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China awards Dr Salim its unique medal of friendship for UN seat efforts

By Correspondent James Kandoyo

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has issued a presidential decree to award a friendship medal to former Prime Minister and ex-UN Ambassador Dr Salim Ahmed Salim for his efforts that led to the country restoring its rightful seat at the United Nations in 1971.

The Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke made this announcement on Thursday night at a reception ahead of the 70th anniversaries of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

She said the award given to Dr Salim was the country's highest honor for foreigners, noting that Dr Salim was one of the best friends of the Chinese people.

Dr Salim was appointed ambassador of Tanzania to China at the age of 27, in 1969. Then in 1971, as permanent representative of Tanzania to the United Nations he spearheaded the campaign for the People's Republic of China to have its lawful seat in the United



I would like to extend my congratulation and salutation to Dr Salim and the government of Tanzania

Nations restored.

Wang said after retirement, Dr Salim was for years the chairman of the Tanzania-China Friendship Promotion Association.

"Dr Salim, the only African to be awarded the medal, fully deserves the medal. It is not only a high commendation of his outstanding contribution to China-Tanzania relations, but also his contribution to enhance the traditional

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Winners and losers in JPM's latest shake-up

OTHER envoys apart from Dr Kipilimba include Mohamed Mtonga, Dr Benson Bana, Dr Jilly Maleko, Maj Gen (rtd) Anselim Bahati, Prof Emmanuel Mbena, Maimuna Tarishi, Maj Gen (rtd) Gaudence Milanzi, Ally Jabir Mwadini, Justus Advock Nyamanga, Prof Kennedy Gaston and Aisha Amour

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday made sweeping changes to his administration in a shake-up which saw immediate former director general of the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS) Dr Modestus Kipilimba and UDSM senior lecturer Dr Benson Bana named ambassadors.

In the shake-up list which was aired on public television, Chief Secretary Dr John Kijazi said President Magufuli appointed several top level officials including one Regional Commissioner, District Commissioners and new ambassadors, removing embattled Morogoro RC, Dr Stephen Kebwe.

The Head of State appointed 12 new ambassadors, including Dr Kipilimba who was relieved of his duties last week.

Dr Kebwe, who has been under pressure since the Morogoro fuel tanker disaster and reports of gross looting in some districts, is replaced by Lootha Sanare who is also the CCM regional chairman for Arusha.

Other envoys apart from Dr Kipilimba include Mohamed Mtonga, Dr Benson Bana, Dr Jilly Maleko, Maj Gen (rtd) Anselim Bahati, Prof Emmanuel Mbena, Maimuna Tarishi, Maj Gen (rtd) Gaudence Milanzi, Ally Jabir Mwadini, Justus Advock Nyamanga, Prof Kennedy Gaston and Aisha Amour.

Dr Kijazi said the new envoys' working station and the date when they will be sworn-in will be announced later.

The Chief Secretary also revealed that the president has appointed Alfayo Kidata, former Tanzania Revenues Authority Commissioner General, who also served as Tanzania's ambassador to Canada, as the new Mtwaru Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS).

The newly appointed envoys are expected to fill in vacancies in Abu Dhabi, Bujumbura,



Dr Stephen Kebwe Dr Benson Bana Dr Modestus Kipilimba

Prostitutes invent ways to smother police crackdown

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

FOLLOWING the recent crackdown on prostitution which also saw the closure of the main brothel in the inland capital, the twilight ladies have invented new ways to continue rendering their services.

One among the ways invented by the ladies of the night is direct communication with their customers on phone, waiting in bars and drinking places as well as hiring motorcycles



Police in the city have intensified patrols in Uhindini and Airport streets

to drive them around the capital to seek out customers.

In a survey conducted by this paper around the city, a known guest house that was used

for hosting the ladies has also been closed, a move that pushed them to find new ways to go about their business.

While in bars the ladies are said to order a drink which they stay with for hours while spreading their eyes here and there to see who is interested to hook up.

However, this paper witnessed police in the city intensifying patrols especially along Uhindini and Airport

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The head of state appointed 12 new ambassadors, including Dr Kipilimba who was relieved of his duties last week.

Cairo, Harare, Kuwait City, Pretoria, United Nations (Geneva), United Nations (New York), Tokyo and Abuja.

The president has also shifted two district commissioners, Mtemi Msafiri (Chato) who has swapped working station with his Tarime counterpart Charles Kabeho. Dr Magufuli also appointed Mussa Masele as the new Malinyi District Commissioner.

Also appointed is one new permanent secretary and three deputy permanent secretaries.

Dickson Tuyangine Mzunda, who was deputy permanent secretary at the President's Office

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EAC unveils fashion plan to boost textile industry

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE East African Community (EAC) has declared Fridays as 'Afrika Mashariki Fashion Day' during which East Africans are encouraged to wear attires manufactured in the region.

A statement released yesterday by the Arusha-based EAC secretariat said that the 36th Extra-Ordinary Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) has also declared the 1st Week of September an 'Afrika



Mashariki Fashion Week' to be held annually as an EAC Trade Fair and Exhibition for designed textiles and garments.

The ministerial session of the 36th SCTIFI chaired by Rwanda's Minister for Trade and Industry, Soraya Hakuziyaremye (pictured), approved the Cotton, Textile and Apparel (CTA) Strategy (Final Draft and Implementation Roadmap).

SCTIFI urged EAC partner states producing cotton to set up national cotton lint buffer

stock mechanisms to ensure all year-round availability of locally produced cotton lint for spinning mills.

"For the EAC region to reap maximum benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), it was imperative to enhance the region's productive capacity," the minister said.

She also called for urgent implementation of a number of outstanding EAC Summit

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China awards Dr Salim its medal of friendship for efforts on UN seat

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friendship between China and Tanzania," Ambassador Wang underlined.

"I would like to extend my congratulation and salutation to Dr Salim and the government of Tanzania."

Commenting on the current state of Afro-Chinese relations, she said that over the past half century, China and Africa have been sharing weal and woe, and have formed a community with a common destiny.

"Looking into future, we are willing to work with Tanzania and other African countries to implement the eight major initiatives of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and closely integrate the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and development strategies of Tanzania," the envoy elaborated.

For his part, the Minister For Foreign affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said China's seven decade recent history had witnessed remarkable achievements worthy of commemoration.

These achievements relate to keys areas such as exchange and mutual learning, win-win cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, he said.

"I would like to assure you that the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and its people have always taken China as a genuine friend and reliable partner," he stated.

"We shall remain supportive of the Chinese government's One China, Two Systems policy," he specified.

Similarly, Tanzania remains convinced that China will continue to stand together with the African countries to ensure that the interests of the developing world including Africa are well accommodated and hastened in reforming the UN Security Council, the minister declared.

Prof Kabudi added that Tanzania has had a great share of benefit from its cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

He said cooperation has evolved into a modern, strategic and pragmatic relationship with greater and diversified economic engagement in trade, infrastructure projects and investments.

China remains Tanzania's largest trading partner, with 19.3 percent of Tanzania's imports in 2017/2018 originating from China.

China is also Tanzania's largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) with investment stock of over 700 projects valued at USD 7.1 billion and creating over 87,000 jobs, the minister added.



Foreign Affairs, Regional Cooperation, East Africa and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi and China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke, toast at a reception she hosted in Dar es Salaam on Thursday in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Presidential guard threatens PS with gun

LILONGWE

Malawi Police in Lilongwe have released unconditionally President Peter Mutharika's guard who threatened a Principal Secretary (PS) for Ministry of Lands and Housing with a gun following a row over a government piece of land.

Police spokesperson James Kadadzera has confirmed the arrest of the presidential guard Ernest Malola who threatened PS for Lands and Housing Joseph Mwandidya with a gun following disagreement over a government piece of land along the Likuni Road in Lilongwe.

"It is true that the presidential guard was arrested on Wednesday and spent a night at Lingadzi police. The case has been dropped because the complainant has withdrawn the case," said Kadadzera.

Sources say the disagreements arose after the Lands and Housing minister Symon Vuwa Kaunda wanted to buy the same piece of land and this annoyed Malola.

Vuwa Kaunda has been preaching that there should be no corruption in the award of government land yet he was using his ministerial powers to get the land.

Mwandidya has refused to comment on the matter whilst Vuwa Kaunda just said it was not true before hanging up the phone.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has approved grants and loans totalling 57 million US dollars for the project to interconnect the Mozambican and Malawian electricity grids.

According to a World Bank press release, the Bank's Board of Executive Directors decided on Tuesday to provide Mozambique with a 42 million dollar grant, and Malawi with a loan of 15 million dollars, both from the International Development Association (IDA), that part of the World Bank group that provides soft loans and grants for the world's poorest countries.

The release adds that Mozambique is expected to receive a grant of 24 mil-

lion dollars from a Norwegian trust fund administered by the World Bank and a grant of 20 million euros (22.1 million dollars) from the German government.

The project, says the release, will interconnect the Mozambique and Malawi transmission systems to enable both countries to engage in bilateral and regional power trade in the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). "The new Mozambique-Malawi Regional Interconnector project will establish a transmission link between the two countries to meet increasing electricity demand in Malawi and create opportunities for trading in the SAPP", said Dhruva Sahai, the Task Team Leader of the project.

The project includes construction of a 218 kilometre, 400 kV high voltage alternating current transmission line, grid connections, and associated infrastructure including substation works.

The new line will start at the Matambo substation in the western Mozambican province of Tete, and end at Phombeya

substation in Balaka District in southern Malawi.

"With these investments, Malawian households, businesses, and farmers will benefit from increased access to reliable electricity services, that are vital to improve the country's productivity and competitiveness in the domestic and regional markets", says the release, while the Mozambican electricity company, EDM, "will receive additional hard currency revenues, which could be utilized for the country's ongoing domestic electrification efforts".

Deborah Wetzel, the World Bank Director for Regional Integration for Africa, the Middle East and Northern Africa, commented "This is an important project for the region. It will create conditions to expand access to millions of people in the region living without electricity, and help decarbonize the Southern African power systems, which are currently dominated by coal generation." **AGENCIES**

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streets which are well known for visitations.

"We sometimes failed to sleep as this is the place where they were doing their business, given the noise and some incidents not worth reciting here," said a resident of Uhindini who did not want to be named.

In the morning the whole street was littered with used condoms and tissues, portrayed a bad picture for the area, he said.

The area has been in such that situation for around four years now, in which case the crackdown was long overdue, the resident underlined.

Uhindini Street local leader Tofiki Alnoor Visram acknowledged that the closure of the guest house, saying there were complaints from surrounding houses.

He said he was available to assist in efforts to ensure that prostitution is sharply discouraged in the city as a whole.

Commenting on the matter, the Dodoma Mayor Prof Davis Mwamfupe said the guest house building is owned by the city council and was rented out for business.

It has come to their knowledge that the building was being used as a meeting point for the ladies, he admitted.

"In the past they were easily recognized because of their dressing style but now you cannot point them for they communicate directly with their customers through phones," he affirmed.

Recently, police in Dodoma took to court 17 people for indulging in prostitution where they were sentenced to six months imprisonment.



Tanzania Parliamentarians Against Malaria (TAPAMA) secretary Dr Raphael Chegeni (L) shares a light moment with Jeremy Lefroy, head of a visiting delegation comprising members of associations of parliamentarians from the UK and Germany who toured the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

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(Regional Administration and Local Governments), becomes Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Parliamentary Affairs).

Mary Maganga, the Budget Commissioner at the Ministry of Finance and Planning has been elevated to

Treasury Deputy Permanent Secretary (Administration), the Chief Secretary noted.

Anthony Damian Sanga, who is currently Mwanza Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) becomes Water Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Dr Ally Possi, the Deputy Solicitor

General has been appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Information, Culture and Sports.

The president also elevated Ally Sakira and Mussa Rulandara, both aides to the president, to ambassadors whose duty stations will be within the country.

EAC unveils fashion plan to boost textile industry

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decisions and directives especially in the textile, leather and automotive industries, in addition to removing non-tariff barriers.

She reminded the ministers that the AU summit devoted to adopting the AfCTA protocol had directed that implementation of the agreement should commence by 1st July, 2020 necessitating EAC Partner States to conclude their tariff offers by the agreed dates.

Other ministers present at the meeting were Jean Marie Niyokindi (Minister for Trade and Industry, Burundi), Peter Munya (Minister for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Kenya), Kafabusa Michael (Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Uganda), John Dor Majok (Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning, South Sudan), and Innocent Bashungwa (Tanzania).

The ministers called on the partner states to give priority to the implementation of the Cotton, Textiles and Apparels (CTA) Strategy by providing budgetary funds for preparatory activities relevant to specific countries in the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

SCTIFI directed the standards committee to assess and advise on the feasibility of pre-shipment verification of conformity

(PVoC) of all imports of textiles and ready-made garments (RMGs) entering the region, as a measure to control illicit imports of worn out or used textiles and garments.

The meeting further approved the Draft Leather and Leather Products Sector Strategy and Implementation Roadmap, and urged partner states to give priority to the implementation of the Strategy by including such activities as relevant to each country in the next financial year's budgetary allocations.

The Council was informed of case studies of investment in the leather and leather products in Vietnam and Ethiopia. Due to government support, Vietnam had become the second largest footwear exporter after China, exporting more than one billion pairs of shoes and accounting for 7.4 per cent of global supply.

On non-tariff barriers (NTBs), the SCTIFI directed partner states to eliminate all outstanding NTBs from the EAC Time Bound Programme. The ministers further directed the EAC Secretariat to always schedule a one day session of ministers with the East African Business Council and other private sector stakeholders before SCTIFI sessions to deliberate on issues of concern to the private sector, including NTBs.

Govt to empower citizenry, says PM

By Guardian Correspondent

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday said the government will continue to empower Tanzanians to enable them participate effectively in the economy by making amendments to the regulatory frameworks in key sectors such as oil and gas, mining, insurance and public procurement.

He said the move is mainly to make sure that Tanzanians are given first priority of employment in the procurement, skills development and technology development for the strategic projects taking place in the country.

The PM made the statement in Dodoma when closing the Local Content conference held at LAPF hall.

"It is with no doubt that you will agree with me that involvement of citizens in building our economy is vital, and this is what other countries are doing to accelerate their economies," he said.

He said the government has continued to provide priority in several services include insurance, financial services, legal matters and engineering.

"But also, several agreements on infrastructure construction has also opened up employment opportunities together with goods and services available in the country," he detailed.

Majaliwa said the government has decided to invest more efforts to execute the five years national development plan 2016/17-2020/21 which among others is focusing on strengthening the availability of basic skills needed in the industries and in service provision.

He said the concept of local content is one among the essential component that will enable the country to achieve its goal of becoming the middle income country by 2025.

He however said, if the goods and services will be fully utilized in the ongoing strategic project in the country, domestic industries will grow and the raw materials available in the country will get market and create room for employment opportunities that will speed up growth of economy.

"There is no any country in the world that can prosper in the economy without setting up a clear vision and efforts of making sure there are conducive and attractive environment for the citizens to play part in the economy are enhanced," Majaliwa said.

He ordered the national guideline for citizen participation in the sectors to be distributed to stakeholders for them to be familiar with their responsibilities for empowering Tanzanians to participate in the economy.

The conference was attended by several ministers, Dodoma regional commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge, executive secretary for National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Bengi Issa, chairman for the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Salum Shamte, and chairman for the NEEC. Others were business people, academicians, researchers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and entrepreneur groups.



Traffic police officers inspect a vehicle at Kimara Bucha in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. No details were immediately established on the incident. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Tanzania 3rd in African economic, consumer prospects ranking

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has been ranked third in Africa's economic and consumer prospects in a new report.

Rankings by Nielsen Africa Indicators unveiled yesterday shows that country prospects stabilising in first-quarter 2019, with only two markets changing position on the latest ranking update.

"Kenya remains in top position, followed by Cote d'Ivoire and Tan-

zania. Ghana and Nigeria hold on to their stronger fourth and fifth places, respectively, while Uganda slips to sixth place, South Africa weakens to seventh and Cameroon remains in eighth place," reads the report.

Whilst there appears to be relative stability in terms of overall country rankings, the report notes that this masks continuous changes and shifts within the business, consumer, retail and macro-economic dynamics.

The eighth Nielsen Africa Prospects Report highlights shifting country priorities and sources of potential, with multi-dimensional, comparative indicators covering business, consumer, retail and macro-economic dynamics.

According to the World Bank, Tanzania has sustained relatively high economic growth over the last decade, averaging 6.7 per cent a year. While the poverty rate in the country has declined, the

absolute number of poor citizens has not because of the high population growth rate.

In February this year, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has published the continental economic outlook, which showed that Tanzania's economy growing at an estimated 6.6 per cent in both 2019 and 2020.

In 2018, the economy grew at an estimated 6.7 per cent, with the services sector the main contributor to the growth, according to the

report.

According to the outlook, other East African countries, except Burundi, will experience upward economic growth trends over the next two years, with Rwanda leading by 7.8 per cent in 2019 from 7.2 per cent in 2018.

The outlook says Tanzania's monetary policy remained accommodative, with increased domestic liquidity and reduced lending rates to stimulate private credit growth.

All companies should be registered digitally within 3 months - minister

By Correspondent James Kandoya

INDUSTRY, Trade and Investment Minister Innocent Bashungwa yesterday issued a three-month ultimatum to the Business Registration Licensing Agencies (BRELA) to ensure that all companies are registered digitally.

Bashungwa made the directive after his tour and a meeting with workers and management of BRELA.

He said there were unscrupulous staff within the agency who are still in favour of the old system of paper registration for their own personal interests hence causing unnecessary delays and inconveniences.

"I'm not satisfied with speed you have achieved so far because you have registered few companies. I therefore urge the management to ensure all companies are registered according to the digital system in

the next three months" he said.

The minister said BRELA should work at recommendable speed to ensure none of the business community intending to invest was facing cumbersome process in registering their companies.

He said 354 registered out of 141,593 companies which is equivalent to 0.3 percent was very minimal and concerted efforts were highly needed.

The minister said once all

companies registered in digital system, it will enable the government to trace and monitor loss of revenues.

Bashungwa also tasked BRELA to meet the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) and National Identification Authority -NIDA to eliminate challenges that hamper business communities and company's owners..

He said BRELA should clearly unveil its strategies including

the way forward to register more companies and brands to resonate with the fifth phase government speed.

For his part, the BRELA director general Emanuel Kakweze said BRELA had so far registered 354 companies out of 141,593 across the country which is 0.3 per cent.

Kwakeze said BRELA also had registered business names 11,264 out of estimated over 400,000 which was nearly 2

percent. The BRELA boss said identities from NIDA were one of the big challenge most of business persons encounter when they want to register their company.

He said as a result there registration process takes longer time or sometimes for other processes to be completed, the situation which frustrating them. He however, said that BRELA had so far contacted NIDA to open special desk (win-

dow) in all its offices across the country to fast track the registration process.

"As BRELA, we have taken several initiatives including increasing awareness to the customers and general public on how our system works,"

"We have also recruited 18 lawyers to ensure that there was smooth process of our customer to register in the system and avoid brokers and unfaithfully workers," he added.



Nursing officer Bertha Anderson of the Kigoma regional hospital (Maweni) attends to Sheikh Jumanne Mustafa of Kigoma-Ujiji's Taqwa Mosque, who is admitted after being involved in a road accident in the municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joctan Ngely

Father in soup for 'stopping daughter from sitting exams'

By Guardian Correspondent, Nkasi

A RESIDENT of Paramawe village in Nkasi district, Rukwa region, Luvinza Kasakwa (55) has been arrested for allegedly preventing her daughter from sitting for this year's Primary School Leaving Examinations so that she could get married.

The father destroyed the education dream of the 16 year old girl who was studying at Paramawe primary school.

Nkasi District Council director Missana Kwangula told The Guardian through telephone that the authority took the decision to arrest the father after being informed that the pupil didn't show up for the examination which started on September 12, this year.

He expressed his sadness that there were still some parents who do not encourage their children to study even as the government is providing free education.

"The examination supervise informed the ward's education officer on the issue and after communicating with the parent, he replied that his daughter was sick but it was later confirmed that the child was not ill," said Kwangula.

He added that "We then directed the parent to bring the child to school for her to continue with the examinations even if she was already late. We arrested the father for further investigation."

For his part, Paramawe Ward Councilor Wilbroad Kakui said that the child said that she wasn't ill but his father denied her from doing the examinations so that she can get married.

Recent report by the World Bank shows that currently one in three girls marry before they reach the age of 18 and almost one in four have their first child before the age of 18.

Al-Shabaab leader lashes out at Kenya over maritime wrangling

NAIROBI

The leader of Somali terrorist group Al-Shabaab, Ahmed Diriye, issued a rare audio message on Thursday night, accusing the West of pillaging the country's natural resources and criticising Kenya's claim on disputed maritime waters.

The message, his first audio missive since 2016, refers to recent events such as contentious elections in the semi-autonomous state of Jubaland at the end of August.

"There seems to be an increase in the invasion led by the United States and Britain," Diriye said in the 20-minute message circulated on pro-Shabaab websites.

"Hostility by Christians against Muslim society has increased. The objective of this hostility is to loot the oil wells in the country and other natural resources such as fish, and to hand our oceans over to Kenya and Ethiopia," he said.

Kenya and Ethiopia are both part of the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Somalia, Amisom, which has been deployed since 2007 to support the fragile central government

and played a key role in pushing the Shabaab out of much of southern Somalia.

Diriye, who succeeded Ahmed Godan after he was killed in an American drone strike in September 2014, in particular criticised Kenya, which is involved in a diplomatic spat over its maritime border with Somalia with possibly lucrative Indian Ocean oil and gas reserves at stake.

The disputed region covers more than 100,000 square kilometres where Kenya has already granted exploration permits for three oil blocks, a move the Somalis are contesting.

Somalia has taken the case to the International Court of Justice, the UN's highest court, which will begin hearing it in November.

"We are informing our Muslim nation that the Mujahideen will never accept, and are against any decision made by the so-called International Criminal Court," said Diriye.

"We tell the world that we don't compromise on our oceans and we need our society to be aware that Kenya has already engulfed a large swathe of our territory before aiming for the maritime claim."



Garbage collection gets under way along Lindi Street in Dar es Salaam's Ilala municipality yesterday but, paradoxically, in conditions so unhygienic as to pose serious danger to the health of the very workers engaged in the well-intentioned 'keep your city clean' operation. Photo: John Badi

Verification of voters in Iringa picks up

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

AS local government elections slated November this year draw closer, verification of voters, confirmation of polling stations and other preparations are in top gear in the normally hotly contested Iringa Urban constituency.

Already, a total of 314 polling stations in 192 streets have been earmarked for more than 100,000 voters to cast their ballots.

Speaking to the Guardian yesterday during an interview in his office, the returning officer for Iringa Municipality, Omary Mkangama said preparations for the election

had begun with a meeting with leaders of political parties expected to take part in the election on 12/09/19.

He said that political party's leaders were given regulations, procedures and guidelines for the forthcoming local government elections to be held on 24th November, 2019.

He said that the regulations set out the different types of identities that a polling station administrator would want a voter to show to satisfy himself with the name if it was on the voters' register.

Local government election regulations in 2019 have identified

eight types of identities that the returning officer may require the voters to indicate in order to satisfy himself or herself name if it is on the voters' register.

Mkangama explained that the regulations were issued on Friday, August 23, 2019 by the Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Said Jafo (MP), in Dodoma in front of various regional and district leaders and political stakeholders.

He added in the municipality, three elections will be held which is the election of local chairmen,

local street members and the election of the special local Men and Women.

Election campaigns will be held seven days before election day. In addition, the regulations require each political party participating in the elections should submit its schedule of election campaign meetings to the returning officer not less than seven days before the commencement of the campaigns, he explained.

The regulations specify such identities as voter ID, workers ID, passport, health insurance card, school or college, social security fund, driver's license and National

ID.

"Election key terms to consider in this election and, the positions to be contested are the street chairman and members of the street committee (men's and women's mixed group) and street committee members (women's group) in the local authorities, said Mkangama.

However, Iringa Municipal supervisor in Iringa Municipality, Omary Mkangama explained that the voters are expected to be 113076 according to the 2012 population and housing census as well as the projection of 2019.

Regarding political parties tak-

ing part in local government elections expected to take place on November 24 this year, the returning officer said it was too early to set the number of parties involved but once the time comes and the parties confirmed the list would be released.

Mkangama said candidates for various leadership positions would be required to become party members and be sponsored by registered political parties adding that people should come in big numbers to participate in the elections being their democratic right to vote and elect their desired leaders.

