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WHO emergency panel deliberates on Ebola after Uganda deaths

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE World Health Organization emergency committee met yesterday to deliberate on whether to declare a raging Ebola epidemic an international threat, after an outbreak that began in Democratic Republic of Congo crossed into Uganda.

The WHO panel, which was formed in 2005, has used the label "public health emergency of international concern" only four times previously.

Those included the H1N1 or swine flu, a pandemic of 2009. Then it was the spread of poliovirus in 2014, the Ebola epidemic that devastated parts of West Africa from



People are continuing to come in to the country and not passing through the areas where screening is taking place. The screening has been instituted along certain points of entry but not all the points

2014 to 2016 and the surge of the Zika virus in 2016.

The current Ebola crisis, which began in eastern DRC last August, has led to more than 2,000 cases, including 1,411 deaths.

The WHO panel, officially known as the International Health Regulations and Emergency Committee, was meeting by teleconference with experts connecting from Geneva and around the world.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is in DRC reviewing the Ebola response, will make the final decision on an emergency declaration based on the committee's advice.

WHO held off making the emergency call at previous meetings in October and April, in part because Ebola had not spread internationally.

That changed this week with confirmation that the virus had reached western Uganda, where it has claimed two lives so far.

A Congolese woman -- who is married to a Ugandan -- as well as her mother,

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Harvesting rainwater a missing link in fiscal 2019/2020 action plan - don



Democratic Republic of Congo President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo has a first-hand account of the ongoing implementation of the Standard Gauge Railway project by witnessing construction at Vingunguti in Dar es Salaam yesterday as part of his two-day state visit to Tanzania. . Photo: State House .

Dr Kilama noted that Tanzania has been taking serious measures to improve its agriculture, education and health sectors in like manner as other countries around the world, emphasizing that the government needs to prioritize the production of packaging materials.

By Beatrice Philemon

ECONOMIC analysts yesterday commended the 2019/2020 budget estimates tabled on Thursday, but suggested the need for the government to heavily invest in rainwater harvesting technology to make farmers improve crop production through irrigation.

They were speaking in Dar es Salaam at the Budget Breakfast 2019 Evaluation Forum organized by Ernst & Young, a global accounting firm, and bringing together investors, traders and agro-sector stakeholders.

Prof Honest Ngowi, an economist and administrator at Mzumbe University Dar es Salaam Campus said that this was one of the best budgets ever, "but there is a need for the government to venture more on rainwater harvesting technology by providing tax incentives for people who are interested in importing the technology."

He said the country needs enough water for farming, livestock keeping and environment cleanliness. "But, this will only be possible



It is high time the government invested in digital skills especially information technology (IT). This is crucial in the modern world. Our education system should move from hard skills to digital ones. Our children should be taught more in this area

if we provide tax relief for those who are importing goods that are used in installing rainwater facilities, which in turn will make people harvest water for their own use."

In agro-processing, Prof Ngowi said the government has made efforts in scaling up the agricultural sector through the Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase Two (ASDP II), which brings in all the agro-inputs—fertilizer, improved seeds and modern farming tools such as tractors.

"This alone is a milestone when it comes to improving the sector, as industries will get enough raw materials, which are key in spearheading industrialization," he said, lauding the government's move to impose taxes on imported edible oil, as it will make local industries rely on locally available seeds.

"This is one way of protecting domestic industries," he said.

He however suggested the need to ensure that inter-sectoral linkages are created by

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Freight agents bracing for 10,000 clearing jobs loss

By Felister Peter

MORE than 10,000 people will lose their jobs if the government's proposed procedure to allow individuals to clear their goods at the Dar es Salaam port without using agents will be endorsed, stakeholders say.

Presenting the 2019/2020 budget estimates to the National Assembly on Thursday, Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango said that starting next month people will be allowed to clear



I don't think this will be possible. The parliamentary budget committee made a false step because we are legally recognized and operate in accordance with the law

their good at the port without the need to assign the work to clearing and forwarding agents.

The Secretary General of the Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA) Tony Swai said in an interview that the decision is likely to make a good number of people employed in the profession jobless.

"I don't think this will be possible. The parliamentary budget committee made a false step because we are legally recognized

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Taxes on wigs rattling beauty, salon business

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's move to introduce a 25 per cent tax on imported wigs and hair extensions has received mixed reactions, as some say it will affect the sector, while others hailed the move.

The reactions came after Minister for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango tabled the 2019/20 budget estimates, whereby among other things he said that wigs manufactured locally will now be charged 10 per cent value in tax whereas imported ones will attract a 25 per cent tax charge.



In separate interviews some women described the move as meant to punish

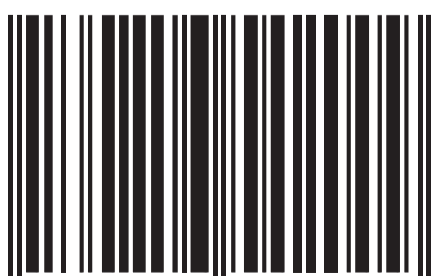
those who are interested in wigs and hair extensions.

Zamda Ismail, a resident of Kimara in Dar es Salaam expressed her dissatisfaction over the government's move, saying, "This is aimed at adding extra cost to wigs' enthusiasts. I don't see why the government should come to that."

Zamda, who also runs a small hair and beauty salon in the area, said that there are lots of areas which are yet to be tapped when it comes to revenue sources.

"This as a challenge to salon business operators, and my fear is that some of us with

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Freight agents bracing for 10,000 clearing jobs loss

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and operate in accordance with the law," said Swai.

He said the East African Community (EAC) Customs Management Act of 2009 states clearly on the agents' presence and their role in the industry. Their authorization and roles are stated in Section 145 (1), (2) and Section 146.

Section 145 (1) reads: "The Commissioner may license persons to act as agents for transacting business relating to the declaration or clearance of any goods or baggage other than accompanied non-manifested personal baggage of a person travelling by air, land or sea".

While Section 145 (2) reads: "The Commissioner shall not license any person to act as agent under this Act unless the Commissioner is satisfied that, that person has the capability, office equipment, a registered office and documents to effectively transact business in accordance with the provisions of this Act and any other conditions as may be prescribed by regulations".

In his remarks during the budget presentation, the minister said that cargo in transit will not be subject to the proposed procedure, where the

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) will prepare guidelines and simple procedures for individuals to understand and facilitate smooth clearing of their cargoes.

On Thursday, the government presented in the National Assembly the 2019/2020 budget estimates amounting to 33.1trn/-, out of which 20.86trn/- is intended for recurrent expenditure, being 63.0 percent of the total budget.

Development expenditure is expected to take up 37.0 percent of total budget funds, of which 9.74trn/- is from internal sources and 2.51trn/- from external sources.

The minister noted that in order to speed up implementation of infrastructure projects, the government plans to borrow 2.32trn/- from external non-concessional loan sources.

Development partners are expected to contribute 2.78 trillion/-, around eight percent of the total budget.

In the 2019/2020 financial year the government has set aside funds for local government elections in 2019 and preparations for next year's general elections, the minister specified.



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan unveils a plaque to launch a Mkombozi Bank branch in Dodoma city yesterday. With her are the bank's managing director, Thomas Enock (R), and Finance and Planning deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji. Photo: PMO.

Harvesting rainwater missing link in fiscal 2019/2020 action plan - don

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allocating 10 percent of the national budget to the agricultural sector as stipulated in the Malabo Declaration, so as to increase crop production for human consumption and raw materials for industries.

On education, the don suggested the need for the government to invest heavily in soft skills especially digital skills, which are essential in scaling up innovation in most sectors.

"It is high time the government

invested in digital skills especially information technology (IT). This is crucial in the modern world. Our education system should move from hard skills to digital ones. Our children should be taught more in this area."

A senior researcher at the RE-POA economic growth think tank, Dr Blandina Kilama said the budget is good since it is geared to an improved business and investment environment. The government has responded to queries of the private sector by seeking to ensure a friend-

ly business environment, she stated.

Dr Kilama noted that Tanzania has been taking serious measures to improve its agriculture, education and health sectors in like manner as other countries around the world, emphasizing that the government needs to prioritize the production of packaging materials.

This was important as the country moves towards industrialization, she said, underlining that for Tanzanian good to compete in global markets, quality packaging needs quality materials. Most business people

are still struggling to access quality packaging materials," she asserted.

Former diplomat and noted businessman Ambassador Ami Mpungwe commended the 2019/2020 budget saying it is supportive to businesses, following scrapping of some taxes, thus enabling traders to benefit from their efforts.

"Improving the business and investment climate is a milestone for Tanzania. The establishment of a special desk handling tax issues will facilitate smooth operations as well as attract more investors into the

country," he said.

He aired the need for the government to invest more on digital skills as technology is changing rapidly. He said digital skills are important as the country moves towards industrialization.

A policy advisor from the Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reforms Strengthening (ASPIRES) Project, Prof David Nyange said the government should also consider challenges such as having too many regulatory agencies.

He suggested that the government

borrow a leaf from Mauritius by coming up with a simpler tax system. "Tanzania's tax policies are unpredictable, which affects competitiveness of what we manufacture," he cautioned.

The government intends to spend 33.1trn/- in the 2019/2020 fiscal year whereby 20.86trn/- is for recurrent expenditure. Development expenditure is estimated at 37.0 percent of the total budget, of which 9.74trn/- is expected to be collected from internal sources and 2.51trn/- from external sources.



Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeiry bin Ally (C) symbolically receives a consignment of dates from the acting Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Tanzania, Ahmed Swaaleh El Ghamidiy, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It is a donation from the city's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre. With them is a representative of the centre, Abdunasser Alghamdi. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Taxes on wigs rattling beauty, salon business

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small business will lose customers," said Agnes Mahenge, who has been in the business for the past three years.

Mahenge called on the government to revisit the decision, as it can affect the industry while it employs a good number of women countrywide.

A well-known wig importer Anastasia Sigeru said: "People love artificial hair. Why

of all the things that could be taxed did they opt for wigs?"

She stated that the new tax could affect the market as people will start buying cheaper low quality wigs.

One woman, who wanted to remain anonymous, told the BBC that she currently spends US\$450 on her hair extensions.

"It's like they're punishing us because

women like hair and we like to look good."

Aristote Mwamtobe, who runs a popular salon in the city, also expressed his anger and thought it could have an effect on people's relationships.

"The 10 per cent tax (for locally-made wigs) and the 25 per cent tax (for imported wigs) is too expensive for our sisters," he said.

"They might cut their hair and then get a divorce as the men are used to seeing their wives with long hair, and then suddenly things change!"

"Women look so good with wigs."

Some interviewed women recommended the government's move, saying wigs and hair extensions are luxury things and not basic necessities.

WHO emergency panel meets on Ebola after Uganda deaths

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three children and their nanny had travelled to DRC to care for her ill father, who later died of Ebola.

The WHO said 12 members of the family who attended the burial in Congo were placed in isolation in the DRC, but six "escaped and crossed over to Uganda" on June 9.

The next day, a five-year-old boy was admitted to hospital in Bwera, a border town, vomiting blood before he died. Tests confirmed he had Ebola and the family was placed in an isolation ward.

His three-year-old brother was also confirmed to have Ebola, as was their grandmother, who died late Wednesday.

Speaking from western Uganda's Kasese district, a senior Red Cross official told AFP that "the biggest challenge" was ensuring robust monitoring along the porous border with DRC.

"People are continuing to come in to the country and not passing through the areas where screening is taking place. The screening has been instituted along certain points of entry but not all the points," said Josephine Okwera, the director of health and social services for the Ugandan Red Cross.

The mere fact that cases have crossed a border does not automatically compel WHO to make the emergency declaration, especially as the epidemic is still confined to one contiguous region. But invoking the emergency provisions would entail additional measures to manage the outbreak, including a possible call for "immediate international action," according to the UN health agency.

Health officials had initially hoped that they could contain the outbreak with help from a new vaccine, which has now been given to more than 130,000 people in DRC.

But chronic violence and militia activity in affected eastern DRC provinces of Ituri and North Kivu as well as hostility to medical teams among some people in the region have hampered the response.

WHO has also accused political leaders in the affected region of manipulating the Ebola issue to turn people against health workers.

Ebola spreads among humans through close contact with the blood, body fluids, secretions or organs of an infected person.

Chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelopes and porcupines can also become infected, and humans who kill and eat these animals can catch the virus through them.

The current outbreak is the worst on record after an epidemic that struck mainly in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone between 2014 and 2016, leaving more than 11,300 people dead.

AGENCIES



Members of the seven-strong Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2018 panel of judges chaired by Kiondo Mshana (C) go through the 644 entries presented for consideration by media practitioners from across the country. They are in Bagamoyo for the weeklong (June 13 to 19) screening, an annual process overseen by the Media Council of Tanzania. The others are Selemani Mpochi, Hassan Mhelela, Dr Joyce Bazira, Pudenciana Temba, Aisha Dachi and James Gayo.

Photo: Guardian Correspondent

SADC reiterates unwavering commitment in solidarity with persons with albinism

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has reiterated its unwavering commitment to stand in solidarity with persons with albinism around the world.

"We recognise that persons with albinism continue to face violations of their human rights in various forms, ranging from stigma and discrimination, low access to health and education services, as well as social and political exclusion. It is for this reason

that SADC continues to condemn, in the strongest terms, all forms of violations and abuse against persons living with Albinism", said SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax in her message on International Albinism Awareness Day 2019.

She said: "SADC applaud the courageous spirit that people with albinism have demonstrated in the face of numerous challenges. We note, with contentment that, despite the numerous challenges that persons with albinism face, they have remained positive and

are still standing strong. The United Nations gave this year's event a theme—"Still Standing Strong" was chosen to recognize, celebrate and stand in solidarity with persons with Albinism around the world, and to support their cause, from their accomplishments and positive practices to the promotion and protection of their human rights.

The Executive Secretary said that SADC joins the call for the continued need to educate the public on issues affecting people with albinism, to mobi-

lize political will, address the problems they face, and celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

"We call upon all communities to ensure the protection and upholding of the rights of persons with Albinism and for communities to help bring to an end, all forms of attacks and discrimination against them", she noted.

The day was set aside following a resolution adopted by the United Nations' General Assembly on 18th December 2014.

Expo promises benefit to travel agents and tour operators in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

TRAVEL agents including tour operators have a reason to smile after international travel agents from India and China agreed to train them on how to tap tourists from their countries to increase the number of visitors in the country.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Managing Director, Devota Mdachi said yesterday when briefing journalists on the Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) slated for October 18th and 20th this year in Dar es Salaam.

Mdachi said the training will be offered during the Swahili International Tourism Expo and that participants will be trained on how to market what they offer.

The TTB boss added that international travel agents have decided to help their counterparts after discovered that majority Tanzanian travel agents and tour operators are not competent on how to market what they offer.

She said some of them do not have enough funds to visit other countries for tourism promotional campaign despite the fact that Tanzania is endowed with a lot of tourism potential that can be promoted in the specific countries.

"We are going to use the exhibition to market our tourist attractions. International travel agents, tour operators and journalists from Tanzania will also be informed on what the country offers in the tourism industry," she noted.

This is the fifth exhibition that will attract more than 250 exhibitors including international travel agents and

400 journalists from international media from 57 countries across the world.

The international travel agents and journalists who will be in Tanzania for three days are from USA, UK, Italy, Germany, Russia, China, Sweden, South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Rwanda, Malaysia, Kenya, Thailand, India, South Korea and Singapore.

The visitors will get chance to visit tourist attractions existing in Mafia, Tanga and Zanzibar.

She called on travel agents, tour operators and entrepreneurs engaged in tourism sector to use this event to market what they have, share experience with their counterparts and forge partnership.

Mdachi called on sponsors from different companies to support the event and work closely with TTB to ensure successful exhibition.

"We are optimistic that the Swahili International Tourism Expo will link our tour operators with those from outside Tanzania thus enhance skills to market the tourism sector," she noted.

On the cultural side, she said that TTB has invited a local singer—Peter Msechu, as well as several other cultural groups from Tanga, Arusha and southern highland regions to perform during the exhibition.

She said the aim is to let foreign visitors know what Tanzania to offer in cultural tourism. She said visitors will have chance to see various cultural music and dances as well as make familiarization trips in Tanga, Arusha and southern highland regions.

New WHO scorecard shows progress in response to viral hepatitis in Africa far from satisfactory

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW scorecard - the first to examine hepatitis prevalence and response in the World Health Organization (WHO) African region, shows that only three of the 47 countries are on track to eliminate the disease that affects one in 15 people in the region.

Dying of viral hepatitis in Africa is becoming a bigger threat than dying of AIDS, malaria or tuberculosis.

"This analysis is the first to track each country in the region and to assess progress towards the goal of saving the lives of more than two million Africans who may develop progressive hepatitis B or C liver disease in the next decade if countries fail to ramp up their efforts," says Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The scorecard will be presented at the first African Hepatitis Summit to be held in Kampala, Uganda from June 18 - 20.

It provides vital information about the status of the regional hepatitis response, measuring progress against the Framework for Action for the Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis in the African Region (2016-2020). It was created as a guide for Member States on the implementation of the Global Health Sector Strategy on Viral Hepatitis, which calls for the elimination of hepatitis by 2030 (defined as a 90% reduction in new cases and 65% reduction in deaths).

Every year more than 200 000 people in Africa are dying from complications of viral hepatitis B and C-related liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver cancer. Sixty million people in the WHO Africa Region were living with chronic


hepatitis B infection in 2015. More than 4.8 million of them are children under five years old. A further 10 million are infected with hepatitis C, most likely due to unsafe injection practices within health facilities or by communities.

The analysis shows that 28 countries have developed a national hepatitis strategic plan for viral hepatitis; however, most are still in draft form with only 13 officially published and disseminat-

ed. WHO has been a major partner in the regional response with policy development and provision of technical and financial support as well as capacity building for a co-ordinated regional response.

Only 15% (7/47) countries are leading prevention efforts with national coverage of both Hepatitis B birth dose and childhood pentavalent vaccination exceeding 90%. There are major gaps in hepatitis test-

ing and treatment with less than eight countries providing subsidized testing and treatment for viral hepatitis. Uganda has started free nationwide hepatitis B treatment, and Rwanda is providing free treatment for both hepatitis B and C. These two countries are championing the regional response and are on track to reach the 2020 Framework targets for testing and community awareness.

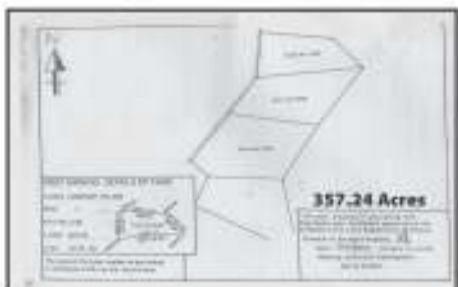


MARCAS


DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS LTD.

NOTICE/PUBLIC AUCTION
14 DAYS AUCTION

MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS LTD pursuant to instructions received from African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited (ABC) by virtue of Deeds described here under shall sell by Public Auction the property of Farms & Agro-Construction (Under Mr. Bakshi, Mohar and An Bani City Limited under Adabakhi Adabakhi Mohar on the days, dates and time as described on the table below



357.24 Acres



9,000 Acres

No	Security/Property	Location	Registration Details	Date & Time
1.	Farm No. 2489 Lobosori Village, Simanjo District	Lobosori Village Simanjo District, Arusha Municipality	CTNO.25665, LONG.267402 FARM NO.2489	at 10:00 am on 29.06.2019 Saturday
2.	Commercial Property, Land Farm No. 772 Esimangori Masai District	Esimangori Masai District Arusha Municipality 9,000 Acres	CTNO.25665, LONG.267402 FARM NO.2489	at 10:00 am on 30.06.2019 Sunday

CONDITIONS FOR AUCTION


1. The highest bidder must pay 25% of the bid price immediately after the Auction. The remaining balance must be paid within 14 calendar days from the end date. Failure by the buyer to pay the 75% balance within the stipulated time frame will result in the advance payment being forfeited and re-auctioned.

2. The property shall be sold in the conditions it is.

3. The highest bidder is not necessarily the winner. Auctioneer has the right to reserve the price.

4. All costs including registration and transfer are on account of the buyer

For viewing and further information please contact:
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Tanzania Agro-Industrial Trust Bank Africa



INTERNATIONAL TANFEEDS LTD

Animal Feed Health Products Agro Supplies

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

INTERNATIONAL TANFEEDS LTD

FUNDED BY

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

(As Administrator of the Agriculture Fast Track Fund)

International TanFeeds Ltd (TANFEEDS) has received financing from the African Development Bank and plans to utilize part of this grant to carry out a feasibility study on the "Tanzania Feed Value Chain Expansion for Smallholder Impact" project. The idea behind this project is to carry out a feasibility study (Technical, Financial, Market and Environmental & Social Impact Assessment) and to develop a bankable business plan.

The services included under this contract are:

Feasibility Study:

- Determination of technical feasibility of the project;
- Economic and financial evaluation of the project including Risk and Sensitivity Analyses;
- Carry out an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment;

Proposal of an appropriate institutional framework and organization to be put in place that shall among others, minimize the risks of the project not being implemented within the best conditions of cost and time.

The full Terms of Reference for the assignment can be consulted on TANFEEDS 's website at www.tanfeeds.com at the Activities tab, and AFDB and UNDB websites as follow : www.afdb.org and www.devbusiness.org.

3. TANFEEDS now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing these services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).
4. **Eligibility of Applicant:**
 - i. Short listed firms must be legally registered.
 - ii. Short listed firms may choose to form a joint venture/consortium/association under one lead firm;
 - iii. Short listed firms may also associate and subcontract highly qualified unregistered Consultants/Firms to enhance their qualifications and capabilities;
 - iv. In case of joint venture/consortium/association, the Lead Firm should be clearly identified and shall be contracted to carry out the assignment and shall be liable for the assignment;
 - v. The consultants shall only sign the form of undertakings or the implementation of the project;
 - vi. The lead consultant firm shall submit only one technical proposal and one financial proposal separately as per the AFDB detailed instructions;
5. The estimated duration of service is 4 months and the estimated starting date is 15th July 2019.
6. Expression of interest must be received at the address below no later than June 25, 2019 at 5.00 pm local time.

For the attention of: Prof. Faustine P. Lekule
 Managing Director, International TanFeeds Ltd.
 Plot No 65 Block H Kihonda, Morogoro
 P.O.Box 1752 Morogoro, Tanzania
 Mobile +255787690023
 Email: tanfeeds@yahoo.com
 Website: www.tanfeeds.com

'Dar Port container handling capacity due to double soon'

By Guardian Reporter

THE capacity of Dar es Salaam port to handle containers will soon double after completion of the expansion project at the port, Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Isack Kamelwe has said.

The minister was speaking on Thursday during the visit to Tanzania of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) President Felix Tshisekedi, who toured the port during his two-day state visit.

Kamelwe said the port currently has the capacity to handle between 3000 and 4000 containers per day but after completion of some projects, which the government is undertaking, the port will have the capacity to handle one vessel carrying more than 6000 containers.

According to the minister, the improvement of the port wouldn't only benefit Tanzanians but also other landlocked countries.

He said that some of the projects, which are implemented to improve the port's capacity include repairing of berths one to eight.

He also pointed out that some infrastructures at the port, which include roads will also be rehabilitated.

Kamelwe said: "We are doing all in our capacity to improve the port's efficiency."

The port of Dar es Salaam is one of three ocean ports in the country and handles over 90 per cent of the country's cargo traffic.

According to the International Association of Ports and Harbours, it is the fourth largest port on the African Continent's

Indian Ocean coastline after Durban, Mombasa and Maputo.

The port acts as a gateway for commerce and trade for Tanzania and numerous bordering landlocked states. For years the inefficiencies at the port has cost the regional economy millions of dollars; in 2012 the total global welfare loss caused by the inefficiencies of the port stood at US\$1.8 billion for the Tanzanian economy and 830 million US dollars for the neighbouring countries.

“some of the projects, which are implemented to improve the port's capacity include repairing of berths one to



ASP John Mayunga of the Police weapons and explosions investigation unit briefs members of the Tanzania People's Defence Forces during training at the force's forensic unit in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Police Hqs

Uganda repatriates Ebola suspects to Congo

KAMPALA

AUTHORITIES in Uganda have banned public gatherings in the Western district of Kasese, where two people have died of Ebola.

Relatives of the two people who died of Ebola were also repatriated from Uganda to Democratic Republic of Congo, where they will receive experimental and therapeutic treatment.

"Hand washing facilities have been put in place, with washing materials like JIK (bleach) and soap. There's no shaking of hands, people just wave at each other," local journalist Ronald

Kule said.

This is the first confirmed case in Uganda during the Ebola outbreak on-going in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

While the repatriation means there's no confirmed case of Ebola in Uganda as of Thursday, three other suspected Ebola cases not related to the family remain in isolation, the health ministry said.

