving meals. An affordable housing project for 50 families broke ground this year. And this month, plans for House Three Thirty (a nod to Akron's area code) were announced, detailing how James is going to offer things like accessible family financial health programming, job training and a community gathering space.

"The pandemic has been rough on all of us," James said. "No matter your situation, no matter where you are in life, it's been rough. And the first thing I thought about, besides the stoppage of the season, when the pandemic hit was 'What am I going to do for my kids back in my back in my school?'"

He is already eyeing 2021. The Lakers expect to be contenders again. His remake of "Space Jam" is expected to be released this summer. And James, who turns 36 Wednesday, hasn't ruled out playing again for USA Basketball in the Tokyo Olympics on the team that will be coached by Gregg Popovich.

"It's still possible," James said. "It's not a 0% percent chance, I will say that. I love Coach Pop."

But, as 2020 wound down, James allowed himself a moment to reflect on a year like none other.

"It's a tribute to the people that I work with, to the people at my foundation, to the sponsors that continue to support us and what we do and what we strive for," James said. "It's unbelievable. I can't sit here and say that at the time we stopped in March that I thought all this would happen and we would be at this point in December."

Yet here he is, again.

AP



Dar es Salaam's karate players demonstrate the game's skills at a recent event which took place in the city.

Olympic preparations should commence ASAP

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD

ELIPOKEA

RECENTLY, the authorities issued a stern directive to all domestic sports bodies instructing them in no uncertain terms that their preparatory plans for all international sporting spectacles next year must be submitted to them by December 31 this year or else the consequences would be dire.

We dearly hope that all sports bodies took note of this directive and that even more importantly, they will heed it.

Indeed, their failure to do so will likely culminate in calamitous consequences for our national sporting pride, which as is well known, has been savagely bruised in the past.

For far too many horrid times in this country, we, the people, have been treated to the infuriating spectacle of local sports bodies scrambling frantically to engage

in last gasp, last ditch preparations for the Olympic Games and other assorted monstrously enormous sporting events and mind you, these rushed, hastily put together preparations have perpetually resulted in the same constant end product, abject failure and humiliation with not even a single medal of any variety to show for it.

Ergo, just to reiterate, it is hoped that all sports bodies are presently in the midst of drawing up elaborate and detailed preparatory plans for the mother of all sporting events, the Olympic Games, which will take place in the technologically advanced Japanese capital of Tokyo next year.

Domestic youth football in bull bloom

It was hitherto a common, and sad refrain that youth football in Tanzania is in the doldrums, youth football is slumbering and so on and so forth.

Well, this writer is mightily pleased to report that those dark

days have been firmly relegated to the past. Indeed, it could even be asserted that local youth football in both the men's and women's game is flourishing, nay, it is even in distinctly rude health.

Late last year, for instance, the national U-17 women's team completely stole the show at the COSAFA U-17 Cup and brilliantly brushed aside all opposition to hoist aloft their first trophy in fantastically splendid fashion.

Eager not to be outdone, this year, the Ngorongoro Heroes successfully qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-20 finals next year from a testing CECAFA U-20 Championship.

And, as a fitting crowning glory, the Serengeti Boys as well admirably qualified for the AFCON U-17 finals from a tricky and slippery CECAFA U-17 Football Championship. All these are, of course, hugely impressive feats and they all attest to the perhaps astonishing fact that youth football in Tanzania is positively blooming at the

moment.

What is required now is to ensure that the nucleus of all these trail-blazing boys' and girls' football teams are kept together and kept track of as they grow older so that one day they can engage in hopefully rewarding labours for both the senior national teams, Twiga Stars and our beloved Taifa Stars.

Thus, despite enduring an unbelievably trying and hellish 2020, we can at least cast our eyes ahead sanguinely to what should be a promising future for both men's and women's football.

And, lest we forget, regarding the unforgettable horrors of COVID-19, there is substantial hope on that front too, what with a few vaccines already being rolled out in the West as we speak.

Hence, wherever you may be reading this modest and humble corner of The Guardian sports pages, here's wishing you a joyous, prosperous and fulfilling New Year!

Ministry, sports bodies need to tackle challenges facing sports sector

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

NEW Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports in Tanzania, Innocent Bashungwa, is one of the five young ministers in the government.

He is a young minister, his youthfulness looks set to benefit the ministry entrusted to him.