In another development, the government has named 184 public officers who will supervise the 2019 civic polls in Mainland Tanzania on November 24. The date was set after concluding the process to prepare regulations, procedures and guidelines and make them public through Kiswahili and English newspapers.

The government notice (GN) issued on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, by the minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG) Selemani Jafo says 184 public officers have been selected to oversee the polls.



Frank Kamugisha (R), CCM parents wing regional chairman for Dar es Salaam, receives Chadema uniform and membership card from Kijitonyama councillor Ulole on Thursday shortly after the latter announced crossing over to the ruling party. Photo: Correspondent Miraj Msala

New report unveils alarming level of graft in South Sudan

JUBA

A NEW report on the South Sudan conflict has called for investigations into alleged links between its government officials and foreign companies who are accused of profiting from the war.

The research by The Sentry, an organisation co-founded by film star George Clooney and John Prendergast, names individuals and businesses - including foreign oil companies - which it says have plundered the resources of the country.

It also calls on international regulatory authorities to trace and monitor the private financial transactions of top South Sudan state officials.

"They use the international financial system to move proceeds of their financial crimes. We can work directly with governments and banks to close those avenues off, actually freeze and seize those assets, so that it creates a real level of accountability to these kind of crimes," the film star told BBC's Newsday.

"Corruption is the driving force for these atrocities," Mr Clooney added. The Sentry co-founder Mr Prendergast said the conflict in South Sudan would only abate once there is a "consequence for looting".

Increased surveillance would pressure banks to stop doing business with suspected war profiteers, Mr Prendergast told Newsday.

"Kenya's want the Kenyan banking sector to be the financial one-stop shop for the entire region so they have to open themselves up to the international regulatory authorities. But they are terrified that if they get a bad grade from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) their whole banking sector is going to suffer. That's a significant counterweight and gives us a chance to do something real," he said.

The government of South Sudan is yet to respond to the research by The Sentry.

The world's newest state is grappling with a six-year civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people and forced four million people from their homes.

President Salva Kiir and exiled leader of the opposition Riek Machar are in fresh talks to form a unity government, after the collapse of a peace agreement signed last year.

A group of UN experts has warned that the country risks being plunged back into full-scale conflict if hardliners are allowed to sabotage the peace agreement.

Ebola survivors with immunity help new patients

KINSHASA

PEOPLE who have survived Ebola are now helping patients who have just contracted the virus in the outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The survivors have developed immunity so have the benefit of not having to wear the protective clothing with

the patients, it was reported yesterday.

Viannay Kambale, 31, now works with patients at an Ebola treatment centre.

One of the reasons this outbreak has been so bad is because of mistrust of outsiders.

Survivors have been helping build the trust - including a 35-year-old doctor who only gave AFP his first name, Mau-

rice.

He told AFP that he contracted the virus while caring for a patient in July 2018 before the outbreak was officially confirmed and then passed it to his wife.

Both survived and Maurice is now the head of the Ebola survivors association for the response to the outbreak.

Last month, scientists an-

nounced that Ebola may soon become preventable and treatable after a trial of two drugs that when combined showed significantly improved survival rates.

Four drugs were used for trials on patients in the DRC where there have been periodic outbreaks of the virus.

More than 90 per cent of infected people can sur-

vive if treated early with the most effective drugs, research findings affirmed, and the drugs will now be used to treat ebola patients in DRC.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), which co-sponsored the trial, said the results are "very good news" for the fight against Ebola.



They use the international financial system to move proceeds of their financial crimes. We can work directly with governments and banks to close those avenues off, actually freeze and seize those assets, so that it creates a real level of accountability to these kind of crimes.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla (C) presents Tanzania National Parks' (Tanapa) Best Tour Operator award for 2019 to Zara Tours CEO Zainab Ansell in Arusha earlier this week. Looking on is Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mbeya villager arrested over child's death

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya region are holding a woman for allegedly poisoning to death her child aged one year old by use of pesticide.

Mbeya Regional Police Commander SACP Ulrich said that the incident occurred in September 16, around 10am at Nsongwi village in Ijombe ward, Mbeya district council in the region.

According to him, the woman identified as Silvia Sande (28) gave her child the poison before swallowing it as well for the purpose of committing suicide.

Commander Matei however said that the Police Force is yet to identify the major cause for the woman's decision and that it has embarked on investigation to find out the reasons. "Both mother and her child were rushed to Igawilo health centre to rescue their lives but unfortunately the child died. We are holding her for further interrogations," he said.

He said that after the investigation is completed, the suspect will be taken to court to face the charges.

The regional Police chief used the symposium calling upon the public to avoid taking tough decision especially of com-

mitting suicide when comes across difficult situations in life advising them to better seek for help from their relatives or neighbours.

Asha Jumapili, one of the village's residents said that the suspect's lover had jilted her. According to World Health Organisation (WHO) every year close to 800 000 people take their own life and there are many more people who attempt suicide. Every suicide is a tragedy that affects families, communities and entire countries and has long-lasting effects on the people left behind. Suicide occurs throughout the lifespan and was the sec-

ond leading cause of death among 15-29 year-olds globally in 2016.

"Suicide does not just occur in high-income countries, but is a global phenomenon in all regions of the world. In fact, over 79 per cent of global suicides occurred in low- and middle-income countries in 2016," WHO says.

It adds that suicide is a serious public health problem; however, suicides are preventable with timely, evidence-based and often low-cost interventions. For national responses to be effective, a comprehensive multisectoral suicide prevention strategy is needed.

Shein: Zanzibar to cement relations with Comoros

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said the Island will continue cementing cordial historical bilateral relations with Comoros Islands for the benefit of the two islands.

Dr Shein made the pledge when speaking with Comorian president Azali Assoumani who visited the Zanzibar's State House on Wednesday.

According to him, apart

from development, the two countries have been cooperating in a wide range of sectors from social, cultural and economic development.

Dr Shein said that the two nations have been cooperating in various economic and social development issues for over 50 years insisting that the long historical ties should be maintained and honored for mutual benefits.

President Assoumani, who is in Zanzibar for a short holi-

day, a paid a courtesy call on Dr Shein and held talks for mutual benefits of the two nations.

"Zanzibar and Comoros have many things in common. We share culture and language. It is only the sea and colonial boundaries that divided us. The doors are always open to cement our history of cooperation in various development programs," Dr Shein said.

Dr Shein said that they two

nations will continue supervising the agreement entered including promote the use of Kiswahili language and development projects in health, education and culture among others.

"Zanzibar is cool and safe; we welcome you (President Assoumani) to have a pleasure and comfortable stay," added Dr Shein.

He further said that the government will continue supervising the implementa-

tion of the agreement entered between the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) and the University of Comoro. Among others the agreements stands on promotion of Kiswahili and French languages between the two nations.

For his part, President Assoumani said that his government will continue to reinforce areas of cooperation, maintain the historic links of neighbourhood and blood between the people of Comoros

and Zanzibar.

He commended Dr Shein and all the Zanzibar people for their hospitality which has made him stay comfortable and feel at home.

He further explained that the United Republic of Tanzania, including Zanzibar has a lot of collaboration especially given the closeness and brotherhood between the two sides while hailed president Magufuli becoming the new chairman of the Southern Af-

rican Development Community (SADC)) as the move will be vital towards building bright future of the two countries them.

"We are blood brothers so there is a need to work together", said President Assoumani emphasizing to continue implementing all that in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Zanzibar and the Comoros in 2014.



Construction of a pedestrian bridge well in progress at Chaduru B in Dodoma Region, as captured yesterday. The food-prone area gets hardly passable particularly during heavy rains. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Shinyanga resident 'kills' step-child, now in custody

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

POLICE in Shinyanga region are holding a Kitangili ward resident, Fotuma Jackson for allegedly stabbing to death her step-child Maria Geoffrey aged two years old.

Shinyanga Regional Police Commander (RPC) Richard Abwao said that the incident occurred on September 16, this year.

According to him, the mother allegedly stabbed the child badly on her back something which led to internal bleeding and thus died.

According to the commander, preliminary information showed that the woman has regularly been beating the child but this time she stabbed her heavily and then rushed her to Chamagula health centre where she died.

"The doctor confirmed that the child was beaten heavily something which led to her death," he said.

He said that the suspect will appear in court once the investigation is completed.

A new report launched by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in many this year, shows that incidents of violence against children in the country increased to 6,376

last year (2018) compared to the previous year, says a new report by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

In 2017, some 4,728 were reported, the LHRC executive director Anna Henga, said when launching the report in Many 14, this year.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) violence against children includes all forms of violence against people under 18 years old, whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, romantic partners, or strangers.

Globally, it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2-17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect in the past year (1).

Most violence against children involves at least one of six main types of interpersonal violence that tend to occur at different stages in a child's development.

They include maltreatment (including violent punishment) involves physical, sexual and psychological/emotional violence; and neglect of infants, children and adolescents by parents, caregivers and other authority figures, most often in the home but also in settings such as schools and orphanages.



According to the commander, preliminary information showed that the woman has regularly been beating the child but this time she stabbed her heavily and then rushed her to Chamagula health centre where she died.

It was tough journey, says winner of the 'most influential woman' award

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

THE winner of the Most Influential Woman in Business and Government in East Africa's Tourism and Leisure Sector 2018/2019 Zainab Ansell has described her recognition as a result of years of dedication and perseverance in a male-dominated sector.

Speaking to The Guardian here yesterday, Ansell who is founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Moshi-based Zara Tours said the win is a result of going the extra mile in her work—the habit she coached her team to embrace.

"I ran very fast where others walked," she said. Organized by CEO Global, Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government Awards (MIW) has been a flagship recognition platform since 2001 with the aim of uplifting and celebrating women's achievements and contributions to the economic sector in which they operate, their communities and the region's economic development.

Ansell who is former employee of the then Air Tanzania Corporation quit her job as sales officer and started her own company in 1987 which today operates the largest ground tourist handling company for Mount Kilimanjaro climbing expeditions, and runs a chain of tourist hotels and lodges.

But she is not only a shrewd businesswoman, she is a generous philanthropist and a humanitarian who engages in both local and international corporate social responsibility campaigns.

"In 2009 through Zara Charity, I initiated a global movement of sustainable tourism and giving back

The native of Hedaru in Kilimanjaro region encouraged other Tanzanians wishing to venture into entrepreneurship not to wait to start with "enough" capital because even her empire Zara Tours which also trades as Zara Tanzania Adventures started little capital.

"My biggest capital was business idea and passion; if you have that, the business will flourish," she said, adding:

Officials call for sustainability of EU-funded project in Isles

By Guardian Correspondent, Pemba

A EUROPEAN Union (EU) four year climate change resilience and poverty reduction initiative has come to an end in Pemba as officials call for the need to establish mechanisms to ensure its successes are sustained.

Government representatives, community leaders and members of the European Union delegation to Tanzania convened on Pemba Island yesterday to celebrate successes and lessons learnt from the ambitious project.

The project, dubbed 'The Scalable Resilience: Outspreading Islands of Adaptation' is Led by the local NGO Community Forest Pemba (CFP) in partnership with the Wete District Authority, the work was funded under the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) programme to a tune of Euro 1 million (2.542bn/-).

In his speech, Regional Commissioner for North Pemba, Omar Khamis Othman stated that, pledged government's support to continue encouraging, monitor and work closely to ensure that the programs initiated by project through the GCCA Tanzania program are sustained and continue bringing benefits to the Pemba community.

The programme spanned 32 at-risk communities across all four districts of Pemba Island, reaching 33,600 people with a wide range of activities including solar energy, rainwater

harvesting, climate-smart agriculture, and mangrove forest restoration.

Speaking at the ceremony, EU Head of Natural Resources Jenny Correia Nunes, said the project proved that Climate-Smart Actions work and create economic opportunities for the communities.

"It is my hope that this project will serve as a good model of how we can adapt to the negative impact of climate change by planting trees, applying climate-smart agriculture and a wide range of other adaptation strategies demonstrated and documented by the project."

She added that through climate change, Pemba a small island has already been affected by rising sea levels and so many other climate challenges.

It is understood that the project has promoted the production of high value spice crops like vanilla, in new tree-based farm systems that are more resilient to the negative effects of climate change, has been especially successful with a new island-wide farmer cooperative coming out of the project to meet the growing international demand.

The project together with local community groups have planted 646,113 trees in an effort to bring back the island's lost forests, important both for slowing down climate change globally, and for enhancing local adaptation.



Help from a volunteer (R) but in some strange form comes the way of a taxi driver whose car broke down yesterday at a rather challenging spot - the intersection of Dar es Salaam's Nyerere Road and Shaurimoyo Street. Photo: John Badi

Over 1000 women set for leadership training

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 1220 women in Dodoma district are scheduled to take part in leadership training ahead of the coming civic elections, it has been revealed.

The aim of the training to be undertaken by the Women Wake Up (WOWAP), a voluntary Non Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the region is to help empower women to active-

ly participate in the November polls and future elections.

Speaking while introducing the project to the Dodoma District Commissioner (DC), Patrobas Katambi yesterday, WOWAP chairperson, Fatma Toufique said the programme is in line with the fifth goal of the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which calls for gender equality and women participation in leadership.

The beneficiaries, she said will come from all 41 wards in the district with the first phase of training having 410 participant training of trainers while the second phase will scheduled to have 810 participants.

"Most women in the region do not fully participate in the struggle for leadership positions thus the need to empower them to know that they have

the right to do so" she said, adding that it is in accordance with the ambitious planet 50-50 for gender equality.

Toufique who is also Special Seats MP in the region added that her organization, well known for such programmes and gender activities have received funds from the Canadian Fund Local Initiatives for the purpose.

On his part, DC Katambi

thanked the organization for the good working it is doing to help empower women in the region, saying the government has created equal opportunities for both male and female citizens.

"Women play a very important role in shaping the society and the government highly appreciate efforts of CSOs like WOWAP which supplement what it does" he said.

Katambi noted that the government is ready to work with any serious NGO, lawfully working to improve livelihood of Tanzanians.

He said women in most African countries have for along suffered from gender-based violence and discrimination, thus the need for more loud voices against the vice.

Women Wake Up (WOWAP) is a voluntary, Non Governmental

Organization and Non profit Organization with its headquarters in Dodoma but operating in various parts of the country.

WOWAP therefore, is determined to be a catalyst of positive change of women participation in social and economic issues and promote a positive social attitude towards women and children through cultural means and consciousness raising.

Amref roots for early HIV/AIDS screening

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

INTERNATIONAL health organisations are upbeat that HIV/AIDS will be history in a decade to come if those living with the disease know their status and use antiretroviral.

The Amref Health Tanzania's Perfect Health Project manager, Dr Edwin Kilimba, said here in an interview yesterday the organization that the project which works on early detection aims to assist the government in reaching the target.

The world is grappling with an ambitious treatment target to end the epidemic which requires 90 percent of all people living with HIV to know their status by 2020.

The treatment target dubbed 90-90-90 also requires 90 percent of all people diagnosed with HIV infection to receive antiretroviral therapy for all of them to suppress the virus by next year.

He said the project funded by the US Centre for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) was currently being implemented in Zanzibar and Tanga Region to ensure people living with HIV timely get treatment to suppress the virus.

"The five-year project is supporting the government's efforts

in ensuring Tanzanians are aware of their HIV status and apply antiretroviral, if found positive, in a bid to suppress viral load and continue with their productive lives," Dr Kilimba explained.

Despite some achievements the project registered in one year of its life span, suppressing the viral load in the bodies of people living with the virus was a hard nut to crack, he admitted.

Dr Kilimba said the project had suppressed HIV viral load among 90 percent of people living with the virus in the project area, down from the 95 percent set target.

Dr Amos Nyirenda, the manager of Global Fund project also implemented by Amref Health Tanzania, said the project was imparting entrepreneurial skills on girls to prevent them from engaging in behaviours that fuel HIV spread.

"We also target girls caught up in drug addiction and sex work," he said, adding that the project was also fighting against tuberculosis, malaria and assisting people living with HIV in applying antiretroviral in time.

Dr Nyirenda said the project was further providing girls with sanitation pads to ensure they did not miss class for failure of meeting the cost of buying them.



Apollo Heavy Equipment Ltd managing director Reuben Mwambene (R) hands over a Dynapac Paver machine to Mayanga Contractors Co. Ltd representative Arif Salim in Dar es Salaam yesterday to enable the commencement of the construction of Musoma municipality roads. Photo: John Badi

Police rescue Tanzanian woman from fire

NEW DELHI

A TANZANIAN woman was rescued from a raging fire at her flat in Greater Noida by a couple of alert policemen who also prevented a major disaster by getting four LPG cylinders out of the way of the blaze, officials said on Thursday.

The fire had broken out in the AVJ Heights society flat on Monday night and a police response vehicle stationed

in the area was alerted by locals, they said.

Policemen, Dilip Kumar and Manoj Kumar, immediately reached the seventh-floor flat, which was bolted from inside, and saw smoke billowing from it, the officials said, adding that Sumira John, the Tanzanian national, was stuck inside.

"The policemen, along with some locals, tried to spray water inside the flat

through accessible windows but that did not have any desired result. Then, they broke down the front door. One of them rushed straight to the kitchen, while the other rescued the woman," a police official said.

"The cops not only rescued the woman from the house, but also brought out four LPG cylinders stocked in the kitchen to prevent any explosion or further mishap," he added.

The fire was eventually doused out with help of the Fire Department.

John on Wednesday thanked the Dial 100 officials in a written appreciation for their "hard work and positive action".

"I had called building security guard to inform about the fire and he called up the police on 100. The support reached AVJ Heights soon and saved me," she said.

We also target girls caught up in drug addiction and sex work," he said, adding that the project was also fighting against tuberculosis, malaria and assisting people living with HIV in applying antiretroviral in time

Support govt in efforts to serve people better, Dodoma DC asks CSCs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DODOMA District Commissioner Patrobas Katambi has appealed to various stakeholders in the district, especially Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to help solve social problems facing residents.

He said many people in the district especially women are facing serious violation of rights and hardly access fair treatment even in the hands of law enforcing organs.

"As we talk now there are women who have been struggling with inheritance cases for a long time in our courts, some even losing of getting their rights" he said, adding that there is need to help such groups of people.

The district commissioner explained that he recently made a close follow-up in one of the cases only to realize that the case was misplaced.

Speaking after receiving a programme proposal by the Women Wake Up (WOWAP), aimed at training over 1200 women on leadership, he said there is need for various stakeholders to join hands in solving social problems affecting the public.

He noted that Dodoma city is seriously facing a lot of social problems, ranging from street children who sniff glue to sex workers, parading

themselves in many streets in the city.

Katambi talked of a recent operation in the city where several sex workers were arrested, arraigned in court and finally sent prison, noting that another operation on their customers is coming.

"We have resolved to carry out operation on men who buy female sex workers since if the market is still there, there will still be prostitutes on the streets"

He called on the Special Seats MP, Fatma Toufique(CCM) and other law makers in the region to support his efforts to clean up the city.

The DC also urged NGOs to help people with disabilities, noting that the group is marginalized and rarely get support. He called on CSOs to desist from using them for personal gains while not helping those they claim to help.

WOWAP is one the NGOs operating in the region, helping spread knowledge on gender and children issues. The organization's chairperson Toufique assured the DC her CSO is one of such organizations that cannot violate the law.

"We are working to help the government achieve its goals of improving the living conditions for the people" she said.



Zanzibar House of Representatives member Ahmad Yahya Abdulwakil, a Zanzibar presidential nominee, contributes to debate in the House at Chukwani on the outskirts of Zanzibar city yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Two firms ink pact to supply pesticides to Moro farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TWO farm input firms yesterday signed an agreement to supply pesticides to farmers in a bid to improve productivity.

The pact was inked by PETROBENA East Africa Limited and BASF Tanzania Limited in an agreement under which the two companies will cooper-

ate and ensure pesticides reach peasants countrywide and in time.

Speaking after signing the accord, BASF's senior marketing officer, East African Zone, Lincholin Asembo, said Tanzanian smallholder farmers lose their crops to pests for lack of right pesticides or for having no pesticides at all. The agreement between the two firms, he said, would go a

long way in solving that problem.

"We hope this agreement will be a timely catalyst in the nation's efforts to solve the age-old problem of pesticides countrywide because Petrobena is an important and a longtime stakeholder in promoting Tanzania's agricultural revolution and has experience and a big distribution network. We are happy to work together to increase agricultural

productivity in Tanzania," Asembo said.

He said Tanzania's agriculture faces multiple challenges that demand clear-cut solutions.

"One of those challenges is timely delivery of right pesticides, fertilizers and other farm inputs to farmers. We hope our joint effort will go a long way in solving farmers' problems and promoting agricultural pro-

ductivity in this country," he explained. The agreement was signed after a short training of Petrobena's field staff in best ways of using BASF products.

Managing Director of Petrobena East Africa Limited, Peter Kumalilwa, welcome the agreement, saying his company will be the sole distributor the pesticides and assured farmers of timely pesticides and fertilisers.

"We welcome this agreement that enables us to work with this international company in solving problems besetting Tanzania's agriculture. BASF makes world-class pesticides. If the pesticides will be properly used, they will liberate the farmers from recurrent inadequate harvests," he said. Kumalilwa said the joint efforts of the two companies will contribute fittingly to the

government's ambition to increase agricultural productivity and transform smallholders into producers of quality raw materials for local industries and of surplus crops for export.

Petrobena East Africa Ltd has demonstration farms where it trains farmers and also distributes fertilisers and other products produced by Yara, a Norwegian multinational corporation.

Coast Region set to host exhibition on industrial, farm goods next month

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

COAST Region is set to host a one-week trade fair of four eastern regions' industrial and farm products starting October 1, this year.

Elucidating on the exhibition, the Regional Commissioner, Engineer Evarist Ndikilo, said here yesterday that the fair will attract participants primarily from Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Tanga and Coast Regions.

"We look forward to having a successful grand trade fair. Therefore, we are inviting prospective sponsors, investors, producers and traders to showcase their products in the week-long exposition. Fairs of this nature are important in making products known and winning local and foreign buyers," the RC explained

He called on prospective fair participants to confirm participation. He appealed to financial institutions to sponsor the fair.

On October 3, a symposium will be held to accord fair participants to discuss successes, problems and challenges emerging as Tanzania battles to

build a middle-income industrial nation by 2125.

It is estimated that some 500 participants are expected to take part at the important industrial fair.

In his response to the RC's plea, owner of Global Packaging and Wande Printing and Packaging Limited, Benno Mwitumba, handed over a cheque of 1m/-, a fair participation fee.

Mwitumba for his part thanked the regional administration for support to prospective and real investors, explaining that Kibaha is a peaceful place; further explaining that investors are happy and comfortable because the government and the people have created conducive environment of investment.

"We thank the regional office for the manner it is shaping the region to become an attraction and finally an important host of investors and investments," he explained.

He said the two companies feel they owe residents of Kibaha district and Coast region as a whole a big debt for their hospitality.



Dr Bogias Mwamgunda, who is filling in as Kilimanjaro regional chief medical officer, pictured in Moshi yesterday addressing participants of training on intensive care for victims of sexual violence. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

Agro dealers want permit levy scraped

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agro dealers Cooperative Society (TADCOS) has appealed for the government to withdraw the 170,000/- business permit levy posed to them so as to enable them conduct the business smoothly while selling the products to farmers at affordable prices.

The Union's chairman Gerald Mlenge said that the levy posed to them stands among the major reasons for high price of agricul-

ture inputs thus thwarting their development.

"We are appealing for the government to take this matter seriously and see how it can extend its support. This situation affects both traders and farmers," Mlenge said during the agro-dealers workshop.

He also called on the government to provide grants to the

suppliers something that will help production of quality and affordable seeds.

According to him, currently agro-seeds are being sold at the price between 10000/- and 12000/- per 2-kilogrammer packet which is too high for the farmers to afford.

Mlenge also called on stakeholders and the government

to create a special system of financing training for agro-dealers which most of them don't afford to attend due to high fees.

"For an agro-dealer to be good and perfect to conduct the trade, he/she should attend special training to be capacitated on required skills and knowledge of the business...but most of us fail to attend them due to high

fees charged...they range from 350,000/- to 450,000/-, so this remains a major challenge to us," he added.

Also speaking, one of the farmers from Blambila village in Shinyanga District Rodgers Donald said that most of the farmers in the area are unaware of modern farming methods.

According to him, most of

them are farming for consumption and not for commercial due to low knowledge.