"Uganda remains in Ebola response mode to follow up the 27 contacts (of the family)," read part of a statement from the Uganda's health ministry.

Meanwhile, Red Cross teams have embarked on an Ebola

awareness drive in the Uganda-DRC border area following confirmed cases of the disease.

Uganda's Health Minister Jane Ruth Aceng said challenges remained at "unofficial entry points" between Congo and Uganda, which share a porous 875-kilometre (545-mile) border.

These unauthorised border crossings, known as "panyas" in the local Lukonzo language, are often merely planks laid down across a point in the river, or through forests and mountains where there is no surveillance.

The family that was repatriated on Thursday had crossed from Congo to Uganda earlier

this week and sought treatment when a 5-year-old boy became unwell. He died of Ebola on Tuesday. His 50-year-old grandmother, who was accompanying them, died of the disease on Wednesday, the ministry said.

The World Health Organization announced an emergency committee would meet Friday to determine whether to upgrade its assessment of the situation to "a public health emergency of international concern".

WHO, in October and again in April, held off declaring the DRC epidemic an emergency of international concern, because the outbreak was contained to

one part of DRC.

For the committee to make the emergency call, it must determine that the epidemic "carries implications for public health beyond the affected State's national border and may require immediate international action".

If such a declaration is made Friday it will represent a major shift in mobilisation against the disease.

The current Ebola epidemic began in August last year in eastern Congo and has already infected at least 2,062 people, killing 1,390 of them.

"This epidemic is in a truly frightening phase and shows no

sign of stopping anytime soon," said Jeremy Farrar, an infectious disease specialist and director of the Wellcome Trust global health charity which is involved in fighting Ebola.

"We can expect and should plan for more cases in DRC and neighbouring countries," he said, adding: "There are now more deaths than any other Ebola outbreak in history, bar the West Africa Epidemic of 2013-16, and there can be no doubt that the situation could escalate towards those terrible levels."

The Red Cross said it was scaling up efforts to contain the spread of the virus since it was detected in Uganda.

"This is a worrying development, but we have been preparing for this day for months now," Robert Kwesiga, Uganda Red Cross Secretary General, said in a statement Wednesday.

Experts noted that Uganda, which has been on high alert for possible spread of Ebola and has already vaccinated many front-line healthworkers, is relatively well prepared and should be able to limit the virus' spread.

"The current cases in Uganda will be quickly contained but the failure to stop the current Ebola epidemic in DRC is simply tragic," said Ian Jones, a professor virology at Britain's Reading University.



It is clearly a risky ride for this Dar es Salaam resident as he transports a whole load of mattresses on a tricycle along a traditionally busy Buguruni stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road yesterday, effectively denying himself a rear view. Photo: John Badi

Despite serious problems Africa's debt burden well under control, says AfDB

By Special Correspondent, Malabo

THE African Development Bank remains strong with growing operating revenues and allocable income generated since 2010 reaching \$2.5 billion, the Bank Group's Treasurer, Hassatou Diop N'sele, stated on Thursday.

In 2018, the Bank earned \$214 million in allocable income, 48% of which has been reinvested in the institution to reinforce reserves and its business growth capacity. The bullish numbers were revealed during the Bank's Financial presentation Thursday, a highlight of the 2019 Annual Meetings of the Bank currently underway in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The panel was led by N'sele and Simon Mizrahi, Director of Service Delivery, Performance Management and Results at the Bank. During the presentation attended by delegates, Governors, Executive Directors and Bank staff, N'sele noted that the Bank could chart a new path on account of its ability to raise funds on the capital markets. "The amount of infrastructure financing covered by private sector could double if African countries harness the full potential of their capital markets."

According to N'sele, a number of African countries could save as much \$1 billion on a 20-year loan, if they borrow from the African Development Bank, instead of from the Eurobond market, due to preferable lending rates.

Delegates were informed of the Bank's successful issuance of the first-ever NOK social bond sold in Norway and sealed in 2018. Despite challenges, Africa's debt is still under control.

On debt sustainability, Africa's debt has increased in recent years "but not to unsustainable levels," Mizrahi indicated but he pleaded for caution. "We need to continue to generate financing and spur growth without increasing debt."

Sharing insights on Africa's path forward, Mizrahi underscored the need to harness the continent's incredible potential in renewable energy.

Africa is the most vulnerable continent and suffers the most from climate change but "with the right vision, investments and political commitments, Africa can lead a global energy revolution and leapfrog to renewable technologies. This is why the Bank is putting its money where its mouth is and investing more than any other development Bank in helping the continent transition towards more resilient and sustainable economies," he concluded.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) ushering a new era in intra-African trade

According to Mizrahi, AfCFTA paves the way to the world's largest free trade area with an integrated market of 1.3 billion consumers.

"This is important because Africa will struggle to be competitive at the global scale, if it continues to operate as 54 fragmented economies. The continent needs to be more integrated, it needs larger economic spaces so that Africa can attract more investors, create more and better jobs, boost internal trade and create continent-wide value chains that are globally competitive."

WorldRemit launches business payments service

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE London-based money remittance firm WorldRemit has unveiled a new service that allows businesses and employees of foreign firms in Kenya to receive payment from small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK.

The service dubbed 'WorldRe-

mit for Business' also allows UK-registered companies to send money to contractors or staff in 149 other countries including Ghana and South Africa through its app or website.

Previously, the remittance firm only allowed transfers between individuals.

Transfers to Kenya, the firm

says, will be processed within 24 hours or less and recipients can opt to have the cash wired to their bank accounts, via mobile money or cash pickup.

This latest option poses stiff competition to banks whose transfers can take up to a week, and are often subject to high fees and exchange rates.

"Today, we are pleased to extend that service offering to businesses, and put an end to the steep fees that many pay, especially when sending to Kenya. We're committed to making it quick, safe and easy for you to pay individuals across borders, leaving you to focus on growing your own business," said WorldRemit, founder

and Executive Chairman, Ismail Ahmed.

WorldRemit currently handles 74 percent of remittances to popular mobile money services across Africa such as MTN, Ecocash, Tigo Pesa, M-Pesa and Airtel Money, making it the global leader in "mobile-to-mobile international money transfers."



Chunya district commissioner Maryprisca Mahundi (R) receives desks donated by development stakeholders on Thursday to support Lupatingatinga Secondary School in the district. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

3rd East African bicycle tour set for August, September

By Guardian Reporter

THE 3rd East African Bicycle Tour (Tour d'EAC 2019) themed: "Integrate or Perish" is set for August 1 to September 20, this year, with over 100 cyclists taking on an epic route of over 4,300 km around East Africa over a course of 50 days.

According to the Team Leader and Director of Campfire Logs Guild of Uganda, the lead organizer of the Bicycle Tour, John Bosco Balongo, the 3rd East African Bicycle Tour will be flagged off on 1st August 2019 at the Independence Monument in Kampala, Uganda by the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Community Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, Kirunda Kivejinja.

The aim of the Annual East African Bicycle Tour, code named Tour d'EAC, is to promote the spirit of the East Africanism among the people of East Africa, promote tourism and business potential of the Community while enhancing the awareness of social and cultural peculiarities of people and places in the East African Community. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to bring the citizens of East Africa to own the integration process.

The East African Bicycle Tour is an expression of unity, oneness, togetherness and peace. By riding through all the East African countries, the ties that bind East Africans together is renewed and strengthened. The event welcomes every East African from whatever part of

the region to take part.

The route of the 3rd Bicycle tour will cover Kampala-Jinja-Malaba on the Ugandan side. On the Kenyan side, it will pass through Malaba-Eldoret-Nakuru-Nairobi-Kajiado to Namanga.

On the Tanzanian side, the tour will connect Namanga-Longido-Arusha-Moshi-Dar es Salaam-Chalinze-Morogoro-Gairo-Dodoma-Nzega to Tabora. From Tabora, it will pass through Usinge and enter Burundi through Mugina-Manyonvu border.

In Burundi, the tour will connect Rumonge-Bujumbura-Ngozi to Rwanda border then to Kigali. From Kigali, the tour will pass through Ruhengeri to Kisoro-Kihiki-Mbarara then to Kampala. The Campfire Logs Guild is partner-

ing with several persons/or organizations in the Partner States to undertake the 3rd EAC Bicycle Tour.

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko has commended the organizers of this initiative led by Campfire Logs Guild of Uganda and said that the Tour d'EAC will go a long way to promote the EAC integration agenda.

"We have endorsed this event and written to the Permanent/Principal Secretary/Undersecretary in the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in the Partner States notifying and requesting them to support and assist the organizers to undertake this tour successfully in their respective territories," asserted the Secretary General.

'Guidelines and decisions should reach grassroots levels promptly'

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

LOCAL government officials in the country and other forest stakeholders have advised the government to make sure there is a simpler path for the guidelines and decisions made on forest conservation to reach down to the grassroots level on time for effective and efficiency forest conservation.

Speaking during a tour of Milingwa and Matuli villages where sustainable charcoal is produced by organised groups of villagers, the local government officials from 19 district councils said that sometimes the guidelines which determine the course of action on the ground tend to remain at the top without taking them to the local communities for implementation.

Concluding their tour of the villages, land and natural resource officer from Mvomero district, Sadoth Kyaruzi said that besides the guidelines and decisions, it is also imperative for the ministries to make sure that at least 10 percent of revenues accrued from the forest products are set aside for investing back for the forest on village land.

Forest officer from Namtumbo district Gravas Mwalyombo said that when the forest revenues are collected, normally the priority areas of many district councils is education, health and roads infrastructures forgetting to re-invest back in the forest conservation for sustainability.

Forest officer from the Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism Seleboni John and Bernadetha Kadala from TFS said sustainable charcoal has done a lot to the villagers in terms of forest conservation and income generation. Therefore they suggested need to mainstream sustainable charcoal in the districts strategic plans.

"I suggest that there is a need to scale up the modal but before we do that I think there is also a need to understand the cultural, ecology and geographical aspects of that particular district or region, for example, Kigoma is different from Morogoro so that the modal can be implemented successfully," said John.

Morogoro Regional Natural Resource Officer Joseph Chuwa suggested that as the project phases out in some villages, the Board comprising regional and district experts must be formed to oversee the continuation of sustainable charcoal so that the villagers do not loose track on the forest conservation.

The tour of the villages was part of the learning mission and sharing of updates, opportunities and challenges from the Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal sector project implemented jointly by Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG), Tanzanian Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) and the Tanzania Traditional Energy and Development Organization (TaTEDO).

Africa raises \$17m to curb food shortage, diseases

MALABO

SOME six African countries have helped raise US\$17 million (R250 million) aimed at tackling issues such as hunger and diseases in the continent.

Another \$30 million (R441 million) was pledged during the inaugural donor conference held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

The host country, together with Angola, Eswatini, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Zimbabwe raised and pledged the funds during the event themed "Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity", held alongside United Nations (UN) donor agencies and African Development Bank (AfDB).

Addressing delegates, Equatorial Guinea President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, urged other African countries to

come to the party to ensure the continent resolved own food shortages and diseases.

AfDB lauded the countries that heeded their call saying new innovations were required to improve agricultural production in order to address food shortages.

Jennifer Blanke, AfDB vice president for agriculture, human and social development, lamented African continent heavily depended on food imports.

"It's so important that ASTF (Africa Solidarity Trust Fund) is showing that African countries are contributing to Africa...that links very closely to what we are doing," Blanke said.

She called on the continent member states to explore technologies that would ensure bumper harvest to farmers in the face of climatic changes.

Diseases such as Ebola, which in 2014 killed a record 11 315 people in West African countries such as Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone were sighted as potential health threat.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is also battling an Ebola outbreak that has claimed some 1 400 people, worsened by civil war.

During the launch of ASTF, Angola donated \$10 million, China gave \$2.6 million, France donated 2 million Euros, Equatorial Guinea \$2 million and \$100,000 from Zimbabwe.

An additional \$30 million is expected to be raised during the course of the ASTF, with UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), AfDB and international partners including China expected to contribute.



Mzee Mkongea Ally, leader of the Uhuru Touch race for this year, waters a tree he had just planted at Odonyowas Secondary School in Arumeru District earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

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Kenya to host crucial international aviation forum in December

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) said yesterday that it will host a three-day international aviation forum in December to discuss air services to and in Africa.

The 13th Routes Africa, an intra-Africa routes development forum, will be held on Dec. 8-10, KAA CEO Jonny Andersen said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Representatives from the world's leading airlines, airports, and tourism operators will attend the event, the statement said.

"Kenya is the regional aviation powerhouse. Our geographical location gives us an advantage in connec-

tions to most international hub cities in world," Andersen said.

"Kenya's centralized proximity to Europe, Asia, Middle East, Americas and the rest of Africa makes this a profitable aviation route," he said. "Our status as a trade and tourist regional hub also makes Kenya an attractive destination."

Routes Conference and Exhibition will be held in the coastal city of Mombasa.

"The forum will be an opportunity to showcase Kenya's available facilities and attractions. We are proud to host Routes Africa 2019 and look forward to welcoming delegates to magical Kenya," Andersen said.



A vendor hunts for customers for toys along the Ilala Boma stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road yesterday. Photo: John Badi

New study finds no link between HIV infection and contraceptive use

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

AFTER decades of uncertainty over increased risks of HIV infection among women using Depomedroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA)—an injectable contraceptive method, a clinical study shows that there is no link between HIV infection and use of contraceptives.

The study known as Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO), which its findings was released yesterday in South Africa, and monitored by The Guardian through a webinar, found that there is no significant difference in risk of HIV infection among women using one of the three highly effective reversible contraceptive methods, DMPA (intramuscular -DMPA-IM), a three monthly, progestogen-only, reversible injectable contraceptive; Levonorgestrel implant, a progestogen-only implant insert-

ed under the skin in the upper arm that can be used for up to five years and a copper-bearing IUD, a device inserted into the uterus that can be used for up to 10-12 years.

While the claim was on DMPA contraceptive, ECHO study team decided to study all other contraceptive methods to check if there is any difference among the three highly effective contraceptives.

"We are glad that the ECHO study has cleared the uncertainty that had lingered for some time now," UMATI Executive Director Lugano Daimon told 'The Guardian' in an interview.

Lugano said, ECHO study was prompted by observation studies that claimed that, there is an association between using some methods of contraceptives specifically DMPA and HIV infections.

"For many years, as the HIV epidemic increased in many

countries, a number of observational research studies suggested a possible increased risk of HIV acquisition for women using progestogen-only injectables, particularly DMPA-IM."

He said that observational studies had some limitations, in the design, however, and hence it was not possible to determine whether HIV infections were due to the type of contraceptive method used or other factors like engaging in unprotected sex or any other means of transmission.

The results of the ECHO trial are the most robust to date that address these concerns, have robust scientific evidence about the potential relationship between hormonal contraception and the risk of HIV from a rigorous randomized clinical trial," according to Professor Helen Rees, Executive Director of Wits Reproductive Health and HIV In-

stitute at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and a member of the five-person ECHO Management Committee that leads the ECHO Study.

She said, the results on this question are reassuring, but their findings are also sobering, because they confirm unacceptably high HIV incidence among young African women, something which Dr Cecilia Makafu from UMATI suggests that women need more counseling as some might believe that once they are protected from pregnancy by contraceptives they are also protected from HIV infections.

It has been explained that during the trial, 397 of the women who took part in the study acquired HIV.

For his part IPPF Director General Dr Alvaro Bermejo has welcomed the publication of the results of the Evidence

for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (ECHO) trial - but warned they show how much more must be done urgently to combat HIV acquisition and offer real contraceptive choice.

The ECHO Study was carried out in four countries with settings of high HIV incidence

Eswatini, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia. A total of 7829 sexually active HIV-negative women aged 16 to 35 years who wanted to use a modern method of contraception were enrolled and were randomly assigned to one of the three methods.

All women who participated in the study received ongoing health services, including counselling on HIV prevention and care, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

Dr Bermejo said: "This has been an extremely important trial and we are pleased to see

the results published. We do need to analyse them in greater detail, but it is already clear that the high rates of HIV and STI infections among those women who took part - despite individualised prevention efforts - represent an urgent cry for the integration of sexual and reproductive healthcare and HIV prevention.

Expanding quality-assured contraceptive options is critical in reducing the current unmet need. Providing a wide choice of acceptable and effective contraceptive methods empowers girls and women to make their own decisions about whether and when they wish to become pregnant as well as how many children they wish to have.

Enabling women and girls to make informed decisions is a fundamental principle when providing contraceptive information and services. The study findings support con-

tinued access to all methods studied by all women including those at high risk of HIV infection.

WHO, UNAIDS and UNFPA has welcome the results, The World Health Organisation has immediately initiated a process of updating and synthesizing all the evidence on use of contraception and HIV infection risk. As is standard practice when important new research findings are published relating to contraceptive safety, WHO will convene a Guideline Development Group to examine the updated evidence on links between the use of various hormonal contraceptive methods and women's risk of HIV acquisition.

The Guideline Development Group will meet at the end of July 2019 to assess whether current WHO guidance needs to change in the light of the updated evidence.



Councillor Juma Raibu takes part in the cleaning of a trench in his Bomambuzi ward in Moshi municipality on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Sesame, soy farmers in Ruvuma decry scarcity of packaging materials and storage facilities

By Guardian Correspondent, Namumbo

SESAME and soy farmers in Ruvuma regions have raised concerns over scarcity of packaging materials and storage facilities insisting the problem affects the quality of the legumes.

The farmers were speaking during a meeting with Ruvuma Regional Commissioner,

Christina Mndeme early this week.

The meeting was also attended by Namumbo District Commissioner, Sophia Kizigo and Chairman of the district, Daniel Nyambo who backed farmers insisting the residents are motivated to cultivate crops but they are efforts are hindered with lack of packaging materials and storage facilities.

Ruvuma Regional Com-

missioner, Christina Mndeme said farmers are impressed with the introduction of warehouse receipt system contrary to previous seasons when crops were sold using different systems.

Mndeme noted that the price of sesame increased from 1200/- per kilogramme in 2018 to 3050/- per kilogramme this year. She said the region has collected 13bn/- in 2019 from sesame

sales whereas a total of 4356.876 kilos have been sold in nine auctions conducted in the region.

She challenged leaders of farmers cooperative unions in both Songea and Namumbo district to make sure the packaging materials are available throughout the year. She urged them to educate farmers on the importance of opening bank accounts to ensure safety of their monies.

EAC says private sector, CSOs key in enhancement of regional integration

By Guardian Reporter, Lusaka

EAST African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko has said that private sector and civil society operations can only be meaningfully if is anchored on predictable stability and policy consistency at social, economic and political levels.

Ambassador Mfumukeko, who was represented by the Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, Generose Minani, made the remarks recently in Juba, South Sudan when speaking at the two-day training and sensitisation workshop for private sector and civil society on the opportunities and benefits of regional integration.

The training and sensitisation workshop was jointly organized by the South Sudan's Ministry of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs; the EAC Secretariat; and the GIZ-EAC Programme, within the framework of the approved EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF).

Addressing the participants, the EAC boss commended the Government of South Sudan for the steps it was taking to restore peace as the cornerstone of growth and stability and the continuing implementation of its commitments in the accession Treaty.

He appreciated the cooperation programmes that EAC is implementing with the support of GIZ in South Sudan in line with the roadmap to fast track the new Partner State's integration into the EAC.

He noted that the implementation of the projects and programmes focusing on building capacities of the PSO's and the CSO's to enable their effective regional engagement were prioritized in the forgoing roadmap.

He called on the stakeholders to take advantage of the information shared at the workshop to build their capacities and skills so as to be able to effectively engage and benefit from the opportunities available in the region and build lasting partnerships with their counterparts in the wider EAC.

For his part, the representative from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs of South Sudan, Robina Gune underscored the commitment and motivation of the stakeholders in RSS and their readiness to push forward the integration agenda and take advantage of the available opportunities.

The Ministry official noted that although RSS was still behind in many areas of integration, the Ministry, Private Sector Organisations (PSOs) and the Civil Society Organi-

sations (CSOs) in the country were committed towards developing the necessary implementation structures and consolidating the required synergies and capacities to implement the EAC Consultative Dialogue Framework.

She called on the PSOs and CSOs to engage the Ministry on the critical support and platforms that the latter should put in place to ensure the implementation of the CDF in RSS to enhance the realisation of a people centred and market driven cooperation with the expected benefits to the citizenry.

Robina Gune applauded the EAC Secretariat, GIZ - EAC programme for the support in building capacity of the private sector and civil society in RSS on the benefits and opportunities of the EAC integration.

At the same occasion, the Cluster Coordinator of the EAC-GIZ programme, Dr. Focken Kirsten said GIZ-EAC Programme prides itself to be associated with the workshop, which was part of a series of activities that it is supporting the EAC in sensitising, building capacity and elevating the profile of the private sector and the civil society in RSS in order for these two sectors to play a lead role in securing the benefits and opportunities of the integration.

Dr Focken noted that the EAC regional integration benefits transcend trade, economic development, democratisation, gender development and inclusion of people with disabilities and youth, peace building, investments, infrastructure development, health and human rights, among others, for citizens of EAC including South Sudan's CSOs and PSOs that can only be realized when these stakeholders are meaningfully engaged.

The EAC sensitization workshop; whose objective was to share information, impart skills, and capacitate the stakeholders in the two sectors to benefit from regional integration of RSS into the EAC; concluded with recommendations on the need for focused workshops for related clusters of the civil society and private sector associations in RSS; availability of simplified documentations on the projects and programmes of the Community and their implementation frameworks in RSS; seeking opportunities for attachments in the EAC for RSS focal persons in the apex associations should be explored; mobilisation of resources to train trainers to sustain the training momentum in RSS for the CSOs and PSOs and learning visits in the region for benchmarking; financial and technical support to the Ministry responsible for EAC Affairs to implement the CDF Framework and create the dialogue framework in RSS for the PSOs and CSOs.

AfDB showcases impact of Korean drone technology on agricultural productivity

By Special Correspondent, Malabo

AT a special event highlighting the partnership between the African Development Bank and Korea held on the sidelines of the Bank's Annual Meetings, the role of drone technology to boost food productivity in Africa, was on full display.

A pilot project, underway in Tunisia, is designed to reduce food imports. Drone technology is being used to collect and analyse data, and monitor irrigated areas, combat pests.

The Bank launched the project, in cooperation with the Busan Metropolitan City in Korea with support from the Korea-Africa Coopera-

tion fund (KOAFEC).

The session in Malabo included Korea's ambassador to Equatorial Guinea Kwak Ji Hwan, Korean technical experts, senior Bank officials, and private sector representatives.

"We see Korea as a strategic partner with respect to technology transfer, especially ICT technologies, drone technologies, and technology to improve crop varieties," said Martin Fregene, the Bank's Director of Agriculture and Agro-Industry.

Four hundred and sixty drone pilots are to be trained in 14 months.

The use of industrial drones, artificial intelligence, and cloud computing, in pest control

management, security, and the delivery of supplies in remote areas was extensively discussed.

According to Fregene, following the completion of the pilot phase, the project will be expanded to other countries and regions in Africa. "Our expectation is that in many cases drone technology can increase land yields by up to five times."

In 2017, Africa imported \$64.5 billion worth of food. 'Feed Africa' is one of the Bank's High Five priorities launched in 2016 to transform and industrialize African agriculture and make Africa a net food exporter by 2025.

The City of Busan showcased the use of drones in agricultural and urban management

and their current application in Africa, focusing on agro-industrial processing zones (SAPZ), a special flagship programme of Feed Africa, which will roll out in 16 African countries over the next four years.

The last annual meetings of the African Development Bank Group were held in Busan. During the Korea-Africa Forum for Economic Development (KOAFEC), the government of Korea signed a bilateral agreement for \$5 billion in support for Africa.

It has renewed its Korea Trust Fund at the Bank with an additional \$18 million, bringing the fund to about \$100 million, to support capacity building for Africans.

Professor Banji Oyelaran Oyeyinka, the Special Advisor to the President of the Bank on Industrialization, provided delegates with an overview of the Bank's ongoing work to establish Special Agricultural Processing Zones across Africa using advanced technologies as well as investments in human capacity development.

Partnership between the Bank and the Republic of Korea began in 1980 when Korea joined the African Development Fund (ADF). During the 13th replenishment of the Fund, Korea contributed close to \$88 million, an increase of 6.84% over the previous replenishment (ADF-12).



Tanzanian students urged to visit the National Assembly to build patriotism

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIAN students have been challenged to imbibe a habit of visiting the National Assembly to learn various issues on how the law-making body operates as well as building patriotism. The call was made by a group of students from St Anne Marie Academy and Brilliant secondary school who visited the Parliament as part of motivation to them from their school for good performance of Division One and Two in 2018 Form Four national examination.

One of the students, who visited the National Assembly recently, Jackline Malavanu, said: "It's my first time to visit the Parliament and I have learnt a lot of things particularly on how parliamentarians debate on issues."