There is a lot that has to be done by him, as far as issuing advices, getting feedbacks from domestic athletes, as well as seeing to it the country achieves success in sports.

In recent days, domestic boxing referees have come under severe criticism for failing to embrace fairness when they take charge of international bouts which are taking place in the country.

International boxing federations are questioning the results issued by boxing officials in international bouts involving Tanzanian boxers which have ended with the pugilists notching victory.

Some of boxing fans have more-over questioned results professional pugilist, Hassan Mwakinyo, has got in recent two international bouts, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Mwakinyo has consequently been asked by the boxing followers to prove his worth via posting victory over foreign opponents he will face outside Tanzania.

A sports enthusiast should not be surprised that the international boxing federations are sceptical about Tanzanian boxers' success in international bout they take part in.

Artists have as well been complaining about being deprived of their interests.



Female athletes take part in women's 1500m race final of the 2020 National Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

The minister faces a challenging task of supervising the artistes so that they can get their dues.

There is need for Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA) and Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) to operate as one institution with the aim of seeing to it domestic artistes make the most of their talents.

Domestic football referees have for many years not been selected by CAF to officiate such international tournament like Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and Africa Nations Championship (CHAN).

The referees have also been overlooked as far as selection for officials for continental tournaments at the club level.

Failure by the domestic soccer referees to land selection for officiating the tournaments means they do not meet international standards.

There are certainly reasons for the continental football govern-

ing body's move.

It is obvious that domestic athletes experience plenty of challenges which prevent them from making their presence in international tournaments felt.

It is therefore the minister's duty to cooperate with sports stakeholders and seek ways to deal with the challenges in an effort to see to it the country achieves success in sports.

Neighbouring country, Kenya, for instance has for years been excelling in athletics, with the country's athletes emerging victorious in various major races in the world.

Athletics stakeholders, in cooperation with Athletics Tanzania (AT), should join forces with Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports and take a leaf from Athletics Kenya (AK)'s book, with a view to seeing to it the former develop the game.

The minister will hopefully not

seek to merely settle for a ceremonial role in his position, which entails gracing tournaments and other events' opening and closing ceremonies.

His ability to persuade sports stakeholders to effectively take part in the construction of sports stadiums in various regions is extremely important.

He has every reason to avoid making acquaintance with people that incite conflicts in sports associations, given the latter use the conflicts to enrich themselves.

The country has yet to set up proper structure for grooming athletes in various sports disciplines although there are plenty of gifted athletes.

Putting the structures in place ought to be the minister's long term program.

While Tanzania boasts a wide network of residents with homes with electricity inside, it should not be a

There are lately some of sports stakeholders that have shown determination to effectively play part in seeing to it the country achieves success in sports by, among others, constructing stadiums.

Bashungwa needs to motivate such sports stakeholders to relentlessly chip in, given the latter's contribution is quite valuable.

He moreover ought to have his ministry cooperate with bodies responsible for hosting the inter-primary schools games (Umishumta) and inter-secondary schools games (Umisseta) to make his events a success, in an effort to see to it the events keep on producing best performers in various sports disciplines.



Arsenal let fans down 'for many weeks' - Arteta

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta said his team had let fans down "for many weeks" before an invigorating 3-1 Premier League victory over Chelsea on Saturday.

The Gunners scored their first league home win since October when goals from Alexandre Lacazette, Granit Xhaka and Bukayo Saka put them up 3-0 before a late Tammy Abraham strike completed the scoring.

Arsenal had failed to win any of their previous seven league games - losing five of them. Speaking after the match, Arteta said Saturday's result was one to celebrate but acknowledged his side's lack of victories had frustrated supporters.

"The result is the main thing today, we really needed that win. We have been unlucky and frustrated with our results in the last eight weeks so this was a big day for us," Arteta told BBC Sport.

"From the first whistle you could see the team had the energy and willingness to come out and win the game.

"The spirit before the game was really positive, they really wanted it. I am pleased for the players and for the supporters. We have let them down for many weeks so it was a good day to give them something to cheer about.

"When we gave the penalty away I couldn't believe it - it's the magnificent game called football. It can always surprise you."

Arteta hoped the match will reverse Arsenal's fortunes this season.

"It doesn't get any better than winning a London derby against Chelsea on Boxing Day. Hopefully this is a turning point. I know they can play at this level. We know how good Chelsea are but big moments in the game were the better team," he said.