"My plea to the government is to come to the rural areas, meet farmers and support us with prerequisite skills and knowledge as well as financially to enable the group embark on agribusiness for the country's development," he said.

For his part, the Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives from the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) Charles Malunde said that for the country to have a payable agriculture, investing in quality agro-dealers was vital.

"Having qualified dealers of agriculture inputs will enable farmers to get quality seeds, fertilizers and other key equipments thus improving their farming and doubling yields," he said.

The Guardian

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SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Fighting factors disrupting health of bees is necessary

A NUMBER of different factors causing global bee decline are now being monitored and investigated such as pests and diseases, bee management, including bee keeping practices and breeding, the environment, including weather, agricultural practices and the use of pesticides and the availability and quality.

Bees are flying insects closely related to wasps and ants, known for their role in pollination and, in the case of the best-known bee species, the western honey bee, for producing honey and beeswax. There are over 16,000 known species of bees in seven recognised biological families. They are found on every continent except Antarctica, in every habitat on the planet that contains insect-pollinated flowering plants.

Some species including honey bees, bumblebees, and stingless bees live socially in colonies. Bees are adapted for feeding on nectar and pollen, the former primarily as an energy source and the latter primarily for protein and other nutrients. Most pollen is used as food for larvae. Bee pollination is important both ecologically and commercially. The decline in wild bees has increased the value of pollination by commercially managed hives of honey bees.

Human beekeeping or apiculture has been practised for millennia, since at least the times of Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece. Apart from honey and pollination, honey bees produce beeswax, royal jelly and propolis.

With an estimated 75 per cent of human food dependent on the action of pollinating insects, bees are vital for global food production. But their very existence is under threat as they face chronic decline around the world.

A major factor in this decline is the excessive use of pesticides in farming in some regions. And one country where this is increasingly evident is Brazil.

While many European countries

have restricted the use of agrochemicals because of the danger they pose to bees – as well as environmental and human health problems – in Brazil almost 300 pesticides have been approved for use on a wide range of crops.

Between December 2018 and March 2019, more than 500 million bees were found dead by beekeepers in four Brazilian states. Beekeepers' associations and agriculture authorities suspect this was caused by the widespread use of two classes of pesticides.

Recent studies highlight several risks for bee populations associated with the use of these substances. There are around 20,000 species of bees worldwide that pollinate more than 90 per cent of the world's top 107 crops. Researchers say the value of pollination to agriculture provided by bees may exceed US\$200 billion per year worldwide.

Brazil is home to up to 5,000 of these species and 85 out of the country's 141 crops depend on bees as pollinators. A study published in 2017 in *Science* analysed 33 sites across three European countries where neonicotinoids were used. It found that in Hungary the number of worker bees declined 24 per cent in colonies.

A second study conducted independently by a Canadian research team and published in the *Science* edition, found that western honey bee colonies exposed to neonicotinoids in cornfields for up to four months also had fewer worker bees and sometimes no queen bee.

Pesticides are highly toxic to African-derived adult honeybees leading to impaired motor function in these pollinators, according to a study published last year in the *Annals of the Brazilian Academy of Science*. Pesticides are just one of several factors affecting bees around the world. Others are deforestation, urbanisation, climate change, land-use change, habitat loss, disease and invasive species.

Supporting global peace efforts more vital now than ever before

PEACE is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or heterogeneous (relatively foreign or distinct) groups. Throughout history leaders have used peacemaking and diplomacy to establish a certain type of behavioral restraint that has resulted in the establishment of regional peace or economic growth through various forms of agreements or peace treaties. Such behavioral restraint has often resulted in the reduction of conflicts, greater economic interactivity, and consequently substantial prosperity.

The avoidance of war or violent hostility can be the result of thoughtful active listening and communication that enables greater genuine mutual understanding and therefore compromise. Leaders often benefit tremendously from the prestige of peace talks and treaties that can result in substantially enhanced popularity.

'Psychological peace' (such as a peaceful thinking and emotions) is perhaps less well defined yet often a necessary precursor to establishing 'behavioural peace'. Peaceful behaviour sometimes results from a 'peaceful inner disposition'. Some have expressed the belief that peace can be initiated with a certain quality of inner tranquility that does not depend upon the uncertainties of daily life for its existence.

The acquisition of such a 'peaceful internal disposition' for oneself and others can contribute to resolving of otherwise seemingly irreconcilable competing interests.

Because psychological peace can be important to behavioral peace, leaders sometimes de-escalate conflicts through compliments and generosity. Small gestures of rhetorical and actual generosity have been shown in psychological research to often result in larger levels of reciprocal generosity (and even virtuous circles of generosity).

Such benevolent selfless behavior can eventually become a pattern that may become a lasting basis for improved relations between individuals and groups of people. Peace talks often start without preconditions and preconceived notions, because they are more than just negotiating opportunities.

They place attention on peace itself over and above what may have been previously perceived as the competing needs or interests of separate individuals or parties to elicit peaceful feelings and therefore produce benevolent behavioral results. Peace talks are sometimes also uniquely important learning opportunities for the individuals or parties involved.

The International Day of Peace, sometimes unofficially known as World Peace Day, is a United Nations-sanctioned holiday observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence, such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access.

The day was first celebrated in 1981, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and people. In 2013 the day was dedicated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to peace education, the key preventive means to reduce war sustainably.

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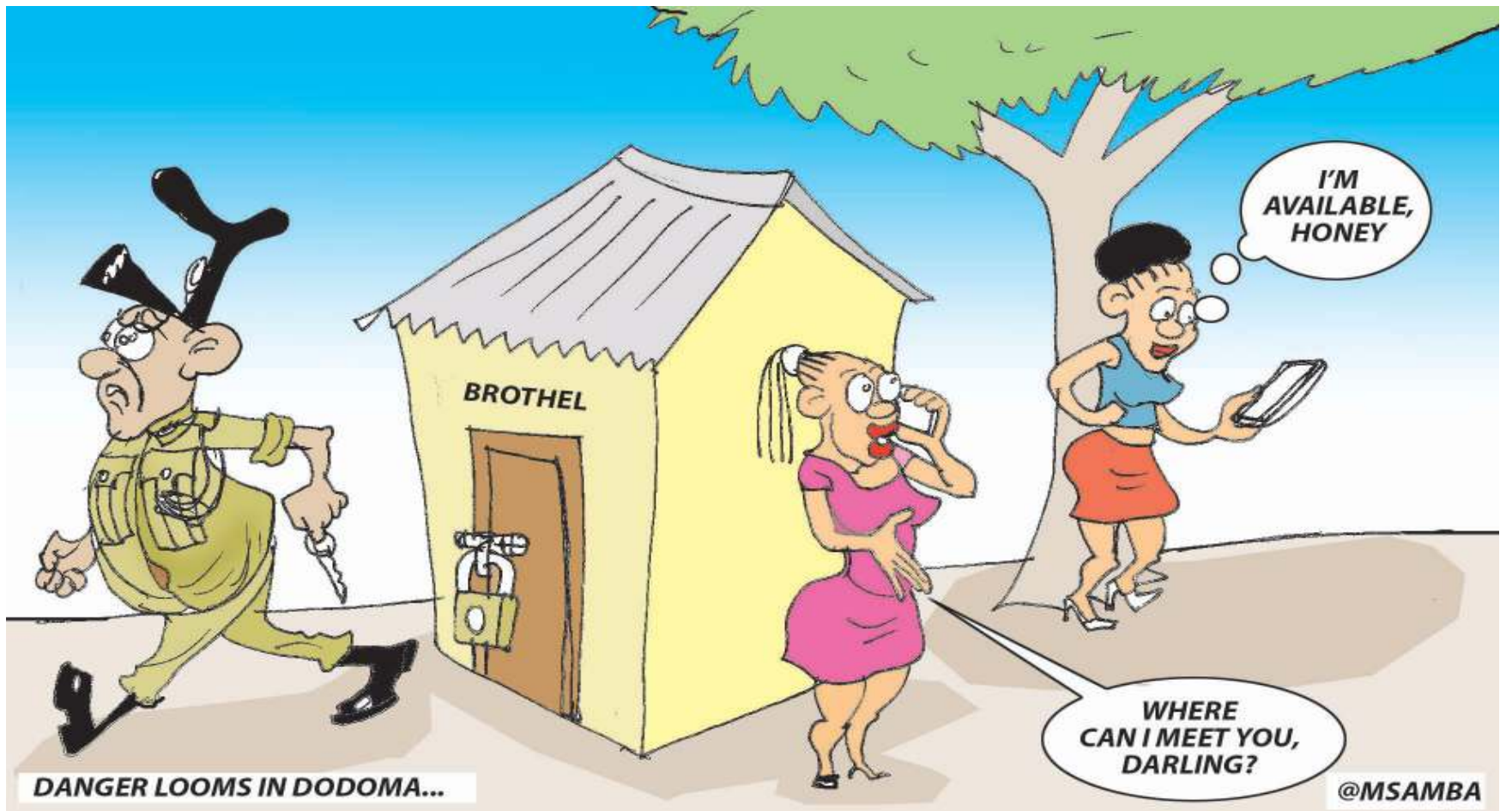
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Alarming increase in public executions via mob violence

By Carmel Rickard

THE death penalty may have been abolished since 1995, but in many parts of SA it is still alive and flourishing, in the form of public executions. That much is clear from official police crime statistics, published last week.

In their breakdown of certain categories of crime, the police listed the 'causes' that lay behind offences, or rather behind those cases where this information is available. One such 'cause' is 'mob justice/vigilantism'. It is among the highest individual categories of motives for murder, and is known to have led to the deaths of 789 people last year.

But even without the statistics on public executions by mobs, the reality of public executions would have been clear to Avumile Nkuzwana, had he still been alive. Suspected of having stolen a cellphone, he was stripped naked, bound hand and foot by wire, and beaten to death, in the course of which his teeth were broken by a pair of pliers.

The day after the crime statistics were released, the case of one of those responsible for Nkuzwana's death came to the High Court on automatic appeal. Gladys Tsotetsi had been convicted of murder under the common purpose doctrine, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

By the time the first state witness in the trial, Nsikelelo Mvumvu, arrived on the scene, Nkuzwana was 'barely alive', said the court.

Nkuzwana was suspected of having stolen the cellphone belonging to Tsotetsi's daughter or niece. Viciously assaulted by a 'vigilante mob', he was dragged to Tsotetsi's property, naked and bound with wire.

Mvumvu saw that Tsotetsi had pliers in her hand and was hitting Nkuzwana in the mouth, breaking his teeth. Mvumvu, unable to stop people from assaulting Nkuzwana, went to call the police.

A police sergeant gave evidence that she had called an ambulance, and that Tsotetsi had told her to leave the man in the yard to die. The police had difficulty getting the dying man into the ambulance because the mob – including Tsotetsi – tried to stop them.



A screen grab from a video showing a group of people in white assaulting passengers at the Yuen Long MTR station.

That Tsotetsi was involved in some way was clear from various witnesses.

But, the court said, while it was usually not difficult to find that the conduct of everyone in a group was unlawful and that everyone had the intention to kill, it was far more difficult to establish that each one's individual conduct was the cause of death.

According to the legal framework on common purpose, there is a particular category of person in a mob, known as a 'joiner-in'. This is someone who arrives on the scene while the person is still alive, and inflicts an injury that 'does not hasten the death of the deceased'. A 'joiner-in' is someone who associates with the common purpose of the rest of the mob, but only after the lethal wound has been inflicted. The position of this person is different from someone who is 'one of many who inflict a wound which, along with the other wounds, is the cause of death'.

Clearly, a 'joiner-in' is guilty of a crime and must be punished. But what exactly is the crime? It cannot be murder, since the 'joiner-in' was not part of inflicting the fatal wound. The an-

swers have been teased out by the courts over many years, and depend on the timing - when an accused joined the mob - and the nature of the involvement.

In Tsotetsi's case the witnesses were very reluctant to give evidence, presumably out of fear. But that meant the prosecution was not able to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Tsotetsi had been anything more than a 'joiner-in'. The evidence tended to show that by the time Nkuzwana was dragged into her yard, he was very badly beaten and the fatal injury had already been inflicted. True, there was evidence that she had used a pair of pliers on the man, and that his teeth were found to have been broken, but it was unlikely that this had contributed to his death.

She might have been convicted of an offence like assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, said the judge. But because she formed a common purpose with the mob she should, in this case, have been convicted of attempted murder. Asked for argument on this issue, counsel on both sides agreed that an attempted murder conviction would be appropriate in this case.

As to sentence, Tsotetsi had no previous convictions but, according to the probation officer, she showed no remorse. The judge said it was necessary to consider 'the reality of lawlessness, mob violence and its tragic consequences' - not to excuse vigilante activity, but to help explain 'the frustration of a community that feels let down' by the police. In this case, for example, when the police arrived at Tsotetsi's house, people in the crowd complained to them that while they had responded quickly on this occasion the police were not prompt when the community needed their help.

Further, apart from her anger and her wish, voiced out loud, that Nkuzwana would die, Tsotetsi did not herself inflict any life-threatening injuries. Her anger was apparently caused by the violence perpetrated on her pregnant niece or daughter from whom the cellphone had been stolen. The life sentence was thus set aside, and she was given eight years in jail, half of it suspended.

Presumably, this case will be one further statistic to add to next year's figures on murder by mob justice/vigilantism. The figures show that of the 789 murders known to have been lynchings - defined as death by mob action without legal sanction, not necessarily only by hanging - 151 occurred in the Western Cape, where Nkuzwana was killed. Only Gauteng (158) and KZN (204) were higher. Vigilantism was also listed as a cause of kidnapping (88 such cases in KZN) and of assault GBH (994 cases with KZN and Mpumalanga the highest) as well as attempted murder.

An opinion article in *Politicsweb* points out that the stats for public executions this year alone were three times higher than the highest annual number of lynchings in the USA (that was in 1892). And if you add last year's figures of public executions to those of this year, the total of 1 635 such killings amounts to more than the combined, horrifying, number of hangings in the final 12 years of capital punishment in SA.

DR Congo: Too many crises for one country?

By Maureen Philippon

EBOLA is the one topic that makes headlines from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but it is unfortunately only one among several crises affecting the Congolese people.

In two very recent reports, DR Congo has come a close second after the widely acknowledged critical humanitarian crises in Syria and Yemen.

A new FAO/WFP report shows that 15.8 million people in DR Congo are now in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood support. Yemen has the saddest record of 15.9 million. The DR Congo number has doubled since 2017, as violence, displacement and poverty continue to trap millions of men, women and children in extreme food insecurity.

In another report released earlier this month, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) places DR Congo as the world's second largest displacement crisis this year after Syria. DR Congo recorded 718,000 displaced as a result of intercommunal violence and clashes between armed groups during the first half of the year.

Families are uprooted, husbands, mothers and children are killed, jobs are lost, fields are not sown or harvests not harvested. Our team recently met a woman who lost four children and her husband in the recent intercommunal violence in Djugu territory because they were of a different ethnicity. Now, the woman is too scared to go to the field to cultivate her lands. In such a situation, it is obvious that the capacity of families to care for themselves is jeopardised and it drives the increase in food insecurity.

On top of this, two large epidemics are now affecting Congo. The Ebola epidemic has been running for more than a year now, taking the lives of more than 2,000 men, women and children. The less well-known measles epidemic caused 2,750 casualties by mid-August according to MSF. They are drawing attention to the "contrast" between the Ebola response, where funding has been quickly mobilised, and the measles response, where only \$2.5 million have been received out of the \$8.9 million needed.

Similar funding ratios sadly describe the general humanitarian response. The humanitarian response plan is less than 30% funded, and some specific sectors like food security and education are below the 20% funding mark at the end of August.



An MSF nurse vaccinates a young boy against measles during the vaccination campaign in Kweba village, Lungonzo district, DRC, May 2019.

While we applaud the mobilisation of funding and the media focus on the Ebola epidemic, we must continue to plea that the needs of all Congolese people are given equal attention. The humanitarian actors, the donors and the media cannot close their eyes to the suffering of a large group of people just because they are victims of the "wrong" crisis.

Interestingly, it is now also acknowledged that the fragmentation of the response, where a strict Ebola-focused health response used to be the only support offered to communities in urgent need of food, safety or malaria treatment for example, has been a key source of community resistance towards the Ebola response.

The international community has showed its ability to quickly scale up their support in response to the Ebola crisis in DR Congo, but we need to recognize that the Ebola outbreak is just one of the Congo's many mega crises. Donor countries must also scale up support for food, nutrition, education and sanitation projects, areas that are essential for people's survival.

The Democratic Republic of the, also known as DR Congo, the DRC, Congo-Kinshasa, or simply the Congo, is the southernmost country located in Central Africa. It is sometimes referred to by its former name of Zaire, which was its

official name between 1971 and 1997. The DRC borders the Central African Republic to the north; South Sudan to the northeast; Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania to the east; Zambia to the south; Angola to the southwest; and the Republic of the Congo and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. It is, by area, the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa, the second-largest in all of Africa (after Algeria), and the 11th-largest in the world. With a population of over 78 million, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the most populated officially Francophone country, the fourth-most-populated country in Africa, and the 16th-most-populated country in the world.

Centred on the Congo Basin, the territory of the DRC was first inhabited by Central African foragers around 90,000 years ago and was reached by the Bantu expansion about 3,000 years ago. In the west, the Kingdom of Kongo ruled around the mouth of the Congo River from the 14th to 19th centuries. In the centre and east, the kingdoms of Luba and Lunda ruled from the 16th and 17th centuries to the 19th century. In the 1870s, just before the onset of the Scramble for Africa, European exploration of the Congo Basin was carried out, first led by Henry Morton Stanley under the sponsorship of King Leopold II of Belgium. Leopold formally acquired rights to the Congo territory at the Berlin Conference in 1885 and made the land his private property, naming it the Congo Free State. During the Free State, the colonial military unit, the Force Publique, forced the local population to produce rubber, and from 1885 to 1908, millions of Congolese died as a consequence of disease and exploitation. In 1908, Belgium, despite initial reluctance, formally annexed the Free State, which became the Belgian Congo.

The Belgian Congo achieved independence on 30 June 1960 under the name Republic of the Congo. Congolese nationalist Patrice Lumumba was elected the first Prime Minister, while Joseph Kasavubu became the first President. Conflict arose over the administration of the territory, which became known as the Congo Crisis.

The provinces of Katanga, under Moïse Tshombe, and South Kasai attempted to secede. After Lumumba turned to the Soviet Union for assistance in the crisis, the U.S. and Belgium became wary and oversaw his removal from office by Kasavubu on 5 September and ultimate execution by Belgian-led Katangese troops on 17 January 1961.

On 25 November 1965, Army Chief of Staff Joseph-Désiré Mobutu, who later renamed himself Mobutu Sese Seko, officially came into power through a coup d'état. In 1971, he renamed the country Zaire. The country was run as a dictatorial one-party state, with his Popular Movement of the Revolution as the sole legal party.

Mobutu's government received considerable support from the United States, due to its anti-communist stance during the Cold War. By the early 1990s, Mobutu's government began to weaken. Destabilisation in the east resulting from the 1994 Rwandan genocide and disenfranchisement among the eastern Banyamulenge (Congolese Tutsi) population led to a 1996 invasion led by Tutsi FPR-ruled Rwanda, which began the First Congo War.

On 17 May 1997, Laurent-Désiré Kabila, a leader of Tutsi forces from the province of South Kivu, became President after Mobutu fled to Morocco, reverting the country's name to the Democratic Republic of the

Congo. Tensions between President Kabila and the Rwandan and Tutsi presence in the country led to the Second Congo War from 1998 to 2003. Ultimately, nine African countries and around twenty armed groups became involved in the war, which resulted in the deaths of 5.4 million people.

The two wars devastated the country. President Laurent-Désiré Kabila was assassinated by one of his bodyguards on 16 January 2001 and was succeeded eight days later as President by his son Joseph.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is extremely rich in natural resources but has had political instability, a lack of infrastructure, issues with corruption and centuries of both commercial and colonial extraction and exploitation with little holistic development.

Besides the capital Kinshasa, the two next largest cities Lubumbashi and Mbuji-Mayi are both mining communities. DR Congo's largest export is raw minerals, with China accepting over 50 per cent of DRC's exports in 2012.

In 2016, DR Congo's level of human development was ranked 176th out of 187 countries by the Human Development Index. As of 2018, around 600,000 Congolese have fled to neighbouring countries from conflicts in the centre and east of the DRC. Two million children risk starvation, and the fighting has displaced 4.5 million people. The sovereign state is a member of the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, African Union and COMESA.

Etymology

Further information: Congo River and Kongo people
The Democratic Republic of the Congo is named after the Congo River, which flows through the entire country. The Congo River is the world's deepest river and the world's second largest river by discharge. The Comité d'études du haut Congo ("Committee for the Study of the Upper Congo"), established by King Leopold II of Belgium in 1876, and the International Association of the Congo, established by him in 1879, were also named after the river.

The Congo River itself was named by early European sailors after the Kingdom of Kongo and its Bantu inhabitants, the Kongo people, when they encountered them in the 16th century. The word Kongo comes from the Kongo language (also called Kikongo). According to American writer Samuel Henry Nelson "It is probable that the word 'Kongo' itself implies a public gathering and that it is based on the root konga, 'to gather' (trans[itive])." The modern name of the Kongo people, Bakongo was introduced in the early 20th century.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has been known in the past as, in chronological order, the Congo Free State, Belgian Congo, the Republic of Congo-Léopoldville, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Zaire, before returning to its current name the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

At the time of independence, the country was named the Republic of Congo-Léopoldville to distinguish it from its neighbour the Republic of the Congo-Brazzaville. With the promulgation of the Luluabourg Constitution on 1 August 1964, the country became the DRC, but was renamed to Zaire (a past name for the Congo River) on 27 October 1971 by President Mobutu Sese Seko as part of his Authenticité initiative.

Unending oil theft and pipeline vandalism

OIL theft in the Niger Delta has continued unabated with its adverse effect on the nation's revenue and the environment, writes CHUKWUDI AKASIKE

Oil has undoubtedly remained the mainstay of the nation's economy, but the Niger Delta region responsible for its production has been bedevilled with many challenges, including oil theft. While many unemployed youths in the area have continued to find solace in oil theft, the Federal Government has continued to grapple with the loss of revenue due to illegal oil bunkering through pipeline vandalism.

Surprisingly, no solution appears to work as the oil thieves come harder even when some of their colleagues are arrested and prosecuted. They engage different strategies to outsmart security personnel mandated to put an end to the menace. In the Niger Delta region, it is commonplace to see thick smoke in the early hours of the day; an indication that oil theft through artisanal refining is going on unabated.

More worrisome is the allegation that some security personnel, expected to fight illegal oil bunkering by arresting and bringing perpetrators to book, are enmeshed in the act ostensibly for pecuniary gains. Findings also indicated that some communities where oil thieves carry out their nefarious activities give the perpetrators support by refusing to reveal their identities to security personnel with determination to work.

Stakeholders are of the view that the success in the ongoing fight against illegal oil bunkering depends on the willingness of the government to fish out collaborators in the Army, Police, Navy and the Nigerian Security and Civil De-



fence Corps, who have the mandate of putting an end to the current onslaught against Nigeria's critical assets.

Deputy National President, Trade Union Congress, Chika Onuegbu, told Sunday PUNCH that the nation was losing between 200,000 and 300,000 barrels of oil per day to oil thieves, adding that a country that currently uses half of its revenue to service loans should not allow its crude oil to be stolen by greedy Nigerians.

Onuegbu, who is a former TUC chairman in Rivers State, said, "Oil theft/bunkering has three issues; first is the economic loss. The country loses a lot of money equivalent to between 200,000 and 300,000 barrels per day. If you multiply that by the oil price, you

The increasing wanton destruction of oil pipelines in the South-south region of Nigeria by some Niger Delta militant groups should be a source of worry to not only the Federal government, but also all well-meaning Nigerians, who love peace and believe in the economic survival of the nation.

will see how much that translates to.

"The second is that illegal bunkering in Nigeria has now given rise to illegal refineries and we no longer hear about selling the crude. The oil thieves now refine them locally. Based on the way they are doing it, they are destroying the environment, including polluting the air.

"The Port Harcourt soot is an issue. This air pollution from illegal refining is traceable to the government's inability to protect its critical assets. The other one is that anywhere there is illegal activity going on, it does not go on alone; it goes with other sophisticated crime like gun running and other crimes. If this continues, those making huge money from these activities will one day combine and overrun the country's military. After all, our military is heavily underfunded. It is a major issue."