Malavanu said: "We thank school management for availing this opportunity to us it was amazing moment and most of us didn't expect to get this chance. We have learnt a lot about how parliament runs its affairs, how members of parliament debate and how government respond to issues arise in the house and we wish other schools to emulate this tradition from St Anne Marie."

Another student, Emmanuel Kimario said other schools should learn from St Anne Marie Academy tradition to take their students not only in parliament but also in national parks like Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Mikumi as part of motivation to their students to do better in their studies.

He praise that habit adding that through study tour in different parts of the country students learn a lot and can help them in the future because they also get confidence.

"We thank our direct who is always at our side, he walks the talk and our tour to the parliament of Tanzania is the evidence on how he walks the talk. Most of us were in different part of the country but they called us and organized the trip we are happy for that it was a big moment for us," another student Abdulkarim Mawenge said.

Recently, Speaker of the national assembly, Job Ndugai has commended Bukoba Rural MP (CCM), Jasson Rweikiza for investing in education something which he said it complement government's efforts in uplift education sector.

KCB Bank's 2jijiri grants 85m/- to Tanzanian business women

By Guardian Reporter

KCB Bank Tanzania yesterday launched Phase Two of their 2jijiri social investment initiative at the bank's Dar es Salaam headquarters.

The event attended by the initiative's beneficiaries, KCB Bank staff, members of the press and other stakeholders was a great success in reaffirming the bank's continued commitment to em-

powering the 21st century Tanzanian woman.

Launched in 2016, the 2jijiri initiative coupled with 2jijiri Women's Account aimed to empower Tanzanian women by designing strategies and activities to develop skills, build capacity through theoretical and practical training as well as increase business and market opportunities through networking. In its three years of existence, the initiative

has successfully mentored and effectively changed the lives of over 256 women in the SME sector across Tanzania.

2jijiri for 2019 was executed in two phases where Phase One took 256 women to the classroom giving them theoretical training in the areas of business formalisation, bookkeeping and sales and marketing.

115 out of the 256 women later received meticulously crafted

practical training in the mentioned disciplines.

Phase Two of the programme launched on Wednesday 12th June 2019 plans to offer grants of 5,000,000/- to a select number of women who have successfully completed Phase One of the 2jijiri initiative. The 17 women set to receive the grants will have to be put through their paces to ensure that they are worthy recipients of the non-refundable sum

aimed at helping them grow their businesses.

Speaking at the event, KCB Bank head of marketing and corporate affairs, Christine Manyenye said that although the grants are non-refundable the bank shall closely monitor the recipients progress and measure impact of the grants, further emphasising the bank's commitment to business wellbeing of the grant recipients.

In her remarks, Manyenye also detailed the uncomplicated selection criteria where the prospecting business women will have to fill an application form available on both the bank's website and branch network, must have undergone both the theoretical and practical training, owners of an active 2jijiri Women's Account and holders of a valid Certificate of Business Registration and Business Licence.

Speaking at the event, Bhoke Mukoji Mhini, managing director of East Africa secondary school in Kibaha and one of the beneficiaries of the 2jijiri initiative said she has never seen such genuine commitment to the Tanzanian woman as that exemplified by KCB Bank Tanzania and 2jijiri programme urging other banks to follow in KCB Bank's footsteps adding that the bank has just raised the bar in social corporate

Uganda says reduction in AMISOM troops may undermine gains made

KAMPALA

THE Ugandan military on Tuesday said reduction in the number of African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops is likely to undermine gains without alternative measures taken.

Ugandan military spokesman Brig. Richard Karemiri said that reduction in the number of UN-led peacekeeping troops should be followed by provision of force enablers like attack and utility helicopters to fill in the gap left.

"The reduction must always be based on the cold concrete conditions on the ground. Certainly the situation still requires a sizable number of AMISOM troops in the absence of the requisite force multipliers and limited

but growing capacity of the Somalia National Army," Karemiri said.

Uganda is one of the troop contributing countries to AMISOM which is fighting Somali militant group Al-Shabab.

The UN Security Council on May 31 passed a resolution in which it authorized a 1,000 troop reduction of the AMISOM force to 19,626 peacekeepers.

The decision was taken in line with the Transition Plan agreed in 2017, whereby AMISOM will gradually hand over security to Somali forces.

Karemiri said the troop contributing countries will now convene and decide how many troops each country will send home.



A motorcycle lies on the road after being involved in a crash with a truck at Goba on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday, but with no immediate reports of deaths or injuries. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

World ought to raise awareness of preventing desertification, drought

DESERTIFICATION is a type of land degradation in which a relatively dry area of land becomes a desert, typically losing its bodies of water as well as vegetation and wildlife. It is caused by a variety of factors, such as through climate change particularly the current global warming and through the overexploitation of soil through human activity. When deserts appear automatically over the natural course of a planet's life cycle, then it can be called a natural phenomenon; however, when deserts emerge due to the rampant and unchecked depletion of nutrients in soil that are essential for it to remain arable, then a virtual soil death can be spoken of, which traces its cause back to human overexploitation. Desertification is a significant global ecological and environmental problem with far reaching consequences on socio-economic and political conditions.

Considerable controversy exists over the proper definition of the term 'desertification' for which Helmut Geist (2005) has identified more than 100 formal definitions. The most widely accepted of these is that of the Princeton University Dictionary which defines it as 'the process of fertile land transforming into desert typically as a result of deforestation, drought or improper/inappropriate agriculture'.

Desertification has been neatly defined in the text of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as 'land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities.'

A drought or drouth is a natural disaster of below-average precipitation in a given region, resulting in prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric, surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few

as 15 days. It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region and harm to the local economy. Annual dry seasons in the tropics significantly increase the chances of a drought developing and subsequent bush fires. Periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening evaporation of water vapour.

Many plant species, such as those in the family Cactaceae (or cacti), have drought tolerance adaptations like reduced leaf area and waxy cuticles to enhance their ability to tolerate drought. Some others survive dry periods as buried seeds. Semi-permanent drought produces arid biomes such as deserts and grasslands. Prolonged droughts have caused mass migrations and humanitarian crisis. Most arid ecosystems have inherently low productivity. The most prolonged drought ever in the world in recorded history occurred in the Atacama Desert in Chile 400 years ago.

The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is a United Nations observance each June 17. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the presence of desertification and drought, highlighting methods of preventing desertification and recovering from drought. Each year's global celebration has a unique, novel emphasis that had not been developed previously.

This day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution on January 30, 1995, after the day when United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification is drafted.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development declares that "we are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations".

Migrant workers can improve the lives of family members back home

Amigrant workers are persons who either migrate within their home country or outside it to pursue work such as seasonal work. Migrant workers usually do not have an intention to stay permanently in the country or region in which they work.

Migrant workers who work outside their home country are also called foreign workers. They may also be called expatriates or guest workers, especially when they have been sent for or invited to work in the host country before leaving the home country.

The International Labour Organization estimated in 2014 there were 232 million international migrants worldwide who were outside their home country for at least 12 months and approximately half of them were estimated to be economically active (i.e. being employed or seeking employment). Some countries have millions of migrant workers. Some migrant workers may be illegal immigrants. Some may be slaves.

The United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families defines migrant worker as follows:

The term migrant worker refers to a person who is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national.

Guest workers may have their status defined in their host country by a particular guest worker programme.

In terms of migrant labour, many women move from a more oppressive home country to a less oppressive environment where they have actual access to waged work. As such, leaving the home and obtaining increased economic independence and freedom challenges traditional gender roles.

This can be seen to strengthen women's position in the family by improving their relative bargaining position. They have more leverage in controlling the household because they have control over a degree of economic assets. However, this can lead to hostility between wives and husbands who feel inadequate or ashamed at their inability to fulfill their traditional role as breadwinner. The hostility and resentment from the husband can also be a source of domestic violence. Studies have also been done which point to changes in family structures as a result of migrant labour. These changes include increased divorce rates and decrease in household stability. Additionally, female migrant labour has been indicated as a source for more egalitarian relationships within the family, decline of extended family patterns, and more nuclear families. There is also a risk for infidelity abroad, which also erodes the family structure.

The International Day of Family Remittances is a universally-recognised observance adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and observed on 16 June each year. The day recognises the contribution of over 200 million migrant workers to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.

Through this observance, the United Nations aim at bringing greater awareness on the impact that these contributions have on millions of households, but also on communities, countries, and entire regions.

The Day also calls upon governments, private sector entities, and the civil society to find ways that can maximise the impact of remittances through individual, and/or collective actions.

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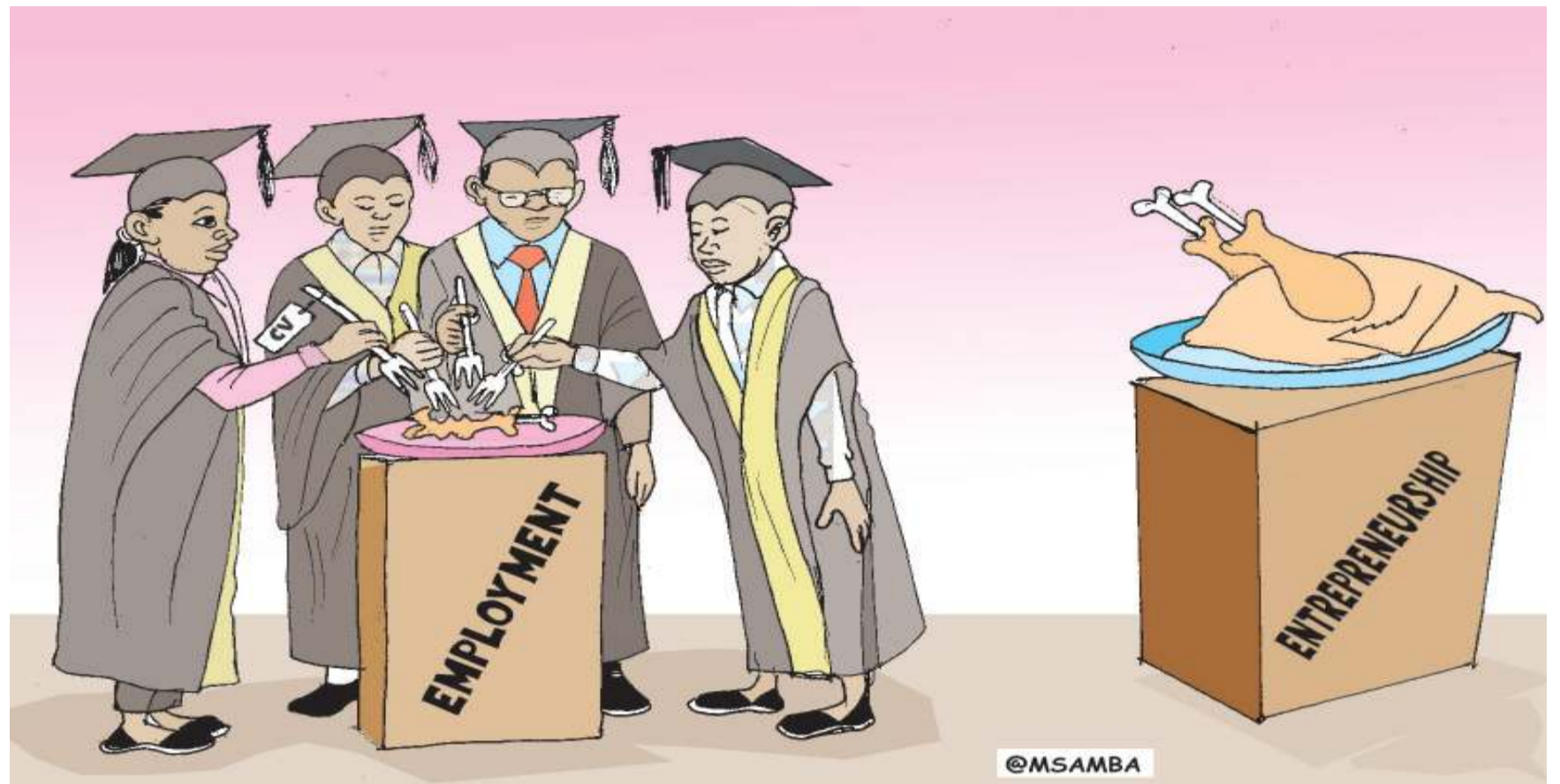
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Reflections on trends in India-Tanzania relations

By Sandeep Arya

TODAY (June 15, 2019), I am leaving Tanzania after very fulfilling and indelible experiences of close to four years in this wonderful and unforgettable land.

This gratifying feeling flows from a healthy progress in India-Tanzania friendship and multi-dimensional cooperation, fulsome acceptance and support from the friendly government, kindness and affection of the hospitable people, and my sense of association and affinity developed over these years with this country bestowed with exceptional natural bounty.

My four years of work here touched upon almost all dimensions of diplomacy and bilateral cooperation that is rooted in the immense depth and strength of India-Tanzania friendship.

A strong and sustained mutual understanding and appreciation between the two governments drawn from the path of development and progress from humble beginnings right from the time of Mwalimu Nyerere provide an unshakable foundation for the development of India-Tanzania relations.

The visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2016 to engage with President Dr John Magufuli was followed through with the Joint Commission session co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in October 2018 and Joint Trade Committee co-chaired by their Industry and Trade counterparts in August 2017.

There have also been innumerable official engagements in healthcare, education, water, agriculture, minerals & energy sectors. All these were demonstrative of continued efforts by the two governments to engage, collaborate and advance India-Tanzania partnership.

The breadth of our economic and business linkages is not always apparent. Year after year, India has been receiving upwards of 20 per cent of all Tanzanian exports utilising a unilateral extension of duty-free tariff preference scheme by India to Tanzania over the last ten years.

Tanzania Revenue Authority data for 2018 placed India once again as Tanzania's largest trading partner with about USD 2 billion of bilateral trade turnover.

Figuring among the top five investment sources for Tan-



zania is creditable for India, which itself attracts foreign direct investments to the tune of USD 40 billion annually.

Scores of Indian companies are exploring new ventures in Tanzania in areas as diverse as pharmaceuticals, vehicles, agriculture, infrastructure, and the manufacturing and service industries.

Only the pace, not the trend, could be a matter of forecast for future economic engagement between India as the fastest growing large economy and Tanzania as one of the most promising growth economies in Africa.

Development partnership is an exciting and fast-developing element of our bilateral relations, covering water, healthcare, education, agriculture and skills development.

India's participation in the water sector in Tanzania, with a total soft financing of about 2.4 trillion/- is unparalleled for India. A contribution of about 26 per cent of all water supply by DAWASCO to Dar es Salaam from the first India water project of about 320 billion/- is servicing up to one million people in the city.

The second mega-project, costing over 600 billion/- and meant to supply water to Tabora, Nzega, Igunga and 89 villages on the way, is about 70 per cent complete and should be handed over around February 2020.

Further, committed water

projects under design right now will cover 28 towns, including Zanzibar, and will ensure India's strong contribution to the water sector in Tanzania continues for several years to come.

Hundreds of water engineers in Tanzania have been trained in India under fully sponsored programmes over the last few decades that provide sustainability to the water assets being created.

India has engaged in creating facilities and capacities for healthcare, education, agriculture and skills development in Tanzania in different sectors such as ICT, energy, rural development, entrepreneurship, finance and geology.

With about 500 Tanzanian officials and specialists travelling to India annually for India-sponsored training courses, development cooperation is bound to deepen long-term association and partnership between the two countries.

The bilateral cooperation touches upon sectors such as counter-narcotics, hydrography, defence training, including UN peacekeeping, societal applications of radiation technology and innumerable technical areas of common interest.

Our governments are constantly discussing and identifying areas of promise and interest to Tanzania to advance our cooperation. Solar power and other applications, including solar pumps and lights utilis-

ing the creation of International Solar Alliance by India in collaboration with France and with Tanzania as a member, offer huge opportunities in the coming years.

One of the strongest factors in India-Tanzania friendship is the affinity, comfort and natural inclination of our peoples to reach out to and engage with each other.

This may be flowing from the similarities of the developmental journeys of the two countries, friendliness as part of the character of our peoples, aspirations of our societies for development & prosperity, or the deep historical connections between our people and their engagement with each other.

The Tanzanian community of Indian origin reflects the historical nature of linkages between us. What is clear is that people in India and Tanzania connect with each other like no other.

Cultural exchanges and mutual travel between us are a self-evident manifestation of these affinities. Air Tanzania's direct flights from Dar es Salaam to Mumbai next month as the first destination outside Africa will nurture and support these bilateral connections.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to the government and people of Tanzania for their kindness and support to me over the last almost four years. This provided unfailing energy and encouragement for me to work to advance India-Tanzania relations in several sectors.

I am convinced that these ties have a sound future ahead, based on the excellent foundation and natural synergies between us. I will treasure and cherish deeply the memories of this unique "unforgettable" country, its simple and hospitable people, their affection and positivity towards India and my close association with the government and people here.

Sandeep Arya (pictured) has been the High Commissioner of India to Tanzania and Representative of India to the East African Community since August 2015. He e-mailed this piece to The Guardian yesterday alongside this note: "I am returning to India tomorrow after more than three years and ten months of a wonderful and memorable stay in this beautiful country. I have penned my warm feelings about Tanzania and India-Tanzania relations which are enclosed. You may like to consider publishing them in The Guardian to share them with your readership."

Here are five ways to ease the paperwork in your business

By Nikki Summers

As a busy small & medium business owner, you probably spend a lot of time doing paperwork, ranging from recording transactions and issuing invoices to taking care of tax compliance.

Doing these tasks accurately and quickly is a basic requirement for any business. But let's face it: you would rather focus on growing your company, bringing out new services, and interacting with customers and employees.

Even if you are running a one-person micro-business, an accounting solution can help you streamline all the paperwork and number crunching so you can focus on the really important stuff. Today's online accounting solutions are highly affordable and free you from administration

with clever, easy features that are built around your needs.

Here are five ways a cloud-based solution can ease your paperwork pains, one relating to the need to take control of your cash flow.

Are you using paper records and bank statements to manage the flow of money into and out of your business? Not only is this time-consuming but it also makes it difficult to track payments expected, outstanding bills and your company's precise, up-to-the-minute position regarding income, expenses, assets and liabilities.

With the right accounting solution in place, you can generate a range of financial reports with a swipe on your mobile device or a click of your mouse. You can track sales performance, see which of your product lines are profitable and unprofitable, generate forecasts and budgets, and easily call up profit and loss statements.

Two: Spend less time on recordkeeping and statutory filing. Do you follow a tax year-end ritual of printing out bank statements, digging out paper bills and invoices from boxes, and spending hours adding everything up?

That chore could be history once you



adopt a cloud-based accounting solution, freeing up days of your time for selling to customers or doing billable work. An accounting package gives you one place to keep your accounting records - and they'll be accurate and up to date.

Three: Make life easier for your accountant. Is your accountant nagging you to invest in an accounting solution? Take this advice - the accountant is probably billing you heavily for doing a lot of manual work on your behalf. He or she may also be concerned about your ability to produce accurate financial records in a timely fashion.

With an online accounting solution, you and your accountant can work on the same set of books at the same time from anywhere in the world. You

can process your invoices while your accountant is busy running reports, for instance. There's no need for the accountant to come to your office for some simple paperwork.

Four: Streamline invoicing. Are you spending a lot of time each month generating invoices and keeping track of your purchases from, and payments to, suppliers and service providers?

With the right solution in place, you can quote from the accounting solution and then generate a customised, professional-looking invoice when it's time to bill.

You should be able to easily create recurring invoices quickly and simply for each customer that needs to pay you the same amount each month. You'll

also benefit from features that make it easier to track your own creditors.

Five: Automate reconciliations. Manual reconciliations are slow, inefficient and prone to human error. With the right accounting solution, you can link your online bank account to your financial solution. Each day, your accounting records will be updated automatically.

The writer is Regional Director for Sage, a global market leader for technology that helps businesses of all sizes manage everything from money to people - whether they're a start-up, scale-up or enterprise, in East Africa. The agency's mission is to free business builders - three million customers across 23 countries.



'US has to pay for tariff hikes'

By Wu Yuehe

THE US decision makers are accustomed to pressuring other countries by threatening to hike tariffs. Satisfy their demands, or else they will intimidate you with a "big stick" of tariffs. Such hegemonic logic, which has reminded people of the gunboat diplomacy, cannot run well in the 21st century.

Recently, Washington threatened to increase tariffs on Mexican goods if Mexico doesn't stop the flow of undocumented migrants crossing the border. However, less than two days after the US asserted that it had reached "a very important deal" with Mexico, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pushed back, saying that the US could still slap tariffs on Mexico if not enough progress was made on the latter's commitment to stem illegal immigration.

The US' law-of-the-jungle mentality has shocked the world again and drawn wide criticism from the international community.

Pascal Lamy, a former director-general of the WTO, said the migration deal imposed on Mexico by the US under the threat of punitive tariffs was a victory for "hostage-taking" over international rules, noting that Mexico may run the risk of facing more threats from the US in the future.

The consequences of wrong economic and trade policies are hard to forget. In the late 1920s, the US placed high tariffs on imports under a beggar-thy-neighbor policy, which resulted in nothing but the Great Depression, the global economic crisis and a 66-percent decline of global trade volume between 1929 and 1934.

The US should learn from this painful lesson.

The international order established after World War II was originally intended to prevent such tragedy from happening again.

However, the current US government is obsessed with the dangerous tariff-raising game, which has be-

come a source of risks in the global market, and worries more and more people.

Some US politicians have become obsessed with the "tariff game" and trampled on the bottom line of international relations again and again.

They regard tariff imposition as a panacea, and even became addicted to it. They believe that "no trade can be made without a tariff," while completely neglect the chaos and loss that the US has caused for itself, and the pressure and impact the US has brought to the global market.

The global market has gone out of control because of the US government's abuse of tariffs, and people are beginning to worry about the stability of the multilateral mechanism, which has been growing after World War II, according to Agencia EFE, a Spanish news agency.

The US is shooting at the international labor division and industrial supply chain, which are at the core of global economy, said an article published on German newspaper Der Tagesspiegel.

The tariffs have thrown a giant wrench into Southern California logistics industries, rippling through a broad web of companies that handle shipping, trucking, railroads, warehousing, construction, manufacturing and farming, said a US report, adding that the snafus at the port has become "a nightmare" for locals.

However, the US politicians neither cared about the predicament of the American people, nor listened to any words of dissent. In response to media criticism, they said relevant media outlets are "retrogressive" or "untrustworthy".

They thought hegemony would "make America great again," but the reality is not fantasy or wishful thinking.

These American politicians, who act against the laws of economics and turn a blind eye to the global development trend, will eventually pay a heavy price for their practices.

Resolving South Africa's brutal order

BY ANDREW FAULL

DEMOCRATIC societies become violent when their governments lose the monopoly on force, and trust between citizens and the state erodes. This is according to Rachel Kleinfeld, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, whose 2018 book *A Savage Order* explains how even the most violent democratic societies can find peace. Read in the context of South Africa's newly elected government, it suggests that good leadership should be able to turn the country's violent tide.

Kleinfeld identifies two reasons democracies become plagued by violence. The first is when states are too weak to sustain the rule of law. This occurs when governments lack the resources and skills to govern. Such states can be reformed with aid, training and political will.

The second reason is that political and economic elites manipulate budgets and policies in favour of particular communities, for example apartheid and state capture. This often happens in collaboration with violent groups, and contributes to the erosion of criminal justice institutions so their abuse goes unchecked. Kleinfeld notes that this is common in highly unequal societies.

In time, violence that begins with the state saturates society. It becomes the tool through which people solve problems with friends and neighbours. Knowing the state is unlikely to respond to calls for help or hold them accountable for their actions, citizens use violence with increasing impunity. This holds true in South Africa where most violence occurs between people who know each another.

Impunity is a common feature in South Africa where even the act of murder can be met without consequence. In the Hammanskraal precinct about

50 km north of Pretoria, it is reported that not one person has been convicted for the 543 murders recorded in 2017 and 2018.

In such societies, citizens turn to vigilantism, community groups and gangs for security and justice. Those who can afford it barricade their homes and employ private security guards. South Africa has 3.4 private security personnel for every police officer.

Although some people may believe that South Africa's violence emerged with democracy, it started long before 1994. It was the apartheid-era elites who used the violence of the military, police and prison to suppress the majority of South Africans because of the colour of their skin.

It was the apartheid state that failed to provide adequate, professional policing to black communities so that they became custodians of coercive force. And it was the apartheid state that destroyed such communities when it forcibly relocated them, allowing gangs to monopolise force in new settlements. Apartheid taught South Africans that violence is a legitimate expression of authority and therefore also of resistance.

Democracy brought an opportunity for reform. Police were deployed where they were previously absent and sworn to serve all equally. Millions who previously distrusted the state turned to it for help, and violence once invisible to the middle class became visible.

But although the murder rate more than halved between 1993 and 2011, violence remains endemic. South Africans' trust in government and each other is weak, while extreme unemployment and poverty sustain chronic stress and social strain.