"The injuries, the Covid, playing 10

men...you start to think what do we need to win a match.

"It's nice to give something back to fans because I can imagine they have been really disappointed. We started well and we were dominant. That gives the team confidence.

"Let's carry on. We still have big things to improve on."

Meanwhile, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard let rip at his players following their 3-1 defeat at struggling London rivals Arsenal on Saturday, saying their "lazy" performance had cost them the chance of going second in the Premier League.

A penalty from Alexandre Lacazette and goals from Granit Xhaka and Bukayo Saka helped a youthful Arsenal side seal their first league win in nearly two months.

"It was an opportunity to go second against a team that are having a tough time," Lampard, whose side dropped to seventh, told Sky Sports.

"You either make it difficult for them or you give them a little opening and we did that from minute one and continued for 45 minutes. It was lazy to give away a penalty and lazy to give away a free kick that he [Xhaka] puts in the top corner."

Chelsea improved in the second half and scored in the 85th minute through Tammy Abraham to make it 3-1 before Jorginho missed a penalty with a poor effort.

"We fought ... but in the first half we gave ourselves too much to do... I'll take responsibility on the outside but the players also have to take responsibility," Lampard added.

"The message was clear. Arsenal are a dangerous team. When you go out and play 60% or 70% then you're not going to win any Premier League games."

(Agencies)

Messi says 'lucky' to have worked under Guardiola

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi counts himself "lucky" to have worked under Pep Guardiola at Barcelona between 2008-12 and says the Spaniard brings "something special" to coaching, comments that are likely to fuel speculation the pair could reunite at Manchester City.

Messi was a mainstay of Guardiola's Barca side that won 14 major titles and has been linked with a switch to City since the manager signed a new deal that will keep him at the Premier League club until the end of the 2022-23 season.

The Argentine player is into the final few months of his current contract in Spain having unsuccessfully tried to leave Barca during the close season.

"Pep has something special," Messi told Spanish television channel La Sexta.

"He makes you see things in one way: how he prepares for matches, defensively, how to attack ... he told you exactly how the match was going to be, how you had to attack to win.

"I was lucky ... to train under Guardiola and Luis Enrique, the two best. Having them made me grow a lot physically and mentally, and also the tactical wisdom they've taught me."

Guardiola said last month that he is unsure what the future holds for Messi but hopes that, as a Barcelona fan, he will remain at the La Liga club until the end of his career.

REUTERS

Solskjaer happy to allow Fernandes to take risks

LONDON

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer admits Bruno Fernandes frustrates him at times by trying a difficult pass when an easy option is available but says the midfielder must be allowed to take risks if he is going to influence the game.

United drew 2-2 at Leicester City in the Premier League on Saturday and Fernandes was involved in both United goals, as well as one of Leicester's.

He slipped in Marcus Rashford for the opener in the 23rd minute at the King Power Stadium but gave the ball away cheaply in the buildup to Harvey Barnes's equaliser.

The Portuguese international made amends by scoring in the 79th minute but Leicester grabbed a point thanks to Axel Tuanzebe's late own goal, which denied United the chance to go second in the Premier League behind Liverpool.

Solskjaer said Fernandes was "a

player who impacts results."

"He creates chances, scores goals, takes risks - which any United player should be allowed to do and be brave enough to do," he told reporters.

"He's definitely a brave boy. He sees the pass.

"Sometimes I might tear my hair out and say that there's an easier pass ... but you can't take that away from Bruno. You want him to be the X-factor who has players ahead of him making runs so I'm pleased with his influence this season and this year.

"He's always there supporting his teammates.

"He does have players ahead of him making runs and giving him opportunities to play those passes.

"We all have a role to play, he's playing his role to the best of his ability."

United are fourth with 27 points, four behind leaders Liverpool, and host Wolverhampton Wanderers on Tuesday.

(Agencies)

Arsenal's derby win may not be a turning point, but it's a start

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta desperately needed a result to back up his rhetoric, and Arsenal beating Chelsea 3-1 on Saturday, was precisely it.