A Niger Delta rights activist, Ms Annkio Briggs, told our correspondent that it would be difficult to stop illegal oil bunkering in the oil-rich region when the government had not been able to solve the problem of unemployment.

She stated that while the government was wavering on the establishment of modular refineries, the youth, who were aware that the crude

oil in Niger Delta was being stolen, joined in the act. "The people talking about oil theft are aware of how it started; it has been an age-long thing and from the days oil was found in the country. The Niger Delta youths were able to find out that Nigeria's crude oil was stolen on the high sea when they entered the creeks. They (Niger Delta youths) noticed that the oil companies were also involved in the stealing of oil.

"Unfortunately, the government does not have the capacity to know the quantity of the oil that leaves the shores of the country and it only relies on the figures given to it by such oil firms. My concern as a Niger Delta person is that I am sympathetic to the devastation done to our environment.

"There is no way you can stop the Niger Delta youths from oil bunkering until the problem of unemployment is solved," Brigg cautioned. Also, a human rights activist, Jackson Omenazu, suggested the rapid industrialisation of the Niger Delta region as a solution to the massive involvement of youths in the area in oil theft.

He said since the Niger Delta youths were denied employment, it was not surprising that some of them took to illegal oil bunkering, not minding the devastating effect on the environment. Omenazu, however, urged the Federal Government to adopt new strategies to fight vandalism to

He said, "I am aware that even in Okrika Local Government Area, you will see the 'boys' doing oil bunkering openly. The Federal Government should ensure the rapid industrialisation of the Niger Delta. On the issue of illegal oil bunkering, you cannot tell a child not to eat fish without providing an alternative for him. The economic situation has forced the youth to enter into an enterprise that has to do with crime and the pollution of the environment.

"Government officials should stop wasting funds and do the needful by implementing the policy on modular refineries. How much is modular refineries that they cannot achieve? Is it up to the amount they spend on foreign trips?"

Meanwhile, Edo State Governor, Godwin Obaseki, who is the Chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee of the National Economic Council on Crude Oil Theft, Prevention and Control, has called on stakeholders to join forces and work towards tackling the menace of crude oil theft currently on the increase in Nigeria.

Obaseki stated that in the first six months of 2019, Nigeria lost about 22 million barrels of its crude oil production to oil theft, cautioning that if nothing was done to curtail the ugly trend, the figure could double by the end of the year. He said oil theft and pipeline vandalism were beginning to pose a threat to the national economy.

In its June 2019 Monthly Financial and Operations Report released recently, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation announced a staggering 77 per cent rise in the cases of oil pipeline vandalism across its network of pipeline infrastructure.

Rwanda's lessons in universal health coverage

By Ifeanyi Nsofor

RWANDA, the land of a thousand hills, is clean, orderly and blessed with great weather. It also has achieved universal health coverage. During a recent visit there as part of my Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity at George Washington University, I learned more about what this looks like in their country. As a physician who advocates for health in my country of Nigeria, I was very interested to learn about the lessons they could offer.

Of course, the people of Rwanda have gone through deep trauma in their national development - particularly the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis. Over one million Rwandans were killed, thousands fled the country and victims were intentionally infected with HIV. Rape was a weapon of the genocide. This year, Rwanda celebrates 25 years since the genocide - Kwibukab25. The theme is, "remember, unite, renew". It is commendable that the nation speaks about it and there is a museum to educate people so they can remember and prevent a recurrence.

Rwanda has come a long way in 25 years and their health statistics are among the best in Africa. For instance, above 96 per cent of Rwandans have health insurance, qualifying it as universal health coverage; routine immunization coverage is 99 per cent; and under five mortality rate is 37.9 per 1000 live births.

Mother to child transmission of HIV is 1.5 per cent. Further, the country is clean and has stable electricity. I was pleasantly surprised when groceries I bought were packaged in paper bags - there is a ban on use of plastic bags in Rwanda.

My cohort and I were hosted by Butaro communities. Staff of Partners in Health and faculty of the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Butaro. The drive from Kigali to Butaro was a foray through nature with great views. It was like driving right up into the clouds, with the campus located on hills at an altitude of over 6,700 feet. It was beautiful there. Across my education there, I took note of the lessons that other countries like mine can learn from Rwanda's achievement of universal health coverage.



Health minister Dr Diane Gashumba vaccinates a child against measles and rubella in 2017.

First, I observed that achieving universal health coverage is about political will and not how rich a country is. Rwanda's leadership understood early on that without health there is limited economic growth. Therefore, Rwanda's vision 2020 document articulates health as a precursor for economic development. Rwanda demonstrates that political will for universal health coverage even with a GDP of \$9.5 billion compared to other African countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt with GDPs of \$397 billion, \$366 billion and \$8 billion respectively.

Second, universal health coverage means taking healthcare right to communities where people reside. Community health workers are the backbone of healthcare in Rwanda. There is a network of community health workers - 45,000 of them. I had the privilege of visiting one to learn about the work they do. He took us to one of his clients, a 45-year old widow on mental health treatment. It was a very emotional experience and I cried listening to her narrate her experience. I imagined what it must have been like for her as a widow looking after six children and dealing with mental health disease. I cried because I know there are many women like her without any mental health support across villages globally. At the end of the visit, I was happy because the widow is now stable, on treatment

and receiving support from her village health worker and the district hospital.

Third, partnerships are paramount in the successes achieved by Rwanda in healthcare. The partnership between "Partners in Health" and The Government of Rwanda, for instance, should be emulated across by other countries. This partnership led to the establishment of the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) and Butaro Hospital. The university brings medical education to the community. I met and was inspired by young African medics supported by their international colleagues saving lives.

Lastly, technological advances can complement existing knowledge and infrastructure. The Government of Rwanda, for example, is equipping District Hospitals and Health Centers with 4G internet to improve quality of healthcare delivery. I now understand why the world's first drone delivery of blood, drugs, vaccines and other commodities is operational in Rwanda. A company called Zipline is providing this drone delivery service. While at UGHE, I watched drones deliver blood to the Butaro hospital close by. Zipline recently opened shop in Ghana where it would be supplying drugs and commodities to 2,000 health facilities.

Overall, Rwanda's work culture is captured in this statement made by one of the health sector

leaders who lectured my group at UGHE, "We are not here to complain but to find solutions".

There are still challenges in Rwanda, of course. The country deals with social issues such as poverty, increasing mental health needs and the West questioning President Kagame's leadership style. Despite these, massive positive changes have taken place since the end of the genocide and that should be an inspiration to us all. If they can achieve universal health coverage, then we in other countries can, too.

Rwanda officially the Republic of Rwanda is a country in central and East Africa and one of the smallest countries on the African mainland. Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Rwanda is in the African Great Lakes region and is highly elevated; its geography is dominated by mountains in the west and savanna to the east, with numerous lakes throughout the country. The climate is temperate to subtropical, with two rainy seasons and two dry seasons each year.

The population is young and predominantly rural, with a density among the highest in Africa. Rwandans are drawn from just one cultural and linguistic group, the Banyarwanda, although within this group there are three subgroups: the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa. The Twa are a forest-

dwelling pygmy people descended from Rwanda's earliest inhabitants. Scholars disagree on the origins of and differences between the Hutu and Tutsi; some believe differences are derived from former social castes within a single people, while others believe the Hutu and Tutsi arrived in the country separately, and from different locations. Christianity is the largest religion in the country; the principal language is Kinyarwanda, spoken by most Rwandans, with English and French serving as additional official languages. The sovereign state of Rwanda has a presidential system of government. The president is Paul Kagame of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), who took office in 2000. Rwanda today has low corruption compared with neighbouring countries, although human rights organisations report suppression of opposition groups, intimidation and restrictions on freedom of speech. The country has been governed by a strict administrative hierarchy since precolonial times; there are five provinces delineated by borders drawn in 2006. Rwanda is one of only two countries with a female majority in the national parliament.

Hunter gatherers settled the territory in the stone and iron ages, followed later by Bantu peoples. The population coalesced first into clans and then into kingdoms.

The Kingdom of Rwanda dominated from the mid-eighteenth century, with the Tutsi kings conquering others militarily, centralising power and later enacting anti-Hutu policies. Germany colonised Rwanda in 1884 as part of German East Africa, followed by Belgium, which invaded in 1916 during World War I.

Both European nations ruled through the kings and perpetuated a pro-Tutsi policy. The Hutu population revolted in 1959. They massacred numerous Tutsi and ultimately established an independent, Hutu-dominated state in 1962. A 1973 military coup saw a change of leadership, but pro-Hutu policy remained.

The Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front launched a civil war in 1990. The presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, died together when their plane was shot down in April 1994. Social tensions erupted in the 1994 genocide, in which Hutu extremists killed an estimated 500,000 to 1 million Tutsi and moderate Hutu. The RPF ended the genocide with a military victory.

Rwanda's developing economy suffered heavily in wake of the 1994 genocide, but has since strengthened. The economy is based mostly on subsistence agriculture. Coffee and tea are the major cash crops for export. Tourism is a fast-growing sector and is now the country's leading foreign exchange earner. Rwanda is one of only two countries in which mountain gorillas can be visited safely, and visitors pay high prices for gorilla tracking permits.

The economic consequences of automation

By Robert Skidelsky

WHILE Brexit captures the headlines in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, the silent march of automation continues. Most economists view this trend favourably: Technology, they say, may destroy jobs in the short run, but creates new and better jobs in the longer term.

The destruction of jobs as a result of automation is clear and direct: a firm automates a conveyor belt, supermarket check-out or delivery system, keeps one-tenth of the workforce as supervisors, and fires the rest. But what happens after that is far less obvious.

The standard economic argument is that workers affected by automation will initially lose their jobs, but the population as a whole will subsequently be compensated. For example, the Nobel laureate economist Christopher Pissarides and Jacques Bughin of the McKinsey Global Institute argue that higher productivity resulting from automation "implies faster economic growth, more consumer spending, increased labour demand and thus greater job creation".

But this theory of compensation is far too abstract. For starters, we need to distinguish between "labour-saving" and "labour-augmenting" innovation. Product innovation, such as the introduction of the car or mobile phone, is labour-augmenting. By contrast, process innovation, or the introduction of an improved production method, is labour-saving, because it enables firms to produce the same quantity of

an existing good or service with fewer workers.

True, new jobs created by product innovation may be offset by a "substitution effect," as the success of a new product causes the labour employed in producing an old one to become redundant. But the biggest challenge comes from process innovation, because this only ever displaces jobs, and does not create new ones. Where process innovation is dominant, only compensatory mechanisms can help to prevent rising unemployment, or what the British economist David Ricardo called the "redundancy" of the population. There are several such mechanisms. First, increased profits will lead to further investment in new technology, and hence new products. In addition, competition between firms will lead to a general reduction in prices, increasing demand for products and hence labour. Finally, the reduction in wages caused by initial technological unemployment will increase demand for labour and induce a shift back to more labour-intensive methods of production, soaking up the redundant workers. How quickly these compensation mechanisms operate will depend on how easily capital and labour move between occupations and regions. The introduction of labour-saving technology will result in lower prices, but it will also reduce consumption by workers who are made redundant. It is then a question of which effect is faster. Keynesian economists argue that the fall in demand for goods resulting from unemployment will precede, and thus dominate, the re-



duction in prices resulting from automation. This will lead to a further increase in joblessness, at least in the short run. Moreover, even if such job losses were only a short-run phenomenon, the cumulative effect of a series of labour-saving innovations over time could create long-term unemployment. Furthermore, an effective price-adjustment mechanism presumes the general prevalence of competition. But in an oligopolistic market, a firm may use its cost savings to boost profits rather than reduce prices. Such considerations buttress the contemporary view that the benefits of automation are long term, with "redundancy" set to rise during a "transitional period". But when the transition may last for decades, as a recent McKinsey Global Institute report acknowledges, it is hardly surprising that workers are sceptical of this slew of compensation arguments. Karl Marx argued that no such compensa-

tory processes existed, either in the short or long run. The story he told, therefore, has no happy ending for the workers - at least not under capitalism. Marx said competition forces individual firms to invest as much of their profits as possible in labour-saving - that is, cost-cutting - machinery. But increased mechanisation doesn't benefit capitalists as a class. True, the first mover enjoys a temporary advantage by "rushing down on declining average-cost curves," as Joseph Schumpeter put it in his History of Economic Analysis, and annihilating weaker firms in the process. But competition then diffuses the new technology and rapidly eliminates any temporary super-profit. Restoring the rate of profit, Marx argued, requires an increasingly large "reserve army of the unemployed." Thus, he wrote, mechanisation "threw labourers on the pavement." For Marx, unemployment is essentially technological

in nature.

And although the reserve army is temporarily absorbed into the labour force during bursts of high prosperity, its continued existence leads to ever-increasing pauperisation in the long run.

For Marx, therefore, the long-run sequence of events was exactly the opposite of the orthodox view: mechanisation creates febrile prosperity in the short run, but at the cost of long-term degradation.

The distributional effects of technological change have long featured prominently in discussions among economists. In his 1932 book *The Theory of Wages*, John Hicks developed the idea of induced innovation. He argued that higher wages, by threatening the profit rate, would impel businesses to economise on the use of labour because this factor of production was now relatively more expensive. Automation of the economy is therefore not

simply the result of increased computing power, à la Moore's Law, but depends on changes in the relative cost of labour and capital. These are technically complicated arguments. But economic theory evidently does not provide a clear answer regarding the long-term effect of technological progress on employment. The best conclusion we can draw is that the impact will depend on the balance between product and process innovation, and on factors such as the state of demand, the degree of competition in the market, and the balance of power between capital and labour. These are all important areas in which governments can intervene. Even if automation has traditionally been beneficial in the long run, policymakers should not ignore its disruptive short-run effects. The short-run, after all, is where historical horrors happen.

Brexit a portmanteau of "British" and "exit" is the scheduled withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). It follows a referendum held in the UK on 23 June 2016, in which 52 per cent of those voting supported withdrawal. The UK government invoked Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), starting a two-year process which was due to conclude with the UK withdrawing on 29 March 2019. As the UK parliament refused to ratify the negotiated Withdrawal Agreement and Declaration on Future Relations, that deadline has been extended twice, and is currently 31 October 2019. UK law requires the government to seek a third extension if no

agreement is reached before the next meeting of the European Council on 17-18 October.

Withdrawal is advocated by Eurosceptics and opposed by pro-Europeanists, both of whom span the political spectrum. The UK joined the European Communities (EC) in 1973, with continued membership endorsed in a 1975 referendum. In the 1970s and 1980s, withdrawal from the EC was advocated mainly by the political left, e.g. in the Labour Party's 1983 election manifesto. From the 1990s, the eurosceptic wing of the Conservative Party grew, and led a rebellion over ratification of the 1992 Maastricht Treaty, which established the EU. In parallel with the UK Independence Party (UKIP), and the cross-party People's Pledge campaign, it pressured Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron to hold a referendum on continued EU membership. Cameron, who had campaigned to remain, resigned after the result and was succeeded by Theresa May.

On 29 March 2017, the UK government formally began the process of withdrawal. May announced the government's intention to leave the customs union and single market, to repeal the European Communities Act and incorporate existing EU law into UK domestic law. She then called a snap general election, which resulted in a minority government supported by the Democratic Unionist Party.

Withdrawal negotiations with the EU began in June 2017, resulting in November 2018 in the (binding) withdrawal agreement and (non-binding) Declaration on Future Relations.

Boys to violent men: What we know, and what could be done

By Guy Lamb, Cathy Ward, Shanaaz Mathews and Soraya Lester

WE don't need more research, we need action. Some of what must be done is already outlined in South African laws and policies. The Children's Act, for instance, makes violence prevention interventions mandatory.

Earlier this week, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga said in Parliament we need to undertake more research into why some boys become violent men who abuse women, and what can be done to stop it happening. There are, indeed, knowledge gaps, but for more than a decade, rigorous studies have been undertaken in South Africa and elsewhere on specific determinants that result in boys becoming adults prone to perpetrating violence against women.

We also have some relatively good research data on how to interrupt and even prevent such pathways to violence. The World Health Organisation's INSPIRE report, for instance, identifies key proven strategies and interventions that can prevent violence against children and strengthen norms that promote equitable relationships, which in turn can stop boys from becoming violent men.

A boy's family structure and home environment play a central role in shaping the likelihood of him going on to committing violence against women (VAW). Growing up in a violent household, experiencing childhood abuse (emotional, physical and sexual), neglect, harsh discipline and lack of parental kindness are significant risk factors for VAW.

Boys who experience or witness abuse during childhood may perceive violence to be normal and acceptable behaviour within relationships. This increases the likelihood that boys will grow up desensitised to violence and regard violence as a legitimate means of resolving conflict in peer-on-peer and intimate relationships.

Childhood abuse and trauma is also a significant predictor of personal gender norms, in that men who suffered such abuse as boys are likely to adopt inequitable gender norms that emphasise male dominance.

There is also an association between high levels of childhood trauma and the development of antisocial behavioural tendencies in men, which may also increase the risk of violence perpetration, including VAW.

Adverse childhood experiences tend to have developmental effects, leaving boys with a sense of inadequacy, humiliation and anger, which can result in controlling behaviour and later manifest in various forms of violence. The experience of trauma may also lead to alcohol abuse, which in itself is a key risk factor for VAW.

Certain school and community settings may also increase the risk of males becoming violent, especially in environments where they are confronted by bullying and corporal punishment. Community tolerance and acceptance of VAW, as well as common acceptance of violence as a primary means to resolve interpersonal disagreements and disputes, may further increase the risks of VAW. Such risk is exacerbated where boys are raised with the notion



A young boy hangs from a homemade swing in a tree near his family mud hut in the valley of a thousand hills near Durban, South Africa

that they are superior to, and can control, women and that women must be submissive to men.

We don't need more research: we need action, and some of what needs to be done is already included in existing laws and policies. The Children's Act, for instance, makes violence prevention interventions mandatory.

These interventions should be implemented as early as possible in a child's life to maximise their effectiveness and minimise the complexity of the intervention: it is much easier (and therefore cheaper) to intervene in the pre-

school years than after an adolescent is already in conflict with the law.

Such interventions should be both universal and targeted. Universal preventive interventions focus on the general population and seek to reduce the risk of harm to children throughout the country. In this regard, policies and laws and strategies should be established to provide parents with knowledge of child development, to improve parents' relationships with their children and impart positive discipline skills. Targeted interventions address the needs

of specific populations known to be at risk of maltreatment. Most commonly these are vulnerable caregivers and their families who are severely affected by socioeconomic (such as poverty and unemployment) and psychological-related problems (such as mental illness and substance abuse), and aggression that place their children at risk of maltreatment.

Thus, it is critical for prevention programmes to foster nurturing and non-violent child-rearing among caregivers. Studies in South Africa have shown parenting programmes can encourage healthy and stable relationships between caregivers and children - work recognised by the World Health Organisation as a global example.

Recommendations for improving school safety and preventing violence in schools in South Africa have been made to the government. Reportedly, educators are receiving training in "positive discipline" to help them stop corporal punishment and improve classroom management.

However, it is clear the impact of this has been very limited as high rates of corporal punishment and violence against children in schools continue. More of this training should be done in schools countrywide, with monitoring to ensure effectiveness.

There is also robust evidence that bullying prevention programmes are effective, in particular, programmes where anti-bullying policy is clearly understood by learners and overseen by educators, where there is consistent playground and classroom supervision, where there is a firm and consistent discipline of perpetrators, and in parent meetings - with both victim and perpetrator.

Over 3000 killed by deadly virus in Democratic Republic of Congo since January - and it's not Ebola

By Jeremy Rossman and Matthew Badham

EBOLA outbreaks, such as the current one in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has claimed 2,074 people's lives, are widely covered in the media. But another virus is ravaging the DRC with minimal publicity. That virus is measles.

Although measles has a much lower mortality rate than Ebola (around 2% compared with around 60%), there have been over 165,000 suspected cases of measles, with over 3,200 deaths in the DRC since the start of 2019.

In a recent speech, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said that

he was "embarrassed to talk only about Ebola" in response to questions on recent developments in the DRC.

Measles is proving fatal at an alarming rate, far faster than Ebola. In the week ending August 11, 2019, 5,600 cases were reported, with 141 deaths. Figures in the same week for Ebola were 63 confirmed cases and 45 deaths, meaning that, on average, measles is killing around three times as many people per week as Ebola.

For a vaccination programme to be effective, at least 92-95% of the population must be immunised - this creates so-called herd immunity. Another approach is ring vaccination.

This is where clusters of people who are particularly at risk

are vaccinated. This approach can help to contain the spread of an outbreak, but with aid organisations facing attacks, community mistrust and under resourcing, even ring vaccination approaches are proving difficult to implement in both outbreaks.

Many local communities in the DRC mistrust medical workers. It stems from years of regional isolation and conflict. In some areas, this mistrust has even led to violence against the "wealthy" and "foreign" humanitarian aid workers, resulting in treatment centres being closed and the containment response being stalled for both Ebola and measles.

Thanks to the combination of rumours of Ebola being fabricated, conspiracies around vaccination programmes, and deeply

held traditional beliefs, the difficulties in delivering aid don't appear to be ending any time soon.

The perception that the international response to measles is minimal compared with the effort mounted against Ebola also stirs mistrust and anger within the DRC. Measles poses less of a threat globally and specifically to wealthy countries, as vaccination programmes are widespread and effective (about 92% coverage in the US and about 86% globally). In contrast, isolated Ebola cases in the US and other wealthy countries during the 2013-16 West Africa epidemic caused widespread public fear and outcry.

Future-proofing humanitarian aid

Even countries with well-developed healthcare systems would struggle to contain an Ebola outbreak, while a measles outbreak in a country with widespread immunity would have far less social, medical and economic impact.

In July 2019, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the current Ebola outbreak a public health emergency of international concern, partly in response to international pressure and fear of the disease spreading to other countries. Measles has been given no such status.

Although Ebola poses a greater threat than measles in wealthy countries, within the DRC measles is causing more illness and death, but has generated a smaller international response. The WHO has raised almost US\$14m

for combating the DRC Ebola outbreak, while barely US\$2.5m has been raised to combat measles.

This is especially relevant when considering that an aspect of public resistance stems from the response teams only treating Ebola, whereas, from a community perspective, diseases such as measles and malaria are far greater threats to their lives. For example, malaria was responsible for over 27,000 deaths in the DRC in 2017.

How then should the international community respond to outbreaks to protect both the overall health of a community and the global spread of a specific disease?

Perhaps the solution is as recently proposed by Doctors Without Borders and The Alli-

ance for International Medical Action. They suggested that instead of the international community delivering targeted aid for only Ebola, resources should be deployed to strengthen local infrastructure and provide a decentralised capacity to provide care to all communities.

This may enable a country to contain an Ebola outbreak while still responding to outbreaks of other infectious and non-infectious diseases, providing better care for local communities. By using international resources to strengthen local infrastructure, it might be possible to create more resilient community health systems capable of responding to future outbreaks, possibly without needing international support.



Uganda has made significant progress in promoting girls' education in recent years. Policies improving access and enrollment have been reformed, primary enrollment rates have increased dramatically, and more girls than ever are completing school at all levels.

In the absence of fathers, gender sensitivity should begin in the classroom

By Michael le Cordeur

THOSE who attribute the wave of violence against women and children to insufficient policing must think again. The problem lies much deeper: It is an educational problem which requires a national intervention strategy.

The wave of violence against women and children afflicting our country is a national crisis similar to that last seen when PW Botha announced a national emergency.

Just three days ago Minister Bheki Cele announced that for the period March 2018 till April 2019 the number of rape cases and sex-related crime increased by 4.6% in a country which already has a reputation of having one of the highest crime rates in the world.

This sent shock waves through the country. Officially 52,420 cases were reported last year, which means a woman is raped every eight hours in South Africa.

Over the past weekend, we saw marches and riots as South Africans demonstrated their anger. We are ex-

periencing a revolt, but this time the conflict extends over all boundaries.

The enemy is men, specifically men who treat women with disrespect. This group of men does not consist of those who hide in dark places and await their prey like predators. It goes much deeper.

From the most esteemed workplaces to households which appear normal, an evil system is still maintained by men who abuse their positions of power in society.

The disrespect towards women is visible in many domains in South African society. From woman abuse to boys who grow up with a distorted image of girls, to adult men who see women only as a possession, a trophy about which they can boast and an object to ensure their progeny.

As serious as the crisis is, we ought to react to it in a meaningful way by making suitable adjustments.

The American politician Rahm Emanuel said: "You never let a serious crisis go to waste." President Cyril

Ramaphosa's response was thus necessary, and a first step in the right direction so that women can once again feel safe in their homes and workplaces.