Kleinfeld suggests that reform of violent democracies must be driven by the middle class - which is perhaps problematic for South Africa where the majority remain poor. It is easy, she writes, for corrupt governments to ignore the



How the country's new leaders can stop endemic violence and restore trust between citizens and government.

indigent, but not the middle class. Her middle class are people with enough education, income and aspiration to be independent of the state and are therefore able to place pressure on governments to act fairly.

South Africa's many poor are highly dependent on the state, with 45% of households receiving at least one government grant. At the same time, thousands of professionals emigrate each year. This does not bode well for reform, although the middle class support for and confidence in President Cyril Ramaphosa is a start.

According to Kleinfeld, leaders capable of restoring a state's monopoly of force and ending endemic violence possess key traits: they have vision, are decisive, employ skilled technocrats, communicate with and are answerable to the public, and get the state working fast. They use intelligence and surveillance, informants and asset seizures to end impunity at the top. Then they steer reform down through government and the private sector, to schools, clinics, streets and homes.

Ramaphosa's initiatives to reform the National Prosecuting Authority and the State Security Agency and tackle corruption are vital. If the African National Congress (ANC) is unable to remove its corrupt comrades itself, the criminal

justice system must do it instead. This means rapidly reforming the South African Police Service, particularly its intelligence and priority crimes components, and fixing the prosecution service. But it also means professionalising front-line policing.

Regaining the monopoly of force does not mean putting everyone who breaks the law in prison. It simply means responding swiftly and fairly when people call on police for help and when state intervention is required.

When South Africans believe that the state is responsive, trust will grow. In turn, more people will pay taxes, further enabling government to improve the economy and deliver much-needed services. These include the many primary violence prevention initiatives known to be effective, and which can help South Africa to heal. But in the absence of democratic rule of law, a growing economy and public trust, violence prevention will struggle to have society-wide impact.

The ball is in the ANC's court. South Africa has had enough violence. Is the governing party so damaged by the country's violent past that it can offer little but factional conflict? Or can the reformists ensure that it leads South Africa to a future of peace and prosperity?

BY PETER FABRICIUS

Is speaking truth to Swazi royal power bringing slow change?

LITTLE news emerges from Eswatini, the tiny monarchy landlocked by South Africa and Mozambique, except lurid stories about the latest shenanigans of King Mswati III and his many wives. So it's hardly surprising that few outsiders - and not even many insiders apparently - have been paying attention to quite encouraging recent political developments.

Five years ago the country hit rock bottom, sparking international outrage after the arrest and jailing of journalists, lawyers and opposition politicians for criticising the lack of democracy and judicial independence.

In 2016 the United States (US) responded by removing Eswatini - then still called Swaziland - as a beneficiary of its African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which allows low-tariff or tariff-free entry into the US market for exports from eligible African countries. Since then, however, things have begun moving in the right direction, even if slowly and almost invisibly.

The changes became apparent in January last year when the US reinstated Eswatini's AGOA benefits after the Swazi government made changes mainly to the far-reaching Suppression of Terrorism Act and the Public Order Act, which had restricted political freedoms. Eswatini also amended the Industrial Relations Act, as demanded by the US, principally to allow for the registration of trade union and employer federations.

The Suppression of Terrorism Act was amended mainly to require proof that a defendant is guilty of all three elements of terrorism - perpetrating a trigger action or actions, intent to instill terror in the public, and intent to coerce a national authority to take some action, or refrain from taking it. Previously the courts could convict someone for just one of these elements.

The most critical reform of the Public Order Act is that organisers of marches and public protests now need only inform the local authority before proceeding. In the past, they had to first seek permission from authorities, which was usually denied. Several marches have been successfully held under the new legislation, proving that it works, diplomats say - although police still occasionally block marches probably because not all understand



the new law.

The other significant signs of change in Eswatini are in the attitude of the new government appointed by Mswati after last year's elections. Both the new Prime Minister Ambrose Dlamini, a businessman, and the new acting police commissioner William Dlamini, have proved to be more tolerant and liberal than their hardline predecessors. Diplomats cite the recent example of the police chief phoning a journalist to apologise after police officers threatened to pursue 2012 charges against

The dire state of the country's economy is likely behind the first steps to political reform. File photo

him.

Telling truth to power is evidently more critical in Eswatini than elsewhere because, despite being an absolute or at least executive monarch, Mswati is apparently quite unaware of much that is happening inside his country and government. Even his closest advisers have reportedly been loath to be the bearer of bad news, such as the extent of the fiscal crisis. But last year Mswati responded to advice to appoint a new government

willing to tell him the truth. There is still much improvement needed to liberate the political space, even in the Suppression of Terrorism and Public Order acts and much more beyond those - and no certainty that it will be done. Diplomats and others say the next target of reform should be the king's 1973 proclamation that prohibits full multiparty democracy. Political parties may legally exist and five of them do, but politicians may in practice only contest elections

as individuals, not as party representatives.

Mswati evidently argues that it is unnecessary to repeal the 1973 proclamation as the 2005 constitution has made it defunct by guaranteeing freedom of expression and assembly. But as the Southern Africa Litigation Centre reports, section 79 of the constitution still implicitly denies multiparty democracy because it stipulates 'individual merit as a basis for election or appointment to public office'.

And even though several high court and supreme court decisions have confirmed that the 1973 proclamation is defunct in law, SALC points out that several arrests of activists and the use of the terrorism law against political parties have 'created a default assumption that the prohibition of political parties remains in place'.

So it remains important for the government to confirm explicitly that the 1973 proclamation is gone. Diplomats are trying to persuade Mswati that multiparty democracy need not be at odds with Eswatini's politics of individual merit. SALC's report still characterises Eswatini as an 'absolute' monarchy. As a result of the changes so far though, some countries represented in Eswatini have started referring to the political system instead as an 'executive monarchy' - a significant difference.

Outspoken newspaper editor Bheki Makhubu, however, isn't impressed by the changes. He thinks Mswati has made them not because he has suddenly fallen in love with his people but because of the dire state of the economy.

Profligate Swazi government spending and a weak regional economy - which has caused a fall in customs revenues from the Southern African Customs Union that Eswatini has relied on for decades - are making it increasingly hard for the government to pay its creditors and even public servants.

'[Mswati] desperately needs investment and you can't attract investors when you are beating up your people,' says Makhubu. Still, he believes it is unlikely that Mswati will reverse course now, although perhaps he won't proceed further down the path of reform either. Even those more encouraged than Makhubu by the changes fear that something might still happen to frighten Mswati and his government back into their old repressive ways.

But some change is in the air. And at least Swazi watchers have something weightier to ponder than whether Mswati will choose another comely bare-breasted maiden at the annual Reed Dance.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

SCO Bishkek summit to promote SCO community with a shared future

By Du Dewen

ON Jun.12, Chinese President Xi Jinping started his trip to Kyrgyzstan for a state visit and the 19th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. He held discussions with SCO heads of state on the development of the organization as well as the future of regional cooperation.

China and Kyrgyzstan are friendly neighbors. They have maintained sound and stable development of bilateral relations since the establishment of their diplomatic ties 27 years ago.

The two countries witnessed constantly consolidated political mutual trust, comprehensively promoted pragmatic cooperation in economy, trade, and cultural exchanges, as well as continuously expanded and deepened security cooperation.

Head-of-state diplomacy plays a fundamental role in the continuous development of China-Kyrgyzstan relations. In September 2013, China and Kyrgyzstan established strategic partnership when President Xi paid his first state visit to Kyrgyzstan. The strategic partnership was later lifted to a comprehensive strategic partnership last June during the first state visit of Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov to China.

President Xi's second state visit to Kyrgyzstan and his attendance at the SCO summit injected strong impetus into the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries and usher in a new chapter of their efforts to build a community with a shared future. In recent years, the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has opened up broad prospects for China-Kyrgyzstan cooperation in various areas.

As one of the earliest supporters and participants of the BRI, Kyrgyzstan regards the joint construction of the BRI

as a new opportunity to seek cooperation and promote development.

In the past April, President Jeenbekov attended the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, during which the two heads of state agreed to enhance the alignment between the BRI and the 2040 National Sustainable Development Strategy of Kyrgyzstan to achieve more fruits in the bilateral friendly cooperation and bring more benefits to the people of the two countries.

Both sides will earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, and take joint construction of the BRI as a great opportunity to boost all-round mutually beneficial cooperation.

As founding members of the SCO, China and Kyrgyzstan have carried out productive bilateral cooperation and multilateral cooperation within the framework of the SCO.

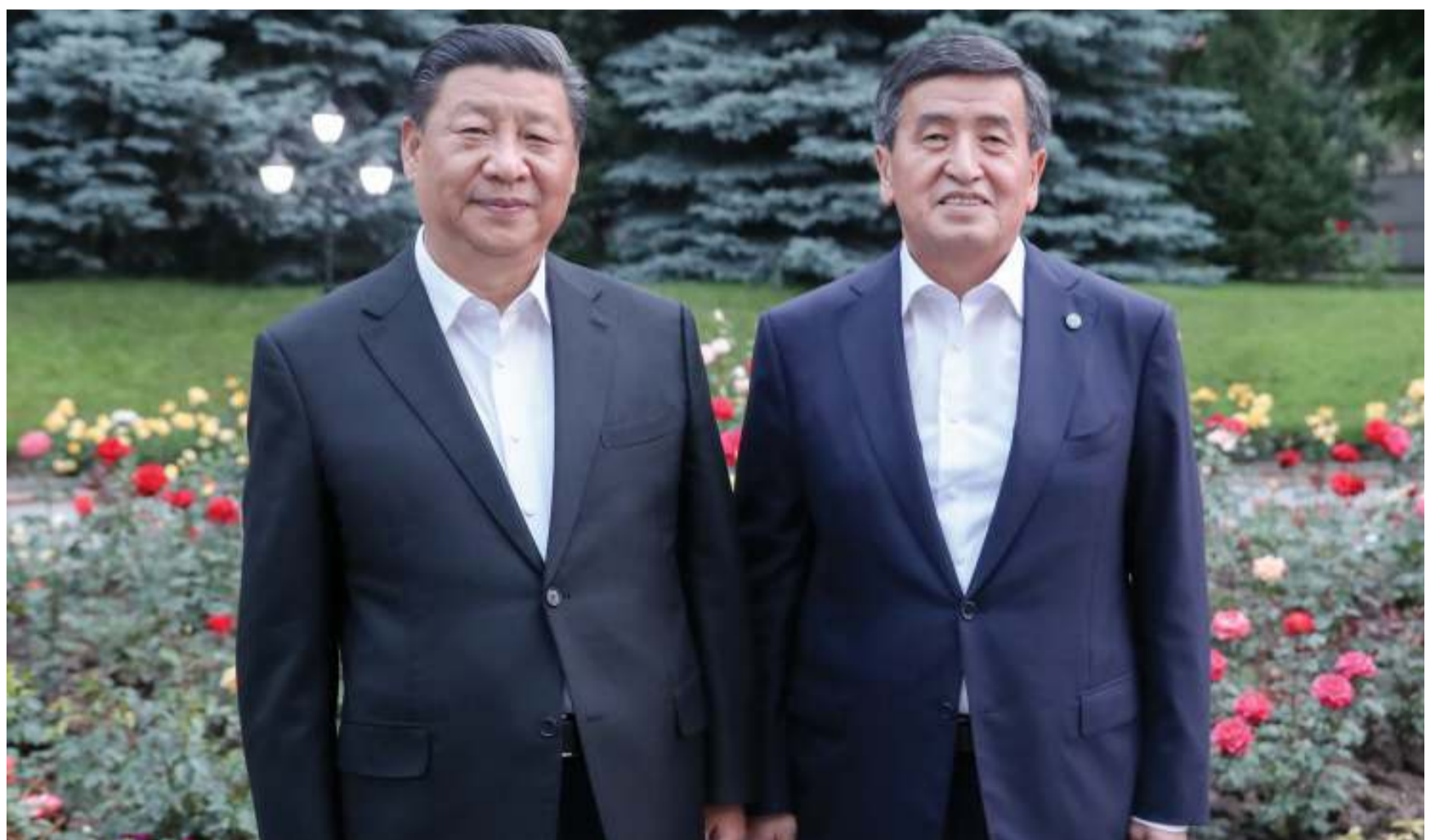
Last June, the first SCO summit after the expansion of the organization was successfully held in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, marking a new starting point for higher stage of development of the SCO.

Over the past year, each party concerned has actively implemented the outcomes of the SCO Qingdao summit.

Since assuming the SCO rotating presidency, Kyrgyzstan has delivered on its commitments earnestly, endeavoring to promote the implementation of various new initiatives and new measures.

In April 2019, a meeting of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group was held in Bishkek, further reinforced the coordination of the SCO on issues concerning Afghanistan.

In the past several months, the Defense Ministers' Meeting of the Member States of the SCO, the SCO Security Council Secretaries meeting, and the meeting of SCO Council of Foreign Minister were held successively. During the meetings, various parties had in-depth exchanges of views on SCO



Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Kyrgyz counterpart Sooronbay Jeenbekov have a meeting at the presidential residence right after the Chinese president arrives in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, June 12, 2019. (Xinhua)

cooperation in diplomacy, security, economy and trade, technology, and culture. These meetings helped deepen political consensus, expand pragmatic and security cooperation, and improve SCO's international influence, laying a solid foundation for the SCO Bishkek summit.

The SCO has also held a number of other events under the framework of the organization that further strengthened the connection and friendship among SCO members, such as media forum, wom-

en's forum, and the International Issyk-Kul Marathon of the SCO.

The ideas of building a new type of international relations, building a community with a shared future for mankind, and the joint construction of the BRI have won wide support in member states of the SCO. By actively promoting the alignment of development strategies, the parties concerned have opened up a vast space and created bright prospects for win-win cooperation of the SCO. The cooperation on the

joint construction of the BRI has brought tangible benefits to the people of relevant countries.

Practice has proved that the SCO is a new type of dynamic and influential organization for regional cooperation. It regards "Shanghai Spirit" as its original aspiration and the source of vitality.

At present, when the international and regional economic and security situation is undergoing complicated and profound changes, the SCO comes to a new starting point.

It's believed that the SCO Bishkek summit, while pressing ahead with the direction and goals of the organization, especially the ones set at the SCO Qingdao summit, will chart the course for future development of the organization, formulate a community with shared goals in safeguarding security and development, and promote the development of the SCO community with a shared future.

(Du Dewen is the Chinese ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.)

'Africa has big number of children employed as labourers'

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

AFRICA has a big number of children employed as labourers at various production sectors including mines.

Prosper Umoja project manager, Christopher Ruyenga made the disclosed on Wednesday during an event to mark the World Day Against

Child Labour held in Chunya district, Mbeya region. This year's theme according to the United Nations is 'Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams'.

The projects, implemented by Winrock International with the financial support from Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Programme Foundation (ECCT) it works to end

child labour in tobacco cultivating regions including Mbeya, Tabora and Songwe regions.

"We have been working with tobacco purchasing companies to control child labour in tobacco farms. We have so far managed to rescue 180 children and provided them with school uniforms and learning materials", he noted.

He said through the project, a total of 180 women have been trained on entrepreneurship skills to enable them raise money for their children requirements.

Speaking on behalf of tobacco buyers, representative from TLTC Company, Fabian Kababi said they have resolved not to buy tobacco from farms that are attended by children.

He said they have educated farmers on the impact of involving children in tobacco farming, instead let them concentrate with studies for their better future.

Chunya District Commissioner, Eng Maryprisca Mahundi said legal measures will be taken against any farm owner who will employ children.

According to research conducted by

the International Labour Organization (ILO), 218 million children under five years and those below 17 years are involved in child labour. The report indicates that 72.1 percent of the children work in various sectors within Sub-Saharan Africa.

ILO launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child la-



Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) Programme Manager Jamal Juma (2nd L) explains about the engagement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the implementation of Land Tenure Support Programme to the CARITAS Mahenge Catholic Diocese staff Anastazia Shimbili (L), Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Thadei Dulle (2nd R) and Treasurer, Julitha Mhumpa. Photo: Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta

UNICEF partners to boost digital literacy in schools across Kenya

NAIROBI

THE UN children's fund (UNICEF) Kenya has partnered with Nokia to increase equitable access to digital literacy for some of the most disadvantaged children in primary schools across the east African nation.

The partnership which was inked during the ongoing Nairobi Innovation Week includes girls and children with disabilities in urban informal settlements and some of the most remote areas of Kenya.

Maniza Zaman, representative of UNICEF in Kenya, said the UN agency is working in partnership with the government and the private sector through innovative partnerships to empower the most disadvantaged children to get quality education with the internet.

"We are proud to have contributed to the development of the first Accessible Digital Textbook with support from the UNICEF Innovation Fund and Nokia. This is a major step in furthering inclusive education through innovative technology for children in Kenya and beyond," Zaman said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

She said the Accessible Digital Textbook with special features for children, with hearing, visual and intellectual disabilities, has successfully been piloted in schools during the first quarter of 2019 and will be launched by the government later this month.

The partnership builds on Kenya's investment in the Digital Literacy Project which provided one million tablets to primary schools with a focus on improving the availability and use of quality digital content.

The collaboration also brings together stakeholders from ministries of education and ICT, as well as the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), children, teachers, content providers and mobile network operators in Kenya, to address challenges and unlock opportunities for digital learning and literacy.

Land Tenure Support Programme helps to resolve conflicts - project

By Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta, Morogoro

FOR a long time now, many rural communities in Tanzania have lived and worked on unsurveyed land, which did not allow them to claim legal ownership. They were also denied access to loans from banks and other financial institutions that would have enabled them improve farming or invest in other income generating activities.

Living and working on unsurveyed land has contributed to increasing disputes between community members and between one community and another because of disputes over boundaries of plots of land; the boundaries were only set by word of and although sometimes trees planted by one party served to show boundaries, these were rarely honoured.

These conflicts resulted not only in breaking social harmony and peace among villagers but also fuelled incidents of violence pitting farmers against pastoralists. People were murdered, livestock was killed and properties, such as houses, were completely demolished.

In a bid to address the problems the government of United Republic of Tanzania with support from development partners implemented (are they still implementing? If not say when the project started and when it ended) a pilot project namely the Land Tenure Support Programme (LTSP) in Kilombero, Malinyi and Ulanga districts in Morogoro region.

The LTSP that implemented under the Ministry of Land, Housing and Human Settlements and expected to be completed this year was aimed to conduct land survey and help people to access Customary Certificates of Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) in the respective districts.

In implementing the project, the government conducted land surveys the government coordinated and conducted land survey and awarded customary certificates of rights of occupancy (CCROs) to the villagers and community groups. The CCROs thus allowed the villagers to claim ownership of the pieces of land on which they worked and lived because they had legal evidence to that claim.

On the other hand, several civil society organizations through the Tanzania Land Alliance (TALA) were later engaged in the LTSP project, to enhance transparency, accountability and equitable land governance and effective land administration systems.

A NEW CHAPTER OF LIFE FOR COMMUNITIES

Implementation of LTSP has brought a new lease of life among villagers, now that conflicts rarely erupt and people are assured of ownership of land through the CCROs. Surveying of parcels of land has also enabled owners to engage in land use planning as a result of which they can use their property for economic activities other than farming and grazing.

"I got a CCRO for my land and now I feel confident to use my piece of land as I wish. Some people have acquired bank loans through their CCROs and others have drawn and implemented land use plans," explains Gualbello Abdallah (45), a farmer in Idunda village, Ulanga district. He says that implementation of LTSP has created awareness

of the importance of having a certificate of ownership of land among villagers and many people now realize the value of land.

However, Abdallah notes that despite the benefits, the use of new technology in land assessment has led to new disputes between village governments and between individuals.

"You may find a certain village claims ownership of a piece of land basing on boundaries previously set by the government, but using new technology that has come with implementation of LTSP, the boundaries are shifted to another village," he says.

As a result residents of Idunda who claim to have lost a piece of land because the boundaries were shifted have lodged a complaint against one of the public officers in Ulanga District Council. They argue that he was involved in the previous survey and setting of the original boundaries and later influenced the changes through LTSP.

"Before the LTSP experts surveyed our land, the previous boundaries were set, recognized and respected by all neighboring villages but surprisingly, we

saw him engaged in reallocating our piece of land to another village," claims one of the residents of Idunda village when speaking on behalf of his colleagues.

Idunda is one of the villages facing the post-assessment and land ownership disputes. It claims that part of its land has been reallocated to neighboring Chikuti and Ikungua villages.

Ulanga District Land Officer, Venance Huruma, confirms about the allegations and notes that they indicate lack of awareness among communities on the land survey conducted through LTSP.

According to Huruma, previous surveys were conducted using a poor technology that led to a total area of between eight and 10 kilometers between one village and another becoming no-man's land as none of the villages could claim ownership.

"So during the implementation of LTSP which uses new technology, the actual size of their area remained the same but changed in shape. This is the reason for their claims. But I think we should have told them what was going to happen with the use of the new technology so that they

become aware of the expected changes," he explains.

In Kilombero District CCRO means money

According to the Land Officer attached to the LTSP in Kilombero District, Faraja Nkwere, 58 out of 99 villages in the district council were surveyed and land owners awarded customary certificates of right of occupancy (CCROs).

"Nine land owners including community groups and individuals have utilized their CCROs as collaterals to access bank loans worth 3bil/- from Tanzania Postal Bank, National Microfinance Bank (NMB) and CRDB Bank," he says, adding

that the figures were obtained from the loan registration desk which is located at the district council, with the consent of both the banks and the borrowers. "Other beneficiaries did not register their loans so as to avoid the fee of T Sh. 120,000 that is required to register each loan.

LTSP nourishing people and the environment

While LTSP has resolved many land-based conflicts and raised incomes among the beneficiar-

ies, the project has also contributed to conservation of the environment particularly in the areas of land and water management.

Some residents in Idunda village disclosed that LTSP has enabled them to participate in water resources management and conservation of Nampazi Forest.

Although there were no bylaws made for this purpose, residents reached a consensus to prevent human activities within the forest and around water sources without the approval of the village government.

Those who want to cut logs for timber processing must also get a permit from the District Forest Officer.

The Malinyi District Council Land Surveyor, Steven Zayumba, says that land ownership through CCROs has reduced conflicts although new ones have developed in some places. "Implementation of LTSP has raised awareness of the value of land among villagers and communities and this has made people claim ownership of which otherwise they would have done. The conflict between Madibila and Kipenyo is a typical case of such claims," he says.

Dr Baghayo Saqware is elected vice president of African insurance body

By Guardian Reporter

COMMISSIONER of the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), Dr Baghayo Saqware, has been elected a Vice President for an African body for Insurance Supervisors (AASIA) which is the umbrella body for insurance regulatory authorities in Africa.

Dr. Saqware has been elected during the second Annual General Assembly for the African Supervisors which took place on recently, in Johannesburg.

Along election, the meeting has been discussing on how to promote cooperation amongst 24 insurance supervisory authorities.

Speaking after being elected Dr. Saqware said the new post will significantly improve and enhance insurance sector by insuring industry growth with-

in Tanzania and Africa at large.

"Insurance sector in Africa has much in common which calls for collective efforts to overcome the humps facing it whereby during my tenure I will focus on enhancing underwriting capacity both financially and Human skills" said Dr. Saqware.

The areas of great concern during these two years tenure are promotion of insurance services accessibility, trust, reliability, connectivity across the continent.

In order to attain this Dr. Saqware said stimulation of the market through adaptive regulations as a best practice, creating opportunities for Tanzanian insurance market by encouraging innovation in developing various insurance products for low-income earners in Tanzania and Africa in general the right remedies to the current challenges in the sector.

For the President, members voted for the outgoing president, Boubacar Bah, the Director of Insurance Supervisory - Republic of Guinea who was re-elected for the next two-years.

During the two years to the AASIA leadership is sought to assist the member countries in human resources development, and to create a forum for the standardization of insurance laws and supervisory structures in the continent so as to increase insurance penetration levels for African countries which is mainly less to a percent.

The election come along with the annual general assembly meeting which was to inform the regulators on the execution level of the resolutions adopted at the meeting on 31st March, and 1st April 2019 in Casablanca.

The next meeting was agreed to be held in Abuja - Nigeria on November this year.



How the harassment of journalists impacts the news

By Cristiana Bedei

ITALIAN reporter Annalisa Camilli knew that journalists can experience harassment or abuse, but she didn't think it would happen to her while she worked on the migrant beat.

"You always think of journalists covering organised crime, wars or terrorism, but not a journalist covering immigration," she says.

Yet as the tragedy of Mediterranean migrants became increasingly politicised, fuelling anti-refugee propaganda across the country, she became a target for far-right trolls, receiving misogynistic comments and disparaging accusations as well as sexual and physical threats online.

Last summer, the harassment escalated after, aboard an Open Arms ship, Camilli reported on the rescue of a migrant woman probably left behind by the so-called Libyan coast guard.

"The attacks did not stop at social networks, but I started receiving phone calls and emails," she says, remembering the attempts to scare her into silence.