It is a popular refrain among managers attempting to arrest a decline to cite the importance of hard work, but you suspect Arteta means it more than most given his taskmaster style and the lack of application that epitomised the end of the Arsene Wenger and Unai Emery eras. With the Gunners seeking their first Premier League win since Nov. 1, Arteta packed his lineup with grafters, urging them to show the unity and spirit he insists is in everyday plain sight at the club's London Colney training base but has been lacking on the pitch of late.

This time, they duly delivered.

Gabriel Martinelli shook off an ankle problem to pick up where he left off against Manchester City, combining work rate and quality to probe from the left. Bukayo Saka continued his remarkable consistency despite the turbulence around him on the opposite flank.

The surprise name on the home team-sheet was Emile Smith Rowe, getting his first Premier League start in a year, and in many ways his inclusion epitomises the existential fight Arteta is battling at Arsenal.

Arteta switched to a 4-2-3-1 formation, and on the occasions when he plays with a No. 10, the Spaniard issues specific defensive instructions to a primarily creative position. It is arguably the most pointed footballing reason why Mesut Ozil, the club's top earner on £350,000 a week, remains in the wilderness. Nobody could reasonably argue that Ozil isn't a far greater talent on the ball than Smith Rowe, but the accusation so often levelled at the former is he does apply himself out of possession with sufficient thought for his teammates. Smith Rowe excelled in this regard.

By the time of his 65th-minute substitution, no player had regained possession more than the 20-year-old's six occasions. As if to underline the point, Smith Rowe's replacement, Joe Willock, won three tackles in the final 25 minutes, equalling Martinelli's team-high tally. It was this pressing from the front that unsettled Chelsea from the outset, establishing a level of intensity that the visitors never matched aside from a late flurry when the game was already lost.



Arsenal need their win over Chelsea to be a turning point in their otherwise underwhelming season. (Agencies)

Gabriel, David Luiz and Willian missed the match with COVID-related issues. Gabriel has tested negative but must self-isolate after coming into contact with someone in his bubble who tested positive, while Luiz and Willian have symptoms but have also tested negative. It is doubtful all three would have been involved, but Willian's absence in particular enabled Arteta to pick a front four with much greater movement and dynamism than the static performances of recent weeks.

They still needed a penalty, a wonderful free kick and a fluke to take a 3-0 lead, scoring with their only two shots on target of the first half. Alexandre Lacazette stroked home a spot kick after 34 minutes following Reece James' tackle on Kieran Tierney, before Granit Xhaka fired home from 25 yards just before half-time. Saka appeared to be eyeing a cross when he made inroads 11 minutes after the restart, but his right-foot effort looped over Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and

in off the far post.

Tammy Abraham struck five minutes from time, but even though Jorginho then missed a penalty after Pablo Mari fouled Mason Mount as Chelsea improved, they were second-best throughout.

"Obviously [it's a] really big win for us," Arteta said. "We were really disappointed and frustrated with the results, not so much with the performances, but the results. The players were suffering, our fans were suffering and today is a really special day. It doesn't get any better: Boxing Day, playing a London derby at the Emirates and winning the way we've done it."

"Hopefully this is a turning point and will elevate the confidence of the team, because I know that they can play at this level. It is how consistent we are throughout the game to sustain that level and to maintain it."

Saka, Smith Rowe and Martinelli thrived in contrast to the much more expensively assembled trio at the opposite

end of the pitch as Chelsea slipped to a third defeat in four games.

There must be doubts as to whether Frank Lampard knows his best team after spending £220 million in the summer, with Kai Havertz left on the bench and Christian Pulisic failing to hit the heights reached during Project Restart. Timo Werner was superb in the formative weeks of the campaign but he has now gone eight starts without a goal, looking more of a peripheral figure on the left flank with each passing week. He was substituted for Callum Hudson-Odoi at half-time in a double change along with Mateo Kovacic for Jorginho.

The latter swap makes it even easier to see why Chelsea continue to monitor Declan Rice, among other defensive midfielders, given the imbalance of their team at the Emirates. N'Golo Kante has his merits playing further forward, but it feels counterintuitive when Chelsea are losing a midfield battle to Xhaka and Mohamed Elneny.

"Not good enough first half, better second half but too much to do at that point," Lampard said after the match. "Not good enough on the basics on sprints, pressing and running, speed of pass, trying to play and make angles. All the basics were wrong."