Unfortunately, it left a bitter taste because the President (or his communications minister) did not go to the trouble of communicating with deaf women.

This led Marlene le Roux - an activist for the disabled - to remark: "So disabled women do not run the risk of rape?" It must now also be clear that it is not a simple problem with a simple solution. There are four aspects which in my view should be addressed: policing, the patriarchal attitudes of men, the absent father syndrome and education. Patriarchal attitudes A number of female pastors of the NG Church have made an urgent appeal to the church to take the lead in acting against the causes and practices of patriarchy which lead to violence against women and children.

According to this group, patriarchy is a disease which causes some people

(men) to have a superior attitude and consider others (women) inferior (Die Burger, 10 September 2019).

This attitude is deeply rooted in the minds of some men who have grown up with this attitude.

Whether it is due to religion or culture, some men still consider themselves to be the head of the house, to whom women must submit.

If you take into account that only one out of nine rapes is reported, the number that was announced on Friday should actually be multiplied by nine.

This is partly because policemen are unwilling to take these complaints seriously: a classic example of this superior attitude. Many women are sent home with the absurd instruction to "sort the matter out" with the husband.

Men will have to learn to give up the dominant position which they have built up through the centuries and which still continues in some societies. It is not going to be easy, but it is certainly an educational task.

IMF projects for Somalia 2.9 pc economic growth this year

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S economy is forecast to grow 2.9% this year from 2.8% last year, but security risks and vulnerability to climate shocks could cloud the outlook, the International Monetary Fund said.

The Horn of Africa country has experienced conflict since 1991, when clan warlords overthrew President Siad Barre and then turned on each other. Over the past decade it has been hit by famine and sporadic terror attacks by al Qaeda-linked militant group al Shabaab.

"Economic growth is projected to remain broadly stable at 2.9% in 2019. Inflation is projected to increase temporarily to 4.0% in 2019, due to higher food prices as a result of poor rainfall earlier in the year," the IMF said.

"Key risks to the outlook continue to reflect the difficult security situation and vulnerability to climate shocks," it added in a statement late on Wednesday.

In May, the fund had put Somalia's economic growth forecast at 3%, and inflation projections at 3 to 3.2%.

The International Monetary Fund has been pushing for better management of public finances, while the government is implementing reforms under an agreed staff-monitored programme.

Somalia officially the Federal Republic of Somalia is a sovereign state with its territory located in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, Djibouti to the northwest, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Guardafui Channel and Indian Ocean to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. It is separated from Socotra by the Guardafui Channel in the northeast. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland, and its terrain consists mainly of plateaus, plains and highlands. Climatically, hot conditions

prevail year-round, with periodic monsoon winds and irregular rainfall.

In terms of culture, religion, ethnicity and linguistics, it has been described as the "only" and the "most" homogeneous country in Africa. Somalia has an estimated population of around 14.3 million.

Around 85 per cent of its residents are ethnic Somalis, who have historically inhabited the northern part of the country. Ethnic minorities are largely concentrated in the southern regions.

The official languages of Somalia are Somali and Arabic, both of which belong to the Afroasiatic family. Most people in the country are Muslim, with the majority being Sunni.

In antiquity, Somalia was an important commercial centre. It is among the most probable locations of the fabled ancient Land of Punt.

During the Middle Ages, several powerful Somali empires dominated the regional trade, including the Ajuran Empire, the Adal Sultanate, the Warsangali Sultanate, and the Sultanate of the Geledi.

In the late 19th century, through a succession of treaties with these kingdoms, the British and Italian empires gained control of parts of the coast and established the colonies of British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. In the interior, Mohammed Abdullah Hassan's movement repelled the British Empire four times and forced it to retreat to the coastal region, before succumbing to defeat in 1920 by British airpower.

The toponym Somalia was coined by the Italian explorer Luigi Robecchi Bricchetti (1855-1926). Italy acquired full control of the northeastern, central and southern parts of the area after successfully waging the so-called Campaign of the Sultanates against the ruling Majeerteen Sultanate and Sultanate of Hobyo.

Why we support the global climate strikes

By Anne Hidalgo, Bill De Blasio, Eric Garcetti and Frank Jensen

OUR shared planet is facing a climate emergency. The science is clear that, without urgent action, sea levels will rise further, extreme temperatures will become the norm and climate-related disasters will inflict even greater damage.

We are making historic investments to prepare and adapt our cities to the inevitable consequences of emissions already released into the atmosphere.

When your house is on fire, somebody needs to sound the alarm. Young people in our cities, displaying incredible maturity and dignity are doing just that. School children are taking to the streets, drawing attention to the terrifying threat that climate breakdown poses to their future. Young people recognise just how unfair climate change is.

Those who have generated the least greenhouse gas emissions, including the poorest, most disadvantaged and youngest in society, will suffer the worst effects of a rapidly changing global climate. They are right to sound the alarm, and they are right to demand action that tackles climate change and inequality simultaneously.

On September 20, these inspiring young leaders have called for adults to join them for a Global Climate Strike. We have an opportunity to show, not only that we hear their message, but that they have inspired us to act even faster.

As mayors, our greatest responsibility is to protect the lives and wellbeing



of those that live in our cities. As adults, our obligation is to leave the world in a better state for our children than we inherited it.

Fortunately, the evidence is increasingly clear that transforming our cities to prevent the climate crisis will also make them healthier, more equitable, safer and ultimately better places to live.

The cities of the future will enjoy affordable

and reliable public transport; the air will be free from poisonous toxins; buildings will generate zero emissions thanks to ultra-high efficient heating, cooling and insulation; waste will be recycled or reused, and all of this will be powered by abundant renewable energy.

We have a unique opportunity to bestow a bright and hopeful legacy to the next generation. This is the future we want.

That is why we are supporting the global climate strikes. Mayors around the world, working through C40 Cities, are committed to deliver on the Paris Agreement and taking action to peak their emissions as our cities already have and bring them down sharply by 2030.

Many businesses, investors, labour groups, faith leaders and local communities share our urgency. But we cannot tackle the climate crisis

alone.

We need science-based action from every sector of the economy, and we expect greater leadership from nation states.

Young people are telling us that the climate emergency demands an emergency response. We couldn't agree more.

More than 70 mayors from around the world will be meeting in Copenhagen for the C40 World Mayors Summit, Oct 9-12, 2019.

Climate change or global warming is a long-term rise in the average temperature of the Earth's climate system; an aspect of climate change shown by temperature measurements and by multiple effects of the warming. Though earlier geological periods also experienced episodes of warming, the term commonly refers to the observed and continuing increase in average air and ocean temperatures since 1900 caused mainly by emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the modern industrial economy. In the modern context the terms global warming and climate change are commonly used interchangeably, but climate change includes both global warming and its effects, such as changes to precipitation and impacts that differ by region. Many of the observed changes in climate since the 1950s are unprecedented in the instrumental temperature record, and in historical and paleoclimate proxy records of climate change over thousands to millions of years.

In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report concluded, "It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century." The largest human influence has been the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Effects of global warming include rising sea levels, regional changes in precipitation, more frequent extreme weather events such as heat waves, and expansion of deserts.

'Embrace pan-Africanism to be globally significant'

BY LAWRENCE MANKWEI AND KIMBERLY FREMPONG

AS the power of globalisation continues to weaken boundaries of statehood, it is high time for Africans to become aware of their political and economic environment by embracing Pan-Africanism, as the wheel of change for global significance, Dr Michael Williams has said.

Dr Williams, a former Academic Director of Webster University, Ghana, said Africa with her immense natural resources could then gain comparative advantage economically over other national blocs.

He advocated for African unity to tackle common issues affecting the continent in a lecture yesterday at the 2019 Annual Du Bois-Padmore-Nkrumah and the Year of Return lectures organised by the W.E.B Du Bois Memorial Centre for Pan African Culture, Ghana Tourism Authority and the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial Park.

The lecture which was designed to bring into focus aspects of the multi-faceted contemporary Pan-African vision and its realisation was under the theme: 'Pan-Africanism reflections on resistance, dignity in the face of atrocity.'

The event also served as a forum for the re-examination of the ideals of Pan-African and its relevance to the social, political, cultural and economic sphere of the 21st century of the African through panel discussion.

Dr Williams said of the numerous concepts which influenced black Africa since independence, Pan-Africanism after democracy was one of the ideals which was still relevant to serve the course of emancipation of Africa, adding however, that the continent after all these years of presenting Pan-Africanism remained the least integrated in the world which continued to experience outbreak of xenophobic violence, with South Africa being the latest culprit.

He said pioneers of the Pan-Africanism such as Du Bois, Padmore, Marcus Garvey and Nkrumah in those early days had a common goal to unite black people across the world in order to fight slavery and colonialism, but the quest for Pan-Africanism to

remain relevant in today's Africa meant that there was the need to shift focus to good governance and economic empowerment.

Dr Williams said the renewal of the Pan-Africanism attitude must shift to increase African trade, political partnership and good governance, adding that the continent was so endowed with rich natural resources enough to become economic super power.

Citing some of the natural resources, he said Africa had abundant arable land and water sources for irrigation to feed the entire continent and export market, however those resources were very much being underutilised, creating a big productive gap.

Dr Williams asked African leaders to perceive unity of purpose as being a crucial element in the resuscitation of the economic and social plight of the continent, adding that the Pan-Africanism ideology asserted that the fate of all African people and countries were intertwined.

Dr Ziblim Barri Iddi, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, earlier in a welcome address commended the centre for organising the lecture under the flagship programme of the Year of Return, to bring people of African descent from the Diaspora to Ghana.

In a historical context, Pan-Africanism served as both a cultural and political ideology from the solidarity of people of African descent. It aimed to encourage and strengthen bonds of solidarity between all indigenous and Diasporan ethnic groups of African descent.

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent, being behind Asia in both categories. At about 30.3 million km² (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, it covers 6 per cent of Earth's total surface area and 20 per cent of its land area. With 1.2 billion people as of 2016, it accounts for about 16 per cent of the world's human population. The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The continent includes Madagascar and various archipelagos.



The late Kwame Nkrumah

It contains 54 fully recognised sovereign states (countries), nine territories and two de facto independent states with limited or no recognition. The majority of the continent and its countries are in the Northern Hemisphere, with a substantial portion and number of countries in the Southern Hemisphere.

Africa's average population is the youngest amongst all the continents; the median age in 2012 was 19.7, when the world-wide median age was 30.4. Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. Africa, particularly central Eastern Africa, is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and the Hominidae clade (great apes), as evidenced by the discovery of the earliest hominids and their ancestors as well as later ones that have been dated to around 7 million years ago, including *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, *Australopithecus africanus*, *A. afarensis*, *Homo erectus*, *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster*—the earliest *Homo sapiens* (modern human), found in Ethiopia, date to circa 200,000 years ago. Africa straddles the equator and encompasses numerous climate areas; it is the only continent to stretch from the northern temperate to southern temperate zones.

Africa hosts a large diversity of ethnicities, cultures and languages. In the late 19th century,

European countries colonised almost all of Africa; most present states in Africa originated from a process of decolonisation in the 20th century. African nations cooperate through the establishment of the African Union, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

Etymology

Afri was a Latin name used to refer to the inhabitants of then-known northern Africa to the west of the Nile river, and in its widest sense referred to all lands south of the Mediterranean (Ancient Libya). This name seems to have originally referred to a native Libyan tribe, an ancestor of modern Berbers; see Terence for discussion. The name had usually been connected with the Phoenician word *afar* meaning "dust", but a 1981 hypothesis^[13] has asserted that it stems from the Berber word *ifran* (plural *ifran*) meaning "cave", in reference to cave dwellers. The same word may be found in the name of the Banu Ifran from Algeria and Tripolitania, a Berber tribe originally from Yafran (also known as Ifrane) in northwestern Libya.

Under Roman rule, Carthage became the capital of the province it then named Africa Proconsularis, following its defeat of the Carthaginians in the Third Punic War in 146 BC, which also included the coastal part of modern Libya. The Latin suffix *-ica* can sometimes be used to de-

note a land (e.g., in Celtica from Celtae, as used by Julius Caesar). The later Muslim region of Ifriqiya, following its conquest of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire's Exarchatus Africae, also preserved a form of the name.

According to the Romans, Africa lay to the west of Egypt, while "Asia" was used to refer to Anatolia and lands to the east. A definite line was drawn between the two continents by the geographer Ptolemy (85-165 AD), indicating Alexandria along the Prime Meridian and making the isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea the boundary between Asia and Africa. As Europeans came to understand the real extent of the continent, the idea of "Africa" expanded with their knowledge.

Other etymological hypotheses have been postulated for the ancient name "Africa":

- The 1st-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (Ant. 1.15) asserted that it was named for Ephraim, grandson of Abraham according to Gen. 25:4, whose descendants, he claimed, had invaded Libya.
- Isidore of Seville in his 7th-century *Etymologiae* XIV.5.2, suggests "Africa comes from the Latin *africa*, meaning "sunny".

- Massey, in 1881, stated that Africa is derived from the Egyptian *af-ru-ka*, meaning "to turn toward the opening of the Ka." The Ka is the energetic double of every person and the

"opening of the Ka" refers to a womb or birthplace. Africa would be, for the Egyptians, "the birthplace."

- Michèle Fruyt in 1976 proposed linking the Latin word with *africus* "south wind", which would be of Umbrian origin and mean originally "rainy wind".

- Robert R. Stieglitz of Rutgers University in 1984 proposed: "The name Africa, derived from the Latin *Aphir-ica*, is cognate to Hebrew *Ophir*."

- Ibn Khallikan and some other historians claim that the name of Africa came from a Himyarite king called Afrikin ibn Kais ibn Saifi also called "Afrikus son of Abrahah" who subdued Ifriqiya.

History

Africa is considered by most paleoanthropologists to be the oldest inhabited territory on Earth, with the human species originating from the continent. During the mid-20th century, anthropologists discovered many fossils and evidence of human occupation perhaps as early as 7 million years ago (BP=before present). Fossil remains of several species of early apelike humans thought to have evolved into modern man, such as *Australopithecus afarensis* (radiometrically dated to approximately 3.9-3.0 million years BP,^[25] *Paranthropus boisei* (c. 2.3-1.4 million years BP) and *Homo ergaster* (c. 1.9 million-600,000 years BP) have been discovered.

After the evolution of *Homo sapiens sapiens* approximately 150,000 to 100,000 years BP in Africa, the continent was mainly populated by groups of hunter-gatherers.

These first modern humans left Africa and populated the rest of the globe during the Out of Africa II migration dated to approximately 50,000 years BP, exiting the continent either across Bab-el-Mandeb over the Red Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar in Morocco, or the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt.

Other migrations of modern humans within the African continent have been dated to that time, with evidence of early human settlement found in Southern Africa, Southeast Africa, North Africa, and the Sahara.

The size of the Sahara has historically been extremely variable, with its area rapidly fluctuating and at times disappearing depending on global climatic conditions. At the end of the Ice ages, estimated to have been around 10,500 BC, the Sahara had again become a green fertile valley, and its African populations returned from the interior and coastal highlands in Sub-Saharan Africa, with rock art paintings depicting a fertile Sahara and large populations discovered in Tassili n'Ajjer dating back perhaps 10 millennia. However, the warming and drying climate meant that by 5000 BC, the Sahara region was becoming increasingly dry and hostile. Around 3500 BC, due to a tilt in the earth's orbit, the Sahara experienced a period of rapid desertification. The population trekked out of the Sahara region towards the Nile Valley below the Second Cataract where they made permanent or semi-permanent settlements. A major climatic recession occurred, lessening the heavy and persistent rains in Central and Eastern Africa. Since this time, dry conditions have prevailed in Eastern Africa and, increasingly during the last 200 years, in Ethiopia.

The domestication of cattle in Africa preceded agriculture and seems to have existed alongside hunter-gatherer cultures. It is speculated that by 6000 BC, cattle were domesticated in North Africa. In the Sahara-Nile complex, people domesticated many animals, including the donkey and a small screw-horned goat which was common from Algeria to Nubia.

Around 4000 BC, the Saharan climate started to become drier at an exceedingly fast pace. This climate change caused lakes and rivers to shrink significantly and caused increasing desertification. This, in turn, decreased the amount of land conducive to settlements and helped to cause migrations of farming communities to the more tropical climate of West Africa.

By the first millennium BC, ironworking had been introduced in Northern Africa and quickly spread across the Sahara into the northern parts of sub-Saharan Africa, and by 500 BC, metalworking began to become commonplace in West Africa.

BUSINESS

INNOVATION

ICT experts say 4G LTE key to digital future for Africa



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa speaks at a past event. File photo.

PROMOTION

PM Majaliwa to open second fair featuring Geita minerals today

By Guardian Correspondent

THE second edition of Geita region's minerals exhibition is set for inauguration today by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.

Geita Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel said yesterday the exhibition will allow stakeholders to showcase the region's mining activities while equipment manufacturers will display their technology.

Engineer Gabriel said that the mining exhibition which will run for 10 days up to Saturday, September 29, will also involve big mining companies Geita Gold Mine, Vocational Education and Training Authority and banks, among many others.

"I would like to welcome the public, investors and financiers to come and see what Geita has to offer in terms of mining," Gabriel said. Geita which is one of the Lake Zone's gold belt, accounts for 35 percent of all gold produced in Tanzania.

"We want to be at the centre of gold and other mineral activities in the country hence our decision to stage these annual events," the RC noted. Tanzania is fourth largest gold producer in Africa after South Africa, Ghana and Mali.

Gold remain one of country's top foreign exchange earner accounting for more than 90 percent of minerals exports annually. The minerals exhibition will also include forum where stakeholders will discuss issue relating to the field and the prevailing environment.

Eng Gabriel said last week that his administration is also aggressively scouting for private investors to turn Geita into a single, multi-tier, mega special economic zone for the Lake Zone. "If an investor wants to build a manufacturing factory, the land will be given free on the understanding

that they will provide employment to our people as well as pay taxes," he said.

He added that the mineral rich Lake Zone region wants investments in manufacturing industries, agri-parks, fisheries, automobile and modern technologies. The RC further said that his region is already in touch with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) to support in the establishing of the SEZ.

"We have contacted the UNDP seeking their support because we want to see the SEZ in Geita becomes a pioneer, laboratory and leader in the revitalization and transformation of Lake Zone into an industrial hub creating jobs," he added.

Eng Gabriel said in a bid to kick-start infrastructure and other related services at the designated SEZ area, the region will use funds received from gold miners and other sources to finance such aspects which will attract private investors.

On his part, Geita Town Council Chairman, Leonard Bugomola said their ambitious goal will soon become a reality as ground clearing work has already started. "Already, there are some companies which have showed commitments to collectively invest in our SEZ project," Bugomola said.

"The area that we have allocated for SEZ projects is next to the main road from Mwanza to Geita and has everything that investors need. Therefore as a chairman of town council, I once again welcome investor to our region."

Geographically, Geita is close to the borders with Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda as well as DR Congo, which have vast resources including minerals in Kivu Region. Geita Region produces about 35 percent of the country's gold.

By Guardian Reporter

Information Communication Technology (ICT) experts have said 5G technology is now a reality in Africa as proliferation of 4G LTE network is quickly engulfing the continent.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during Southern Africa Development Community's ministerial ICT forum earlier this week, the experts said the 5G technology has already taken off in South Africa where mobile data network operator, Rain and Huawei jointly announced the commissioning of the continent's first commercial 5G network last week.

Rain has built the 5G network using its 3.6GHz spectrum, which adopts Huawei 5G end-to-end network products and terminals to take the lead in rapidly deploying 5G networks.

The fifth generation of mobile network (5G) is a key enabler of the digitalization of economies and societies, which is at the heart of African nations' ambitions to accelerate sustainable economic growth and to embrace the 4th industrial revolution.

Huawei Southern Africa Region's Director for Strategic Partnership and New Technology Dr Mouhamadou Moussa, said the big leap in wireless technology features broadband-like speed, low latency and high capacity will enable the development of new and innovative applications that are cross-cutting and impact on all sectors.

"Service innovation is the right way to unleash 5G capabilities. In Africa the service innovation must be solution focused, so that digital inclusivity could be turned into social-economic inclusivity to realize tech for all," said Dr Moussa.

4G and 5G coexist and complement each other. In the coming few years, 5G



Huawei Southern Africa Region's Director for Strategic Partnership and New Technology Dr Mouhamadou Moussa.

usage scenario will be more industrial communication specific. However, 4G LTE is still the primary choice for the world before 2025, as the basic layer of national networks, especially when it comes to the mobile broadband (MBB) access.

Currently, the MBB penetration rate in Africa is only 42.7 percent, while 4G penetration rate is merely 6.1 percent. Insufficient coverage

causes LTE users to fall back to the 2G or 3G networks, resulting in significant decline in user experience. It also leads to congestion on the 2G and 3G networks and makes it difficult to release spectrum used by 2G and 3G.

Dr Musa pointed out that the huge potential of 4G LTE in democratizing connectivity to empower people and businesses can be released only when it is affordable to

the common people.

"Right policies, necessary legal framework, coordination between stakeholders, alignment of decision making levels and streamlined approval process need to be put in place to ensure future-oriented spectrum planning and rapid deployment of ICT infrastructure. All of these will ultimately lower the cost of deployment and increase affordability of digital

services," he added.

Rare opportunity window for digital future

By 2025, only 15 percent of mobile connections in the world will be on 5G, however, LTE usage will be about 59 percent by the same year, up from 43 percent in 2018, according to a 2019 report by GSMA Intelligence. The report concludes, for operators in many parts of the world, LTE is and will be the foundation for the next 10 years at least with speeds improving, LTE makes 5G less compelling.

"LTE will have to evolve in line with 5G NR over a long period of time in terms of standards, industries, and ecosystems. For operators, every Rand spent on 4G is certainly a 5G Rand. This is in the sense that 5G will not supersede 4G, but build upon it. It is important for operators to modernize networks to fully tap 4G capabilities for the future smooth evolution into 5G by using of the existing 4G networks" said Dr Musa.

He further added that immediate actions need to be taken by both policy makers and business leaders in Sub Saharan Africa to seize the rare window of opportunity for promoting digital economy and socio-economic wellbeing by investing in 4G LTE. The urgency comes from the soaring smartphone penetration and booming social media and OTTs, which gives people enough incentive to go online.

"Business decisions must always be made at least one step ahead of the market maturity stage," the Huawei Director noted.

MOBILIZATION

Climate change protests bring out huge crowds worldwide

SYDNEY

Demonstrations take place across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas - and as far as the tiny Solomon Islands in the south Pacific

More than 300,000 people turned up on the streets of Australian cities on Friday in climate change rallies, the biggest protest seen in the country since the Iraq War. Organisers School Strike 4 Climate said in a statement 265,000 protesters turned out at demonstrations in seven Australian cities alone. The largest crowd was an estimated 100,000 in Melbourne and 80,000 in Sydney.

Protests in Melbourne and Sydney kicked off a day of global student strikes sweeping the world on Friday. People took to the streets in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Friday morning urging government action. Low-lying Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries at risk from rising sea levels.

In neighbouring India, schoolchildren marched outside government buildings while in Taiwan, students and teachers gathered in the capital, Taipei, to launch a petition called "Fridays for the future", echoing a call sparked by teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg.

Some held signs which read "it's getting hot in here" and "don't drop it like it's hot" - a reference to popular songs. Climate strikes spread as far as the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean, where schoolchildren rallied on the beach waving banners.

No protests were authorised in China, the world's biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions, but Zheng Xiaowen of the China Youth Climate Action Network said Chinese youth would take action one way or another.

"Chinese youth have their own methods," she said. "We also pay at-



People protest in front of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment in Bangkok, Thailand.

tention the climate and we are also thinking deeply, interacting, taking action, and so many people are very conscientious on this issue."

In Africa, strikes are currently taking place in Kenya's capital Nairobi, and across Ghana and Uganda. Europe is expected to follow, with schoolchildren descending in London, Paris, Madrid, Berlin and Turin.

The Italian city is one of the most polluted cities in

Europe despite the country's greenhouse gas emissions falling over the last ten years. Italy was criticised this year by the European Climate Foundation for failing to provide an adequate plan to further reduce emissions and dependency on fossil fuels, though activists say they are optimistic that the new left-leaning coalition could prioritise climate policy.

Extinction Rebellion activists who brought London to

a standstill over the summer with road closures will join the strikes in London and hold a planned concert near parliament. Later on Friday, 800 events are set to take place across the US.