"They were saying that I had made the story up or that it wasn't truthful, attacking my credibility - the most important thing for a journalist," she added.

The phone calls - at any hour of the day and the night - were particularly distressing, and Camilli says she still doesn't know how the harassers got a hold of her phone number. "I wouldn't go home alone any more. I was constantly looking over my shoulders," she says.

Someone flagged her case to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the global independent, non-profit organisation defending journalists under attack worldwide, which is when she realised that her situation was unfortunately common, especially among her women colleagues.

Last year, an Amnesty International report found that female journalists and politicians were subjected to some form of abuse on Twitter every

30 seconds. That same year, a global survey conducted jointly by the International Women's Media Foundation and TrollBusters found that nearly one-third of women journalists consider leaving the profession owing to online attacks and threats.

Camilli was deeply disturbed and worried about her personal safety, first reaction being to temporarily pull away from social media and immigration stories. But after a few weeks, she returned to working on the subject, and has since published a book about it.

"My approach to work hasn't changed. I'm just a lot more aware," she says, adding: "I'm exposed to these kinds of attacks and when I see a wave of hatred against me or my colleagues, I know I shouldn't downplay it."

Maria Salazar Ferro, the emergencies director at the CPJ, points out that harassment has an impact on those affected by it but it is also a direct attack on press freedom and independence - an attempt to silence specific voices and stories.

One of the most common, direct, negative consequences that harassment of journalists, in all forms, has on the news we regularly consume all over the world is that important stories may never be told.

Being a target for harassment can be exhausting, which takes an incredible psychological toll on the reporter, the newsroom and on other colleagues in that same beat, Salazar Ferro says.

"It's a very tangible consequence is censorship - people not reporting a certain story because they're afraid of the onslaught of attacks," she explains.

"I have most definitely spoken to people who said they have not reported on something, or they have avoided a story, because they're afraid of the consequences," she adds.

Two: The powerful are not held to account. Journalists are watchdogs working to promote transparency and accountability. As such, they can become victims of silencing strategies when they threaten powerful interests or expose governments or important



figures in the name of public interest.

This is what is happening in the Philippines, for example, where award-winning journalist Maria Ressa's news organisation, Rappler, has been targeted with a string of legal prosecutions by President Rodrigo Duterte's authoritarian regime.

Not all silencing techniques are this overt, but even subtler attempts such as threatening to initiate a lawsuit - perhaps against a citizen journalist or a freelancer without a big news organization behind them - or

intruding into a reporter's personal life can impact the accountability work being done by journalists at all levels.

Three: Media plurality is at risk. Harassment may contribute to women retreating from traditionally male-dominated fields, leaving even fewer female voices in.

"We definitely know that women journalists are disproportionately the victims of online harassment," says Salazar Ferro, further noting: "And it is definitely more common if women journalists were report-

ing on beats like sports. So, yes, I think harassment does lead to greater gender disparity in the newsroom."

It is likely that a similar mechanism would affect other minorities working in newsrooms. As the Committee to Protect Journalists has highlighted, this can bring great risk of threats and retaliation.

Amnesty International's 2018 report also found that women of colour are disproportionately targeted in online harassment campaigns, being 34 per cent more likely to be mentioned in

abusive or problematic tweets than white women - and with black women, specifically, the percentage goes up to 84 per cent.

The rise in the incidence of threats for minority journalists will discourage their involvement and could ultimately impact the diversity in newsrooms and the media, which will lead to greater industry-wide challenges and limitations.

• An IJNet dispatch.

Asia-Pacific region falters on UN development goals

UNITED NATIONS

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told a Chatham House meeting in London last week that the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one of the legacies of the late Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "spawned tremendous progress" in the battle against poverty worldwide.

She pointed out that the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day was reduced from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015 - "the largest decline of its kind in human history".

Yet, she warned, much remains to be done to ensure a life of dignity for all. The new rallying point, she pointed out, is the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Still, a new report released last month by the Bangkok-based Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) warns that the SDGs - the successor to MDGs - have been falling behind in a region which is home to the world's two most populous nations: China and India.

While there has been limited progress, "Asia and the Pacific will not achieve any of the 17 SDGs on its current trajectory", the report declares. The targeted date to achieve the SDGs is 2030.

The study says "progress has stagnated or has been heading in the wrong direction in more than half the SDGs."

The situation is deteriorating when it comes to providing clean water and sanitation (SDG6), ensuring decent work and economic growth (SDG8) and supporting responsible consumption and production (SDG12).

The region has made progress towards ending poverty (SDG1) and ensuring all have access to quality education and lifelong learning (SDG4). Measures are also underway to achieve affordable and clean energy (SDG7), according to the report.

"Yet even where good progress has

been made, it is too slow for these goals to be met by 2030".

Launching the report - titled Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2019 during the 75th Commission session of ESCAP in Bangkok May 28 - UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Armida Alisjahbana called for urgent action to reverse these negative trends.

"I hope this report will contribute to targeting our efforts to accelerate progress towards all Goals and to strengthen the region's commitment to improving the quality of data and statistics essential to measuring progress," she said.

Responding to the report, Stuart Kempster, WaterAid's Policy Analyst for Monitoring and Accountability, told IPS: "It is shocking that, on its current trajectory, Asia and the Pacific will not achieve any of the 17 SDGs by 2030".

Referring to SDG 6 which was singled out in the report, he said: "We are especially alarmed that some nations will be years off track in meeting the human right to water and sanitation, the basic building blocks of any stable and prosperous community", he added.

Kempster said at current rates of progress, everyone in low- and middle-income countries won't have safely managed water until 2064, or sanitation until 2107.

"We have only 11 years left to keep the promise made to those living without clean water or a decent toilet. Governments must prioritise clean water, decent sanitation and good hygiene, ensuring proper financing is put in place to build a more sustainable world today and for future generations," he noted.

Arman Bidarbakhtnia, Head, Statistical Data Management Unit (SDMU)

Statistics Division at ESCAP, told IPS the report only assesses regional and sub-regional progress and does not aim to do a country level assessment.

Even though there are many references to country cases at indicator level, he explained, the conclusions on the goals should not be generalized



to countries.

The analysis is based on unweighted aggregations at regional and sub-regional level. So, results are not representative of China and India as the biggest countries, he said.

Also, small islands developing states (SIDS) are as important as China and India in this analysis.

He pointed out that "the region" does not mean an entire region or majority of the population but signifies a "typical country in the region" or "half or more countries of the region" (median values).

He said the report is only focusing on the progress and does not aim for a "cause-effect" analysis.

Meanwhile the report also shows major differences in progress between the subregions of Asia and the Pacific which have recorded different successes and face different challenges.

Each subregion needs to reverse existing trends for at least three Goals. For example, East and North-East Asia is regressing in sustainable cities

and communities (SDG11), climate action (SDG13) and life on land (SDG15). South-East Asia has moved backwards on SDG8, SDG13 and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16).

Additionally, says the report, South and South-West Asia is moving in the wrong direction on SDG6, SDG12 and SDG13.

Since 2000, there has been a decline on gender equality (SDG5), SDG8 and SDG11 in North and Central Asia. The Pacific subregion has regressed on zero hunger (SDG2), SDG8, life below water (SDG14) and SDG16, according to the report.

"The lack of reliable data across all Goals and in all subregions is one of the Asia and the Pacific's biggest challenges".

Despite a significant increase in the availability of SDG indicators since 2017, data gaps remain for two thirds of the global SDG indicators. Nearly one-quarter of all SDG targets lacking evidence relate to the environment, according to the report.

Asked whether lack of political will or a shortfall in development aid were reasons for the setbacks, Bidarbakhtnia told IPS these cannot be deduced purely from results of this report.

But it definitely differs by country, including lack of political will, financial resource, development aid, prioritization, development models etc.

However, he said, "you can refer to one ESCAP publication that the cost of closing these gaps is affordable for governments, and it is definitely not all due to lack of financial resources". <https://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2019-ambitions-beyond-growth>

Asked how valid the conclusions are when the report singles out the "lack of reliable data across all goals," he said the conclusion is based on a rigorous data availability analysis that is presented in part III of the report. The same part also provides some hint for closing the gap and overcome challenges.

He said administrative sources are a major primary source for SDG indicators at national level. Given their advantages over surveys (lower cost, more frequency, etc) investing in production and use of administrative data is one long-term strategy to close data gaps.

Also exploring use of other alternative sources of data such as satellite imagery, GIS, mobile data and open online sources.

IPS

BUSINESS

INTEGRATION

A borderless Africa is feasible

CAPE TOWN

Some journalists and analysts have opined that the EFF may have lost votes in the May 8 election over its proposal to break down Africa's borders.

With most of South Africa's youth unemployed, this suggestion may have fuelled the fears of those who do have jobs that a borderless South Africa could mean an influx of African brothers and sisters into their territory. Given this situation, why would the EFF propose such a scary policy and risk losing votes?

In its founding manifesto the EFF states: "No amount of sustainable socioeconomic development and stability will be realised in South Africa unless the state plays an active role in the economic development of the African continent."

In its recent elections manifesto the party states its intention to "fight for a borderless Africa and a single currency in the medium to long term." South Africans may have been put off by this stance, but the EFF remains uncompromising on this policy.

South Africans seems oblivious to the benefits that a borderless South Africa and Africa could yield. The EU is a good example of how opening up borders can work, with more than 20 European countries being signatories to the Schengen Area. Among them are economically stable countries such as Germany, Italy and Belgium.

The SADC region should be borderless to allow for massive and protected industrial development to take place and, in so doing, create sustainable jobs. The signatories use a single currency, the euro, which is more valuable than our rand and stronger than the US dollar.

Schengen is also the world's largest single market area for trade, with the EU negotiating trade agreements on behalf of individual countries. Local industries are heavily supported and defended from foreign exploitation. In addition, the EU has invested in a safe, sustainable and connected transport system, which serves as a cornerstone for integration and the free movement of people, services and goods.

And the EU has pooled resources to support public healthcare facilities so

as to address shared challenges and provide equal access to healthcare to all member states.

Now, imagine - as the EFF manifesto says - that in the short term the 16 countries that are part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) did away with borders and pooled resources for a single currency; had an integrated transport, public health and education system; and traded as one block. It can be so.

SADC member states can be allocated economic activities according to their natural resources and infrastructural strengths. Zimbabwe could be a hub for agriculture, for example, as it has the land and already produces tons of tobacco. Botswana's mining activities could be increased to include a processing plant for the entire SADC region's mining activities.

Angola could supply oil to the region, while South Africa and Mauritius could handle the financial sector and professional services required. The SADC region should be borderless to allow for massive and protected industrial development to take place and, in so doing, create sustainable jobs. SADC citizens should be able to study, live, shop, work and retire in any member countries.

Telecommunications companies within the SADC should enable customers to use one number, with lower data costs in any country within the region than outside of it. In addition, low-cost flights and speed trains connecting major cities of the region could be initiated. At the 1992 summit in Windhoek, Namibia, which established the SADC, its founding members set out the mission, as part of its declaration, "to create a shared future [and] enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living conditions of the people of the region."

The declaration goes on to state that the region will promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socioeconomic development. The EFF's proposal is in line with such a vision; we just need the political will to implement it. Greedy politicians may feel threatened by such a proposal as trade agreements will be subject to greater scrutiny.



Jewel Howard Taylor (L), the Vice President of Liberia, and Belay Begashaw, the SDGs Centre's director general during Thursday's meeting in Kigali.

SUGGESTION

African leaders propose new financing options for SDGs

KIGALI

Leaders gathered at the on-going conference in Kigali on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa have proposed fresh options of how to increase funding to education, health, and rain-fed agriculture in order to fast-track development.

The meeting, organised by the Kigali-based SDG Centre for Africa (SDGC/A), is taking place from June 12-14. On its sidelines, experts at the centre and other leaders from across the world have pitched the idea to set up special funds to support what they termed as the "three critical" sectors in Africa.

The sectors are billed to be the main drivers of people's social welfare on the continent, critical for attaining SDGs by 2030. Jewel Howard Taylor, the Vice President of Liberia,

is among those who are supporting the idea of setting up special funds.

Speaking at the forum on Thursday, she made the case for the need of new financing vehicles for health, education, and rain-fed agriculture. While a matrix contained in the SDGs gives a laundry list of what is the optimum aspiration, it remains clear that in order to reach that optimum level one must begin at areas most important first for survival, she said.

"I hope you will consider the perspective of the African SDG programme that the survival and prosperity of our people depend, firstly on agreeing that basic needs which should form our priorities are health, education, and agriculture," she said at the meeting.

She added: "Once this decision is taken, then we can begin considering ways to plan, finance, and implement

programmes under these sectors which directly impact and improve the lives of our people."

The Liberian leader argued that the three sectors have stronger synergies, better trade-offs, and higher correlation with other SDGs. "These areas are most directly related to SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and wellbeing), and 4 (quality education), and are identified as 'game changing' and 'key levers' for the rapid development necessary for SDG achievement and African transformation," she said.

With African leaders currently seeking alternative solutions to meeting National and Continental goals of the SDGs, experts and activists are calling for urgent mechanisms to fund the programme.

A report by the SDG Centre for Africa has identified that African countries will need to raise over \$500 billion in

additional funding every year if they are to achieve their development goals by 2030.

Belay Begashaw, the centre's Director General, told delegates at the forum that there isn't time to waste when it comes to funding the priority areas. "We said that all SDGs are extremely important but some of them are more important than others when it comes to Africa," he said.

Experts say that the three special funds would help support investments to improve primary and secondary education, strengthen health systems, and enhance efforts to improve the management of rainwater for agriculture.

Some of the delegates described the idea of setting up special funds as an excellent one if well implemented.

Hiroshi Kato, the Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a

major partner for SDGC/A, said that the special funds will need constant input of good policy analysis and stand to benefit from additional funds from donor countries and the private sector.

"I really like the idea of addressing the issues by creating the special funds because they focus on core challenges of the continent," he said. Overall, the SDG Centre for Africa estimates that the annual financing deficit of between \$500 billion to \$1.2 trillion is derailing SDGs implementation in Africa.

In 2015, more than 190 world leaders committed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals to help end extreme poverty in the world, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change. They are goals that every citizen and government of the world should work to achieve in order to have a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable global society.

EXPULSION

Seven Chinese traders in Kenya's Gikomba market sent packing

NAIROBI

Interior Secretary Fred Matiang'i has deported seven Chinese nationals found trading illegally in Gikomba market after an exclusive Business Daily story. The story revealed the presence of Chinese merchants in the Kenya's biggest second-hand clothes market.

The CS Thursday made good his Wednesday promise to deport any foreigners found engaging in small scale businesses in down town Nairobi after locals decried stiff competition in retail businesses located in Gikomba, Kamukunji and Nyamakima markets, which are key entry points for second-hand clothes and cheap Chinese electronic and kitchenware imports.

"Foreigners suspected to have been illegally engaging in business in Kenya were arrested yesterday during a raid on Gikomba. Seven Chinese nationals were found to have flouted immigration rules. Officers established that three of them had no valid work permits while the other four have been engaging in employment and other income generating activities unauthorised under their respective work permit classes," read a statement from the Interior ministry.

"Consequently, the Cabinet Secretary in charge of immigration has signed deportation orders as recommended by law," Kenya's lax immigration laws, including the relatively low Sh10 million threshold set for foreigners coming into the country, offers easy access to investment certificates that non-nationals use to set up businesses locally. The Investment Promotion Act 2004 requires that foreign investment must be beneficial to the country in promoting acquisition of new skills and promoting use of local resources.

"An applicant shall be entitled to an investment certificate if - the amount to be invested by a foreign investor is at least one hundred thousand United States of America dollars or the equivalent in any currency; creates employment for Kenyans, leads to acquisition of new skills or technology for Kenyans or a transfer of technology to Kenya and any other factors that the Authority considers beneficial to Kenya," says Section 4 of the Act.

The Chinese in Gikomba employ Chinese staff to carry out tasks like recording sales while hiring Kenyans to ferry goods using carts. In an interview Wednesday,



Moses Ikiara
KENINVEST MANAGING DIRECTOR

Kenya Investment Authority chief executive Moses Ikiara.

Kenya Investment Authority chief executive Moses Ikiara said a review of the minimum amount that foreign investors must have to get an investment certificate is already under way.

"We are implementing the Kenya Investment Policy that

was recently approved by the Cabinet and part of the plan is to set different minimums in each sector that a foreign investor must have to be allowed to set up shop in the country because the current blanket requirement of Sh10 million may be too little

especially in heavy capital sectors like real estate. We will also ensure that certain sectors are just reserved for locals so that we protect them," said Dr Ikiara.

The Chinese in Gikomba largely sell second-hand clothes, carpets and shoes

sourced from China and stored in godowns located in Industrial Area and along Mombasa Road. In Nyamakima and Kamukunji, they supply and retail electric cables, utensils and toys among other products that they import in bulk.

CRACKDOWN

Vodacom clamps down on the 'content fraud' that makes airtime disappear

JOHANNESBURG

In short notes in its integrated annual report published on Friday, Vodacom discloses that in its financial year to the end of March, the contribution of digital services to its overall service revenues declined slightly.

That is a big deal, because growing income from digital services is a core part of Vodacom's strategy. Then Vodacom explains why it made less, rather than more, money from digital services. Revenue from digital services was down because it recorded a 41% decline in "subscription-based content services revenue", the company says. And it attributes that decline to "our stringent policies to minimise content fraud."

The company does not provide detailed numbers for the various ways in which it makes money from its subscribers, so there is no rand value to put to that percentage. But the loss of nearly half its revenue from content subscriptions suggests that either a very large proportion of subscription services on the Vodacom network were tinged by fraud, or Vodacom applied its policies on fraud in a very enthusiastic fashion.

Legitimate content subscription services are typically delivered on a network like Vodacom's by wireless application service providers, which send content like daily jokes in return for an airtime deduction or cellphone contract debit - once a user has agreed to swap money for the content.

But in many cases consumers who tried to figure out why their airtime was disappearing found they had been subscribed to services they have never heard of. In October MTN confirmed it was possible for brand-new MTN numbers to be subscribed to such debits without any user permission.

In its annual report Vodacom described such "content billing fraud" as "a key concern for customers."

FATHER'S DAY

CEOs' take on fatherhood

NAIROBI

They sit at the head of long tables because they've made their bones. They absorb success in their bones but also carry the ghosts of failure on their backs.

They are captains of their boats, standing stoic on the sterns, leading these vessels made for profit through sometimes tempestuous seas that change at the drop of a shilling. Not all make it to dry land. Not all get the encore.

But often when the fat lady sings, they are just reduced to mere men holding a more important title of "fathers", a title that can't fit in any business card.

And fatherhood is a different ship all together with a completely different journey, one which the successes and failures are defining because it could eventually mean the difference between being a dad or just remaining a father.

Ahead of this weekend's Father's Day, JACKSON BIKO, rang up a few of these men (after 6pm) and asked all of them one question: What kind of father do you aspire to be that you are not currently?

Then also asked them to rate themselves on a scale of one to ten: ten being a fantastic dad and one being, well, just a father.

EDWIN DANDE, CEO, Cytton Investments

"I aspire to get this life/work balance right as a father. Running a company that I do you are ideally a glorified administrator. [Chuckles], because you are as busy as demands of the day dictate and often my day runs until 9pm. Amidst this, I try to drop my eight-year-old daughter off to school whenever I can and my schedule being what it is, I obviously suffer from guilt that I'm not doing enough for her as her father.

My wife is more hands on with her, she does homework with her and whatnot and I wish I was like that. But the trade off in all these is that she - my daughter - can't say she lacks for anything. What I do to make up though is I always block Wednesday afternoons to pick her and take her for piano lessons. It's a commitment I made and I don't break. My rating as a father? [Chuckle] No, I will pass. I'm off to the gym."

JAMES MWORIA, CEO, Centum Investments

"That's a hard question, Biko! I wish my son was here to answer it. [Long pause]. You know why I say it's a difficult question? Because I'm currently doing things that I should be doing: spend time, school drop offs, attending school activities, homework.

EXPANSION

More women eye taxi-moto business

KIGALI

More Rwandan women are tapping into the two-wheeled transport business, which has been dominated by over the years, in what is seemingly a move by women to take up opportunities that come with the trade.

Recent numbers show that more female taxi-moto riders are popping up in different parts of the country, defying the odds in a trade, which has been a preserve of men since the motorbike emerged as a reliable means of transport in the country in early 2000's.

Many of the female moto riders interviewed indicated that they were inspired to take up the moto business by other women, who defied joined the otherwise 'rough' business.

Solange Uwizeyimana, from Huye District, who operates taxi-moto business in the City of Kigali, says that arriving from the village into the city with no immediate employment, she challenged herself to take up a motorbike to earn a living.

The moto rider, told Business Times, that she joined the business after experiencing hardships in life. "After one year and half in the

[Pause] The one thing I wish I could be to get an interest to learn how to play those video games with my son. This is basically an age and era thing, these new computer things, well, are just sometimes too difficult to wrap your head around. My rating? I would give myself an 8"

HABIL OLAKA, CEO, Kenya Bankers Association

"I think letting the kids wander more on their own. Stepping aside and letting them make their own decisions and make their own mistakes. It's normal for us to try over protect our children, to be over cautious with them and sometimes be overbearing.

We want to teach them about the mistakes we made and learnt from when we should be letting them make their own mistakes and learn from them. Because without mistakes we can learn very little. I have a 22 and 30 year old and I have tried to step away and let them choose their own paths. One has pursued a law degree and the other a double degree in sports and computer science.

These were their own choices. I merely guided them. I want to aspire to do more of that; watching them beat their own path. On a scale I would give myself a 7."

JOHN NGUMI, Chairman, Kenya Pipeline Company

[Long laugh]. "What do I aspire to be as a father? My children are old now - 33, 30 and 22. But I would have loved to be a 9-5 kind of father. Someone who is home all the time. When you are dealing with policy as I have for the longest time, you will find yourself in many meetings talking about oil or fiscal matters.

But these meetings don't hold any relationship to personal income. Meetings are wealth destroyers even though they might make policy sense. You know what I mean? I wish I could translate those meetings to time with the kids. Having said that I don't have regrets because I have managed to be a present father, and I have made sacrifices for them.

SAM THENYA, Founder, Nairobi Women's Hospital

"My aspiration? That's a good one. [Pause] I would like to be more present as a father. For 18 years, I ran the hospitals under conditions that were truly brutal. I'm talking about being on the whole time, even when you are asleep you are somehow working. So those 18 years felt like 48 years.

[Laughs]. Running nine hospitals is not a game. Then one or two years ago, I decided I couldn't do this on my own for too long. I wasn't young enough for it. So I started grooming a CEO to take over who did last year

July. It has freed me to catch up on parts of fatherhood that I had lost, so to speak.

It's gotten better, because now I focus more on strategy engagement, as you can hear I'm whispering because I'm at a reception waiting to get into a meeting. What I would love to do is get home earlier and be a dad. My rating? Hmmm. I'd say an 8. But I'm a work in progress."