"There was definitely a lethargic approach to the first half that, no matter whether you were playing Arsenal in a tough moment or any team in the Premier League, you can't turn up like that. I am concerned at what's at the bottom of it, but I'm not sure if it's complacency. The fact that actually matters is if you come and play slow, on and off the ball, you are going to have a big problem trying to get a result. The message was clear: we had to attack it in the right way and we didn't."

Arsenal need more than one result to turn the corner. After needing 683 minutes to score three goals, they managed to equal that tally in a 22-minute spell that will surely create fresh confidence for battles to come against Brighton & Hove Albion and West Bromwich Albion either side of New Year's Day.

Another defeat in either game would be a severe blow to a fragile group and under-pressure manager, but they had to start somewhere, and convincingly beating rivals from the other side of town is an impressive way to do it.

ESPN

Player jailed in match-fixing plot warns PL stars of dangers

LONDON

WHEN Moses Swaibu stands in front of future Premier League players, warning of the dangers of becoming embroiled in match-fixing, he is speaking from experience.

"You do not want to end up in my position, going to prison," Swaibu recalls telling some of the game's most famous players in talks at training grounds, "sitting in the cell with someone you once looked up to that played in the Premier League, eating tinned food and a packet of crisps and someone opening your door, telling you what you should and shouldn't do for 24 hours.

"And that's when I would say the penny drops. But then I'll turn around and say that's the worst-case scenario. Best-case scenario is you're going to go play in the Premier League and everyone's happy."

Swaibu's educational talks at academies with future stars are about ensuring the current generation of players do not make the same mistakes as him. They are lessons in how a series of fateful mistakes ended up five years ago with him being convicted of conspiracy to bribe lower-league players in England and jailed, along with Delroy Facey, who played as a striker in the Premier League for Bolton.

While the 31-year-old Swaibu began his career at Crystal Palace, he never got to play in the top division, drifting down the leagues before ending up in the fourth professional tier at Lincoln where he met Facey.

"Delroy had asked us to come down to his hotel room and he introduced us to these match-fixers that wanted us to throw a game," Swaibu said in an interview with The Associated Press. "They produced around 60,000 euros but at that time, everyone turned around and said, 'No, we're not going to do it.' But it was never reported (to the authorities)."

Swaibu regrets that.

It set Swaibu on a path that led to spend-

ing four months in jail after a judge denounced his and Facey's behavior as "like a cancer" that could have undermined the fairness of football. Investigators said they were part of a concerted attempt to build a network of corrupt players in Britain.

"They deliberately targeted lower leagues believing that because players earn less, they could be more susceptible to taking a bribe," National Crime Agency officer Adrian Hansford said.

Swaibu insists no games were ever manipulated but even just offering money to come to meetings with potential fixers is wrong - and he wants players to be aware of that.

"A lot of people probably couldn't understand what I was going through," Swaibu said, "that I was faced with a lack of payment, bad relationships with managers, traveling up and down the country, not knowing when I'm getting paid, not knowing how I'm going to pay my bills. There's so many variables that go into when you actually make any type of decision."

Fixers will target vulnerable players, not necessarily to manipulate the actual result but moments within matches.

"They may know you have a gambling

problem or you like to put on bets, they may take your number; they may add you on Instagram, they may add you on social media," Swaibu said. "Then before you know it, you think you've made a friend, but that friend almost grooms you in a way where he may ask you potentially one day, 'Have you ever thought about getting a yellow or red card?'"

The financial uncertainties in the lower professional leagues caused by the coronavirus pandemic could see players even more tempted to cash in.

"So Mr. Match-fixer or Mr. Corruptor that's fully aware of all the latest news and media, he almost has a pool of people he can manipulate," Swaibu said. "So he may not turn around and say, 'I'm going to give you 10, 20, 30 grand (thousand pounds).' He may turn around and say, 'OK, if you come to this meeting, I'll give you 1,000 pounds, but I don't want you to do anything.'"

"That alone is almost a form of grooming because it induces you to say, 'Well, go into the meeting. It's not really illegal, is it?'"

That ultimately could lead to a player's career ending in the type of life ban re-

ceived by Swaibu.

"Whilst I was in prison and I spoke to other prisoners ... it made me realize that this is a place I could never, ever be ever again," Swaibu said. "And it's almost like a worst nightmare if anybody could have it. So I knew if I came out of prison, everything that I had done going into prison or being able to go from Point A to Point B and being locked up in a cell, I now need to come out and do the complete opposite and understand what are values, what are ethics, what are morals, what is integrity."