The strike in New York will culminate with a speech given by Ms Thunberg, who has been nominated for a Nobel prize for her climate activism. The 16-year-old will spearhead a rally at home of the United Nations head-

quarters, ahead of the UN General Summit of leaders to discuss climate change.

She noted the "huge crowd" in Sydney in a tweet, which she said would set the standard as the strikes moved across Asia, Europe and Africa. The UN summit on Monday will bring together world leaders to discuss climate change mitigation strategies, such as transitioning to renewable energy sources from fossil fuels.

CENSURE

SportPesa asked to seek fresh licence after KRA truce

NAIROBI

Betting firm SportPesa will have to apply afresh for a licence, the regulator now says.

Acting Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB) director Peter Mbugi Thursday said they will scrutinise SportPesa's application once it's submitted and consider whether to give its nod for the firm to resume operations.

"We will scrutinise the firm's licence application and make a decision on this just like we have done for many others," said Mr Mbugi. He said the regulator had given the green light to several gaming firms and operators after due diligence on their applications.

SportPesa said recently it had reached a truce with taxman to resume operations once cleared by the BCLB. Together with its rival Betin Kenya, they were among 27 firms whose permits were not renewed awaiting the outcome of an inquiry on suitability to operate.

SportPesa chief executive Ronald Karauri did not, however, respond to Business Daily queries by the time of going to press. It was also not immediately clear whether the firm has lodged a fresh application after an earlier one was rejected following a tax compliance row with the KRA.

SportPesa had said earlier that it has since been cleared by the



Sportpesa CEO Ronald Karauri.

taxman, setting stage for its return to operations after an over two-month absence. KRA in June demanded Sh8.59 billion from Safaricom as withholding tax arrears due from SportPesa and Betin Kenya, in a crackdown of the Sh200 billion sector.

KRA was demanding that Safaricom pays Sh5.29 billion withholding tax arrears due from Gamcode Limited, trading as Betin, and a further Sh3.29 billion due from Pevans East Africa, which trades as SportPesa.

In an earlier interview, Mr Karauri said that "all pending issues had been settled" and a deal reached which should see the firm get back to business as soon as BCLB clears it. "We have held talks with KRA and they have allowed us to get back to business," said Mr Karauri then. Sports betting companies' combined revenue hit Sh204 billion last year.

According to SportPesa records, it paid Sh400 million last year as withholding tax on winnings. This was in addition to Sh3.6 billion betting tax, Sh1.12 billion corporate tax, Sh722.9 million withholding tax, Sh183.4 million withholding value-added tax and Sh269.6 million pay-as-you-earn for its 367 employees. This amounted to Sh6.29 billion in taxes up from Sh3.63 billion paid in 2017.

FORMALIZATION

Nigeria to give all of its 200m people identity numbers

LAGOS

Nigeria wants to issue identity numbers for as many as 50 million citizens per year in a bid to create a harmonised database of its population, the largest in Africa.

The West African nation with a population of roughly 200 million has a fragmented identity system, with at least 13 federal agencies and three state agencies offering ID services. Even then, only about 38% of Nigerians have any form of identity document.

That's where the National Identity Management Commission comes in, which has secured \$433 million from foreign donors including the World Bank and European Union to collect data nationwide and issue identity numbers.

It's aiming to launch a new digital system by the end of the month in collaboration with other government agencies and the private sector, Aliyu Aziz, the agency's director general, said in an interview in Abuja, the capital.

"We have a thousand data centers across Nigeria, it's not enough capacity to capture and provide identification for about 200 million Nigerians and non-Nigerians," Aziz said. "This is why we are partnering with private sector and government agencies."

While the number of Nigerians on the national database has risen to 37 million from 7 million in 2015, enrollment needs to accelerate because the government this year said it's planning to enforce a requirement that citizens have an identity number before they can be issued a passport, register as a voter, open a bank account or receive a pension.

If all goes as planned, the program should be completed within five years, Aziz said. Nigerians living in the US, India, Austria and Germany and other countries will be registered as well.

GROWTH

'Airlines' load factor grossed 84.8 percent in August'

By Guardian Reporter

Turkish Airlines said its passenger and cargo traffic for August recorded 84.8

percent load factor defying the global shrinkage of demand in the aviation sector.

Offering connections

to more countries than any other airline from a single hub, global carrier's international transfer

passenger numbers increased in record numbers with a 94 percent increase compared to the same month of the last year, the

Istanbul based airline said in a statement.

Continuing towards its goal of becoming one of the top five air cargo brands in

the world with its Turkish Cargo brand, the airline increased its cargo and mail volume by 11.5 percent compared to the same month of the last year.

The Turkish flag carrier maintained its two digit growth numbers at air cargo market in its new home as well. According to the August 2019 Traffic Results: International-to-international transfer passengers (transit passengers) increased by 9.4 percent compared to the same period of last year. International passengers excluding the international to international transit passengers showed a decrease of 0.4 percent during the period.

The report also said cargo/mail volume increased by 11.5 percent compared to the same period of 2018 with North America contributing 24.8 percent, Far East with 12.2 percent and Europe with 11.3 percent increase.

It also stated that domestic flights showed load factor growth of 0.6 points, while North America and Far East increased by 0.4 and 0.3 points respectively. Established in 1933 with a fleet of five aircraft, Star Alliance member Turkish Airlines has a fleet of 343 (passenger and cargo) aircraft flying to 315 worldwide destinations as 265 international and 50 domestic, in 126 countries.



A Turkish cargo plane offloads goods in Istanbul last week. Cargo freight remains one of the major source of traffic.



Nigeria President, Muhammadu Buhari.

OPTIMISM

Global household wealth drops for very first time since 2008 crisis - study

BERLIN

Household wealth excluding property in the world's 53 largest countries fell slightly last year, in a first since the financial crisis of 2008, German insurance giant Allianz said on Wednesday.

The value of ordinary people's bank deposits, pension savings and stock investments dropped 0.1% year-on-year in 2018, to around €172.5trn, Allianz said in its annual global wealth report. The study did not include the value of properties owned by households.

Emerging economies saw a sharper fall in financial assets than developed nations, with a 3.4% slump in China largely to blame. "It looks as though trade conflicts have put a sudden stop to poorer countries' progress in catching up," Allianz said.

Around the world, the

measure was influenced by falling prices for financial assets like shares, shaving three trillion euros off global wealth. But that headwind was almost balanced by an inflow of new cash to the tune of €2.7trn.

In Europe, wealth fell by €60bn, sapped by fears of a no-deal Brexit and a potential recession in Germany, Italy's political upsets, the "yellow vests" crisis in France and global trade tensions, Allianz said.

Meanwhile American households' wealth was swelled by tax cuts, allowing them to increase the amount they put aside by 46% year-on-year, or \$2.0trn. European households have defied low interest rates to continue socking money away in bank deposits. That poses a problem for the European Central Bank, whose low rates are aimed at incentivising people to spend rather than save.

DIVERSIFICATION

Saudi Arabia to open its doors to international tourists before end of year

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia will open its doors to international tourists before the end of this year. The head of the Saudi Tourism and Heritage Authority, Ahmad al-Khatib, made the announcement this week during a meeting of the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in Russia.

Saudi Arabia's membership in the executive coun-

cil of the Organisation for the Middle East region was approved earlier this year, and the kingdom has since provided \$17 million (Dh6.2 million) to fund cooperation with the UN-backed organisation, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

"Saudi Arabia is proud to be one of the first countries to work with the organisation in the preliminary studies for the Measuring Sustainable

Tourism (MST) project," Khatib said during his speech.

Traditionally, most visitors to Saudi Arabia have been Muslims visiting to perform the annual Haj pilgrimage, or those on business trips. The kingdom did not issue visas for the purpose of tourism alone. Such visas have, until now, only been issued on an intermittent basis, and only for select group tours. In the

past, it has been particularly difficult for young single women to visit the kingdom.

Earlier this year, Saudi Arabia played host to a number of concerts and festivals, for which it granted special tourism visas. Artists such as Janet Jackson, Liam Payne and 50 Cent all performed in Jeddah. The instant tourism e-visas were granted in as little as three minutes.

Trips from the UAE to its largest neighbour are set to soar once tourist visas are granted, as dozens of low-cost flight routes already exist with Flydubai, Emirates, Etihad and Saudia among others, with a flying time to the capital Riyadh of just two hours. Presently, much of the tourism between the two countries consists of Saudi tourists travelling to Dubai.

Tourist sites include the spectacular Nabatean city of Madein Saleh, the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, the historic Al Hejaz Railway station in Medina, Dir'ayah, the ancestral home of the Al Saud family and Mamsak Fortress, a Unesco World Heritage Site. At over two million square kilometres in area, Saudi Arabia is one of the world's biggest countries and by far the biggest in the Arabian Peninsula.

INDUSTRIOUS

How Privilee founder Lars Johannesen went from handing out flyers to high-flying CEO

DUBAI

Since Privilee launched four years ago, it's helped thousands of people across the UAE get a taste of the five-star lifestyle for a fraction of the cost. All because the man behind it was once part of the group of Dubai residents who spend far too much money on single-day passes at hotel beach resorts.

Danish national and entrepreneur Lars Johannesen moved to Dubai from Denmark in 2009, having visited the region frequently for several years. One of his favourite activities was spending weekends at resorts with his wife and friends.

"Back then, we would regularly try out different properties. I never thought about buying a resort membership and would simply pay the day-pass rates required, as we loved the flexibility and freedom of trying out vari-

ous places," he says. It was important for me to create something that my family could enjoy too. "Along with buying lunch, drinks by the pool, a massage and dinner, it would equate to a huge sum of money for a simple weekend in the sun.

"It was only when I spent a weekend with friends who had multiple discounts and free access to resorts that I realised there was a gap in the market to bring this benefit to residents in the wider region," he adds. "It was important for me to create something that my family could enjoy too, so we could spend endless weekends or even weekdays experiencing 'daycations' without having to spend a fortune and still being able to sleep in our own bed."

And so, Johannesen founded lifestyle brand Privilee in 2015. Today, the membership service offers access to 50 pools and beach clubs across the UAE, more than



Lars Johannesen is the founder of lifestyle app Privilee.

56 five-star gyms and discounts at hundreds of affiliated restaurants everywhere from Atlantis, The Palm to

the Address Montgomerie in Dubai, and Saadiyat Beach Club to the Park Hyatt in Abu Dhabi.

But fret not if you're in Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah or Ajman, there are hotels and gyms to access there, too.

Most recently, it expanded its reach to more than 1,000 free fitness classes, and includes sports such as tennis and squash, and outdoor activities including water sports and golf. Membership packages start at Dh529 per month if you sign up for a year, which includes two free guest cards for one-time use. Guest cards offer the same deals and discounts, and are valid for five working days. The most expensive option, a one-month membership, costs Dh1,199.

Privilee launched to little fanfare with just eight listed hotels and four members of staff. Rapid expansion meant the company went from taking to the streets to hand out flyers and brochures about its offers, to going fully digital later this month. It now employs 22 people and has thousands of active members. The company also proved dynamic - listening to customer suggestions and being quick to take on new offers - from discounts across spas to restaurants.

It's an impressive trajectory, but Johannesen isn't one to laud Privilee's success in public. Until now, he's remained very much behind the scenes; in fact, after four years at the helm of the company, this is his first media interview.

These days, hotels and resorts wanting to partner approach Privilee, and not the other way around. The key it seems is to keep evolving. By the end of this month, Privilee has pledged to go card-free, with everything

being available on an app. It's also taken on a new focus on fitness, introducing 1,000 classes into its repertoire this month. This includes access to independent and boutique gyms, not just the large chains and in-hotel facilities. Some standout offerings include Smart Fitness, TribeFit and FitRepublic in Dubai, and Let's Go Gym in Abu Dhabi. Personal training is also offered at many of Privilee's partners at a discounted rate. Think of it almost like an Entertainer and ClassPass membership in one.

"Interest in fitness and well-being has dramatically increased over the last couple of years in the region. We realised there was a demand for classes and independent gym access," Johannesen says. Families are also catered for. One membership also allows access for two to three kids, so it's a good option if you're a parent - you can safely head off to the Fairmont for a gym session and leave the children at the kid's club for free. The whole family can then spend the rest of the day at the pool or beach club, with a discounted meal to round it all off.

In the coming months, the app will add leisure and entertainment venues to its array of offerings. "Fitness classes are just the start," Johannesen says. "In future, we are going to be expanding our portfolio of resort partners and extending into other areas of the leisure market. I would love to see Privilee as the only membership you need."

OPTIMISM

RuPay developer eyes UAE's Dh 64.5bn Indian remittance market

DUBAI

National Payments Corporation of India, developer of the RuPay card brought to the UAE last month by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, plans to introduce its UPI digital payment system in the Emirates next year.

"I don't think there's any doubt in anyone's mind that the UAE is one of the most important corridors for India," said Praveena Rai, chief operating officer of NPCI, at a press conference in Dubai on Thursday. "India is the number one trade partner for UAE and if you look at it vice versa, UAE is the third-largest trade partner for India. The Indian Diaspora is a large, significant Diaspora here. We have large merchants of Indian origin. And we really believe there is significant interest in the market."

RuPay and UPI (Unified Payments Interface) are two of the flagship products from NPCI, an umbrella organisation for retail payments systems backed by the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association.

RuPay was started in 2011 as a home-grown card payment scheme meant to move India closer to a cashless society. RuPay cards are now being issued by more than 1,100 banks with a customer base of more than 600 million. It represents a 35 per cent share of India's card transactions market.

UPI is a mobile platform that can be used to instantly transfer funds between

bank accounts, make purchases and remit money. It was introduced in 2016 and is regulated by India's central bank.

Following Mr Modi's visit in late August, RuPay is being rolled out to 175,000 merchant locations across 21 businesses and close to 5,000 ATMs in the UAE. Lulu Group started accepting the card across its 74 outlets in the Emirates on August 25. Other merchant partners include NMC Health, Aster, Jashanmal, Landmark Group, Apparel Group, Al Maya Group, Emaar and DP World.

Bank of Baroda, Emirates NBD and First Abu Dhabi Bank will soon start issuing RuPay credit and debit cards in the UAE, but no date for these has been confirmed. Ananda Kumar, general manager at Bank of Baroda for the Middle East, told The National that the bank would start offering the card after the necessary regulatory approvals from the UAE Central Bank, but "definitely before the end of the year."

As part of its push to promote the card in the UAE, NPCI announced that RuPay card holders can get 40 per cent cash back of up to 4,000 Indian rupees (Dh206) per day at merchants in the UAE on the Discover network - about half of all UAE merchants, according to NPCI. The promotion is valid until March 31, 2020.

"The objective is to take the story out to RuPay international card users that their card is accepted in the UAE

and they can enjoy experiences that the UAE offers," said Ms Rai. "We want this to build up through the Dubai Shopping Festival" starting in December, she added.

Indian nationals account for about 30 per cent of the UAE's total expatriate population, according to the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi. More than 2 million Indian tourists visited Dubai alone last year, making India the emirate's top tourism source market. India is also the recipient of the biggest percentage of personal remittances coming from the UAE, accounting for 38.1 per cent of the Dh169.2 billion sent last year, according to the UAE Central Bank's 2018 annual report.

NPCI's new "UPI 2.0," started in August 2018, enables non-resident Indian bank account holders to send and receive money instantly from their smartphones without the need to enter bank account information or net banking credentials. NPCI plans to bring UPI to the UAE market next year, and Ms Rai said it would be a more affordable, faster and easier option than other remittance methods.

"UPI 1.0 was largely an India-driven story. As part of UPI 2.0, we've also launched remittances as part of that platform functionality," said Ms Rai. "We believe that for the UAE and India, that is going to be a big opportunity and providing a lot of user benefits and user convenience."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	23:30	FRIDAY 20 Sept	11:50	
MONDAY 16 Sept	The Base 00:30 CNN International	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 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo rpt: Utelezi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kimya Milele 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Series rpt: The Slingshot 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 Watoto Wetu 17:30 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi rpt 19:00 Kesho Leo 19:30 Aifa ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Bet 22:15 Ripoti maalum 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 CNN International	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Mr Tanzania rpt 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru -live 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadaya ya kislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International	09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 12:30 Culinary delight rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Grapes of wine 13:45 Series rpt: Sungkyunkwan Scandal 14:30 Local Pgm: The Monday Agenda Rpt 15:15 Biko 16:15 CNN International 17:00 Innovation rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Sports Gazette 19:30 Chetu ni chetu 20:00 Series: Grapes of wine 20:45 Series: Sungkyunkwan Scandal 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Dakika 45: 22:45 The Décor 23:15 Al Jazeera
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Wed 18 Sept	06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News	Wed 18 Sept 06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News	Sat 21 Sept 08:00 CNN International	



Arif Khan, NPCI chief digital officer, and Praveena Rai, NPCI chief operating officer, showing the RuPay international card during a press conference held in Dubai Thursday.

WORLD

Saudi Arabia shows attack site damage as Iran pledges tough defence

KHURAIS, Saudi Arabia

SAUDI Arabia yesterday took media to inspect oil facilities hit by attacks that Washington and Riyadh blame on Iran, showing melted pipes and burnt equipment, as Tehran vowed wide retaliation if tensions raised by the strikes boil over into hostilities.

The kingdom sees the Sept 14 strikes on its Khurais and Abqaiq facilities – the worst attack on Gulf oil infrastructure since Iraq's Saddam Hussein torched Kuwaiti oilfields in 1991 – as a test of global will to preserve international order.

Iran denies involvement in the attack, which initially halved oil output from Saudi Arabia, the world's largest petroleum exporter. Responsibility was claimed by Yemen's Houthi movement, an Iran-aligned group fighting a Saudi-led alliance in Yemen's four-year-old conflict.

At Khurais, Reuters reporters were

shown repair work under way, with cranes erected around two burnt-out stabilization columns, which form part of oil-gas separation units, and melted pipes.

"We are working 24/7," one executive of state oil giant Saudi Aramco said, adding that Aramco was confident full production at Khurais would resume by the end of September.

The attacks intensified a years-long struggle between Saudi Arabia and Iran, who are locked in a sometimes violent contest for influence in several flashpoints around the Middle East.

Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir said on Thursday the attacks were an "extension of the Iranian regime's hostile and outlawed behavior".

Iran has warned U.S. President Donald Trump against being dragged into a war in the Middle East and said it would meet any offensive action with a crushing response.



Tehran amplified that message yesterday as a senior Revolutionary Guards commander said Iran would respond from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean against any U.S. plots.

COALITION

"If the Americans think of any plots, the Iranian nation will respond from the Mediterranean, to the Red Sea and to the Indian Ocean," said General Yahya Rahim-Safavi, a senior adviser to Iran's supreme leader, state news agency IRNA reported.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had called the attacks an "act of war" but on Thursday he said Trump, who has ordered more sanctions on Iran, wants a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"We are here to build out a coalition aimed at achieving peace and a peaceful resolution. That's my mission, that's what President Trump certainly wants me to work to achieve and I hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran sees it that way," Pompeo said.

Iran's foreign minister on Friday questioned Pompeo's remarks and listed repeated Iranian diplomatic initiatives.

"Coalition for Peaceful Resolution?," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a statement on Twitter, and listed eight diplomatic initiatives by Iran since 1985, including a peace plan for Yemen in 2015.

Oil prices, which soared following the attack, steadied after Saudi Arabia pledged to restore full oil production by the end of September.

Kuwait said it had raised the security alert level at all of its ports, including the oil terminals, state-run media said, citing a decision by the trade and industry minister.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged all countries in the Gulf to sit down for talks to defuse tensions and said groundless accusations against Iran over the attacks were inflaming tensions, Interfax news agency reported.

The Yemeni Houthi movement on Friday accused the Saudi-led coalition of a dangerous escalation of the situation around Hodeidah, after coalition forces attacked targets north of the port city.

The actions threatened a U.N.-brokered ceasefire accord in the Red Sea port, Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdul-Salam said.

Agencies

Closed the gap: Russia no longer lags behind West in future technologies, says expert

NOVOSIBIRSK

RUSSIA has bridged the gap with technologically-advanced countries in key areas of future technologies, for example in quantum technology, Director of the Department for Innovation and Advanced Research at the Russian Ministry of Education and

Science, Vadim Medvedev, told an international forum reviewing technological development in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk on Thursday.

"I can tell you that in a number of key areas related to future technologies, our country is no longer lagging behind Western nations," he told the Technoprom-2019 fo-

rum, citing quantum technology as an example.

"This country has fundamental opportunities for that, and they are growing," Medvedev said. According to him, the ministry is currently discussing projects with Rosatom (State Nuclear Energy Corporation) to build supercomputers and some other trajecto-

ries that have not been disclosed at the moment.

Hosted in Novosibirsk, the Technoprom-2019 international forum is running from September 18 to 20. This year's symposium is concentrating on a new epoch in technology. The business program includes more than 90 events. Last year, the forum drew

nearly 8,000 people.

The Russian government, the administration of the Novosibirsk region, the office of the Russian president's envoy to the Siberian Federal District and the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences are among the organizers. TASS is its information partner.

Agencies

Tunisia's Ben Ali, whose ouster sparked the Arab Spring, dies

TUNIS

FORMER Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, an autocrat who led his small North African country for 23 years before being toppled by nationwide protests that unleashed revolt across the Arab world, died Thursday. He was 83.

Ben Ali, who had lived in Saudi Arabia since fleeing Tunisia in 2011, died in Jeddah, lawyer Mounir Ben Salha told The Associated Press. The former president was receiving treatment for prostate cancer and was hospitalized last week.

His body was being transferred to Mecca, where he is to be buried Friday in keeping with his last wishes, Ben Salha wrote on his Facebook page.

Ben Ali's ouster on Jan 14, 2011, amid Tunisia's relatively peaceful "Jasmine Revolution" inspired what became known as the Arab Spring, a movement that saw several autocratic leaders swept from power.

Ben Ali was widely detested and convicted repeatedly of corrup-

tion in Tunisia after he went into self-imposed exile. But some loyal supporters called for his return as economic and security troubles plagued the country's new democracy.

His death comes four days after Tunisia held a first round of presidential elections, the second democratic elections for head of state since Ben Ali's ouster.

While he was president, Ben Ali's picture was plastered for decades on billboards and buildings across the country, his face remaining strangely ageless despite the passage of time, his hair jet-black. It seemed that only death would end his grip on power.

But as revolt swept Tunisia in late 2010 and early 2011, fueled by anger over corruption, repression and unemployment, demonstrators set fire to the president's photograph, a once-unthinkable act. His image eventually peeled off buildings and billboards nationwide like old wallpaper.

Ben Ali promoted his country of 11 million as a beach haven for European tourists and a beacon of stability in volatile North Africa. It



seemed as though he had offered his people a trade-off: There was a lack of civil rights and little or no freedom of speech, but a better quality of life than in nearby countries such as Algeria and Morocco.

Tunisia's revolution changed all that, spawning a plethora of political movements and the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring movement across the region.

The United States and other Western powers had an ambivalent relationship with Ben Ali. WikiLeaks cables from the US Embassy in Tunis described widespread allegations of corruption among the president's family, described Tunisia as a "police state" and said Ben Ali had lost touch with his people.

On the Tunisian streets following news of his death, some local residents were in a forgiving mood.

"Today's (political) parties in Tunisia have come to terms with demons: With people who have sabotaged the state, with those who took money and loans and ruined the economy of Tunisia and destroyed it in recent years, even under Ben Ali, and come to terms with them," said Moncef Balghagi.

Balghagi suggested that Ben Ali's body should be brought back to Tunisia.

In the past, Ben Ali tried to curry favor with the West through an ongoing crackdown on extremists that human rights groups said was far too brutal and too broad, targeting as potential terrorists anyone with a strict interpretation of Islam.

Born Sept 3, 1936, near Sousse, a city of white- and sand-colored houses on the Mediterranean, Ben Ali embarked on a career as a professional army officer. He was responsible for Tunisia's internal security throughout a 1985 con-

frontation with neighboring Libya and a crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists.

He was briefly prime minister in 1987 before setting his sights on the presidency.

In a bloodless coup, Ben Ali seized power from then-president-for-life Habib Bourguiba, the founder of modern-day Tunisia who set the Muslim country on a pro-Western course after independence from France in 1956. Ben Ali removed Bourguiba from office for "incompetence," saying he had become too old, senile and sick to rule.

Ben Ali promised that his leadership would "open the horizons to a truly democratic and evolved political life." But after a brief period of reforms, Tunisia's political evolution stopped.