ALI OUMAROU, Businessman

"What do I aspire to be as a father? I'm already a good father. [Laughs]. I'm there for my children. I take care of all their welfare. When you run a nightclub [Kiza] you have

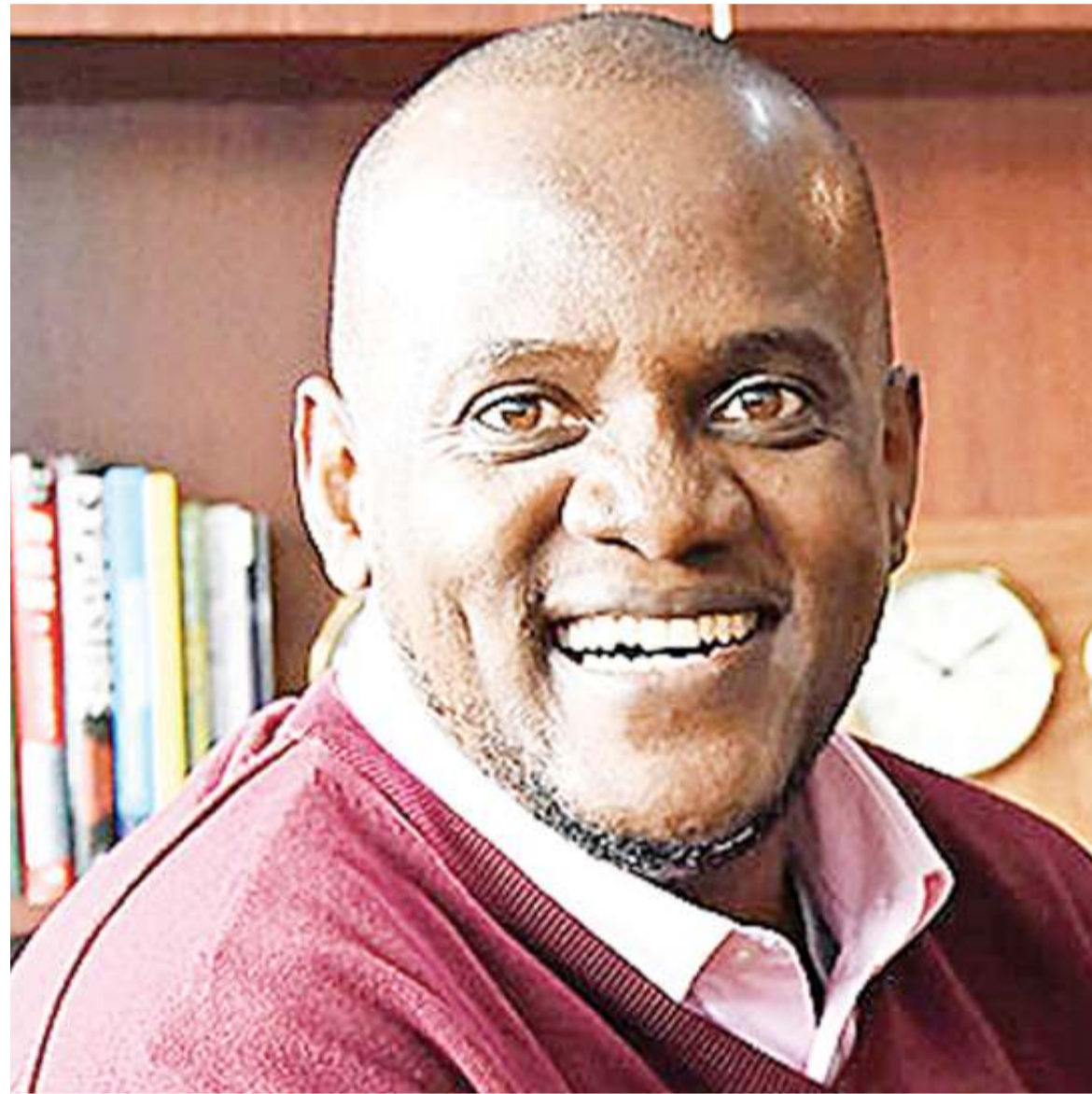
than I am because these are their formative years. This is the time for us to build trust as fathers something they need now more than any other time as kids because the challenges of growing up now are more complex than when we grew up.

I would want to have a more intimate relationship with my children, you know talk to my son about being a man. I would like to build trust and a more solid friendship that will last forever and I realise that this is the time. And the window is small and is always closing. I lock my Sundays for family. I don't do anything else.

MARTIN DUNFORD, Chairman, Tamarind Group

"Sorry, I took a while to return this call. Business. But why would you put me on the spot with this question. Have you watched that Elton John film called Rocketman? I just did and after watching it I'm happy to say that I didn't do too badly as a father. [Big laugh].

Look, I don't have any regrets as a father. I think I have done very well by my kids. I tick most of those boxes because I educated them, provided for them, I supported them in whatever they choose to do, I have inspired and loved them for who they are.



ANDREW MUTUMA, Country Manager, DHL.

to spend time there at night but I'm lucky that I have full days when I can pick them and drop them.

But I would definitely want more time with them. But what is more time, Biko? How much time is more time? I think that that is the big question. I'd rate myself an 8."

ANDREW MUTUMA, Country Manager, DHL

"That's a very interesting question. [Pause]. Truth is I'd like to be available for my children

But I have also noted how fast my children are changing. Literally every week they are different people. Providing for them financially is not enough actually it's insignificance of all the things you will be judged by because it's not the fees you pay that will see them through, it's time you spend building their minds and character that will eventually count. I'm working on that. I'd rate myself as a 5.

Listen, do you know my middle son, Jason, is now a rapper? Not only that he raps in Kiswahili! Kwanza Kiswahili sanifu. [Chuckles] His stage name is Samaki Mkuu. I support him in whatever he chooses to do. You have to as a father, you have to let them follow their passion. My rating? Would I be arrogant if I said I'm a 10? You know what, put that down, I'm a 10.



Thebe Magugu.

MODELLING

Thebe Magugu: Taking the fashion industry by storm, one stride at a time

JOHANNESBURG

A fusion of modern contemporary fashion with a hint of edge and art define the pieces Thebe Magugu showcased at the 2019 SA Fashion week. Extremely talented and a true definition of fashion guru in the making, Thebe Magugu stunned guests with his summer/Spring collection.

Originally from the small town of Kimberley, Thebe moved to Johannesburg to study fashion design, fashion photography and fashion media from LISOF. After winning best graduate collection, he interned with and worked for a selection of designers, fashion institutions and retailers.

After 2 years, he began his namesake label, THEBE MAGUGU, a contemporary South African fashion brand primarily operating within the field of women's ready to wear, while having a firm footing in accessories and small multidisciplinary projects.

At the Fashion Week Show, Thebe's collections were titled after University Subjects because he has a very deep respect for education and wanted to

introduce that element into his brand. They are as follows, starting with most recent: Art History; which is inspired by South African Art merged with Ecclesiastic, Monastic Shapes; Home Economics; which looks at the expectations placed on women - SA women, who are very modern but find themselves in a traditionalist, therefore very misogynistic, environment.

Geology: [His first official collection]: Inspired by the need to escape. Thebe was going through a very tough time during this and he took a break to experience the outdoors. This collection has hikes, fishing and camping references.

Recently Johnnie Walker launched its Keep Walking SA Campaign to celebrate its brand ambassadors who have continued to strive for excellence and inspire the nation in their respective careers. Thebe Magugu is one of the campaign's ambassadors and it is not a question as to why Johnnie Walker chose him. Thebe continues to make great strides in the fashion industry locally and internationally, making sure he inspires those around him.

CONFESION

Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg says fears about technology are real

NEW YORK

Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook, still took the podium in front of an international media gathering on Wednesday, including The National. She answered questions - mostly pre-approved.

What does Facebook know? "We can't hack into your brain ... but we do know what you respond to," Ms Sandberg said in response to a statement on how it can seem as if Facebook knows too much about its users.

"With technology and our algorithms, here's what we know: we know who you are connecting to and what you are engaging with. So, for the average person, for every story we show you in your news feed, we have dozens more that we could show, so our algorithms have to prioritise what you want to see." "No one's looking at your stuff, no one," she said.

"Our algorithms naturally show you more of what you engage with. That creates a personalised experi-

ence and we think that's really important ... If your news feed and my news feed was the same, we'd be going back 15 years to what is just a basic website, and I don't think that would enable you to engage with your friends, which is our mission. Ms Sandberg admitted the fears about technology today are real.

"I don't want to downplay them or minimise them. We have a responsibility to get this right, but it's worth thinking about this from a historical context ... They're real today because we're connecting billions of people. The challenge is big, but it is a challenge that comes with every new technology. Our responsibility and our opportunity is to minimise that."

Problem of fake news Ms Sandberg said striking the balance between censorship and freedom of expression is one of the most difficult things about running a platform that is home to two billion users.

"We don't want people to see fake news on Facebook, and we're taking action around the world. We're referring fake articles to third party



Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook.

fact checkers, where they can then decrease distribution in news feed and share related facts. We do believe that there are situations when, if something's fake, it could lead to real-world violence. We'll then take that down. "For the most part, we're a free expression platform and we believe that if one person says something that's false, the best way to fight it is with good information, so we don't want fake news to go viral on Facebook, and we take away 80 per cent of the distribution, but then we allow related articles, which are the other side of the story, so that debate can be vigorous."

She said there are real concerns about the size and power of tech companies, particularly US companies. "The question is, what is the answer to making sure we have the right regulatory framework in place."

The chief operating officer added: "Anti-trust is really

about consumer protection and making sure consumers have choice, and if you look at our products and what we do, it's pretty clear that there is a lot of choice. If you want to share a photo or a video today, you can certainly do it on Facebook or Instagram, but you're also completely likely to do so on Google Photos, Snapchat or YouTube."

She said people have to pay attention to how much consumer choice there is. "The thing about tech companies is that we are more likely to be usurped by the next generation of tech companies than almost any other industry because, in our industry things change so quickly. But we really believe that the regulatory framework does need to be enhanced. "We're working hard with regulators around the world on all those areas."

Ms Sandberg agreed with the fact that people

are most concerned about companies such as Facebook having too much say in what stays up and what comes down on social media. The company said it is working with France on what could be a co-regulatory framework, and it is open to collaborating with other governments as well.

"We're also setting up a content board, that's going to be an independent board that doesn't report to Mark [Zuckerberg] or me, where content decisions can be made, and we're going to adhere to those decisions, whether or not it's something we agree with. "Across all of these fronts, we all have work to do to make sure we are setting up the right regulatory framework for the internet."

Psychological well-being Facebook is investing a lot of time and money into making its service more enriching and less stressful for users. Ms Sandberg said:

"There are things you read that make you feel really good, and things you read that make you feel really bad ... and so we figured out with researchers that when you are connecting with real friends and family, and when you are engaging with content [from them], that's psychologically healthy for you. It's not addictive in a bad way, and makes you feel less alone, less isolated and more connected."

"We made a very big shift to our news feed in the beginning of 2018, where you are now seeing more things related to your friends and family, and more things you engage with." She added: "We're very committed to psychological well-being - to yours, to mine, to all of ours, and we will continue to research, and continue to make sure that the things we're showing you are the things that will be good for you, and not be addictive in any way."

OUTSTANDING

Halima Aden: 'My family doesn't understand that modelling is really a job'

MINNESOTA

A patterned blue and green kaftan is hitched up to the thigh, revealing a cobalt-coloured bodysuit underneath. Lounging in the water, her hair wrapped in a matching turban, Halima Aden sports a beaming smile - perhaps understandably. The Somali-American is making history as the first hijab-wearing model to be featured in Sports Illustrated's famed Swimsuit issue.

While a burkini-clad model on the pages of a publication best known for displaying lithe, semi-clad bodies may sound contradictory, Aden has made a habit of shattering perceptions and leaving a touch of controversy in her wake.

The model, who I meet at a quaint hotel on the banks of the Bosphorus, is strong-willed, level-headed, independent and confident with the journey she's on. She's a Muslim, she's a refugee, she's American and she wears a hijab, and she sees no conflict at all between her faith and her career.

On going from a refugee camp to Miss Minnesota

Aden's story is widely known. The 21-year-old Somali was born in a refugee camp in Kenya and moved to the United States when she was six. "I think any time you go from being a refugee to moving, you have a wide range of culture shocks; you almost have to reprogramme your entire life," says Aden, who spoke fluent Somali and Swahili, but had to learn English from scratch when she emigrated. Today, she has the animated drawl of a born Minnesotan.

In high school, a teenage Aden was voted homecoming queen and, in 2016, she competed in the Miss Minnesota beauty pageant, becoming the first hijab-wearing contestant in the competition. She was a semi-finalist and, for the swimwear sequence, opted to wear a burkini - making headlines nationwide at a time when post-9/11 Islamophobia was still rampant, and niqabs and burkinis were being banned in many places. After

signing with modelling agency IMG, she made her first real foray into fashion in 2017 when she featured in Kanye West's Yeezy presentation at New York Fashion Week, followed by runway appearances for Max Mara and Alberta Ferretti in Milan.

"Halima the hanger" Coming from a Muslim background where modelling is often considered taboo, some of Aden's family members were sceptical at first. "I think that's something that girls relate to me on," she says. "I do have a very traditional Somali Muslim mum."

In Aden's family, occupations such as nursing and teaching are considered to be more suitable for women. "They don't necessarily understand that modelling is a real job: I think that's what I struggle with culturally," she says. The model remembers calling her aunt after walking the runways in Milan. "I told her: 'Oh my gosh, I just walked at Milan Fashion Week; this is kind of a huge deal. I'm wearing a hijab and on top of that I'm wearing braces, so who would have ever thought I'd be walking in any show?'"

"In America, walking around in heels is considered a job?" was her aunt's response. Now, she jokingly calls her famous niece "Halima the hanger." But Aden sees herself as much more than a mere clothes horse. "Today, I think what's considered as modelling has changed so much. With social media, I feel like modelling has become so much more; it's no longer about photo shoot - model - buy," she says.

Her work now involves public speaking at university campuses, as well as being an ambassador for Unicef. "It doesn't pay me, but it fulfils me in the places that really matter," explains Aden. The young model is also excited about her latest venture - her first design collaboration, with popular modest-wear website, Modanisa, which is known for its stylish, hijab-friendly apparel. The collection focuses on sculptural turbans in jewel tones, metallic finishes and graphic patterns. No more 'bad hijab' days



SATURDAY 15 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako
12:00 Mapishi
12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Igizo: Elininyo
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
19:30 Jungu Kuu
20:00 Habari
21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:00 Moja bet
22:15 Isidingo rpt
01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 16 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Aibu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mahabusu 2
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 17 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Elininyo
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 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata we?e?
21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco
21:40 Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 18 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamsam za pwani
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Shamsam za pwani
11:25 Igizo: Mtego
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue jamii rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Uchumi na biashara
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 The great queen Seonduk
19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Miaka 50 ya Total
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 19 June

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 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Korean: The Great queenSeonduk
11:15 Jagina
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt

13:00 Dakika 45
14:00 Series rpt
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata we?e?
21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco
21:40 Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 20 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Kivuko
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko
11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 21 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
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 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
17:30 Ibadaya ya kiislamu
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
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

SATURDAY 22 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako
12:00 Mapishi
12:30 Series rpt: Iris
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Igizo: Ahadi
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
19:30 Jungu Kuu
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
21:10 Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:00 Isidingo rpt
01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 23 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Aibu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu 2
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mkw
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

CAPITAL

Sat 15 June

08:00 CNN International
09:00 Drive It rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
10:00 Culinary delight rpt
10:30 Innovation rpt
11:00 Out n'about rpt
11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
12:30 EcoAfrica rpt
13:00B usiness edition rpt
13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
14:30 Telenovela rpt: The land of wind
17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
17:45 Bundesliga kick off
18:15 Capchat rpt
19:15 Mizengwe
19:30 The Decor
20:00 Iron Chef.
21:00 Out n' About
21:30 Movie: All the good ones are married
23:00 Grapes of Justice rpt
01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 16 June

08:00 CNN International
09:00 In good shape
10:00 Capchat rpt
11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
11:30 Out n' About
12:00 Jagina rpt
12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
13:00 Shamba lulu
13:30 Series rpt: Godwin
15:15 Aibu yako
15:30 Drive it rpt
16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
16:45 Mizengwe rpt
17:00 The Decor rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea
21:00 Shift
21:15 Capchat live
22:15 Series rpt: The land of wind
00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 17 June

06:00 Al Jazeera
08:00 CNN International News
09:00 Al Jazeera
10:00 Kumekucha
10:30 Kumekucha Michezo
11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
12:00 Turning the spotlight rpt:
12:30 Drive it rpt
13:00 Series rpt : Godwin
13:45 Series rpt: The land of wind
14:30 Usafiri wako rpt
15:00 Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight
15:30 Toyota world of wildlife rpt
16:00 CNN International
17:00 EcoAfrica rpt
17:30 Meza huru
19:00 The Decor rpt
19:30 Business edition
20:00 Series: Stars & scars
20:45 The Monday Agenda
21:30 Capital Prime News
22:00 Kipima Joto
00:00 Al Jazeera



Halima Aden at the Max Mara store launch in The Dubai Mall in October 2018.

WORLD

US blames Iran for attack on oil tankers, Tehran calls accusation alarming

DUBAI

IRAN said yesterday it was alarming and wrong of the United States to blame Tehran for attacks on two oil tankers at the entrance to the Gulf, after an incident that has raised concerns about a new confrontation in the vital oil shipping route.

Washington released a video that it said showed Iran's Revolutionary Guards were behind Thursday's attacks near the Strait of Hormuz on the Norwegian-owned Front Altair, which was set ablaze, and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous.

Both vessels were adrift in the Gulf of Oman on Friday, after their crews abandoned ship following the attacks that caused a spike in oil prices.

A fire that had raged on the Front Altair, which carried a cargo of petrochemical feedstock naphtha, had been extinguished, the owner said. The blaze left a blackened scar along

the hull.

About a fifth of the oil consumed globally passes through the Strait of Hormuz, shipped from Gulf energy producers, including Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter.

The U.S. military said a black-and-white video filmed from a U.S. aircraft showed Guards on one of their patrol boats drawing up to the Kokuka Courageous, after blasts struck both vessels, and removing an unexploded limpet mine from the hull.

"It is the assessment of the United States government that the Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for the attacks that occurred in the Gulf of Oman," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told reporters.

He said the assessment was based on intelligence, the weapons used, expertise required and similar recent attacks.

Washington has blamed Iran or its proxies for attacks on May 12 that cri-



pled four oil tankers in the same area. It also said Tehran was behind May 14 drone strikes on two Saudi oil-pumping stations. Tehran has denied all the charges.

"These accusations are alarming," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said, adding that blaming Iran for Thursday's attacks was "the simplest and the most convenient way for Pompeo and other U.S. officials."

"We are responsible for ensuring the security of the Strait and we have rescued the crew of those attacked tankers in the shortest possible time," he said, Iranian state radio reported.

"WARMONGERING"

Tehran has also said the United States and regional allies, such as Iran's regional rivals Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, were "warmongering" by making such charges.

In comments directed at Iran, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Anwar Gargash, said on Twitter: "De-escalation in current situation requires wise actions not empty words."

U.S. and European security officials, as well as regional analysts, have cautioned against jumping to conclusions, leaving open the possibility that Iranian proxies, or someone else entirely, might have been responsible for Thursday's attacks.

Britain said it took the matter "extremely seriously" and, if Iran was involved, "it is a deeply unwise escalation."

Iranian-U.S. tensions began ratcheting up after U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of a

deal last year between Iran and global powers that aimed to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

Since then Washington has toughened its sanctions regime, seeking to force Iran's oil customers to slash their imports.

Iran's crude exports fell to about 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) in May from 2.5 million bpd in April 2018, draining Tehran's main source of revenues and hurting an economy already weakened by years of isolation.

Iran has repeatedly warned it would block the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow channel between the Iranian and Omani coastlines, if it is barred from selling oil.

The Trump administration said in May it would send troops and other forces to the Middle East, citing Iranian threats.

Tehran has called the move "psychological warfare" and said the U.S. moves offered more of a target than a threat to Iran.

"CRUSHING RESPONSE"

Responding to rising regional tension, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a U.N. Security Council meeting on Thursday that the world could not afford "a major confrontation in the Gulf region".

Iran and the United States have both said they want to avoid a war.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday before that attacks: "Iran will never initiate a war but will give a crushing response to any aggression."

Agencies

China ready to join Iran for steadfast strategic partnership

BISHKEK

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday said Beijing is ready to join efforts with Tehran in promoting a steady development of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi made the remarks while meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Hassan Rouhani, in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek. The Chinese leader arrived at Bishkek on Wednesday for a state visit to the Central Asian country and the 19th summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

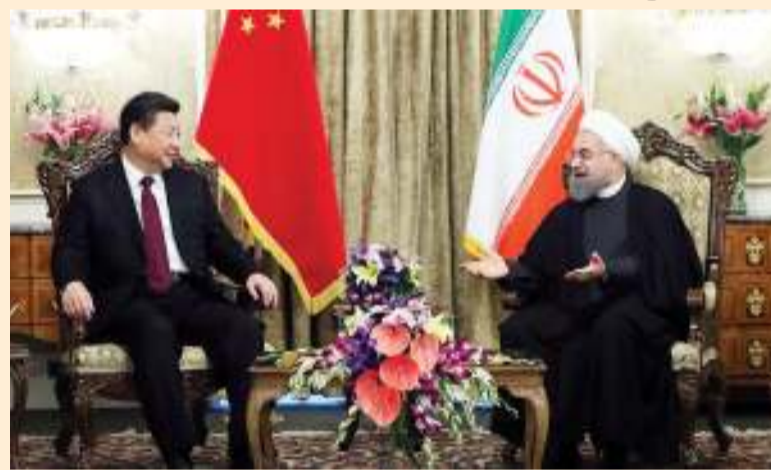
Xi noted that he exchanged in-depth views with Rouhani on the China-Iran relationship, as well as regional and international issues during the SCO summit in China's eastern port city of Qingdao last year, and they have reached im-

portant consensus.

China has always viewed its relations with Iran from a strategic and long-term perspective, Xi said, adding that despite changes in regional and international situations, China is willing to join hands with Iran in fostering a steady development of the China-Iran comprehensive strategic partnership.

Xi called on the two sides to strengthen strategic communication and support each other on issues concerning their respective core interests, adding that the two countries also need to step up coordination and properly conduct practical cooperation.

He also urged the two sides to enhance cooperation in such areas as anti-terrorism and combating cross-border crimes, and jointly clamp down on the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extrem-



This file photo dated Jan 23, 2016 shows the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani (right) meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) ahead of a meeting in Tehran. (AFP)

ism, including East Turkistan Islamic Movement.

China supports maintaining the Iran nuclear deal, said Xi, and is willing to step up coordination

with Iran within such multilateral frameworks as the United Nations and the SCO to jointly safeguard basic norms of the international relations and multilateralism and

preserve shared interests of developing countries, including China and Iran.

For his part, Rouhani said the Iran-China relationship carries a long-term and strategic significance. Iran attaches great importance to and is committed to the all-round development of bilateral ties, he said.

Iran is willing to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and tap potential of cooperation in various fields, he said.

Rouhani expressed Iran's resolute opposition to the unilateral withdrawal of the US from the Iran nuclear deal, calling it "a wrong action."

He praised China's active role in the international affairs, and said his country is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with China.

Xinhua

African forum in Egypt calls for 'strategic plan' to fight corruption

CAIRO

THE first African Anti-Corruption Forum (AACF) held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh stressed on Thursday the need for an integrated strategic plan to fight corruption in the continent.

The AACF is held in Egypt while the country is the current one-year president of the African Union.

In the final communique of the two-day forum that kicked off on Wednesday, the participants

called for the formation of an African joint committee of concerned bodies to prepare and follow up strategies and experts in African states for the anti-corruption campaign.

The AACF was attended by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi (pictured) and more than 200 African officials representing 51 African countries, in addition to officials from four Arab states.

"Corruption is a real cancer destroying the continent of Africa," said Chad's Minister of Justice Djimet Arabi in his remarks dur-



ing the concluding day of the forum.

He emphasized the importance

of constant cooperation among African countries to eradicate corruption that affects the economy of the continent.

For his part, Congolese Justice Minister Aime Ange Wilfrid Bininga said in a press statement on the sidelines of the forum that Africa, through several agreements signed by the African Union, is part of a global dynamic launched by the United Nations.

"It allows African countries to implement laws and create legal frameworks to combat corrup-

tion," he added.

Participants also highlighted the need to develop a secure electronic mechanism for immediate exchange of information among African states on corruption, money laundering and terrorism finance.

The AACF's final communique reiterated that the anticipated strategy will include combating corruption related to education, scientific research, media and judiciary, in addition to enhancing economic and human development in African states.

Xinhua

Officials: Abe failed to broker US-Iran talks as tensions rise

TOKYO/BRUSSELS



JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, during a two-day trip to Iran, sought to help de-escalate tensions between Washington and Tehran and offered to broker dialogue between the two sides, but his bid was rejected by Iran, government officials said here yesterday.

Abe, while urging Iran to stick to an international nuclear accord inked in 2015 with six other countries, was keen to offer his help in mediating between Tehran and Washington, he had previously said.

This was partly due to Japan having friendly ties with both Washington and Tehran, with this year marking the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Iran.

Abe's visit to Iran, in fact, marked the first visit made by a Japanese prime minister since Takeo Fukuda in 1978.

Nevertheless, his efforts to broker a dialogue between Washington and Tehran were rejected by the latter, informed sources here said, with Abe stating that the stand-off in the region remains difficult.

Abe said, however, after his talks in Iran, that Japan remained committed to working towards the achievement of peace and stability in the region and the de-escalation of tensions between the US and Iran, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Separately on Friday, the European Union called for maximum restraint amid mounting tensions over US accusations against Iran over attacks on two oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, Reuters reports. Iran denied responsibility for the attacks.

Agencies

WHO urges robust measures to reduce hepatitis burden in Africa

NAIROBI

THE World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday called on African governments and partners to roll out robust interventions aimed at reducing the burden of hepatitis disease in the continent.

Olufunmilayo Lesi, communicable diseases specialist at WHO Regional Office for Africa, said hepatitis has emerged as a major public health threat in Africa.

"The burden of viral hepatitis in Africa is huge, but we must harness the power of technology, knowledge and public awareness to accelerate progress towards its elimination," Lesi (pictured) told a media briefing in Nairobi.

WHO statistics show that more than 200,000 people in Africa die from complications linked to hepatitis B and C, such as cirrhosis and liver cancer, every year.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 60 million people are living with hepatitis B and an additional 11 million are infected with hepatitis C.