Now he is welcomed into the biggest clubs in England to deliver salutary lessons from someone with painful experience of where becoming entangled in a world of illegal betting on the game can end up.

"At least now they have had our education," he said. "There are Premier League players that are playing actively today that have been approached by match-fixers, but they have done the right thing, which is what we should have done, which wouldn't have resulted in us going into prison."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

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SPORT

Arsenal's derby win may not be a turning point, but it's a start

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Warner remains doubtful for third Test against India

MELBOURNE

DAVID Warner is still struggling to regain his former dynamism after a groin injury, meaning he is a doubtful starter for the third Test of the series against India even as Australia feel his absence ever more keenly at the top of the batting order.

Australia's coach Justin Langer revealed on Sunday that Warner was now batting comfortably in the nets as part of the hosts' preparation for the next match, but remained affected in terms of running mobility by the after effects of the groin tear suffered during the second ODI against India at the SCG back in November.

Urgency has been added to the need for Warner's recovery by Australia's failure to gain a first innings foothold in either of the first two Tests, meaning they are leaning heavily on their vaunted bowling attack to keep the home side ahead of India.

"There's no-one more professional and he's doing everything possible," Langer told Ricky Ponting during a lunchtime interview on Seven.

"We saw him bat the day before the game, he's batting again this afternoon at the MCG, so in terms of his batting he's flying, it's just trying to ... he's still having some trouble with his groin and we know how dynamic he is.

"His running between the wickets, his movements all the time, so he's getting

closer and we're hopeful he will come good, he's certainly hopeful he'll come good, but time will tell. We've still got a few more days to the next Test match."

It was Warner's union with Joe Burns last season that gave the Australians several key platforms against Pakistan and New Zealand, and in his absence they are yet to register a century stand against India, coming closest in an 86-run union between Marnus Labuschagne and Travis Head on Boxing Day.

But even that stand was a source of frustration for Langer, underlining how when two batsmen are set in challenging conditions, it is critical for them to go on to partnerships worth 150 or more.

"A bit like the first Test, just our partnerships," Langer said when asked what he had been disappointed by.

"We're not going to set up games as well as we could - if you look at our partnerships in the first Test match in the first innings and then yesterday, we have to get a lot better at that."

"We had one 50-partnership in the first Test and we had an 86-run partnership yesterday, and you've also, when you have an 86-run partnership, you've got to turn that into 150, because you're set and to set up the game. So we weren't able to do that and to me, partnerships as much as anything." AGENCIES

Simon Msuva maintains goal scoring form in Morocco

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward Simon Msuva scored the only goal for Morocco's soccer giants, Wydad Casablanca, in the club's 1-0 victory over Maghreb Fes in the Northern African country's Premier League clash, which took place at Stade Hassan-II in Fès on Boxing Day.

The victory has seen Wydad Casablanca post back-to-back wins in the Moroccan Premier League.

Msuva scored for the side on the 30th minute after dribbling past Maghreb Fes defenders within the latter's penalty box and firing a low powerful shot that rolled into the back of the net.

The striker has now scored for Wydad in two successive games. He also netted in the previous match which had Wydad Casablanca cruising to 3-0 victory over Hassania Agadir.

Msuva goal has seen Wydad Casablanca collect a total of 12 points after playing five matches, posting victory in four outings and defeat.

They are placed second in the Botola Pro League standing, with rivals, Raja Casablanca, topping the league with 13 points.

Wydad Casablanca's only league loss so far came in a tie with Olympic Safi, who defeated the former 2-1 at home in the second round of the league.

Wydad's next match will be an away game against Khouribga in Moroccan Throne Cup showdown to be played on December 30.

Wydad Casablanca bounced back to winning ways after losing 1-0 to Mali's Stade Malien Bamako in a mid-week away game of the 2020/21 CAF Champions League clash, which



Simon Msuva

took place on December 23.

They are expected to play a reverse fixture in Morocco on January 6. A win is the only guarantee for Wydad Casablanca to seal a spot in the 220/21 CAF Champions League's group stage as they are already down by 1-0.

In November, Msuva joined the Moroccan soccer giants from the country's other outfit Difa El Jadida on a four-year contract.