Most opposition parties were illegal. Opponents were jailed or fled into exile. Amnesty International said authorities infiltrated human rights groups and harassed dissenters. Reporters Without Borders branded Ben Ali a "press predator" who controlled the media.

Agencies

US gun reform legislation remains uncertain as bipartisan negotiations move slowly

WASHINGTON

DESPITE the increasing frequency of mass shootings which had shocked the country, gun reform legislation in the United States remains uncertain, as bipartisan negotiations are moving slowly in Washington.

Such a seemingly endless tug of war in Washington is taking a toll on the people of the country. On Thursday night, one person was killed and five others injured in a shooting in northern Washington D.C., according to police.

"We're not moving on anything," U.S. President Donald Trump told "Fox & Friends" early Thursday. "We're moving very slowly in one way because we want to make sure it's right."

The Republican blamed the slow progress on former congressman Beto O'Rourke, who said during last week's Democratic presidential primary debate in Houston, Texas that he would ensure mandatory buybacks for assault-style rifles, such as AR-15, if elected.

"Part of the problem that we have is because Beto O'Rourke's statement about taking away guns," Trump said. "All of the moderate Republicans and some Democrats are now afraid to do anything to go down that slippery slope."

O'Rourke has made gun legislation a key aspect of his presidential campaign since a mass shooting at a Walmart in his hometown of El Paso, Texas, left 22 dead in August.

"Here we are in 2019 and we still don't have universal background checks or 'red flag' laws or we allowed the assault weapons ban to expire, even though it did so much good and saved so many lives," O'Rourke told CNN on Wednesday.

While his proposal raises a number of legal and logistical questions, including some from Democrats, O'Rourke said that he's willing to fight.

"No one in this country, including owners of AR-15s and AK-47s, think that what is happening right now is OK," he said. The remarks came as the Trump administration is reportedly circulating a memo on Capitol Hill describing a possible proposal to expand background checks to all advertised commercial sales, including sales at gun shows.

If someone who attempts to buy a firearm fails a background check, it would be reported to law enforcement officials, according to the memo.

Attorney General William Barr, whose department had drafted the memo, told reporters on Wednesday that the proposal does not have support from the White House.

"I'm up here just kicking around some ideas, getting perspectives so I can be in a better position to advise the president," Barr said. "But the president has made no decision yet."

A spokesperson for the National Rifle Association, a gun rights advocacy group, on Wednesday called the proposal a "non-starter."

The House passed a bipartisan background checks bill earlier this year but the Senate, controlled by the Republicans, hasn't taken up the House bill.

Xinhua

Russia ready to sell its advanced weaponry to Saudi Arabia – Putin

ANKARA

RUSSIA is ready to aid the defense of Saudi Arabia if its leadership decides to purchase Russian weapons, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated.

"In order to protect 'our kind', our country, we are ready to provide the corresponding aid to Saudi Arabia, and the political leadership of Saudi Arabia just needs to make a wise state decision, as it was done by Iranian officials when they purchased S-300, and as it was done by President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan with the purchase of S-400 from Russia. They will reliably protect all infrastructure objects of Saudi Arabia," Putin stressed.

He also noted that during the Ankara Talks with Turkish and Iranian leaders, they did not discuss the attack on Saudi oil refineries.

The Russian leader reinstated Russia's position on the crisis in Yemen. "Firstly, there is a very serious humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen. We are ready to help people, and we call on anyone who is able to do that to follow our example," Putin noted.

"Secondly, we think that the best way to resolve this crisis is to reach agreements between all sides involved in the conflict," he continued.

The facilities of Saudi Aramco oil company in the east of Saudi Arabia were attacked by ten drones in the small hours on Saturday.

Yemeni Houthi rebels from the Ansar Allah movement claimed responsibility for the incident. In particular, the world's biggest oil refinery near the city of Abqaiq and a refinery near Khurais, where Saudi's second largest oil field is located, came under attack.

Agencies

Some questions unanswered as Tunisia heads toward 2nd round presidential election

TUNIS

SOME questions are left unanswered about the future of Tunisian politics, as the North Africa country heads toward the second round of presidential election, analysts said.

Independent presidential candidate Kais Saied topped the polls in the first round of Tunisia's presidential election, in which voters punished current leading political figures for failing to deliver their promises.

Saied, who won 18.4 percent of the votes, will compete with Nabil Karoui, leader of the Heart of Tunisia party, in

the second round of election that could be held in October.

But Karoui, a media mogul, has been in the prison waiting for a verdict on charges of tax evasion and money laundering. It remains unknown if he could be released or jailed before the next round of election is held.

Saied has used in some ways a popular weapon by which Tunisians punished the ruling class since 2011 to show the loss of confidence about them and seek a certain remedy to end corruption, Sabri Zghidi, a specialist in election and national policies, told Xinhua.

Zghidi believed that the first round

of Tunisia's presidential election was marked by the low voter turn-out, with only about 3 million out of more than 7 million voters casting their votes.

Tunisians have been increasingly looking for real solutions to their low purchase power, especially after the Enbhadha movement and the Nidaa Tounes party have not succeeded in meeting their needs and solving their difficulties, Zghidi said.

Saied, a law professor, who was born in 1958 in Beni Khair in Nabeul Province, is not affiliated with any political party.

Contrary to other candidates, Saied

didn't organize public meetings during his political campaign. He visited some 100 cities to make personal contacts with voters.

The independent candidate has advocated for a radical change of institutions, more decentralisation of power and the reform of the constitution.

Born in 1963 in Bizerte in northern Tunisia, Karoui is a well-known businessman, a media mogul and one of the main figures in Tunisian politics.

As part of a propaganda program launched three years ago, Karoui has managed to win the votes of tens of thousands of citizens through a charity

campaign on dealing with poverty and social disasters in rural and underprivileged areas, commented Zghidi.

Elderly people like Karoui, because he helps the poor people, so his imprisonment could motivate his supporters to vote to show solidarity with him and his family, Zghidi said.

But it is possible that a court verdict will be issued against Karoui, making Abdelfattah Mourou, who won the third place in the first round of election, the other candidate running against Saied.

Zghidi added that it is also possible that Karoui wins the second round but

will remain imprisoned.

"In this case, and if ever the position of president was vacant for a duration that exceeds 45 days, it would be possible to hold a new presidential election," said Zghidi. Karoui's win could lead to a serious conflict between the legislative and the judicial institutions.

"If Karoui wins in the second round, we would announce, certainly, his victory and we submit the decision of his victory to the Assembly of People's Representatives (Parliament)," said Mohamed Tlili Mansri, a member of the Independent High Authority for Elections.

Xinhua

China creates miracle in poverty reduction

By Ping Zi, Du Yifei

CHINA has made remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation in the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

To be specific, a farmer named Shi Quanyou from Shibadong village, Huayuan county of central China's Hunan Province has lifted his family out of poverty after running an agritainment farm; Hongfeng village, Huoshan county of eastern China's Anhui Province is now earning 30,000 yuan (\$4,200) per mu (667 square meters) of dendrobium after its people mastered the artificial cultivation technique of this herbal medicine.

Besides, 43 households of the Dong ethnic group in Malong village, Jianhe county of southwestern China's Guizhou Province, have been relocated from inhospitable areas for poverty relief, and are now embracing a better life.

All above are miniatures of China's poverty alleviation achievements.

Poverty was prevalent in rural China for a long time after the founding of the People's Republic of China. According to poverty criteria in China the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line was 97.5 percent at the end of 1978, or 770 million people.

Starting from the reform and opening-up in 1978, China adopted a series of medium-and long-term policies of poverty reduction, waging an unprecedented war against poverty in human history. As a result, the country saw a continuous growth of its rural residents' income and a sharp decrease of the impoverished population.

According to statistics released by the World Bank, over the past 40 years, the number of people in China living below the international poverty line has dropped by more than 850 million - this represents 70 percent of the total

world figure.

With the highest number of people moving out of poverty, China was the first developing country to realize the UN Millennium Development Goal for poverty reduction.

Especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in 2012, poverty alleviation has been put in a prominent place of state governance.

Over the last 6 years, China has lifted 82.39 million rural people, 80 percent of impoverished villages and over half of impoverished counties out of poverty, delivering the best performance ever in Chinese history of poverty reduction. The poverty rate of the country has dropped to 1.7 percent at the end of last year.

At present, China is fighting to eradicate absolute poverty. Implementing a basic strategy of taking targeted measures for poverty alleviation, a new round of poverty relief campaign will shift its focus from regions to individuals to make sure that the poverty issue is tackled from the root.

Working teams have been sent to villages for performing investigations, and 2.78 million stationing officials and 459,000 outstanding officials have been selected from all over the country and deployed to serve as first secretaries of the Party committees of poor villages.

Besides, the country is also fostering distinctive industries, advancing relocation, carrying out ecological restoration, strengthening education, improving social security, and taking targeted and differentiated measures to ensure that the impoverished receive assistance and measures are practically implemented.

In 2018, China offered huge assistance to impoverished regions and farmers in rearing animals, and also steadily promoted poverty alleviation



projects through developing photovoltaic industry and e-commerce, gradually improving and enriching its poverty reduction mechanism.

By means of employment transfer, the country created employment opportunities for 2.59 million people in 2018. It established more than 30,000 poverty alleviation workshops, helping 770,000 registered impoverished people get employed in areas close to their home.

China further improved the conditions of disadvantaged compulsory education schools in poverty-stricken areas, with enhanced efforts to control the dropout rate.

The program to provide medical treatment to impoverished people with serious diseases in rural areas was expanded to cover 21 kinds of diseases and over 10 million poor people have received treatment. China has further reduced the ratio of self-paid health care costs for poor patients, and improved medical treatment conditions in poor areas.

In addition, more than 500,000 people living under China's poverty line have been employed as government-paid forest rangers through ecological poverty-relief programs.

So far, China has basically finished building a poverty alleviation mechanism with Chinese characteristics, with responsibility, policy and assessment systems being the frame of the top-level design.

Thanks to the targeted measures, the country's impoverished regions are embracing historic and striding changes.

Farmers from impoverished regions saw their income grow at an annual speed of 12.1 percent in the past 6 years, higher than the national average. 99.5 percent of Chinese villages are now linked with hardened roads, and 96.5 percent have bus services. Besides, the improved access to drinking water and sanitation lavatories is also making the countryside more inhabitable. The per capita consumption in impoverished rural areas grew at an average annual

rate of 11.4 percent in the past 6 years. More and more impoverished people are shaking off poverty and embracing a new life.

Community health service is now available in 93.2 percent of natural villages in China, and 89.8 percent of rural households can find an elementary school nearby. Besides, 92 percent of impoverished households are developing industries with local features to get out of poverty.

What's more, China's poverty-reduction campaign has also ignited the passion of the impoverished people whose demand is not only to "be lifted out of poverty" but also to stay out of poverty. Such shift of mindset is building a powerful joint force to fight against poverty.

In the meantime, China's poverty alleviation results are benefitting other countries and their peoples. China, with an aim to build a community with a shared future for mankind, is actively responding to the UN Millennium Development Goal and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is conducting broad international collaboration on poverty reduction.

Over the past 70 years, China provided financial aid of over 400 billion yuan to nearly 170 countries and international organizations and carried out over 5,000 assistance projects overseas, having dispatched more than 600,000 personnel, trained over 12 million from other developing countries and assisted over 120 developing countries to realize the Millennium Development Goal.

China plans to eliminate absolute poverty by 2020. The plan is not only a key step for the country to realize the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, but also a significant and glorious cause in human history of poverty reduction. It is bound to further promote the global poverty alleviation. **People's Daily**

UNDP chief expects financing push at UN climate summit

UNTIED NATIONS

UNLESS the issue of financing for climate effort can be well addressed, countries' ability to follow their national climate strategies will be held back, a United Nations development chief told Xinhua in a recent interview.

In the run-up to the Climate Action Summit set for Monday in New York, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Achim Steiner expects climate investment to "get a lot of attention" and financing announcements to be made at the meeting convened by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"Whether you are in business, or you're a government, or you're a mayor in the city, or you are a consumer who wants to change your footprint in terms of carbon emissions, you first have to invest a little bit," Steiner said, stressing the importance of climate financing.

"If you look at the change in our energy systems, very significant amounts of investments are needed," he added.

The financing for action on climate change has to become a priority of the finance minister of all governments, as "macroeconomic perspective is fundamental to making government budgets more effective and deliver multiple benefits in the way they allocate their sectors," the UNDP chief said.

Steiner emphasized the need to leverage the mobilization and the



Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Achim Steiner

attraction of private sector investment, calling on governments "to create the incentives."

Wealthier countries must invest in poorer countries' capacity to help them leapfrog into a low-carbon economy, he said, noting international climate financing is a viable strategy for mobilizing the world's capital to invest in the transitions.

In this regard, he said, the Green Climate Fund, a financial mechanism under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is beginning but "not yet at a scale that is commensurate with both the needs and the promises."

Steiner told Xinhua that the UNDP and the UNFCCC on Wednesday jointly released a report concerning national climate actions in terms of the commitments made in Paris in 2015.

"The Heat is On" report showed 75 nations plan to enhance their

mitigation and/or adaption efforts, and 14 nations have no plans to revise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), while for 71 nations, it is unclear how or whether the NDCs will be revised.

It also showed developing countries are currently the front-runners in preparations to revise plans for combatting the climate crisis over the next decade.

Quite a number of countries will step up with the responsibility to lead the transition to a low-carbon economy, which the world embarked on with the Paris Agreement, according to the UN development chief.

He voiced hope that the countries that "are still thinking how to do this will get a lot of encouragement from what happens."

Meanwhile, China in many respects has been at the forefront of the green technology frontier, Steiner said. For instance, "in Chi-

na, more electric vehicles are sold today than in the entire rest of the world. So we can see that a significant number of commitments made in Paris are beginning to change our economy."

As "China can be a significant multiplier and accelerator of transition towards cleaner energy infrastructure, more efficient buildings" in the developing world, the UNDP is working closely with the Asian country, he said.

China has been developing renewable energy technologies and thus bringing prices down so that many other countries can afford to buy these technologies, he added.

Over the next 10 to 12 years, the UNDP will commit itself to helping 100 million more people gain access to renewable energy, restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, and help countries to conserve a further 500 million hectares of land.

On Thursday, the UNDP announced it will support 100 developing countries over the next 12 months in reviewing their national climate strategies.

In addition, the UN body is working as part of the NDC partnership, which supports many countries in a consortium, to significantly raise the funding available to countries to strengthen climate efforts.

The UNDP also announced the commitment as an organization to reducing its own carbon emissions by 25 percent in the next six years and by 50 percent by 2030.

China makes remarkable progress in deep-sea exploration

CHINESE research vessel Dayang Yihao (Ocean No.1) recently left Qingdao, Shandong Province, taking scientists on China's 56th ocean scientific expedition.

A number of advanced equipment, such as China's independently-developed unmanned submersible "Hailong III" and autonomous underwater vehicle "Qianlong III" are used in the expedition, driving high the public anticipation toward the research results.

Over the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country's strength in marine science and technology has been continuously improved. China is making a huge stride from "entering the deep sea" to "exploring and exploiting the deep-sea", and witnessing a historical process of strengthening polar expedition capability.

China started oceanographic research in early and mid-1950s, and thanks to its intensified efforts to enhance capability building of oceanic expeditions in the recent years, the country is now able to conduct expeditions in multiple waters for multiple resources with multiple vessels.

A series of advanced research vessels, including Xiang Yang Hong 01, Da Yang Hao, and Xuelong 2 have been unveiled by China.



Jiaolong, a manned deep-sea submersible developed by China, had dived to the world's deepest trench of 7,062 meters under the water.

The submersible family represented by Jiaolong, Hailong, and Qianlong are offering firm support for China's deep-sea exploration, creating new "depth" of Chinese expeditions.

Besides, China has achieved splendid results in polar expeditions. In 1984, the country established its first Antarctic expedition team and built its first Antarctic research station Changcheng in the following year. Since then, the Zhongshan Station, Kunlun Station, and Taishan Station were successively set up.

Last year, the country located and laid the foundation of its fifth Antarctic research station on Inexpressible Island in Terra Nova Bay in the Ross Sea,

thus bringing China's Antarctic research into an age of three-dimensional observation which features explorations via air-land-sea means.

In addition, the country has built the scientific research station, Huanghe Station (also called Yellow River Station), in the Arctic area, and has already achieved fruitful results in its research on sea ice.

"China is at the best period to enhance its maritime strength," said an executive of State Oceanic Administration of China's Ministry of Natural Resources, noting that the country will unswervingly implement an innovation-driven development strategy in maritime technological development.

Efforts will be made to help China overtake traditional maritime powers and become an emerging maritime power with Chinese characteristics, said the executive. **People's Daily**

Technology gives a hand to China's industrial poverty alleviation

TO cure diseases, finding the root causes is important, and this also applies to poverty alleviation.

Boosting local industries is one of China's major policies to realize targeted poverty alleviation, specifically to get the impoverished rural households out of poverty via distinctive and advantageous industries based on local resources.

However, problems in developing local industries with special characteristics are inevitable for impoverished regions, such as the lack of reliable resources, quality and competitiveness.

Fortunately, relying on the

modern technological system of agricultural industry and the National Agricultural Science and Technology Innovation Alliance, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has mobilized the country's agricultural research resources to target the technological bottlenecks in developing local industries with special characteristics and improve the effectiveness of poverty alleviation.

Meigu is a county of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture located in the hinterland of the Daliang Mountains, southwest China's Sichuan Province. Thanks to the assistance offered by the country's national

buckwheat industry technology system, Tartary buckwheat has become a pillar industry for the county to shake off poverty.

Three breeding systems have been established there at prefecture, county and township levels, significantly improving the coverage rate of improved varieties and putting an end to the previous extensive planting in which the seeds were sown by scattering, crops were never fertilized, and pesticides were blindly applied.

As a result, the unit yield of spring buckwheat in the county grew from 100 kilograms to 150 kilograms per mu (667 square meters).

According to incomplete statistics, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has deployed 120,000 scientific and education personnel, as well as 540,000 agricultural technicians to impoverished regions, establishing over 4,100 teams of experts to provide technical support for poverty alleviation through industrial development in 832 impoverished counties.

These teams have practically improved the quality and economic effectiveness of agricultural products made in impoverished regions, the endogenous power of the impoverished households, and their capability to achieve indepen-

dent development.

Li Bingwu is the head of an agricultural service station in Manshuihe township, Anhui province's Huoshan county, a county that has a long history of pig breeding. Many of the impoverished households used to think of breeding pigs for making more money, but they hesitated to put it into action due to their lack of related knowledge.

As a grass-root technician, Li is offering assistance to local farmers now through pairing programs together with his colleagues, teaching knowledge of breeding to the impoverished households. "Li visits me

a dozen times a year, helping me with our pigpen renovation, sow reserve selection, and pig disease prevention and treatment," said farmer Zhou Peichuan from Manshuihe township, adding that it will not take long to get himself out of poverty and live a wealthy life.

Effective technical guidance is indispensable for the sustainable development of agriculture in impoverished regions.

From 2016 to 2018, China has invested a total of 1.64 billion yuan (US\$230 million) to build an agricultural technical guidance system for impoverished counties, and now such technological service is available in all

impoverished Chinese counties.

Thanks to the caring guidance and meticulous services offered by agricultural technicians, the industrial development and poverty alleviation in impoverished regions have achieved fruitful results in recent years.

Training the independent development capability of the farmers is the ultimate solution to tackle the issue of poverty.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has stepped up efforts to enhance education and training for farmers in impoverished regions.

People's Daily



This Sept. 10, 2019 photo shows actress Folake Olowofoyeku posing for a portrait to promote her new CBS comedy series "Bob Hearts Abishola," in New York. (Photo: AP)

Folake Olowofoyeku hearts life in the television comedy lane

NEW YORK

A FUNNY thing happened to Folake Olowofoyeku on the way to a career in law: She became a theater major against her parents' wishes and headed straight into the business after earning her undergraduate degree.

Her Nigerian parents were so hell-bent on launching her into the family profession of law that they named her after the first female Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a title conferred on legal practitioners who have distinguished themselves.

A similar scenario is present for Olowofoyeku in "Bob Hearts Abishola," her CBS comedy series that premieres Monday.

Olowofoyeku plays Abishola, who's determined that her young son, Dele, makes it into Harvard and becomes a doctor. Like her own parents, Olowofoyeku said in a recent interview, Abishola "has a specific dream for her child born out of love and protection."

Set in Detroit, the show is a first of sorts for American television: Olowofoyeku, a Nigerian immigrant woman of the Yoruba tribe, plays a Nigerian immigrant woman of the Yoruba tribe.

"Abishola is parts my mom, parts my aunts, parts women I grew up with in Nigeria," the 35-year-old told The Associated Press. "My teachers, people I was surrounded with, I'm pulling from all of them to create her."

Extended family plays out on the show. Abishola and Dele live in a small apartment with an aunt and uncle. Bob, a white American compression socks salesman played by Billy Gardell, is in business with relatives.

He lands in her life as a patient after suffering a heart attack. He's smitten and pursues the deadpan, hard-working cardiac nurse after his release as both manage their stressful, quirky families.

Olowofoyeku grew up on affluent Victoria Island in Lagos, with frequent London summer vacations. She arrived in New York on her 18th birthday, first pursuing modeling and then attending City College of New York. While there, she acquired a love of basketball and played for the CCNY Beavers.

"It was glorious," she said of those years in the city. "I wanted to find the school farthest away from my sister on Long Island, which was Harlem. I wanted to move out on my own."

After she entered the acting business, there was curiosity about how her name would play out professionally. Her agent at the time "very nicely" asked if she'd consider changing it. Olowofoyeku declined.

"She didn't push, and I had considered it, but there's so much value placed on our names in the Yoruba tribe in Nigeria. It never seemed like the right thing to do. I did, however, get

pressure to close my gap, but then I also got a lot of work because of my gap and now the gaps are in," Olowofoyeku smiled, showing off the space between her top front teeth.

Olowofoyeku has worked steadily. In addition to short films, she was in "Female Fight Squad" and "Hellbenders" on the big screen, among others. She's not new to TV, appearing on "Transparent" and "Modern Family." She scored a spot in David Bowie's music video for "The Next Day." She's done voice work, video game work and continues to pursue music.

Her first love was music. She taught herself electric guitar, plays a bit of piano and became a sound engineer. She still loves singing, but acting drew her in. While working in theater, she found her way into a lot of comedic roles, "but I would never have thought I would have ended up in a sitcom," she said. Comedy isn't "something I specifically pursued, but I'm grateful for it."

The sitcom king, Chuck Lorre, created and co-executive produces the show. His advice: "Be as authentic as possible and there you'll find the humor," she said.

Olowofoyeku attributes much of that authenticity, in terms of the "Nigerian aspect of things," to Gina Yashere, a British Nigerian comic who's one of the writers – another rarity for American TV.

"I think it's invaluable. I'm not quite sure how those intricacies would have been revealed without her. She thinks about things that would never even occur to me," Olowofoyeku said.

She also gives props to Gardell, a comedian who co-starred in another Lorre sitcom, "Mike & Molly."

"I just follow his lead," Olowofoyeku said.

The youngest of 18 to 20 children – "maybe more" – born to her father and his multiple wives, Olowofoyeku has lost both of her parents so will never know their reactions to "Bob Hearts Abishola," which uses the heart emoji rather than the word in its title.

Her father was about 60 when she was born, and her mother died about 10 years ago.

"He was a great guy," she said. "He took a boat to England to study law at the London School of Economics."

Her mother was a "dynamic woman, so strong, super beautiful," she said. It's only in recent years that Olowofoyeku has grown to accept "being pushed away from my passions, being discouraged from my passions."

Though co-leading a comedy cast, Olowofoyeku is almost impeccably earnest. It was "just work" when she shot the "Bob Hearts Abishola" pilot, but the second script sealed the deal.

"I read that episode and I laughed so hard," she said. "And I'm not easy to laughter."

Tigo Tanzania, SportPesa to reward TigoPesa customers

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

TELECOMS firm, Tigo Tanzania, has partnered with SportPesa to launch a customer promotion that will see Tigo customers stand a chance to win different prizes when placing a bet after depositing through Tigo Pesa.

Through the promotion, dubbed 'FAIDIKA NA JERO', customers will be winning smartphones daily while in the final draw one lucky customer will walk away with a brand-new Renault Kwid by placing a bet costing as little as 500/-.

Speaking during the launch, SportPesa Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, said SportPesa will be announcing the winners and publish their names in all media platforms.