The two lethal strains of hepatitis that are transmitted through contaminated

fluids can be contained through vaccination, screening of donated blood and improved hygienic practices, Lesi said.

"Blood safety, political commitment and domestic investments in hepatitis diagnosis, treatment and care is key to prevent deaths," she said.

African countries in 2016 adopted a four-year master plan to boost prevention, treatment and care of viral hepatitis.

Lesi said massive investments, combined with reforms in public health sector, are required to speed up the elimination of hepatitis in Africa.

"Country-specific action plans for controlling hepatitis infections should be implemented with urgency, and modern diagnostic tools are needed to help detect different strains of the disease to inform treatment," she said.

Capacity-building for health workers and awareness campaigns is key to strengthening response to high rate of hepatitis infection among high-risk groups like intravenous drug users, Lesi said.

Xinhua



International rules are not a puppet in the hands of US politicians

By Zhong Sheng

IN the eyes of some US politicians, the world is a theater of monodrama for America, while the international rules are just a puppet in their hands. In this monodrama, it is the United States that decides how the story goes.

So, is there any justice in this world? How can the hard-won international rules be protected?

At present, politicians in Washington are making fabulous speeches about fair competition, while pressuring the

enterprises of other countries in the name of the so-called "national security". They demand "free, fair and reciprocal trade", but are simply bypassing the multilateral mechanisms to exert extreme pressure.

On one hand, these politicians accused other countries of violating the rules; on the other hand, they are putting domestic laws above international laws. They even called the countermeasures of China and the European Union a "groundless legal theory".

There are just too many cases of the

US breaking promises - the withdrawals from UNESCO, the Human Rights Council, and Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, as well as quitting the Paris Agreement, the Global Compact on Refugees and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The rules-based global order is "clearly under threat", said European Council President Donald Tusk, adding that it's shocking that the threat was made by the US who took the lead to build the order. His remarks expressed the strong opposition against the US practices of

the international community.

It's true that the rule-based international order was established under the propelling of the US after World War II.

However, the country is now threatening to break the order as it sees that the current rules are not able to satisfy its appetite of "America first". It is forcefully turning the rule-based order into a jungle law by which only the strong survive.

The US politicians, who use whatever that suits their interests and abandon whatever that does not, see interna-

tional rules as a puppet, which exposed their extreme selfishness.

To maximize their private interests, they destroyed the rule-based system that has been widely accepted by each country and left the world in a mess. Besides, they revealed their hypocrisy and tried to place developing countries at the bottom of the industrial chain for eternity.

According to a WTO report, the US is by far the largest rule breaker that has disobeyed the organization's arbitrations. 2/3 of the violations within the

WTO framework were caused by the country.

By neglecting the rules and using whatever they can, the US politicians take the exchanges between major countries as a zero sum game. They constantly seek and create enemies, and are trapped in a delusion disorder that their country is always threatened.

However, the real enemy of the US is not other countries, but the country itself that acts arbitrarily and goes after unilateralism.

People's Daily

Rivals plot to stop Boris Johnson from winning power in UK

By Bloomberg

RIVALS to be Britain's next prime minister are holding private talks over joining forces in an attempt to stop the pro-Brexit favorite, Boris Johnson, running away with the contest, people familiar with the matter said.

Two of the candidates who are struggling for support – Home Secretary Sajid Javid and Health Secretary Matt Hancock – met to discuss their options after Johnson took a huge lead in the race for the Conservative Party leadership in the first round of voting. Hancock was weighing up whether to pull out and throw his support behind another candidate, one person said.

Johnson's six rivals are lagging far behind him after Thursday's initial ballot of MPs and talks between some of them have been taking place over consolidating their campaigns, according to three people close to the discussions. No deals have yet been done, the people said.

In the first round of the ballot, Johnson – who has vowed to deliver Brexit with or without a deal – won the support of 114 Tory members of Parliament out of the 313 who voted. That was far ahead of his nearest rival, Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt,



This combination photo made up of file photos shows the remaining contenders in the Conservative Party leadership race after the first round of votes on Thursday. From top left, Boris Johnson, Jeremy Hunt, Michael Gove, Dominic Raab and bottom row from left, Rory Stewart, Sajid Javid and Matt Hancock. Boris Johnson secured the most support in the first round, while three other candidates have been eliminated. (PHOTO / AP)

with 43.

The contest is not over and more votes among MPs are scheduled next week to narrow down the field of seven remaining candidates. But Johnson's dominant performance means that the favorite is now certain to be one of the two contenders who make it through to the final run-off stage in the contest, if he can avoid a mishap.

"I am delighted to win the first ballot, but we have a long way to go," Johnson wrote on Twitter after his victory in the first round.

The other candidates signed a joint letter, published in the Sun and Times newspapers on Friday, committing to live TV debates to pressure Johnson into taking part. He has so far refused to say if he will.

"What would Churchill say if some-

one who wants to be prime minister of the United Kingdom is hiding away from the media?"

Hunt asked in an interview on BBC Radio 4, referring to former Prime Minister Winston Churchill. "Anyone who wants that job should have the courage to put themselves forward, engage with the media and engage with the public."

A Johnson victory would radically reset British politics and redefine the UK's policy on its troubled divorce from the European Union.

As the face of the pro-Brexit campaign in 2016, he has called for a clean, quick break with the EU, resigning from Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet last year in protest at her plan to retain the bloc's trade rules.

Johnson says he's determined to deliver on the 2016 referendum result and take Britain out of the EU by the deadline of Oct 31, even if that means leaving without a deal. Some of Johnson's rivals disagree.

To deliver Brexit

Hancock rejects the option of a no-deal Brexit, saying it is not a "credible" threat to make because Parliament won't allow it. But he won only 20 votes in the first round of the election, while Javid won just 23 votes.

In order to progress through the second round of voting, candidates must win the backing of at least 33 MPs. That seems tough for Javid and Hancock, who will weigh their options further Friday.

The leadership contest in the UK's ruling Conservative Party follows May's decision to resign last month after she was unable to deliver Brexit. The deal she struck with the EU was rejected three times in Parliament, yet leading candidates to replace her insist they can negotiate a better one before the Oct 31 deadline.

The UK's Brexit-induced political crisis has seen Conservative and opposition Labour politicians quit their jobs, while new parties have emerged at the extremes of the debate on EU membership.

On Thursday night, one senior MP – Chuka Umunna – announced he had joined the pro-EU Liberal Democrats, who are campaigning for a second referendum.

Umunna was a Labour MP until February, when he left in protest at the official opposition's unwillingness to oppose Brexit. It's another boost for the Lib Dems, who came second in last month's European Parliament elections, despite being only a relatively minor grouping in British national politics. **Agencies**



Russia needs to restore leadership in space, says PM

MOSCOW

RUSSIA, a pioneer in space, has no right to give up its positions and needs to restore its leadership, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday.

"This is not only a matter of prestige, but also a matter of national security," Medvedev said, opening a meeting of senior government officials on the development of the Roscosmos state space corporation, according to an official transcript.

He said that the Russian government was investing heavily in space exploration and it expected returns.

According to Medvedev, the government had channeled about 260 billion rubles (US\$4 billion) for space programs in 2019, most of which had reached Roscosmos, and before the end of the year, it will be allocated another 200 billion rubles (US\$3 billion).

However, Roscosmos has so far used only 22 percent of the allocated money, which may result in incomplete use of the existing industrial capacities and failure to comply with various deadlines, Medvedev said.

He noted that the state contracts for manned space flights have not been fulfilled and the deadlines for launching modules for the deployment and operation of the Russian segment of the International Space Station have been constantly put off.

Roscosmos and federal structures have to solve these issues taking into account economic sanctions and other restrictions imposed on Russia, Medvedev said. **Agencies**

Richest countries scrimp on parental leave - UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS

ONLY half of the 41 high and middle income countries surveyed offering at least six months of leave at full pay for mothers, the United Nations children's fund UNICEF said Thursday.

A report, titled "Are the World's Richest Countries

Family-friendly?", ranks countries across the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and European Union based on their national family-friendly policies.

These policies include the duration of parental leave at full pay equivalent and childcare services for children aged under six.

UNICEF advocates at least six months of paid leave for parents, and universal access to quality, affordable childcare from birth to children's entry into the first grade of school.

According to the report, Estonia offers mothers the longest duration of leave at full pay at 85 weeks, followed by Hungary (72 weeks) and Bul-

garia (65 weeks). The United States is the only country included in the analysis with no national paid leave policy for mothers or fathers.

The report also finds that even when fathers are offered paid leave, many do not take it. In Japan, the only country that offers at least six months at full pay for fathers, only 1 in 20

took paid leave in 2017. South Korea has the second longest, yet fathers only make up one in six of all parents who take parental leave.

"There is no time more critical to children's brain development – and therefore their futures – than the earliest years of life," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on the

agency's website.

"We need governments to help provide parents with the support they need to create a nurturing environment for their young children.

And we need the support and influence of the private sector to make this happen," she added.

Xinhua

Tremors across Jordan as Trump Mideast peace plan revives old fears

AMMAN

JORDAN'S King Abdullah reacts angrily to any suggestion that he might accept a U.S. deal to end the Arab-Israeli conflict that would make his country a homeland for Palestinians.

Speaking to the armed forces in March, he rejected the idea of Jordan as an alternative state for Palestinians, saying: "Don't we have a voice in the end?"

Already facing economic discontent at home, Abdullah must navigate diplomatic moves by his U.S. allies that are upturning a regional status-quo that has underpinned Jordan's internal politics and foreign relations for decades.

After Israel's creation in 1948 Jordan absorbed more Palestinians than any other country, with some estimates that they now account for more than half the population.

Any changes to the international consensus on a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, and Palestinian refugees' right of return to what is now Israel and the Palestinian territories, long buttressed by U.S. policy, therefore reverberate harder in Jordan than anywhere else.

U.S. President Donald Trump's long-promised "Deal of the Century" to resolve the conflict is still secret, though leaked details suggest it dumps the idea of a full Palestinian state in favor of limited self-rule in part of the Occupied Territories, which would undermine Palestinians' right to return.

It envisages an expansion of Gaza into part of northern



President Donald Trump acknowledges supporters after speaking at the Republican Party of Iowa's America First Dinner on Wednesday, in West Des Moines, Iowa. (AP)

Egypt, under Egyptian control, with Palestinians also having a smaller share of the West Bank and some areas on the outskirts of Jerusalem and no control over their borders, the leaks say.

Jordanian fears about what the plan portends for the region, for their Palestinian citizens, and for the politics of their own country, have been aggravated by Trump's readiness to upturn U.S. policy.

American officials deny contemplating making Jordan a Palestinian homeland, pushing it to take a role in governing parts of the West Bank or challenging the right of King Abdullah's dynasty to custodianship of Jerusalem's holy sites.

But Trump's radical approach to the issue, and recent statements by his ambassador to Israel that it had a right to annex some of the West Bank have done little to assuage Jordanian concerns.

PALESTINIANS IN JORDAN

Few subjects in Jordan are more politically charged than

the role, presence and future there of Palestinians. The issue is so sensitive that the government publishes no data on how many of its 8 million citizens are also of Palestinian descent, though a recent U.S. congressional report put it at more than half.

Despite the U.S. denials, Jordanians fear that Trump is returning to an old Israeli theme: that Jordan is Palestine and that is where the Palestinians of the West Bank should go.

It could not have come at a worse time for the 57-year-old Abdullah, whose country is facing economic challenges that led to protests and a change of government last year.

While many Palestinians are integrated in Jordan, and many descendants of refugees have never set foot in their original homeland, some native Jordanians have never acknowledged that they will stay permanently.

They fear Trump's plan could alter the demography and politics of a nation shaped by the presence of Palestinians, who hold full citizenship but are mar-

ginalized and seen as a political threat by some people of Jordanian descent.

But Abdullah's decision that Jordan should attend an economic conference that is part of the U.S. plan showed that despite mounting alarm at home, Amman cannot ignore pressure from richer, more powerful allies in the West and the Gulf.

INTERNAL WORRIES

Maintaining unity between citizens of Jordanian and Palestinian descent has been critical to the ruling family's role as a unifying force in a country where tribal and clan loyalties hold sway.

The king is already facing anger from the "Herak" opposition, drawn from Jordanians of native descent, who say Trump's plans will tear apart a state patronage system that has cemented their own loyalty to the monarchy.

Retired army officers have held small weekly protests in opposition to a deal.

"No to eroding our national identity and dismantling the state," said Saad Alaween, a prominent Herak dissident, referring to the deal.

Some warn the monarch not to accept a plan that could give their compatriots of Palestinian origin more political rights in an electoral system tilted in favor of native Jordanians.

Rumors that the plan could lead to Jordan taking in Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Syria, or that it would merge with a rump of Palestinian territory in bits of the West Bank, have also led to alarm.

Agencies

African forum in Egypt calls for 'strategic plan' to fight corruption

CAIRO

THE first African Anti-Corruption Forum (AACF) held in the Egyptian Red Sea resort city of Sharm El-Sheikh stressed on Thursday the need for an integrated strategic plan to fight corruption in the continent.

The AACF is held in Egypt while the country is the current one-year president of the African Union.

In the final communique of the two-day forum that kicked off on Wednesday, the participants called for the formation of an African joint committee of concerned bodies to prepare and follow up strategies and

experts in African states for the anti-corruption campaign.

The AACF was attended by Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi and more than 200 African officials representing 51 African countries, in addition to officials from four Arab states.

"Corruption is a real cancer destroying the continent of Africa," said Chad's Minister of Justice Djimet Arabi in his remarks during the concluding day of the forum.

He emphasized the importance of constant cooperation among African countries to eradicate corruption that affects the economy of the continent.

For his part, Congolese Justice Minister Aime Ange Wilfrid Bilinga said in a press statement on the sidelines of the forum that Africa, through several agreements signed by the African Union, is part of a global dynamic launched by the United Nations.

"It allows African countries to implement laws and create legal frameworks to combat corruption," he added.

Participants also highlighted the need to develop a secure electronic mechanism for immediate exchange of information among African states on corruption, money laundering and terrorism finance. **Xinhua**

Putin notes terrorists in Syria defeated thanks in part to Moscow's aid to Damascus

BISHKEK

MILITANTS in Syria were defeated in part to the help Russia provided to Damascus in the war against terrorism, said Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit yesterday.

"Real results in the fight against international terrorism have been achieved in Syria," the president said. "In many aspects, due to Russia's comprehensive assistance to the legitimate Syrian government, the militants were defeated."

Members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) need to do everything possible to prevent terrorists from getting hold of chemical and biological weapons, Putin



stressed.

"We believe that it is important... to stop terrorists from using drug trafficking revenues and make everything possible to prevent them from getting their hands on chemical and biological weapons or other kinds of weapons of mass destruction," the Russian leader pointed out.

According to Putin, the fight against terrorism and extremism remains one of the SCO's top priorities. He pointed out

that Moscow stood for close cooperation aimed at thwarting terrorist propaganda and extremist ideas on the Internet and the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Putin also said that in order to boost joint efforts in that area, the leaders of SCO countries planned to endorse a concept of cooperation in the field of digitization and information technology at the Bishkek summit.

The Russian president welcomed the SCO's successful development and the strengthening of its positions at the regional level, and added that following the Bishkek meeting, Russia would take over the SCO chairmanship for 2019-2020. **Agencies**

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders to step down

WASHINGTON

WHITE House press secretary Sarah Sanders is leaving her position, US President Donald Trump announced on Thursday.

I love the President and my job. The most important job I'll ever have is being a mom to my kids and it's time for us to go home

In a pair of tweets making

the announcement, Trump said that Sanders will leave the White House at the end of this month and return to Arkansas, her home state.

"She is a very special person with extraordinary talents, who has done an incredible job! I hope she decides to run for Governor of Arkansas - she would be fantastic," the president wrote.

He has not named a replace-

ment for Sanders.

Sanders, 36, is the third woman to have served as White House press secretary and is one of Trump's closest aides.

"I love the President and my job. The most important job I'll ever have is being a mom to my kids and it's time for us to go home," she said in a tweet.

Speaking to an event at the White House on Thursday afternoon, Trump said that



Sanders will join the private sector, while weighing in on the possibility that she will run for governor of Arkansas, a position that her father Mike Huckabee held from 1996 to 2007.

"We've been through a lot together. She's tough, and she's good," Trump said. "If we can get her to run for the governor of Arkansas, I think she'll do very well," Trump said.

Sanders, who later spoke

briefly at the podium, called her tenure "truly the most special experience," vowing to continue to be "one of most outspoken and loyal supporters" of Trump and his agenda.

But she did not comment on the president's suggestion that she might run for office.

A senior adviser for Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, Sanders was named to the position of deputy White House

press secretary after the Republican's victory in the election.

She was promoted to White House press secretary following the resignation of Sean Spicer in July 2017.

During her tenure, there has been a decline in the number of White House press briefings, as the president answers questions from reporters on a near-daily basis. **Agencies**

The
Guardian

SPORT



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard holds the NBA Finals MVP trophy after the Raptors defeated the Golden State Warriors 114-110 in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals, Thursday, June 13, 2019, in Oakland, Calif. (AP)

King of the North: Kawhi Leonard wins Finals MVP

OAKLAND, CALIF.

KAWHI Leonard's first season with the Toronto Raptors started with his now-infamous laugh.

It ended with him getting the last laugh.

The best player on the league's newly crowned best team is an NBA Finals MVP for the second time. Toronto finally sits atop the basketball universe, with Leonard averaging 28.5 points in a six-game finals victory over the Golden State Warriors to lead the Raptors to their first championship.

He arguably ended any debate about who the best two-way player in the sport is at this moment.

"This is what I play basketball for," Leonard said. "This is what I work out for."

The King of the North, as they've been calling Leonard in Toronto, was King of the Playoffs. He's the third player to win Finals MVP with two franchises, joining only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and LeBron James.

David Ortiz

"I think he's the best two-way basketball player in the NBA," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "He's just a go-to guy. You know, I've seen some stuff from him this year that you just say, 'Wow.' You do. You say, 'Wow.' You appreciate the work that he's put in. He works extremely hard at his game and works extremely hard on his body. And he loves this basketball thing. Loves it."

Perhaps never more so than Thursday night.

After missing most of last season with a leg injury, after having his commitment questioned, after getting traded to Toronto, Leonard returned to basketball's mountaintop. He thrust both arms high into the air when it was over, letting out a scream of joy. He even allowed himself a tiny smile when he hoisted the MVP trophy.

"He's just a competitor," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "We respect that, for sure. He's shown that again this entire playoff run."

Giannis Antetokounmpo will probably win the NBA's MVP award in a couple of weeks. James Harden and Paul George are the other finalists. And while all three of those players had marvelous regular seasons, the postseason was Leonard's personal showcase.

He scored 732 points in the playoffs. Only Michael Jordan (759) and James (748) ever scored more in a single postseason. Leonard finished with 14 games of 30 points or more in these playoffs. The only players with more in a single postseason are Jordan (16 in 1992), Hakeem Olajuwon (16 in 1995) and Kobe Bryant (15 in 2009).

"Without a doubt, the best thing about this thing is that somehow I wound up on the sideline getting to watch this guy play up

close," said Raptors coach Nick Nurse, who won an NBA title in his first season as a head coach in the league. "It's really cool."

Leonard was the unquestioned leader. When the Raptors lost Game 2 of the NBA Finals at home and surrendered home-court advantage in the series, Nurse walked into a very glum locker room and reminded his team that it merely needed to win either Game 3 or Game 4 at Oracle Arena to reclaim control of the series.

Some nodded in agreement. Leonard offered an expletive instead, and urged his team to win both.

They got both. And then, on their return trip to Oakland for Game 6, they got one more. They closed Oracle with a title-clincher.

"I don't know that any player will argue with me that he's the best two-way player in the NBA," Raptors President Masai Ujiri said.

Getting Leonard was just one of a bold series of moves Ujiri made in the last 12 months. He fired last season's coach of the year in Dwane Casey and hired Nurse. He traded away three players at midseason for Marc Gasol. And he took the risk that Leonard would be both happy enough and healthy enough to take the Raptors to the newest and highest of heights.

The trade that sent DeMar DeRozan to San Antonio for Leonard was high-risk, high-reward. Leonard was acquired on July 18 and formally introduced as training camp was beginning on Sept. 24. He can become a free agent on June 30 and he'll almost certainly make in excess of \$32 million next season no matter how long a deal he ends up signing – and whether that's in Toronto or someplace else.

"This is the place for him," Ujiri said. Leonard texted Lowry on the day the trade went down, and planted the seed that they could do something special together.

"And we are here today," Leonard said, champagne dripping off his shirt.

Regardless of what's next, Leonard's memorable postseason won't soon be forgotten.

There was the four-bounce-off-the-rim, at-the-buzzer jump shot from the corner to beat Philadelphia in Game 7 of the second round. A 15-point fourth quarter to lift the Raptors past Milwaukee in the pivotal Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals. A 17-point third quarter at Oracle Arena in Game 4 of the finals, as the Raptors took control of the game and the series.

"You can always see in his eyes that at any given time he can kind of take over," Pascal Siakam said.

Leonard can be thought of as enigmatic or anti-social.

He's not really either of those things. He's just quiet.

AP

Raptors capture first NBA title, beat Warriors in Game 6

OAKLAND, CALIF.

KAWHI Leonard raised his arms high in triumph and celebrated Canada's first NBA championship. "We the North!" is now "We the Champs!"

Leonard and the Toronto Raptors captured the country's first major title in 26 years with their most remarkable road win yet in the franchise's NBA Finals debut, outlasting the battered and depleted two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors 114-110 on Thursday night in a Game 6 for the ages.

"I wanted to make history here. That's what I did," a soaking wet Leonard said, ski goggles perched on his forehead and sporting a fresh black champions hat.

Stephen Curry missed a contested 3-pointer in the waning moments before Golden State called a timeout it didn't have, giving Leonard a technical free throw with 0.9 seconds left to seal it. Leonard, the NBA Finals MVP for a second time, then got behind Andre Iguodala for a layup as the buzzer sounded, but it went to review and the basket was called off before Leonard's two free throws. That only delayed the celebration for a moment.

When it actually ended, the typically stoic Leonard could let it all out. A Canadian team – and we're not talking hockey here – stood on top of one of the traditional major sports leagues for the first time since the Toronto Blue Jays won the 1993 World Series.

Serge Ibaka pulled his head up through the hoop by the Golden State bench as the crowd chanted "Warriors! Warriors!" after a sensational send-off at Oracle Arena.

Curry walked away slowly, hands on his head on a night Splash Brother Klay Thompson suffered a torn ACL in his left knee and departed with 30 points.

Fred VanVleet rescued the Raptors down the stretch with his dazzling shooting from deep to score 22 points with five 3s off the bench, while Leonard wound up with 22 points. Kyle Lowry scored the game's first eight points and finished with 26 in all to go with 10 assists and seven rebounds.

Fans poured into the streets in Toronto, screaming and honking horns after the Raptors pulled off a third straight win on Golden State's home floor that said goodbye to NBA bas-



ketball after 47 seasons. And the Raptors did it with the very kind of depth that helped define Golden State's transformation into a dynasty the past five seasons.

This time, the Warriors were wounded.

Golden State already was down two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP Kevin Durant, who had surgery Wednesday for a ruptured right Achilles tendon. Then, the Warriors lost Thompson – and they couldn't overcome just one more heart-breaking injury.

"A lot of bad breaks in the finals, to be honest," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Like us, they kept on playing. We just had to keep on playing no matter who was out there. And I think they were super intense high-level games and both teams desperately trying to win."

This thrilling back-and-forth game featured 18 lead changes, nine ties and neither team going ahead by more than nine points.

Curry scored 21 points but shot just 6 for 17 and went 3 of 11 on 3s. Iguodala added 22 for his biggest game this postseason as the Warriors did everything until the very last moment to leave a lasting legacy at Oracle.

Thompson provided his own dramatic memory. He injured his knee when fouled by Danny Green on a drive at the 2:22 mark of the third, was helped off the court and walked partially down a tunnel toward the locker room, then – shockingly – re-emerged to shoot his free throws before going out again at 2:19. He didn't return and left the arena on crutches, and the Warriors announced that an MRI had confirmed the torn ACL.

"More than the what-ifs is just feeling bad for the players involved. Injuries are always part of the NBA season – any professional sport, injuries play a huge role," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It's just the nature of these injuries, the severity of these injuries. And we'll know more about Klay. But we can sit here and say, well, if this hadn't happened or that hadn't happened, that doesn't matter. What matters is Kevin Durant is going to miss next season with an Achilles tear and Klay suffered a knee injury."

In their best Bay Area version of Jurassic Park – Toronto's jam-packed gathering spot to cheer the Raptors – hundreds of red-clad fans stayed long after the game ended to watch the Larry O'Brien trophy cer-

emony. They waved the Maple Leaf and sang "O Canada" just as they did here after winning previously this series.

Lowry's hot start was almost fitting. It was the Toronto guard who got shoved on the sideline in Game 3 by Warriors minority owner Mark Stevens, now banned by the league and team for a year.