Wydad Casablanca are one of the most successful clubs in Morocco and

Africa, having won the Moroccan Premier League 'Botola Pro's title 20 times.

Their trophy cabinet also includes three trophies in the Moroccan Throne Cup competition, which is the equivalent of Tanzania's Federation Cup.

They have won the CAF Champions League twice, in 1992 and 2017. Wydad Casablanca also lifted the CAF Super Cup title in 2018 and were runners-up in the competition in 1993 and 2003. They have featured four times in the CAF Confederation Cup.

They are also a regional soccer powerhouse, having lifted the lucrative Arab Club Championship Cup once in 1989 and were finalists in 2008 and in 2009. The Casablanca club has also won the Arab Super Cup once in 1992.

Msuva, aged 27, joined Tanzania's soccer giants, Yanga, in 2012 from the country's other side, Moro United.

At Yanga, Msuva won the Premier League trophy four times, the Federation Cup, and emerged the Premier League's top scorer on two occasions.

In 2017, he transferred to Morocco's Difa Hassania El Jadida on a three-year deal.

He hit the ground running, scoring 16 goals in his debut season in Morocco.

He also scored six goals in the CAF Champions League. He ended as the club's all time top scorer with 43 goals in 90 appearances.

The attacker is also the elder brother to Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC striker, James Msuva, whose side takes part in the Vodacom Premier League.

Dar boxers excel in international bouts

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER a long wait, thrilling boxing fights took place at Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The venue hosted an epic boxing showdown pitting Tanzanian professional pugilists against opponents from outside the country in a day, known as 'Jackson Sports Fight Night'.

A domestic boxing promotion firm, Jackson Group Sports, hosted the bouts.

Tanzanian professional boxers locked horns with boxers from Malawi and Zimbabwe in a night that had a lot of Knockout (KO) results.

Boxing fans witnessed Tanzanian Tony Rashid win the first ever African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Bantamweight title, beating Zimbabwean

an Hassan Milanzi via KO, to become first ABU champion from Tanzania.

The day's guest of honour, Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega, presented the ABU Super Bantamweight belt to Rashid after the boxer had won it.

Abdallah Pazi 'Dulla Mbabe' returned to winning ways on home soil after defeating Simon Tcheta from Malawi by KO in the first round of an international non-title Super Middleweight fight, which was scheduled for eight rounds.

Pazi connected a heavy punch on his opponent to record another KO win for a Tanzanian pugilist.

Another domestic boxer, Selemani Kidunda, won the East and Central Africa Professional Boxing Federation (E&CAPBF)'s Super Middleweight belt, defeating Malawian

Limbani Lano by KO.

Kidunda, an army officer, won the title formed in honour of former Tanzania Professional Boxing Organization (TPBO)'s president, the late Yasin Abdallah.

Boxing fans in the country, who turned up for the fights, did not have a chance to witness boxer Twaha Kassim trade punches with his opponent from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guy Tshimanga, because the latter failed to jet into Dar es Salaam for the bout.

Tshimanga was prevented from leaving DRC due to travel restrictions placed by the country's government to prevent wide spread of the COVID-19.

Boxing fans cheered noisily when Pazi asked for a rematch with Kassim, shortly after the former had posted the KO victory over Tcheta.

Suleiman Semunyu, the fights' promoter, had to call Twaha who was present at the venue, to respond to Pazi's request.

Kassim, a Morogoro native, accepted to take part in a rematch, which is expected to take place next year.

The 'Jackson Sports Fight Night's last match had stylish Tanzanian boxer Mfaume Said trading punches with Chikondi Makawa of Malawi in a 10-round E&CAPBF Middleweight title bout, which ended with Said beating Makawa by points.

Said was cheered by his delighted fans when he made his way into the Next Door Arena for the fight, given he had not taken part in a major fight for about a year.

Ulega congratulated Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) and urged

the commission to work hard with a view to raise the sport's standard.

He further called on sports stakeholders to support boxing development as doing so will contribute to the nation's development.

Boxing, Ulega noted, is a source of employment to domestic youths.

He further congratulated all Tanzanian boxers who took part in the fights as they brought joy to the sport's fans.



Tanzanian professional boxer, Selemani Kidunda, won the East and Central Africa Professional Boxing Federation (E&CAPBF)'s Super Middleweight belt with Knockout victory over Malawi's Limbani Lano in a bout, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