Winners need to be assured that there will be no extra charges or fees when collecting any of the prizes.

"I call upon all Tigo customers to use this opportunity to start betting with as little as 500/- to stand a chance to win either a new smartphone or a new car as the grand prize," Abbas said.

Every day one customer stands a chance to win the latest smartphone for 40 days through the FAIDIKA NA JERO promotion. In addition, one lucky winner will walk away with a brand-new car Renault Kwid.



Tigo Tanzania Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael (L), SportPesa's Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas (C), and SportPesa Public Relations Officer, Sabrina Msuya, feature in the launch of a promotion, known as 'Faidika na Jero', in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Through the promotion, Tigo customers will stand chance to win a variety of prizes which include smartphones and new car, Renault Kwid, after placing their bets through SportPesa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

All a customer needs to do is to top-up his or her SportPesa wallet through TigoPesa and bet with SportPesa by dialing *150*87#. Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, said that, this is another opportunity for Tigo to reward loyal TigoPesa users through the promotion.

"Over the years, Tigo have been introducing innovative services and products that aims to respond to customers' needs while at the same time empower them socially and economically," she said.

"We are aware of the love for sports and betting which has become a lifestyle for most of our

customers. We are excited to launch this promotion in partnership with SportPesa," she disclosed.

"We encourage our Tigo Pesa customers to participate in the 'FAIDIKA NA JERO' promotion as many times as they can to increase their chances of winning," Woinde added.



This combination photo shows Jamie Spears, father of singer Britney Spears, leaving the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles on Oct. 24, 2012, left, and singer Britney Spears at the Los Angeles premiere of "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" on July 22, 2019. (AP Photo)



No Britney Spears, no decisions made at closed court hearing

LOS ANGELES

A HEARING Wednesday on the future of the court conservatorship that for 11 years has controlled the money and affairs of Britney Spears ended with no decisions made and no appearance from the pop star.

The hearing was cleared of the public and media. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda J. Penny issued no rulings during or after the proceedings, and Spears was not listed among those in attendance.

The hearing opened with a courtroom full of media members and a few Spears fans, but all were required to leave when Penny agreed with attorneys who requested that the hearing and its transcripts should be sealed because of what would be revealed about Spears' medical, mental and financial issues, along with details about her two young sons.

In May, the 37-year-old Spears made a rare appearance in the same courtroom for another closed conservatorship hearing. She had asked to speak to the court and was brought in through a back door once the courtroom was cleared.

Her request raised the possibility that she could be seeking changes in the arrangement

that she has largely quietly accepted for years.

Penny asked for an analyst to review Spears' situation after that hearing, and had been expected to get at least some of the results Wednesday. It's not clear whether she did, but in court documents she said the status hearing would resume in January.

Spears' father, Jamie Spears, and mother, Lynne Spears, were both in court, along with a half-dozen attorneys with various roles in the conservatorship.

Jamie Spears temporarily stepped down in his role as conservator over his daughter's personal affairs earlier this month, citing poor health, but he maintained his financial control over her.

Prosecutors in neighboring Ventura County announced Tuesday that they would not be filing criminal charges against the 67-year-old Jamie Spears after deputies investigated an allegation of child abuse. The district attorney's office would not say who the child in the report was or give any other details on the investigation. Jamie Spears' attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

Jodi Montgomery, who has long helped manage Britney Spears' personal affairs, is

now playing the role her father relinquished, and was also in court Wednesday.

Lynne Spears has not been involved in the conservatorship but has recently asked for greater access to information from its proceedings and filings.

Jamie Spears has several grandchildren, including Britney Spears' two sons, who are 14 and 13.

Her ex-husband Kevin Federline has custody of the boys, but she has frequent visits with them.

Conservatorship, known in many states as guardianship, is an involuntary status usually reserved for very elderly or very ill people who are suffering from dementia or otherwise incapacitated and unable to make decisions for themselves.

The court put Britney Spears under the status in 2008 when she was having serious personal and psychiatric struggles, many of which played out in public.

Dozens of the pop star's fans who oppose the conservatorship and insist she's being controlled against her will protested outside the courthouse Wednesday, as they usually do outside such hearings, with signs that read "Free Britney."

AP

Sheffield Utd owner: I'd do business with Bin Ladens

LONDON

THE Saudi prince who has taken full control of Premier League club Sheffield United says he would be happy to do business with the family of Osama bin Laden, insisting it "is not a disgraced name or something that I should hide."

Prince Abdullah bin Mosaad won a London court battle with co-owner Kevin McCabe this week over ownership of the northern English team after their business partnership broke down. A judge has ordered McCabe to sell his 50% share of the club to the prince for £5 million (\$6 million).

The prince discussed his plans for the future at a news conference on Thursday and spoke about links with a member of the Bin Laden family who was interested in investing in Sheffield United.

"Every family may have one bad person but they are a very respectable family," the prince said at Bramall Lane, the club's home ground. "I have not done business with them in the past but I will be very happy to do business with them. The Bin Laden family is not a

disgraced name or something that I should hide."

"When I see the Bin Laden family as a dirty name," he added, "I get really offended."

As leader of terrorist organization al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden oversaw attacks that included the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as the bombing of the USS Cole off Yemen. He and others plotted and executed the 2001 attacks against the United States that led to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan.

U.S. Navy SEALs killed him in a raid on a house in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011.

The Saudi Binladin Group is a major construction company in Saudi Arabia founded by Osama bin Laden's father, Mohammed. It secured a near-monopoly on mega-expansion projects in Islam's two holiest sites, Mecca and Medina, throughout the reigns of successive Saudi monarchs, but recently fell on hard times after being implicated in a crane collapse at Mecca that killed over 100 people during hajj in 2015.

(Agencies)

Eto'o: I want to be first coach of colour to win Champions League

LONDON

SAMUEL Eto'o has said he wants to become the first coach of colour to win the Champions League and vowed to emulate the style of former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola.

The former striker, who retired from playing this month, twice won Europe's elite competition with Barca - under Frank Rijkaard and then Guardiola - before lifting it again with Inter in 2010.

The 38-year-old has now set his sights on winning the tournament as a coach, using the same possession and attacking style of football adopted by Guardiola at Camp Nou.

Eto'o also hopes such a triumph would blaze a trail for non-white coaches, the ex-Cameroon star having become wearied by recent incidents of racism in the sport.

"I want to be the first coach of colour to win the Champions League, by playing with a team like Guardiola does," he told Cadena SER.

Eto'o was speaking in the wake of the alleged racist abuse of Inter striker Romelu Lukaku by Cagliari fans during a Serie A match in Sardinia. Cagliari avoided punishment from the Italian Football Federation (FIGC).

On Monday, television pundit Luciano Passirani was sacked for making a comment about Lukaku that, although apparently meant as a compliment, was considered by many observers to be racist.

"These have been very sad moments and the worst thing is it keeps repeating itself," Eto'o said. "I ask on my knees for you to help us so that football in the stands is cleaner, with more education. Yellow, black, orange... in the end, we're all the same, and our children should know that. They shout at you like a monkey and then ask you for a photo. They have a photo with a monkey."

Eto'o scored in Barca's Champions League final win over Arsenal in 2006 and then broke the deadlock when the Catalans beat Manchester United 2-0 in Rome three years later.

He celebrated the opening goal by slapping his exposed forearm, something he says was fuelled by the fact that "nobody talked about me" prior to the match.

"It meant, 'I am black and that is why they don't talk about me,'" he said when asked to explain the celebration.

"I was the only one from the two teams to have scored in a Champions League final [apart from Cristiano Ronaldo in 2008] and nobody talked about me. They talked about Cristiano, about my boy [Lionel] Messi, who had not yet arrived... but the one who had scored in a final before was me. And I scored again."

Most recently at Qatar SC, Eto'o has called time on his playing career but is already plotting a return to Barca, saying: "I'm sure I'll come back. How? I don't know, but I'll come back!"

Barca don't need to sign Neymar if Fati keeps starring - Rivaldo

LONDON

RIVALDO has suggested that Barcelona won't need to go back in for Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar if Ansu Fati continues to make waves at Camp Nou.

Barca tried to bring the 27-year-old back to the club over the summer transfer window, although they were ultimately unable to agree a deal with the Ligue 1 champions.

Injuries to Lionel Messi and Ousmane Dembele opened the door to 16-year-old Fati to get a chance in the first team - an opportunity he's grabbed with both hands.

In a hugely impressive start to life at Camp Nou, Fati has already scored twice in the first three La Liga appearances of his career but Rivaldo has urged supporters not to expect too much, too soon.

He told Betfair: "As I've said before, the start of the season is a great time to try out new players. The lack of decisive matches allows some error margin for the youngsters, and [Ernesto] Valverde is doing it very well in Barcelona. He has already been rewarded with Ansu Fati showing huge talent on his first appearances."

"The 16-year-old is already showing he has the personality to play

big matches and made his Champions League debut this week in the 0-0 draw with Dortmund - a match in which Barcelona didn't play well.

"If Barcelona had been playing well perhaps the youngster would have shone even more, but that wasn't the case this time.

"I understand fans' enthusiasm about the young Ansu Fati but it is far too early to start comparing him to Lionel Messi and wondering if he may be his future replacement.

"No one doubts Fati's big talent, but it's premature to put so much responsibility on his shoulders when he is still a kid. Let's give him time and space to play his normal football, and the future will tell if he is about to become the 'new Messi' or not.

"There are other rumours mentioning that Fati's breakthrough will lead Barcelona to give up on signing Neymar. Honestly, I think it would depend on teams' results until the next transfer window.

"If Barcelona manage to play well, with Fati being an important part of the success, they have no reasons to sign a new player. But if things are not going so well it can be different, and in that case Neymar could become a target again."

(Agencies)

Wins for Arsenal, Man United as Europa League kicks off

STOCKHOLM

ARSENAL teenager Bukayo Saka scored his first goal for the club as they beat 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt 3-0, while Manchester United's 17-year-old Mason Greenwood secured a 1-0 win over FC Astana as the Europa League group stage began on Thursday.

Joe Willock put Arsenal ahead in the first half with a deflected shot that flew in off the underside of the crossbar, but Frankfurt battled gamely until midfielder Dominik Kohr was sent off for picking up two yellow cards in the second half.

Londoner Saka, 18, added a second with a superb curling shot in the 85th minute and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang slotted home a third to secure all three points for the Premier League side in the Group F clash in Germany.

It was Frankfurt's first loss in Europe in 16 games stretching back to 2006, and the win put Arsenal top of the group ahead of Standard Liege, who beat Vitoria Guimaraes of Portugal 2-0 at home.

Despite plenty of chances, Manchester United struggled to break down Kazakh side Astana until Greenwood got his first goal for the Old Trafford club in the 72nd minute of the Group L tie.

Partizan Belgrade, hit with a two-match stadium ban by UEFA because of racist actions by supporters, were allowed to fill the stands with over 20,000 children as they took on Dutch side AZ Alkmaar in the other Group L game.



Arsenal's Bukayo Saka scores their second goal against Eintracht Frankfurt during their Europa League - Group F match at Commerzbank-Arena in Frankfurt, Germany on Thursday. (Agencies)

The youngsters saw Israeli midfielder Bebras Natcho score twice, including a penalty, in an entertaining 2-2 draw.

Wolfsberg FC of Austria pulled off a shock by hammering Borussia Munchengladbach 4-0 away in front of a tiny band of travelling fans on their debut in the group stage.

Roma also had a bright start in Group J with a 4-0 win over Basaksehir, while in Group D PSV Eindhoven edged Sporting 2-1 and Norwegians Rosenborg lost 1-0 at Austrians LASK.

SEVEN-GOAL THRILLER Apol Nicosia came back from two down to lead 3-2 against Dudelange of Luxembourg, but goals by Dominik Stolz and Danel Sinani gave the visitors a 4-3 win in Group A. Qarabag

slumped to a 3-0 home defeat by Sevilla in the group's other game.

Bulgarian side Ludogorets enjoyed a surprisingly easy win with the 5-1 thrashing of visitors CSKA Moscow in Group H. It was an emotional night in Glasgow as Rangers faced Feyenoord after the death on Wednesday of their former player Dutchman Fernando Ricksen at the age of 43.

Ricksen, who died from motor neuron disease, signed for Rangers from AZ Alkmaar in 2000 and went on to become a revered figure at the club, winning two league titles and two Scottish Cup trophies during a six-year spell at the club.

Fans unfurled banners celebrating Ricksen before Sheyi Ojo scored the only goal of the game in the first

half to give Rangers a 1-0 win in their Group G clash.

English Premier League side Wolverhampton Wanderers, making their first appearance in Europe since a 1980-81 UEFA Cup campaign, lost 1-0 at home to Braga in Group K, while Slovan Bratislava beat Besiktas 4-2 in the group's other game.

Dynamo Kiev and FC Copenhagen got 1-0 home wins over Malmo and Lugano respectively in Group B, while in Group E Cluj of Romania beat Lazio 2-1 and Rennes drew 1-1 with Celtic.

Winger Kevin Bua scored twice for Swiss side FC Basel as they got off to the perfect start in Group C by hammering visiting Krasnodar 5-0, while Getafe beat Trabzonspor 1-0.

Liverpool threaten another lesson for Chelsea as top-six contenders face off

LONDON

THE Premier League's elite have little time to lick their wounds from a series of blows in European competition as domestic action offers an immediate chance of redemption for Liverpool, Chelsea and Tottenham.

Manchester City were the only English side to win their Champions League opener in midweek, but have problems of their own with an injury-ravaged defence exposed in a shocking 3-2 defeat to Norwich last weekend, leaving the champions five points adrift of leaders Liverpool.

Pep Guardiola's men will be confident of cutting that gap as they host bottom-of-the-table Watford 24 hours before Liverpool travel to Chelsea on Sunday.

Liverpool a step too far for Lampard's Chelsea?

Both sides were beaten in their Champions League openers on Tuesday, but while Liverpool conceding twice late on to lose 2-0 in Napoli seems like a blip, Chelsea may have a long season of harsh lessons ahead with a young squad and equally inexperienced manager.

Frank Lampard has won just two of his first seven games in charge of the Blues and while his determination to give a number of youth academy graduates their chance has been embraced by fans, there are obvious flaws in this Chelsea side.

A limited Valencia left Stamford Bridge 1-0 victors this week having had just one shot on target.

In the Premier League, only Norwich have conceded more than Chelsea over the first five games and Liverpool look ideally placed to pick off Lampard's open approach on the counter-attack.

A rare defeat in Italy was only the second time Jurgen Klopp's men have lost since January in all competitions and they are on a club record run of 14 straight Premier League wins.

"They're playing so well at the minute. They're the best team in the country on form," said Lampard. "It's a great test for us and we need to be ready for it."

Are Leicester, West Ham for real? The early-season form of Chelsea, Tottenham, Manchester United and Arsenal has given hope to the rest of the league that breaking the glass ceiling of the top six is a realistic goal.



Jurgen Klopp

Frank Lampard

Leicester and West Ham are tied with those four on eight points from their first five games and have the chance to prove their top-six credentials at home this weekend.

Tottenham travel to Leicester after blowing a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 away to Olympiakos on Wednesday and have a quick turnaround before facing the Foxes on Saturday lunchtime.

United beat Leicester last weekend for just their second win in 10 league matches. But the Red Devils have not won away since their thrilling Champions League triumph at Paris Saint-Germain in March and travel to a West Ham side unbeaten in their past four league games.

Emery needs signs of progress

Arsenal emerged from the summer transfer window with renewed hope and expectation of ending a three-year exile from the Champions League.

Despite significant backing, manager Unai Emery has been unable to find the right balance between defence and attack.

The Gunners let a 2-0 half-time lead slip away at Watford last weekend and were left hanging on for a 2-2 draw as the Hornets had 31 shots on goal - the most Arsenal have ever faced in the Premier League.

A break clause in Emery's contract means he can be let go at the end of the campaign and, into his second season, the Spaniard needs to start

showing signs of progress quickly.

Aston Villa's visit to the Emirates offers the perfect chance for a reassuring three points, but Emery can ill afford another slip-up.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today Leicester v Tottenham (1130), Burnley v Norwich, Everton v Sheffield United, Manchester City v Watford (all 1400), Newcastle v Brighton (1630)

Tomorrow Crystal Palace v Wolves, West Ham v Manchester United, (both 1300), Arsenal v Aston Villa, Chelsea v Liverpool (both 1530)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Buoyant Kagera Sugar target Mbao FC scalp



Kagera Sugar keepers (L-R) Ramadhan Chalamanda, Said Kipao and Benedicto Tinoco, feature in the team's training session in Kagera recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAGERA SUGAR

games.

Mbao FC settled for a 1-1 draw with Alliance FC in the Mwanza derby before coming up against Biashara United, a game that ended with Mbao FC edging Biashara 1-0.

In head-to-head stats, Kagera Sugar and Mbao FC have met in six league matches since the start of the 2016/17 season.

Each team has claimed two wins, while two games have ended in draw.

Each side has recorded one win, one draw and one loss from their three home matches in the rivalry.

Kagera Sugar have beefed up their side by signing such experienced players like Nassor Kapama, Frank Ikobela and Benedicto Tinoco, in an effort to turn into strong contenders for the top honour this season.

Kapama was one of dependable goal getters for JKT Tanzania in the previous season, midfielder Ikobela had a successful spell at Mbeya City FC and Tinoco was Mtibwa Sugar's first choice keeper.

Kagera Sugar experienced a rather difficult spell in the last year's league, given they had to take part in the play offs to maintain their place in this season's top flight.

Mbao FC's line-up in their 1-0 win over Biashara United on September 14: Bruno Mrema, Emmanuel Charles, Mussa Mussa, Said Khamis, Kauswa Manumbu, Datus Alexis, Sylvester Chitembe, Chilo Nsohela, Jordan John, Haji Mussa.

Kagera Sugar's line-up in their 2-1 victory over Alliance FC: Said Kipao, Mwaita Gereza, David Luhende, Erick Kyaruzi, Hassan Isihaka, Frank Ikobela, Zawadi Mauya, Abdallah Seseme, Geoffrey Mwashuyu, Aweso Aweso and Nassoro Kapama.

SPORT

PSG, Man City shine in Champions League; big names struggle

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TONIGHT @ 21:00

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
13:00 FUNGUKA
14:00 UJENZI
14:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SELEKT
17:30 KURASA
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV 3AA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Bongo Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KAGERA Sugar will be looking to continue their great form in the Vodacom Premier League when they visit Mbao FC at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza today.

Kagera Sugar have taken maximum points from their first two matches despite playing away, with their latest league result a 2-1 win away to another Mwanza based side, Alliance FC on Saturday.

Yusuph Mhilu, who has already netted twice in the league in this campaign, and Everigestus Mujwahuki scored for Kagera Sugar, popularly known as Wanankurukumbi, against

Alliance FC.

However, Kagera Sugar head coach Mecky Mexime will have to do without his number one goalkeeper Said Kipao who has joined the national team, Taifa

Stars, camp ahead of Sunday's either make or break tie with Sudan in the second round of the Africa Nations Championship qualifiers.

Mexime is optimistic his

troops will remain focused and secure their third straight victory but it won't be easy for Kagera Sugar as they come up against Mbao FC side that is yet to taste defeat in their last two

England award central contracts to Archer, Burns and Denly

LONDON

ENGLAND'S Ashes and World Cup bowler Jofra Archer and opening batsmen Rory Burns and Joe Denly are among a number of players to be awarded central contracts for the 2019-20 season, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Friday.

Archer was England's leading wicket taker in their victorious World Cup campaign with 20 wickets and he made his test debut against Australia, picking up 22 wickets in four Ashes tests.

Burns was England's second-highest run scorer (390) in the Ashes after Ben Stokes (441). Denly (312 runs) has earned his first white-ball, limited-overs, contract at the age of 33.

Players awarded central contracts will have their salaries paid in full by the ECB.

"Selectors have awarded 10 test contracts and 12 white-ball contracts," the ECB said in a statement here "Sussex fast bowler Jofra Archer receives a test and a white-ball contract for the first time after his successful debut international season.

"Surrey opening batsman Rory Burns is awarded a test contract after becoming the leading top order run scorer in the Ashes series. Kent batsman Joe Denly is awarded a white-ball contract for the first time."

However, Alex Hales, Liam Plunkett and David Willey have missed out on white-ball contracts for the 2019-20 season, while spinners Moeen Ali and Adil Rashid have received only white-ball contracts after previously having contracts across all formats.

Hales was withdrawn from the World Cup squad in April after British media reported he was serving a three-week ban for drug use.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya has been banned for a year from bowling in international cricket due to an illegal action, the International Cricket Council said on Thursday.

Dananjaya, 25, was reported for a suspect action after last month's opening test against New Zealand in Galle, during which he picked up six wickets in Sri Lanka's victory.

His bowling action was found to be illegal after he underwent independent assessment in the southern Indian city of Chennai, the ICC said in a statement.

Dananjaya was also reported for a suspect bowling action last November after a test match against England and suspended the following month after an independent committee found it to be illegal.

He was cleared to bowl in February following remedial work on his action.

"As the latest report constitutes the player's second report within a two-year period, the first of which led to a suspension, he is automatically suspended from bowling in international cricket for a period of 12 months," the ICC said.

"Dananjaya will be entitled to approach the ICC for a re-assessment of his bowling action after the expiry of this one-year period."

The Galle match against New Zealand was Dananjaya's first test since his reinstatement.

He has taken 33 wickets in six tests for Sri Lanka since making his debut against Bangladesh last year, as well as 51 wickets in one-dayers and 22 in Twenty20 internationals.

REUTERS

Caravans' cricketers face Punjabi Kings test in GP Gymkhana Shield last eight

By Guardian Reporter

THIS SEASON'S GP Gymkhana Shield cricket competition's defending champions, Caravans, will be out to boost their title retention bid as they come up against Punjabi Kings in the last eight clash in Dar es Salaam tomorrow.

The Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC)-organized tournament has General Petroleum and Premier Refineries as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Cartridge World, PS Limited, I&M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The DGC oval hosts all of the competition's matches.

The mouth-watering tie is also this season's competition's last eight stage's remaining game.

Caravans, one of strong favourites for silverware this season, sailed through to the knockout stage without conceding defeat.

The Dar es Salaam cricket big guns had been placed in Group D with Malabar Cricket Club, Sandy Super Strikers, Surat Stars and Ismaili Community and grabbed convincing wins over the rest of the contenders in the group.

Caravans opened their title retention bid in grand fashion,

sinking Surat Stars.

Caravans then went on to register victories over Malabar Cricket Club, Ismaili Community and Sandy Super strikers respectively.

With the defending champions having talented players including Vipin Abraham, Kassim Nassor, Jitin Singh and Hamisi Abdallah, as well as experienced leader in skipper Sreejith Kumar, they are set to come out with all guns blazing with a view to taming Punjabi Kings.

Kumar, speaking shortly after Caravans had secured progression to the last eight, disclosed his squad is eager to defend its trophy but it is also wary of stiff challenge from other serious contenders including Punjabi Kings.

"That is our plan but you never know, it is cricket and we have to take each match seriously... Punjabi Kings are also one of strong sides. They have good players, so let us take each match at a time and we'll see," he disclosed.

Punjabi Kings will miss the services of their talented skipper, Zafar Khan, in tomorrow's tie but that is not expected to demoralize the squad.

Experienced players including spinner Tambwe Rashid and opener, Stewart Kaduma,

are set to play a pivotal role in the team's search for progression to the last four.

The Sunday's last eight clash will be followed by the first semi-final match between Ismaili Community and Gujrat Lions.

Gujrat Lions have been a surprise package in this season's competition as they put scintillating performances on their way to booking a place in the knockout stage.

The team, placed in Group A with Tamil Nadu Cricket Club, Lions Cricket Club, Kanbis and Young Muslims, as well made it to the knockout stage having enjoyed unbeaten spell in the groups' stage.

Ismaili Community have become one of strong contenders for the top honour this season because of, among other qualities, the outfit's depth in batting.

They had a successful spell in the groups' stages thanks to scintillating performances by talented players including Jatin Dardji, Khalil Rehemtulla, Aahil Jessani, Harsheed Chohan, Arslaan Premji and Aaryan Premji.

They, however, should not underestimate Gujrat Lions, as the latter could turn out to be a hard nut to crack and ultimately frustrate the



Caravans' cricketer, Kassim Nassor, bats against Surat Stars during this season's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's clash, which was played in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

former's efforts to close in on this season's competition's trophy.

The semi-finals' remaining duel

has been slated for September 28 and the final will be played the following day.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