The Raptors, in their 24th season of existence, rallied from two games down to beat the Bucks in the Eastern Conference finals then took down the mighty Warriors on their home floor to deny Golden State a three-peat.

The Raptors went 8 for 32 on 3s in a 106-105 Game 5 defeat as the Warriors staved off elimination Monday in Toronto. They started 5 of 6 from long range in this one and finished 13 of 33 and converted 23 of 29 free throws.

Curry and these Warriors never, ever count themselves out. Yet down 3-1 in their fifth straight NBA Finals, they didn't have the health it took to win the past two titles and three of the past four against LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"This five-year run's been awesome but I definitely don't think it's over," Curry said.

AP

Analysis: A global game now has a truly global champion

OAKLAND, CALIF.

THE Canadian flag, soaked in beer and champagne, was waved in the Toronto locker room. Pascal Siakam wore the flag of Cameroon around his shoulders. Marc Gasol was yelling some happy phrase in Spanish.

Every team that wins an NBA title calls itself "world champions."

These Toronto Raptors might actually be worthy of such a moniker.

The new kings of NBA basketball are the first outside the U.S. to wear the crown. And they come from all corners of the globe.

Team President Masai Ujiri was born in England and raised in Nigeria. Serge Ibaka is from the Congo. Gasol will play again for his native Spain this summer in the FIBA World Cup. Coach Nick Nurse won his first championship in Britain, where reserve OG Anunoby comes from. Even the team's superfan, Nav Bhatia, comes from India.

It's a global game.

It's a global team.

They're the global champions.

"It meant a lot, just having guys from different countries and speaking different languages," Siakam said. "I think it kind of got us closer together. And you kind of have all those little kinds of friendship with guys that you can speak the same language with, and from Spanish to French to English, different cultures. I think kind of it represents Toronto in general, having that diversity."

He doesn't even have the whole list.

Jeremy Lin, an Asian-American, speaks Mandarin. The assistants on Nurse's staff have backgrounds from stints as players or coaches in France, England, Germany, Italy, Australia, Israel and more. The director of sports science is Scottish. The head trainer is from Ontario. Jamaal



A police officer and a fan dance in the street after the Toronto Raptors defeated the Golden State Warriors during Game 6 of the NBA Finals to win the NBA Championship, in Toronto on Friday, June 14, 2019. (AP)

Magloire, who has been on the staff since his playing days ended, is a Toronto native.

"It means a lot," Magloire said as he watched champagne spray all over the locker room. "Canada and Toronto especially are very diverse places. And this team, all the diversity that we have, it served us well."

There's a parade – Ujiri said it was scheduled for Monday, though he also wasn't exactly certain at the time – coming to Toronto. The red and white flag with the giant maple leaf will wave. There will be plenty of other flags there as well.

And more than a few proud Americans will be on that route as well, like NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard and the longest-tenured Raptors play-

er, Kyle Lowry.

"I'm very happy for them," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said, tipping his cap to the Raptors. "Winning a championship is the ultimate in this league, and they have got a lot of guys who have earned this. So congrats to Toronto, to their organization, to their fans. They are a worthy champion."

At NBA headquarters in New York, they truly didn't care who won the series.

That doesn't mean they don't realize the Raptors' title is a good thing for the league's future.

Basketball Without Borders is the vehicle that basically helped Siakam start his journey to the league seven or so

years ago. There are NBA academies popping up in Africa and Asia. The league is helping to establish a new pro league in Africa that's set to begin play early next year. The sport takes every opportunity it gets to promote what it bills as the Jr. NBA Global Championship, a tournament for kids.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said before the series that the league is aware of 700 million cellphones being in use in Africa, more than half of those being smartphones. The NBA wants people watching on those phones, and the infrastructure is such now in many places that it is actually possible.

AP

'Real' welcome: Hazard receives rowdy reception

MADRID

REAL Madrid presented Eden Hazard as their new "galactico" signing on Thursday with an army of adoring fans queuing outside the Santiago Bernabeu stadium to welcome the Belgian playmaker.

Donning the white strip of the 13-times European champions, the club's joint-record signing kicked balls into the crowd and posed for photographers on the pitch at the official presentation.

Hazard, who joins from Chelsea on a five-year deal, had earlier undergone a medical.

Pointing to the badge on his shirt, the 28-year-old kissed it to leave the 50,000 strong crowd in no doubt about his allegiance.

However, the new signing cautioned fans he was not a galactico yet, saying that he wanted to prove his worth to the storied franchise.

"I'm not a galactico, not yet," Hazard told the media afterwards. "I hope I will be one day. Despite everything I've done in the past, it will be like beginning from zero. In football you can always improve, you never reach the limit. I am in a good moment of my career, but this team can allow me to raise the bar further."

The 28-year-old was also asked whether joining Madrid would boost his chances of winning a Ballon D'Or prize, currently held by new teammate Luka Modric, and won in the two previous years by former Blancos star Cristiano Ronaldo.

"It's true that almost all Ballon D'Or winners recently have been Real Madrid players," he replied. "But I am just focused on helping the team to win. Then if everything goes well, why not, it is in my head, but I am not thinking of it every day. The most important thing is

winning trophies for Real Madrid."

The boyhood Madrid fan said that current coach Zinedine Zidane had been "my idol," while denying that he should perhaps have moved to the Bernabeu at an earlier point in his career.

"I have had various stages in my career, Lille, Chelsea, now I felt the time was right to join the best club in the world," he said. "I don't think it is too late, I am 28 years old, the top moment for a player. Everything began last year, after the World Cup.

"I spoke with Florentino Perez at an award event in London and he told me to come to Madrid, which made me happy. But I stayed one more year at Chelsea. I think things went very well personally, and also with the team, winning the Europa League. This is the perfect time to join Real Madrid."

After some fans had chanted "we want Mbappe" while waiting for Hazard to appear, the Belgium international was later asked if he would like to see Madrid now sign the Paris Saint-Germain forward or Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba.

"I want to play with the best, and those you mention are the best," he said. "But it's not for me to say about transfers."

Hazard did accept that his signing -- part of an investment by Madrid which has already topped €300 million this summer -- was part of a "new cycle" aiming to bring success back to the Bernabeu after their awful 2018-19 campaign.

"Real Madrid have won many titles over the last five years, last season was not so good, but this happens in football," he said. "I hope to help begin a new cycle, with new players, alongside those still here who have won so much."

(Agencies)



Neymar undergoes questioning by police, denies rape claim

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN soccer star Neymar spent about five hours at a police station Thursday to undergo questioning about rape allegations against him, one of the final steps in the investigation.

Prosecutor Flavia Merlino told journalists that the player "denies the accusations and responded (to questions) in a satisfactory way."

The woman who has accused him of raping her at a Paris hotel last month already spoke with police in Sao Paulo, which is where she filed her complaint.

Neymar was accompanied by his lawyers to the meeting Thursday.

"He answered all the questions," Merlino said. "From now on the investigator will take other necessary measures until the conclusion of the probe. Since the probe is secret, we cannot tell about those measures."

The lead investigator, Juliana Bussacos, will consider whether the evidence supports the filing of a rape charge, a physical violence charge or both. If she decided charges should be made, she would forward her recommendation to the prosecutor's office, which would make the final decision.

Just before departing in the

evening, Neymar said, "The truth appears, sooner or later." He also thanked fans for their support.

Wearing a black suit, the player was using crutches because of an injured right ankle when he arrived at the station at midafternoon. Investigator Juliana Bussacos met him at the entrance amid a media frenzy while a crowd of nearly 200 fans cheered the 27-year-old Neymar, who is Brazil's most recognizable player.

The player is being investigated separately in Rio de Janeiro for publishing images of his accuser on social media without her authorization.

The Associated Press doesn't name alleged sexual assault victims unless they make their identities public, which 26-year-old model Najila Trindade did in interviews with Brazilian television.

Also Thursday, Trindade reported that she had picked her fourth lawyer to handle the case. The previous three decided to leave the case.

Neymar's jet flew into Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport and he was driven to the police station in a black van. The player came from his mansion in the city of Mangaratiba, outside Rio de Janeiro.

AP

Why Messi wins with Barcelona but fails with Argentina

BY NICOLAS BAIER AND GRAHAM HUNTER

When Lionel Messi finally retires, few could argue against him being considered one of the game's best-ever players. He loves his job and has been doing it at an elite level for over a decade. He is recognized by his peers, his rivals and the entire world of soccer. He largely avoids controversy on the field and rarely speaks to the media, which limits the opportunities for anything other than his play to do the talking.

What he has achieved in his career stems from his prodigious talent but is also a product of his monumental competitiveness. Lionel Messi didn't rest on his laurels; he always sought perfection. His rivalry with fellow icon Cristiano Ronaldo elevated him. He perfected his free kicks and other aspects of his game. And yet, there's a sense that two Messis exist: there's the one who conquered soccer with Barcelona and the other that's forever trying to win with Argentina.

Aside from an Olympic gold medal with his country in 2008, Messi hasn't won anything with the national team. This streak of futility is made even more painful by the fact that with Messi leading the way, the Albiceleste have reached three international finals -- the 2014 World Cup, the 2015 Copa America the 2016 Copa America Centenario -- and have lost all three.

As they chase their first international title since the 1993 Copa America, will this summer see the two Messis finally reconciled as one?

Messi with Argentina: The thorn in his side

Many still wonder why he keeps playing for the national team given his public failures. The answer is clear: the five Ballons d'Or, four Champions League titles, 10 La Liga titles or the six Copa del Rey wins do not make up for his deep desire to win an important title with his country. He's had chances but lost them all.

Without a doubt, the most painful one came on July 13, 2014, at the Maracana, against Germany, in which an extra-time goal from Mario Gotze led to a silver medal for Messi and Co. His four goals carried Argentina to the final yet he didn't manage a single shot on target over the 120 minutes in the final.

The ultimate issue is that Argentina's national team does not help his cause. You hear time and again that Argentina's Messi is not the same as Barcelona's Messi. The reasons are obvious: different teammates, less preparation time, constant coaching changes, incompetence within the Argentina FA and a burden too great for a single player to carry.

As captain, Messi is expected to deliver; his teammates look to him in times of need and opponents are happy to commit extra defenders to Messi given how integral he is to their chances. So far, none of the supporting cast have stepped up to help him out.

Then comes the external pressure. Argentina has a tendency to compare its best players and the debate around Messi vs. Diego Maradona has prevented a lot of national team fans from enjoying the Barca star's alchemy. Many want Messi to be like Maradona, who famously did bring the World Cup back to Argentina after winning the 1986 edition in Mexico, and if he doesn't manage to do the same, he will be heavily criticized. His detractors may be few in number, but they tend to be loud.

And those three final defeats have served to intensify the criticisms of his detractors.

On paper, the 2019 Copa America represents a fresh start. Argentina will take a strong squad to Brazil, one that has undergone a major overhaul, with a new wave of young players set to represent their country. Of the 23 heading to Brazil, 12 players have fewer than 10 national team appearances, with the side relying on Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel Di Maria to provide the veteran leadership.

Argentina were woeful at Russia 2018 but in a sense, their miserable round-of-16 exit to eventual winners France helped the FA realize that a significant rebuild needed to begin immediately. It was a turning point



Messi has won just about everything there is to win at the club level and he's done it at a club that has remained as sharp and as hungry for success as he is. (Agencies)

but it also helped the fans realize that in a sporting culture that worships success like that in Argentina, such change cannot happen overnight.

Could their 26-year drought finally end this time around? They lack a defined style of play and will be a work in progress but they have Messi. This summer, it might be enough. -- Nicolas Baier

Messi at Barcelona: the star in a system built for him

Johan Cruyff always taught that one of the most important, but difficult, things in football was to do the simple things right first time and every time. It's a philosophy that must apply to anyone who wants to explain the brilliance, the power and the success of Messi's life at Barca.

He's a phenomenon, yes. Arguably the greatest footballer but certainly in that elite pantheon. But that alone doesn't fulfil Cruyff's criterion about sticking to the simple, necessary things. To understand Messi domestically, particularly in comparison with his career with Argentina, you need to look around him.

It doesn't detract from Messi's all-time greatness to point out that, across his Blaugrana career, he's had the benefit of three 24-karat geniuses as mentors and tormentors: Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Pep Guardiola. And yes: "genius" is the correct adjective for all three.

We also need to add that throughout Messi's life in the Barcelona first team, there has been a flood of guys who, though not all-time "genius," still belong to the exclusive club of footballers with true greatness in their talent, technique, competitiveness, intelligence and athleticism.

This cast of "best supporting actors" includes Samuel Eto'o, Ronaldinho, Gerard Pique, Sergio Busquets, Dani Alves, Jordi Alba, Thierry Henry, David Villa, Victor Valdes and Carles Puyol. It's also notable that early in Messi's career, the club moved out guys like Ronaldinho and Deco who might have hampered his development because of their penchant for nightlife.

Take into account the twin concepts his club leaned on: it was vital to re-educate young Messi on sleep, general diet and physical recuperation. Equally, it was fundamentally important to keep him happy by constantly renewing his contract to the point, now, where his basic gross earnings will be over €30m per year.

All of that has immense significance but also, just think about the fact that for almost the entirety of Messi's lifespan at FC Barcelona, he's been surrounded by fellow "addicts" hooked on winning, on the club's particular brand of football intelligence, the hard work required to hone their competitiveness, the appeal of rising to the occasion or fighting for every loose ball.

Messi has been fortunate that the common corruptions in a dressing room -- frustration, ego, laziness -- have been ultra-rare at Barcelona. He's barely glimpsed that kind of atmosphere: it happened briefly in 2007-08 and momentarily in 2013-14. In those brief, fallow times when something around him was missing, when the hunger seemed sated and the team's standards dropped, not only was the experience exceptionally fleeting, but it was marginal: Barcelona only lost the Champions League semifinal by a

goal in 2008, then lost both the Copa del Rey final (to Real Madrid) and La Liga (to Atletico Madrid) on the last day of the season in 2014.

Failure? Failure is defined differently on Planet Messi.

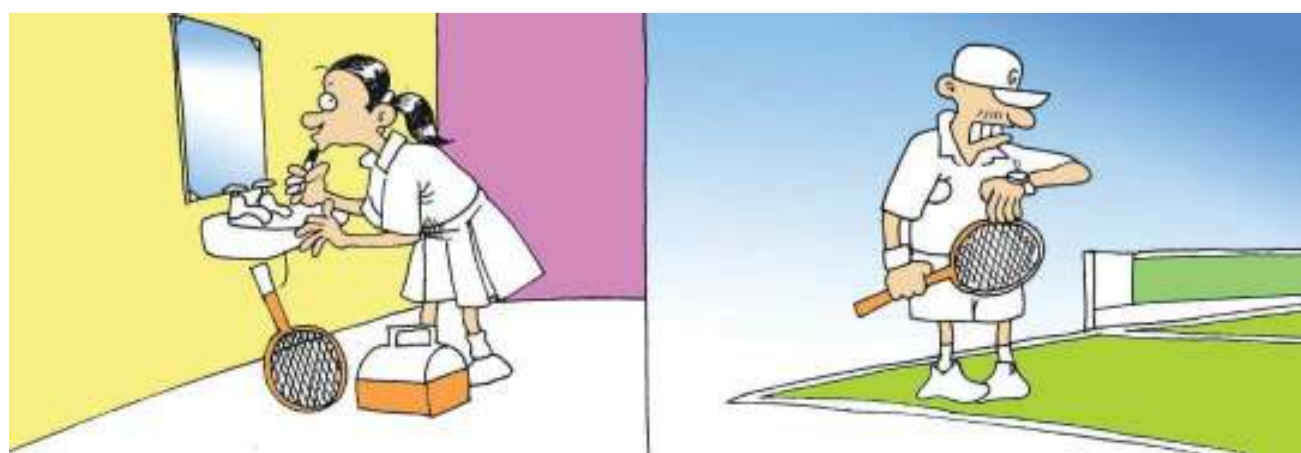
If it seems facile to point out that surrounding a genius with constant excellence, hunger, competitiveness and ambition is a recipe to explain Messi's phenomenal results, think again. Too few who assess him see this, understand this, describe this or award sufficient significance to this. For generations, people have been fixated by the "nature vs. nurture" debate. Just think of the atomic sporting power released when nature and nurture are equally superb and equally aligned? That part is immensely rare.

Messi has been paid unbelievably well at Barcelona, but that's nowhere near the main point. What's convinced him to stay has been the feeling that he's Primus Inter Pares: not "first among equals" but the greatest among greats.

There's also the element of kinship. In Luis Suarez, Messi has found not only a truly close friend, someone with whom he can share both family and professional time as if they were brothers, but he's found his perfect strike partner. Of all the attackers Messi has played with over the years, he and Suarez fit like hand in glove.

Had the prime of Xavi, Iniesta, Guardiola and Suarez intertwined, I'll wager Barcelona would have won a couple more trebles. Had Suarez been born in Argentina, Messi would have had three or four international trophies to his name with Los Albiceleste already. It's that simple. -- Graham Hunter

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

'Real' welcome: Hazard receives rowdy reception

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5 EATV **UJENZI** **TONIGHT @ 21:00**



MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSEEKT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 #JADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier

eastafrica RADIO
05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

SL complain to ICC about less-than-ideal pitches, training facilities

LONDON

SRI LANKA team manager Ashantha de Mel has complained to the ICC about the "unfair" pitches he feels Sri Lanka have had to play their matches on, as well as the less-than-ideal training facilities and accommodation.

Although their two most-recent matches were wash-outs in Bristol, Sri Lanka had begun the tournament on two green decks in Cardiff, where they lost to New Zealand and narrowly beat Afghanistan. In the approach to their match against Australia at The Oval - a venue that has seen high-scoring games thus far - de Mel believes Sri Lanka have been saddled with another green track. As seaming conditions will ostensibly aid Australia, de Mel is unhappy.

"What we have found out is that for the four matches we have played so far at Cardiff and Bristol, the ICC has prepared a green pitch," he told Daily News. "At the same venues, the other countries have played on pitches that are brown and favourable for high scoring."

"The pitch being prepared for our match against Australia on Saturday here at The Oval is green. It is not sour grapes that we are complaining. But it is very unfair on the part of the ICC that they prepare one type of wicket for certain teams and another type for others."

There have been other inconveniences too, according to de Mel, which he said he has officially brought to the ICC's notice.

"Even the practice facilities provided at Cardiff were unsatisfactory. Instead of three nets they gave us only two, and the hotel we were put up at Bristol did not have a swimming pool, which is very essential for every team - for the fast bowlers, especially, to relax their muscles after practice," he said. "The hotels that Pakistan and Bangladesh were put up at Bristol had swimming pools."

"We wrote to the ICC listing all these shortcomings four days ago but so far we have not had any response from them. We will continue to write to them until we get a reply." AGENCIES

Egypt friendly crucial experience for Stars - Amunike



Taifa Stars left fullback Gadiel Michael (L) shoots past Egypt player during a friendly match, which was played in Alexandria on Thursday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TAIFA Stars head coach, Emmanuel Amunike, disclosed the friendly match pitting his side against Egypt was a vital opportunity for the former to gain experience as they prepare to compete in the AFCON finals, set to kick off next week.

The East African side put up a splendid fight against Egypt in the friendly match, played at Borg Al Arab Stadium in Alexandria, which ended with the hosts winning 1-0.

Amunike conceded his squad took on stronger opponents but the former managed to put stiff opposition to the latter and created chances, which were though wasted.

"It was an interesting match, I think we played a squad that is very good, very tough. The good thing is we were able to put stiff opposition, we created some

chances but we weren't able to take them," he added.

"For me, it is a big experience playing Egypt national team and what matters for us to go back and look at our mistakes and see how we can correct them before our next match, but it is a very interesting game."

The match was part of the two squads' preparations for the AFCON finals which gets underway in Egypt next week.

Egypt, who are coached by Javier Aguirre, played without their marksman, Mohamed Salah of Liverpool, are the record seven times AFCON champions.

The hosts midfielder Ahmed Elmohamady, who plays for English club Aston Villa, drilled in the all-important goal for the former on the 65th minute.

The midfielder connected well a cross whipped in by Ahmed

Mansour.

In the previous four encounters between the two sides, Taifa Stars have never won any game.

Taifa Stars' captain, Mbwana Samatta, said after the game the results is a wake-up call to his side and insisted he believes that the technical panel has observed the team's weakness and will work on it before the finals.

"This was a good test to us, I am sure the coach and his technical staff has seen where to improve before the finals next week," Samatta was reported in the press.

The senior national team that is in Group C of the continental showdown alongside Senegal, Algeria and Kenya, will play their final friendly match against Zimbabwe tomorrow.

In a match, monitored on a local TV channel, Taifa Stars coach Emmanuel Amunike

opted for a 4-4-2 formation and had Aishi Manula manning the post. Defenders were Hassan Ramadhan, Aggrey Morris, Kelvin Yondani and Gadiel Michael.

In the midfield, the coach trusted Simon Msuva, Feisal Salum, John Bocco and Himid Mao and strikers were Mbwana Samatta and Farid Mussa.

The hosts enjoyed possession in the first half but Taifa Stars had also good share of possession.

In the first half, Taifa Stars tried to penetrate into the host side but failed to find the goal as the Egyptians were very solid.

There were some good individual performances from Mbwana Samatta and Farid Mussa but the efforts were fruitless.

The Pharaohs, as Egypt are fondly known, came closer to scoring on the 21st minute of

the first half but keeper Manula, who commanded the goal post with agility, was very alert.

The teams went into recess without finding the back of each other's net.

Taifa Stars completely lost steam after recess as they resolved to defending, which worked to the advantage of the aggressive and more direct Egypt, who upped the tempo of their play and broke Stars rhythm of attack.

Amunike substituted John Bocco for Thomas Ulimwengu on the 62nd minute, and after the substitution Egypt penetrated into Taifa Stars' defense and lapse in concentration by Stars players saw Elmohamady score with a header.

The hosts were still dominating Taifa Stars half and, sensing danger, Amunike reacted by making substitution on the 74th minute by bringing in Ally Mtoni for Aggrey Morris.

Four minutes later, the Nigeria tactician rested Farid Mussa for left fullback Mohamed Hussein.

Pharaohs were making constant threats to Stars goal but Manula was always preventing the hosts from increasing the lead as he made a string of saves.

During the game, four of Taifa Stars players, Kelvin Yondani, Himid Mao, John Bocco and Thomas Ulimwengu, were shown yellow card against two bookings to Egypt players Ayman Elsemeskany and Amr Warda.

Before the game, Amunike told the media that playing against Egypt is perfect as it will help him evaluate his side before the finals.

"Egypt are a big side in African football. Playing with them will help me and my squad assess the team before the AFCON finals," he said.

Aces cricketers clinch DRCC T20 tourney trophy

By Guardian Reporter

ACES cricketers have laid their hands on silverware in Division A of this year's Dar es Salaam Regional Cricket Committee (DRCC) T20 tournament, posting a resounding 31-run win over St. Gobain in the final, which took place in the city early this week.

The DRCC organized competition, which began at the end of March this year, is an annual feature that gears towards raising the standard of the game in the country.

It brought together several clubs from across the city, with the sides locking horns in 20-over formatted duels that took place at the Leaders Club venue.

The final saw Aces win toss, chose to bat and score 195 runs for six wickets in 20 overs, thanks largely to impressive displays by dependable players Mohamed Ali, Ali Mpeka, Jumanne Mohamed and Bhavesh Govind.



Aces cricketers in a group picture after the completion of this year's DRCC T20 tournament final in Dar es Salaam recently. Aces posted a win over St. Gobain in the final to win the silverware. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Solid batting by dependable batsman, Ali, who ended the innings with 54 runs that included three sixes and three fours, was, in particular, instrumental in Aces' victory.

Aces were unperturbed by quick dismissal of opening batsmen, Ankit Baghel and Mohamed, with the two posting 14 runs and 16 runs respectively.

Ali, who batted at num-

ber three, made his presence at the crease felt with impressive showing, mercilessly cracking balls all over the pitch to put his team in control.

Experienced all-round-

ers Ali Mpeka and Bhavesh Govind were as well impressive at the crease, notching 33 runs and 23 runs not out respectively to see to it Aces record an imposing total.

Nassor Zahoro chipped in with 12 runs not out for the squad.

Jatin Darji had the best bowling spell for St. Gobain given he took three wickets for 28 runs in four overs.

In response, gave their all with the bat, they though ended registering 164 runs, losing seven wickets in 20 overs.

Mpeka and Imran Khan put their bowling virtuosity to show and helped Aces foil their opponents' chase.

Mpeka took three wickets, leaking seven runs in four overs, Khan ended his bowling spell with two wickets for 38 runs in four overs.

Aces had made short work of Shree Kutchi Leva in the first of the last four stage games, posting a 92-run win over the latter.

The second last four match ended with St. Gobain cruising to a three-wicket win over General Petroleum Club.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

